

# anthem

The magazine of Ambrose University College

FALL/WINTER 2010/11

## Ambrose Residence A Place to Belong

AMBROSE







*Residence is an experience that creates the kind of deep friendships between students that last a lifetime. Residence truly helps make Ambrose a place to belong.*

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AMBROSE  
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## A Place to Belong



Kim Follis

Editor

So much of the Ambrose student experience is rooted in belonging. In Canadian Nazarene College (CNC) days it was belonging to one of the student societies – Beta, Delta or Sigma. Who from those days can forget the society sports that pitted roommate against roommate in the gym and on ice and field? At Canadian Bible College (CBC) belonging was about living in residence halls with names like Skitch and Brooks with their floor meetings and ring ceremonies.

For those who attended during the awkward first years of the AUC/NUC partnership, belonging was a question of whether you were AUC or NUC. In the residence, floors in the downtown apartment building were named for faculty members like Alex Sanderson and Gerry Hall giving us Sanderson Hall and, aptly, Gerry Hall.

At Ambrose today societies are back, but they have names like the League of Aspiring Biologists (LABS) and the Ambrose Business Society (ABS). The inevitable rivalry gave rise to the recent ABS versus LABS bowling challenge.

Residence remains a significant place to find a sense of belonging. Floor and prayer meetings, late-night study marathons and that dash across the Commons to the Academic Centre in a T-shirt in January are experiences that bond students together.

Belonging is more than being together, it is also about our identity. So what identifies an Ambrose student today? Here are some clues.

I recently heard a student mention with pride that when she was hired by a nearby retail store she was told that she was one of several Ambrose students who are employed there. It turns out that having Ambrose University College on your resume puts you at the top of their list.

The Ambrose gym, or Lions' Den as it is known, is notable around the Alberta Colleges Athletic League as a loud but positive place to play. Referees like officiating our games because of the energy created during a Lions "blackout."

Last winter a woman let us know that two Ambrose students stopped and helped her when she had car trouble. Ambrose students volunteer in the community and local churches.

To alumni from the past these examples of Ambrose student identity likely sound familiar. They are part of the ongoing story stretching back to Red Deer, Regina and Winnipeg that define us as students and alumni of Ambrose University College.

Now all we need is a game against old CBC Saskatchewan basketball rival Briercrest College or CNC's hockey nemesis, now known as Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, to really bring our identity full circle.

In many ways we are still discovering our belonging as students, alumni, friends, faculty and staff of Ambrose. This edition of Anthem celebrates Ambrose residence as a place to belong as we launch the construction of the new Residence & Education Centre. **A**



*The first cohort of Education students with the Education faculty on orientation day. Next year the Education program will use classrooms and offices in the Residence & Education Centre now under construction.*

## Making a Difference One Student at a Time

Adriana Fishta-Bejko  
*Associate Professor of Education*

A young boy was walking along the beach where hundreds of starfish had washed ashore. He started to pick up the starfish one at a time and hurled them back into the ocean. A man passing by said to the boy: “There are too many starfish washed onto the beach. Don’t you see that you are not going to make any difference by doing this?” The boy looked down at the starfish in his hand and said: “It makes a difference to this one.” Then he threw the starfish back into the ocean.

That is the vision we have in the new B.Ed. (after degree) program at Ambrose University College. We are going to make a difference in our students’ lives and prepare them to make a difference in their students’ lives, one student at a time. History will not judge our endeavours merely on the basis of colour or creed

or even school affiliation. Neither will competence and standards – although essential – suffice in times such as these, when education is vital to teaching ALL the children and considering them as “image bearers of the Lord,” who have special needs as individuals.

Ambrose University College – a small Christian institution “up on the hill.” This is not a mere description of the location of our campus. We consider our institution as the school where “the eyes of all people are upon us” for we are setting out upon a voyage that will make a difference not only on Ambrose students’ lives but on the lives of the people they will serve and support. We have committed ourselves to the task of educating a new generation of teachers who not only know the philosophies of education but also the “craft of teaching.” To this end, the group of educators who developed the B.Ed. program envisioned a special way to connect our student teachers

to veteran educators in the city. We call this proposal the Mentorship Program. We believe that merely delivering good lectures in class is not good enough. So, we approached veteran practicing teachers to join the B.Ed. team in mentoring our students into becoming professional educators. The response was great.

Seventeen veteran teacher mentors joined the first cohort of B.Ed. students at Ambrose on October 25, to launch our Mentorship Program. The classroom was too small to hold the enthusiasm of the two generations of educators sharing their dreams and planning the future of teaching in our province. This will be a program that will bring the mentors and their protégés together once a month to discuss different issues in education. Some of the topics proposed in the first meeting were: building teams of professional educators, creating a welcoming school environment for students and parents, developing teaching resources, writing Individual Program Plans for students with learning disabilities, etc. The Mentorship Program in an in-service B.Ed. program is a unique Ambrose initiative.

This initiative is part of a very innovative teacher training program that Ambrose is offering as an after degree, professional program. We know that our program is in its early stages of creating its identity. We are aware that our graduates may not be in the hundreds. However, we believe in the starfish story and we plan to make a difference in the lives of the children, one at a time. In our minds, being “up on the hill” is not just a nice, proud campus built on rocks stronger than oceans, wind-swept, looking at the Rockies, God-blessed, and teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace, a campus with beautiful classrooms that hum with students and creativity, with doors that are open to anyone with the will and the heart to get here. Being “up on the

hill” is more than that – Matthew 5 gives us those expectations when in verses 13-16 it says: “You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world, a city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden, nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” This is how the B.Ed. team of professionals understands our responsibility to our institution. Our team now is much bigger than the demographic statistics may show. We have the community of practicing educators joining us and we celebrate this achievement as being unique and very creative. The sky is the limit for the Ambrose Bachelor of Education program.

### **Ambrose goes to Vietnam**

On October 5 Ambrose officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Institute of Bible & Theology of Vietnam (IBT).

In a recent summer visit to Vietnam Brian Thom and Dr Bernie Van De Walle, along with Vietnamese leaders from Canada, USA and Australia, visited a number of Evangelical Church of Vietnam (ECVN) churches that were formerly the Tin Lanh Church of Vietnam. One of the key focuses of the trip was meeting with leaders of IBT to discuss a partnership with Ambrose to help them fulfill their vision of training new church leaders in Vietnam.

The culmination of those discussions was the development of an MOU that was formally signed by President Howard Wilson (Ambrose); President Truong Thai (IBT); Dr Thanh Le, director of the World Association of Vietnamese Alliance Churches; and Rev Cuong Do, director of the Association of Vietnamese Alliance Churches, Canada.

Ambrose will help upgrade the IBT faculty by sending one faculty member per year to teach theological courses in Vietnam. Ambrose will provide a full scholarship for a recent IBT graduate to complete a Masters level program at Ambrose. Once they have completed their program at Ambrose they will return to their own country for service in the church or IBT.

Ambrose considers it a privilege to serve the church worldwide in this way.

### **BHS Program Attracts New Partners**

The past few months have been exciting for the Behavioural Science program as a number of new practicum opportunities for our students have been secured.

These placements include Alberta Health Services; The Calgary Board of Education; Calgary Police Victim Services; YWCA, Sheriff King (support services for domestic violence situations); Emma House (a home for expectant mothers); and the Kinderhouse Preschool. These new practicum contracts add to our existing platform of 25 agencies/sites that our students regularly utilize and provide increased breadth in the practicum sites that are of interest to our students and that will enhance their classroom learning.

### **Ambrose Ministry Degrees Approved for Nazarene Ordination**

In September 2010 the Canadian Regional Course of Study Advisory Committee (RCOSAC) unanimously approved the Bachelor of Theology and Bachelor of Ministry degrees at Ambrose University College. On October 7, 2010, the International Course of Study Advisory Committee (ICOSAC) validated these degrees by a unanimous vote. This endorsement means that the Ambrose Bachelor of Theology and Bachelor of Ministry degrees (Church Ministry and Youth Ministry tracks) now fulfill the educational requirements for ordination in the Church of the Nazarene.

The Canadian RCOSAC is responsible

for identifying the minimal educational standards for ordination on the Canadian region and develops procedures for approving the ministerial education programs in Canada (including the degrees offered at Ambrose). Canadian RCOSAC members are: Rev Rose Sorzano, Rev Gary Nawrocki, Rev Doug Herbert, Dr Robert Snow, Dr Riley Coulter, Dr Clair MacMillan, and Rev Terry Fach.

Terry Fach, the Regional Education Coordinator for Canada, reports: “I want to commend the efforts of Dr Bernie Van De Walle, who prepared many of the key articulation documents for the Ambrose programs validation, and the regional committee, for their role in this significant achievement. The validation helps our Nazarene students, our churches, and our Boards of Ministry across the country. We can be confident that Ambrose now offers Nazarene ministry preparation degrees whose quality exceeds anything previously available to Canadian Nazarenes.”

### **Ambrose Music Professor's Work Published**

Ambrose Associate Professor of Music, Ian Charter, has had one of his choral arrangements selected for publication in the Shawnee Press educational release of spring 2011. The arrangement is now being edited, engraved, and first proofed. Shawnee Press publishes educational, concert, and sacred choral and instrumental music. The catalogue features standard repertoire for all areas of music education from the elementary specialist through adult community choirs.

Charter commented, “This is great news. I am honoured to have this work published by a major music publisher.”

With Ambrose since 1991, Charter teaches conducting, music theory, and church music subjects in the Music program. He directs the Ambrose College Singers and is Choir Director at First Baptist Church. His research interests include choral composing and arrangement and 20th century music history. 

# Teaching From Experience

Rev Dave Brotherton  
Associate Professor of Youth Ministries

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I was one of those students who learned as much in the residence as I did in the classroom. I came to Canadian Bible College (Ambrose) as a pastor's son with a lot of anger toward the Church. I came to Bible college to get serious with God and get away from friends but was asked not to return after my first year. It seemed that I had some growing up to do.

When I did return a year later I allowed the community to teach me discipline. I also discovered the difference between grace and legalism. The relationships I formed in the residence community are the ones that have lasted throughout my life.

It was during my internship that I experienced a call to youth ministry. After graduation I went to a church in Yorkton SK where they had 30 teens in a church of 100. I was youth pastor, janitor, and everything else.

I then went to Regent University in Virginia where I did a Masters in Film. It was a golden experience where I won several awards for my work.

Then I somehow ended up back in youth ministry at Owen Sound Alliance. My time in film school taught me to cast a vision to volunteers and then let them do their roles. I also learned the value of preparation rather than just winging it. From 1991 to 1998 the youth ministry grew to 200 teens; a large number in a town of 20,000.



*Rev Dave Brotherton brings years of experience as a youth pastor to his teaching on youth ministry.*

The group grew and eventually hit 350 teens. While I was at RockPointe, Canadian Bible College moved to Calgary. I was asked to teach as adjunct faculty. While I was on sabbatical from the church, the school decided to expand youth ministry to two full-time faculty members. After a great deal of prayer and counsel, I decided to teach at Ambrose. My first year, to fulfill a promise not to resign after completing my sabbatical, I was also full-time at RockPointe.

I love teaching because I can share my experiences – the positives and the failures. The challenge is to educate future youth pastors for the culture they will face five years out.

What excites me about youth ministry today is that groups are getting smaller but deeper. Teens want to be the Church. They want to go deep spiritually and make a difference in the world. They are rejecting consumerism and want to be responsible to the environment and the rest of the world.

I see the new youth pastor as a cross-cultural worker who needs to be fluent in the language of youth culture, which changes about every 18 months, and the culture of the parents and the church board. It is still very much about relationships and grace – the lessons I learned back in the residence. 

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The relationships I formed in the residence community are the ones that have lasted throughout my life.

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I left that large youth ministry to come to RockPointe Church (then Bow Valley Alliance) in Calgary to start from scratch. It was the perfect opportunity to build a ministry on the principles of structure, strategy and intentionality. I worked with my leaders to develop a five-year plan. In the first year I had no more than three teens on any given night.

# Leadership Builds Confidence for RA

Rebecca Gilbertson graduated from the Behavioural Science program at Ambrose in April 2010 and is currently working in the Enrolment office at Ambrose. Much as she enjoys the work at the school, her long-term plan is to work with women and children who have been victims of human trafficking, hopefully in an international setting, and perhaps in a creative access country.

Although she had felt a pull towards international ministry since childhood, and time spent as a summer student at a pregnancy centre in her hometown introduced her to a different kind of ministry, when Rebecca arrived at Ambrose she wasn't yet clear in her own mind about her goals and ambitions. Various aspects of her life at the school enabled her to develop more clarity and focus.

While at the pregnancy centre she realized that she had a real ability to listen to the women as they shared their circumstances with her and she learned a lot from them. "I began to realize that it was not so much about being able to offer advice (because I had none to give), but it was about coming alongside these women and allowing them to open up to me when they needed to, and providing support where I could." As a Residence Assistant at Ambrose, Rebecca found that these listening skills were a valuable resource as she came alongside her peers and gave them a shoulder to cry on as they worked through their own difficult issues. "I realized that even Christians carry a lot of 'baggage'; usually some kind of emotional issue. I didn't have to understand what they



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The leadership position that she held in the residence gave Rebecca a new level of confidence in the person that God made her.

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were going through, I could still be a voice of encouragement in their life, listening and validating."

The leadership position that she held in the residence gave Rebecca a new level of confidence in the person that God made her. The Scripture that she chose as her theme that year was from Zephaniah 3:14-17 which tells how God takes "...great delight" in his people and she made it her goal to remind the girls that they are beloved daughters of God. She also learned that she couldn't try and do everything ministry-wise: "If you try, you'll wear yourself out. You need to find your place in ministry and then work to excel at it. On the other hand, you can't just sit back. You need to step up and do what God calls you to do."

*Rebecca Gilbertson plans to use her knowledge and skills gained at Ambrose to help the victims of human trafficking.*

There was no easily identifiable turning point where her affinity for women's ministry turned into an intentional move towards a future ministry working with those affected by human trafficking, but she gradually gravitated towards ministry in that area as it brings together her desire to work internationally with her heart for women and children. Her vision is to have a place for victims where they can feel safe and the love of Christ can be extended to them in practical ways in a loving environment.

Although Rebecca is probably a few years away from fulfilling her goal at this point, she is taking steps towards gaining more experience in the field. She is currently in the application stage to volunteer with a Calgary organization that supports young women who are victims of sexual exploitation, and she hopes to become more involved as she gains more experience and confidence in the field.

Rebecca values all the experiences she had at Ambrose and the opportunities she had to explore and expand upon her gifting. "I learned that if you're obedient and use the abilities God has given you, then He will strengthen those gifts." We look forward to seeing Rebecca build upon the lessons she learned here at Ambrose – both in and outside of the classroom – as she develops her ministry in the future. 



*Sarah Berger, Jason Schneider, and Michelle Rilling see living in residence as an important part of their Ambrose educational experience.*

## A Family Feeling

Over the Labour Day weekend 138 students moved into the Ambrose residence for the fall semester. For some it was their first time away from home, for others it was a return to their home-away-from-home. Organized in ‘pods’ of 12 rooms arranged around a communal lounge area, the residence provides a nurturing environment where students can grow and mature socially and spiritually while still focusing on their academic pursuits. Two live-in Residence Directors provide oversight and are assisted by Residence Assistants who provide accountability and a listening ear, and develop the spiritual theme for their floor each year.

Third year business student Jason Schneider is a Residence Assistant (RA) this year and sees the role as an opportunity to give back to the Ambrose community. He describes being an RA as “...more than a job or a duty, it is an opportunity to serve and to lead.”

Although he is from Calgary, he chose to live in residence because he wanted to get the full university experience and because being part of the Ambrose community was important to him. As an RA he says that he knows that he wants to be a good example. “I don’t want to be a spiritual leader that walks ahead of the guys on my floor; I want to be a spiritual leader that walks *with* them.” He says he is still growing in his trust for God, and he wants to help his community in residence do the same.

Sarah Berger, from Edmonton, is in her first year in residence and is in the Youth Ministry program. She appreciates how welcoming and friendly the RA is on her floor. “She is there whenever we need her, and never gives us the feeling that she doesn’t have time for us. I know I can talk to her about anything if I need to.” Having people around that she can talk to and connect with is important to her. For Sarah, the pod layout helps to give the residence a family feel. “There are always people

in the communal areas, so there’s always someone to talk to or hang out with. We’re always there for each other, watching out for one another.” She attributes the focus on God for allowing her to develop deeper friendships and to grow spiritually.

This theme is echoed by third year residence student Michelle Rilling. Both of her parents graduated from Ambrose (CBC in Regina) and had always spoken fondly of their time in residence, so she had some idea what to expect when she arrived. She was instrumental in setting up a Bible study that began with four of the girls in her pod and is now growing in numbers. She values the peer mentorship and accountability that the group brings and which is mirrored by the larger weekly floor meetings where the students come together to discuss the theme for the year and explore the practical application for their own lives. While there is structure to the residence life Michelle notes that, “...it acknowledges the fact that we are adults, so we have to take the initiative to set up solid friendships with people you can learn from and trust to keep you accountable. I think this aspect really prepares you for life.”

It’s not all serious study, though. Scavenger hunts, floor dinners, cheesecake evenings, and other social events all add to the sense of community experienced by residence students. All three students cite relationship and community as the most valuable aspect of residence life. For Jason living in residence “...helps you delve deeper into the university experience, and form really close bonds of friendship that will last for the rest of your life.” Sarah concurs, adding, “I’ve had the opportunity to get to know some really great people that I wouldn’t necessarily be drawn to naturally, so I know that it’s a total God thing.” And Michelle? For her it is simple: “Residence is something I will miss when I graduate.” 



## Ambrose Lions Volleyball Prepares for New Challenge

Over the past five years, the Ambrose Lions volleyball program has developed into one of the top volleyball programs in the Alberta Colleges Athletic League (ACAL). Last year the Lions women won the bronze and the men finished with the silver in the League Championships.

This year both teams look to be very strong again and the possibility of both teams winning it all is within reach. “The ACAL is a very good league and we enjoy competing in it,” notes Athletic Director Ryan Willison. “But it is time we began to consider a new challenge.”

That new challenge is the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC). The ACAC is a league where all of the major colleges in Alberta compete. Some of those institutions are very large and have very established athletic programs, but it is obvious that Ambrose needs to take that step.

“The only way to determine if you are ready for a higher level of competition is to play at that level,” says Willison. “So that’s exactly what we are doing.”

*The Lions women’s volleyball team looks to improve on last year’s 3rd place finish in the Alberta Colleges Athletic League.*

The Lions women's team went to Red Deer to compete in the Wild Rose Classic Tournament on October 1-2. Red Deer is a provincial powerhouse and has been a nationally ranked program for a number of years. This tournament also included other ACAC teams as well as a few from British Columbia.

The Lions played matches against the King's University College Eagles, the NAIT Oaks, the Red Deer Queens Alumni, the Concordia Thunder, and the Augustana Vikings. The women lost against the first four teams, but found their stride with a win over former ACAL champions, the Augustana Vikings.

Women's Head Coach, Phil Wideman said, "This is the best I have seen the girls play since I have been the coach here. I am extremely proud of them."

The men also went to a tournament in Red Deer, called the RDC Challenge Cup, on October 8-10. The format was similar and they saw some of the same teams. They began the tournament with a loss to the host Red Deer Kings and then lost a very close match in five games to the Grande Prairie Wolves. They also lost tough matches to two different Red Deer Alumni teams, stocked with former players, some of whom now play for the National Team.

The Lions gained some redemption the following day with a victory over the Concordia Thunder. That set them up for a consolation final against their long time nemeses, the Augustana Vikings. The Lions lost that match in three games, but all the games were very tight.

"Overall it was a good experience for us," says Willison, "Not only did it expose us to the next level, it served notice to the ACAC that Ambrose is knocking on the door. We will continue to play in these tournaments in the future and in the meantime, we plan on being the best ACAL team around."

The proof of that will be seen during ACAL League Championships which will be held on the weekend of November 19-20 in Olds, Alberta. **E**



### Player Profile: Keara Penton

**K**eara Penton is in her second year of the Behavioural Science program at Ambrose, and her second year with the Ambrose Lions. She grew up in Calgary and attended Calgary Christian High School where she was active in the school's volleyball team.

She was the captain of the Ambrose volleyball team as a Freshmen and has remained in that role this year. She plays the position of Power and is relied upon by her teammates to produce offensively from that position. Last year, Keara was in the top five in the league for offensive kills and it seems likely that she should achieve that again this year. She is a vocal leader with the team, but also leads by example, both on and off the court.

Part of what attracted her to Ambrose was that she could be involved with a community of people who want to get to know God and to serve Him. Ambrose offers the programs and courses that fit into her career plans, and having the opportunity to also play volleyball added to the attraction. She said, "I knew it would be so much more than just classes, and I knew it would be an amazing experience."

Eventually she would like to get involved in a non-profit organization in some capacity, or to pursue teaching or therapy. **E**



### Player Profile: Scott Willms

**S**cott Willms is in his fourth year of the Biology program at Ambrose. He chose Ambrose because he wanted to go to a university where he could play lots of sports – something he has successfully achieved as he is one of the few athletes ever at Ambrose to suit up for three different sports! – and take classes he was interested in. At first he came here for an "in-between year" but he says, "I loved it so much I decided to stay for my degree."

Scott is the volleyball captain and plays the position of Middle. He is expected to produce offensively, but also to play strongly defensively. Commenting on the athletics program he says, "I have developed way more than I ever thought was possible. I have met a ton of awesome guys playing volleyball and we always get the best crowds in the league as well."

When he graduates Scott plans to take a Masters degree in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Calgary, and may possibly choose to continue on to medical school following his masters. Whichever route he takes, he plans to use his expertise overseas and not just focus on Western culture.

Not only is he a great athlete, but Scott has proven to be a great student as well. **E**

# A Place to Belong



Residence life is an important part of the educational experience of these Ambrose students.

Students take a break from study for some fun in the snow on the Commons.



## Residence Life – Why it Matters

Wally Rude  
VP Student Life

The residence program at Ambrose provides many benefits: it centres on whole person development; it gives opportunity to engage students regarding their relationship with Christ, their character, their relational and emotional health; it allows residence life staff to come alongside students during times of celebration and times of trial. But along with these benefits come some downsides: late night trips to the hospital; difficult disciplinary conversations and consequences; the intimate knowledge of the very real issues facing many of our students. So why does Ambrose work so hard to develop a residence life program that is Christ-centred and provides a safe, nurturing environment?

Well the answer is simple. We invest in residence life because it is mission critical.

The Ambrose mission is succinctly captured: *Ambrose seeks to glorify God as a Christian learning community committed to the education and formation of men and women for service.* It is unequivocal. We are a Christian institution committed not only to the education of our students, but also to their formation. As part of that commitment we offer a Christ-centred residence life program where students

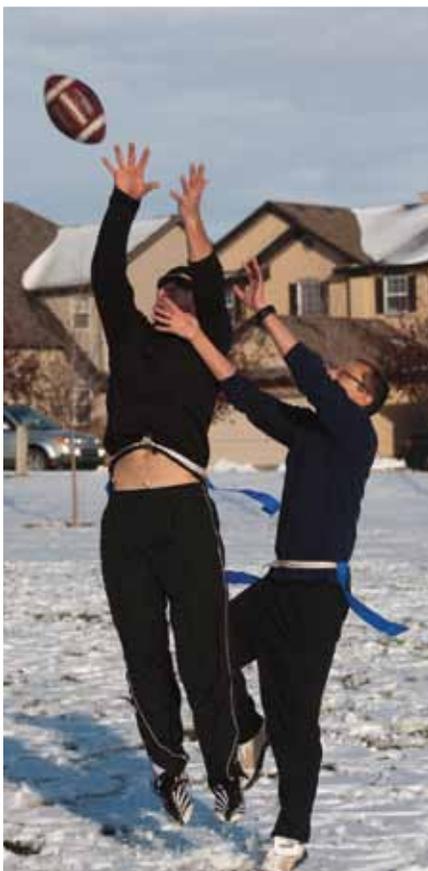
are encouraged and challenged to pursue a life worthy of the call to be disciples of Jesus.

So how do we ensure that we live up to the aspirations of our mission? What differentiates the Ambrose residence program from a residence program at a secular university? The key difference is community standards that reflect the Christian values of Ambrose. Floor meetings bring the residence students together for prayer and Bible study, Residence Assistants are assigned to a group of students to support and mentor them, and live-in Residence Directors help to develop a sense of community where residence students can feel they truly belong. All of this, in concert with student life co-curricular activities such as athletics, career and life calling, counselling, learning services, chapels, intramurals, small groups, and student leadership help students to grow and mature physically, spiritually, and vocationally. Residence life contributes towards the whole person development, and aligns with and supports the mission of Ambrose.

Ambrose is not a pioneer in residence life programming. We are following a proven educational practice with much empirical evidence to support its value. Research carried out in the early 1990s

showed benefits in academic, social, and moral development for residence living over off-campus living. Universities like Harvard, Princeton, and Yale all began as strong residential schools. In the early days of Christian higher education in North America, faculty, staff, and students all lived on campus, and presidents and faculty were more easily able to engage students both in and outside of the classroom. This model is no longer common, but many of the leading Christian institutions in North America have residential programs that are as strong today as they were 100 years ago. Wheaton College, Trinity Western University, Point Loma Nazarene University, Calvin College, and George Fox University – to name just a few – have strong, effective residence programs.

Residence life staff are carefully chosen for willingness to model the Christian life in all areas of their own lives, through the Holy Spirit. The intention is that they become role models for their students. In his book *Education for Shalom*, Nicholas Wolterstorff outlines a compelling case, supported by empirical evidence, that to provide character education effective and progressive mentoring is essential. If students are to be a certain way in the world, they must have loving and trustworthy individuals that are



Students playing intramural football.

walking with them on their journey.<sup>1</sup> To that end, our residence life staff are more than just rule-keepers and referees, an integral part of their role is to provide guidance and support.

In the book *What Matters in College*, Richard Light, a Harvard University professor, shares his research into student engagement. He found that, “when we asked students to think of a specific, critical incident or moment that changed them profoundly, four-fifths of them chose a situation or event outside the classroom.”<sup>2</sup> A student’s experience in residence can have at least as much impact on their development as their experiences in the classroom. This was highlighted for me earlier this year when I helped to interview applicants for Residence Assistant positions, and time and again candidates articulated how powerful their residence experience had been. A lot of their experiences centered on having a safe, authentic, and caring community within residence. One man expressed gratitude for having a group of friends in residence that would both

encourage and hold him accountable in his faith journey.

Residence life offers an alternative to the fiercely secular, competitive, and individualistic culture that is so prevalent in North America today. While to some it may appear anachronistic, students share rooms, which, in a generation used to having its own “space” immediately requires negotiation – Who should have which bed? What is a reasonable level for music? How late is too late for a phone call? – and navigation of the complexities of a relationship – skills that cannot be learned through Twitter or Facebook. A recent book called *The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes our Future*, suggests that excessive social networking has steered young people away from productive learning activities.<sup>3</sup> Ambrose residence students have a curfew emphasizing the community over individual freedom, and must participate in floor meetings and small groups, helping students to engage with each other in spiritually and relationally significant ways. Students create bonds that go well beyond a superficial friendship and those bonds often last a lifetime.

Despite the best efforts of residence life staff, living in community is not always easy. Brokenness co-exists with beauty, woundedness with wonder. Residential staff and student leaders know this full well, for they are on the front lines and experience the painful reality. Students face a myriad of challenges: existential, psychological, spiritual, emotional, relational. Much of this surfaces at some point, and staff have to be able to minister to these students – seeking professional help where appropriate – in order to help those students move past their difficulties and return to the community as an essential part of the body of Christ. And because students live in close proximity to each other, and develop deeper relationships, the whole community is able to be supportive of

those students needing a little extra help. As noted in 1 Corinthians (taken here from *The Message*), “If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.” (1 Corinthians 12:26)

I recently spent some time with Rev Grant Strachan who is on the executive committee of the Canadian Association of Christians in Student Development. He is an Ambrose alumnus, former Alliance pastor, and current Dean of Men at Columbia Bible College. He spent two years in the Ambrose residence (one year as a Residence Assistant). His personal experience living in residence was profound and still has residual effects as his face lit up when he told me about his experience: “My experience in residence was formative in that it provided a great place to unpack and apply what was being taught in the classroom. The community environment was a safe and authentic place where friendships were formed that continue to this day. In addition, the residence experience fostered camaraderie while encouraging academic excellence all under the umbrella of strong Christian values that continue with me today.”

For many of you reading this article who have lived in residence, I suspect Grant’s comments resonate with you. I know they do for me, as my residence experience was also transformational. Our prayer is that our residence program would continue to grow in quality and quantity and bear much fruit for Kingdom purposes – shaping the minds and hearts of men and women into the likeness of Jesus. For those of you who haven’t had a residence experience, I recommend you pursue one, or at least encourage a loved one to. **✠**

<sup>1</sup> Woltersorff, Nicholas. *Educating for Shalom: Essays on Christian Higher Education*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Light, J. Richard. *Making the Most of College*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001.

<sup>3</sup> Bauerlein, Mark. *The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes our Future*. New York: Penguin Group Inc., 2008.



The sod turning for the Residence & Education Centre was a time for celebration.



# Building a Place to Belong

## Students Turn Sod to Launch Construction of the New Residence & Education Centre

Opening fall 2011

On October 28 following morning chapel, students, faculty, staff, board members, and guests gathered to turn sod which launched the construction of the new Residence & Education Centre.

The following people represented the groups entrusted with the education of students and the construction of the new building:

Mr Alex Baum, Chair, Ambrose Board of Governors; Rev Dr Ken Driedger, District Superintendent of the Western Canadian District of The Christian & Missionary Alliance in Canada; Rev Dr Claire McMillan, National Director of The Church of the Nazarene Canada and Ambrose Governor; Mr Greg Needham, Vice President Campus Development; Dr Bernie Potvin, Education Program Chair; Mr Henry Rarog, Site Superintendent Elan Construction Ltd.; Ms Connie Russell, Residence Director; Dr Alex Sanderson, Behavioural Science Program Chair.

Students who will benefit from the Residence & Education Centre were represented by: Scott Willms, Residence Assistant; Becky Buzowski, Residence Assistant; Carmen Elaraj, Education Student.

Those representing the Ambrose constituency held a ribbon in the shape of a rectangle symbolizing the Residence & Education Centre. The three student representatives standing inside the ribbon turned the sod with their shovels on President Wilson's signal.

Rev Dale Thistle representing the Board of Governors, Wilbert Yee representing residence students, and Heather Armour representing education students, offered prayers of blessing for the success of the construction and safety for the workers.

At the close of the ceremony a large excavating machine lifted the first scoop of dirt signalling the start of nine months



*President Howard Wilson announces the start of construction of the new Residence & Education Centre that will open fall 2011.*

of construction that will culminate in the opening of the new building next September. 📺



Residence students have convenient access to the Academic Centre, Library and Gymnasium for study and recreation.

## Capital Campaign Launched for New Residence & Education Centre

In response to the shortage of campus housing and the need for additional academic space, the Ambrose Board of Governors approved the immediate construction of the new Residence & Education Centre. The \$7.25M building will provide housing for 96 students, classrooms and offices for the Bachelor of Education (after degree) program and space for campus recreation.

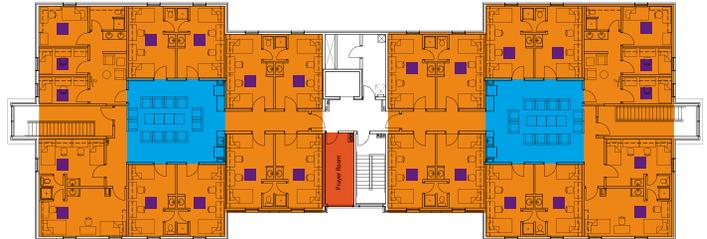
Key to the decision was the \$1M gift by The Christian & Missionary Alliance Western Canadian District as well as other donations of \$371,000 for a total of \$1.371M. The members of the Ambrose Board of Governors have so far committed \$78,000 to the project. The building will become cost neutral once we are able to

*What has changed our world the most, began with one decision, good or bad; the choice to invest in the lives of young people will change the future. Can we do better than that? I don't think so.*

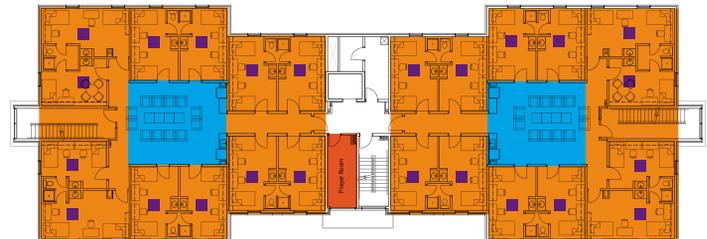
*- Alex Baum, Chair of the Ambrose Board of Governors*

# RESIDENCE & EDUCATION C

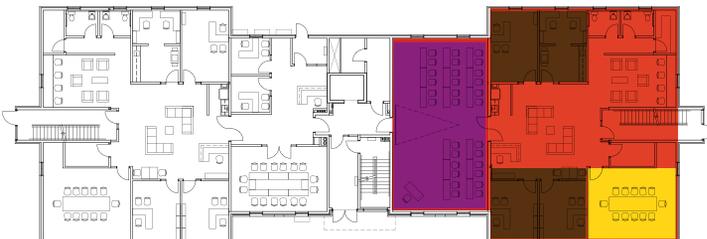
Level Three



Level Two



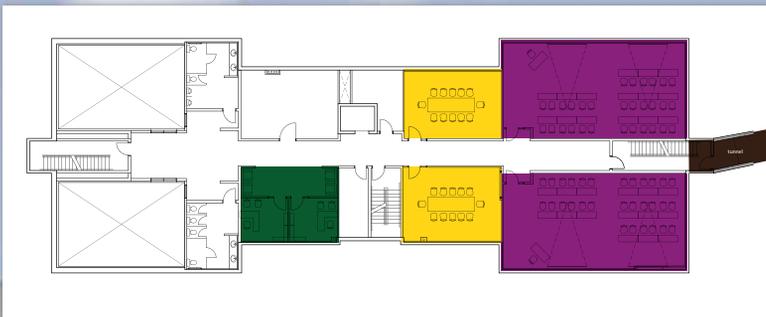
Level One



***Ambrose Residence . . . a place to belong***

# CENTRE

Lower level One

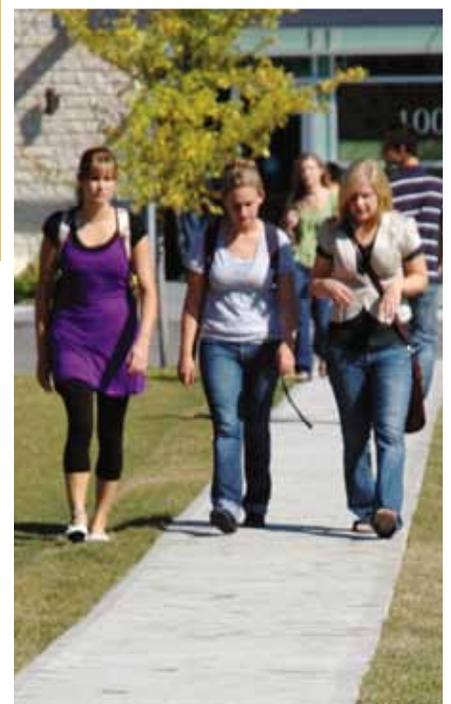


Lower level Two



### Naming Opportunities

Residence Education Centre			
■ Education Centre (1)	\$2,000,000.00	■ Prayer Room (2)	\$20,000.00
■ Pod (4)	\$300,000.00	■ Seminar Room (3)	\$20,000.00
■ Media Room (1)	\$250,000.00	■ Games Room (1)	\$20,000.00
■ Lounge (5)	\$60,000.00	■ Rec Room (1)	\$20,000.00
■ Classroom (36 seat) (3)	\$50,000.00	■ Office (level one) (4)	\$15,000.00
■ Squash Court (2)	\$50,000.00	■ Residence Room (50)	\$10,000.00
■ Tunnel (1)	\$50,000.00	■ Office (lower level) (2)	\$10,000.00
	\$40,000.00		



*Residence is a place where friendships are formed that last a lifetime.*

raise a total of \$3.6M towards the project.

The Residence & Education Centre Capital Campaign, which has a faith goal of \$2.5M, is now underway.

The demand for campus housing will increase as student numbers grow. Students also face a crunch in classroom space as new programs like Education continue to grow in numbers. The new classrooms and seminar rooms in the Education Centre will create additional teaching space that is tailored for Education, but useable by other programs as well.

Naming opportunities are available for donors who wish to make a legacy gift to the construction of the Residence & Education Centre. [a](#)

For more information, or to make a gift to the Residence & Education Centre, please contact Kim Follis, Director of Development. 403.410.2927, [kfollis@ambrose.edu](mailto:kfollis@ambrose.edu)

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# Teaching God Outside the Classroom

## A helpful practice for spiritual development in emerging adults

Matt Russell  
Residence Director

How does Ambrose teach students about God outside of the classroom when their brains are already fatigued from hearing lectures all week? How do we keep our attempts at spiritual development from becoming a painful way to usher lectures into their nights and weekends? We often know that the same students suffering mental fatigue yearn for greater growth and depth in their spiritual lives. When intellectual stimulation and challenge turns to the flogging of a student's mental capacities, how do they continue to hear words from God and grow in greater appreciation of Him?

This past year I participated in a directed study at Ambrose Seminary entitled *Spiritual Theology in Practice for Young Adults*. I took this course in my role as Ambrose Residence Director in an attempt to answer some of the questions I posed above. The course involved designing a project that allowed me to learn more about young adult spirituality, as well as experience it firsthand. I sought to do this by gaining an understanding of spiritual formation, then by reviewing literature relating to young adults ages 18-24, their development and spiritual growth, and, finally, by exploring various spiritual practices that could possibly be made use of to meet the developmental and spiritual needs of young adults. The resulting project involved meeting with young men within the age bracket for six weeks of sessions using specifically designed programming. This research confirmed much of what I had read and also brought expanded insight.

In searching for the right spiritual discipline or methodology to engage in, I found four characteristics for effective

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Lectio divina is a form of devotional reading that requires a great amount of listening and waiting on God.

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emerging adult spirituality. Effective emerging adult spirituality is *experimental, sensory, enables personal experience, and provides opportunities to lead*.<sup>1</sup> Emerging adulthood is a time of trying out new roles and identities. This *experimentation* extends to spirituality as well. As a sensory experience, young adults want to include their bodies as well as their minds in the worship process. Examples of this could be different postures during worship, and the use of candles. The quest for *personal experience* limits the effectiveness of traditional Christian teaching methods like preaching or any other form of information download; emerging adults are looking to *do*, as well as *hear*. Finally, we need to move from ministry *to* young adults to ministry *by* young adults and dismiss the "assumption that they are essentially passive receivers of ministry." There is a need to put leadership in the hands of young adults.<sup>2</sup>

These characteristics led me to use lectio divina with this small group of young men. For those not familiar with lectio divina it is a form of devotional reading that requires a great amount of listening and waiting on God; it is a contemplative approach to Scripture, not a study based approach.<sup>3</sup> Traditional lectio practices were modified to create a group activity. The practice includes prayer, slow repetitious reading of the text, sharing what God is saying, and returning to prayer.

The results were wonderful! Each one of the young men who participated took away many things from the experience, but three themes in their feedback jumped out: learning a new discipline for both private and corporate use, learning to listen and wait on God, and experiencing spiritual enrichment in a group setting.

I mentioned that there is a need to move from ministry *to* young adults to ministry *by* young adults. I tried to take this idea seriously and give each student in the group a chance to lead the lectio process. They did! In fact, there were many instances where their leadership added to, changed, or tweaked the lectio process itself or set our group in a new direction that was unexpected.

This school year, the residence program at Ambrose is hoping to make broader use of lectio divina by incorporating it into our small group leaders program. We hope that this will facilitate genuine personal spiritual experience in this corporate setting, teach our small group leaders a practice that can be used on their own and in group settings, as well as show them how to wait on the Lord. Lectio divina will not be the sole training tool for our small group leaders. We are also focusing in on practices of prayer and accountability as well as sharing testimonies of how God has worked in our lives. Small groups are an important part of residence life and the spiritual development of residence students. However, small groups are only one aspect of spiritual growth and life on campus, which includes chapel, floor meetings, and life changing one-on-one relationships, as well as meeting God through learning in the classroom. **E**

<sup>1</sup> Peter Feldmier, *The Developing Christian: Spiritual Growth Through the Life Cycle*. (New York, Paulist Press, 2007), 147-151.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 147.

<sup>3</sup> See Adele Ahleberg Calhoun's *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook* for a thorough description of lectio divina.



Photo: Charles Nienkirchen

*The graffiti on the security wall in Israel is a stark articulation for students of the pain felt on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian divide.*

# Destination Damascus

Dr Charles Nienkirchen

*Professor of Christian History and Spirituality*

In May the *Down Ancient Paths Travel Study Program* featured a *Summer School in the Holy Land and Greater Holy Land* which took 32 participants and two Ambrose professors on a five-week educational odyssey through Syria, Jordan, and Israel. Their first stop was the Syrian capital of Damascus, an oft conquered city in antiquity known to the patriarch Abraham, perhaps the world's oldest centre of continuous human habitation. This exotic city, an enduring witness to the numerous civilizations which have enveloped it throughout the millennia, is both an historic centre of Islamic culture and a World Heritage Site. As a sprawling oasis panoramically situated at the base of Mt. Qassioun, Damascus served as a nexus for caravans from the east and west travelling the Silk Road. Steeped in the folklore of the desert, the storied city took on a life of its own. It provided the setting for engaging conversation with a Canadian diplomat, robust interfaith dialogue with prominent Muslim clergy and academics, and inspirational reflection on the pivotal events which transformed the life journey of the Apostle Paul.

Upon arrival, Professors Charles Nienkirchen and Paul Spilsbury, accompanied by the Secretary to the Mufti of Damascus, made their way to the Canadian Embassy for a private audience with Canada's Ambassador to Syria, The Honorable, Vice Admiral Glenn V. Davidson, CMM, CD and Charge d'Affaires, Emily King. After extending

a congenial welcome, Ambassador Davidson quickly established an hospitable atmosphere for conversation with an opening allusion to William Dalrymple's celebrated travelogue, *From the Holy Mountain*. His affirming interest in *Down Ancient Paths* as an educational travel strategy for building bridges between west and east, ancient and modern, was keen. His passion for Canada having a strong cultural and diplomatic voice in the Middle East was evident. His assessment of recent political developments in the Middle East showed a deft discernment. The energetic and stimulating dialogue which developed navigated a broad range of subjects. It flowed effortlessly, exceeded the allotted time and concluded with an invitation by the ambassador for a return visit.

The day morphed into exploring the city's charming alleys and savouring the most prominent of its historical, cultural treasures which included the dazzling Umayyad Mosque (the onetime Basilica of John the Baptist) with its Minaret of Jesus, the sumptuous Azem Palace, the mausoleum of Saladin, the revered Muslim adversary of the Crusaders, and the National Museum which boasts among its prized holdings Ugaritic texts of the world's first alphabet. In the late afternoon the group arrived at the Al-Fatih Islamic Institute in the core of the city where they were awaited by numerous scholars and students from the Institute for a discussion on Islam and the West. They were welcomed in a manner befitting of an international delegation. Among the hosts were Dr Abdul Fattah al-Bizem, the Mufti of Damascus, and Sheikh Hussam al-Din Farfour, the Vice Rector of the Al-Fatih Institute and one of Syria's most distinguished scholars. The ever amicable interchange had its curious twists and turns as well as animated moments. At the conclusion the scene shifted to the traditional Syrian home of Sheikh Farfour where sonorous Sufi chants were wafted into the night air by skilled musicians on drums and tambourines. An outdoor dinner sated with conversation ensued

in a garden setting. It lasted until after midnight.

The following morning the group's focus shifted to Damascus as a strategic centre in the spread of the early Christian movement. They soaked in the elegant arabesques of the Old City while strolling the almost deserted, ancient Via Recta, the Straight Street mentioned in the New Testament (Acts 9:11), once the main axis of the Roman town. Several ancient traditions of the Christian East converge here. In the sacred silence of the Chapel of Ananias, supposedly constructed on the foundation of the original house of the biblical character, the dramatic climax of the Apostle Paul's conversion was stirringly recovered in the reading and contemplation of the New Testament account (Acts 9: 10-18).

Time evaporated as the narrative was soberly contemplated in a subterranean cave-like setting. Misdirected in his religious zeal, Saul, later Paul, was an angry, determined persecutor of the adherents of The Way. He was however, abruptly halted, spiritually awakened, and his sight seared by the brilliance of a midday theophany on the road to Damascus. In the centre of the city to which he was led in humiliation, his hubris was deflated, his world view demolished, and his life radically redefined and redirected through the courageous obedience of a local Christ-follower who was the instrument for a miraculous healing, baptism, and infusion of spiritual power. His near death escape over the walls of the city in a basket, though a harbinger of his future sufferings, hardly anticipated the indelible mark he would leave on world history.

As for the group, they left Damascus much more peacefully and continued their travels in the treasure laden land of Cham – the voices of Ma'alula, Krak des Chevaliers, Aleppo, Palmyra and the Monasteries of Simeon the Stylite and Deir Mar Mousa, not to mention the Baghdad Café in the desert, beckoning them to come. 

Dr Nienkirchen is the Founder/Director of *Down Ancient Paths* Travel Study Program.

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**Holy Days and Holidays in Egypt: Experience an Ancient Coptic Christmas with a Deluxe Nile Cruise (December 27/2010–January 10/2011).** (already full)

**Ancient Christian Traditions in North Africa and Mediterranean Cruise (March 25–April 9/2011).** North Africa, once a lighthouse of early Christianity, has breathtaking archaeological sites mostly passed over by mass tourism and little known to western travelers. The itinerary includes four stops in hitherto inaccessible Libya!

**The Malta Institute: Exploring “the Sacred” at a Mediterranean Crossroads Plus an 8-day Excursion to Tunisia, the World of the Early Church Fathers (May 6–30/2011).** Malta (where the Apostle Paul shipwrecked) is an island jewel in the Mediterranean, one of the oldest cradles of human civilization with an unbroken, Christian tradition of 2000 years to capture your imagination. This venture will certainly expand your cultural horizons (only 20 spaces).

**Pilgrims, Monks and Martyrs on the Emerald Isle (Ireland): The Irish Roots of Celtic Christianity (July 5–23/2011).** Enter the Celtic mind and imagination. This all around Ireland itinerary incorporates an astonishing array of ancient Christian sites and monuments, framed by verdant landscapes with dramatic mountains and wild peninsulas.

All *Down Ancient Paths* ventures can be taken for credit, audit or personal enrichment.

For comprehensive information packets on the venture(s) of your choice contact Dr Charles Nienkirchen: [cnienkirchen@ambrose.edu](mailto:cnienkirchen@ambrose.edu)  
See also [www.downancientpaths.com](http://www.downancientpaths.com)



*Ambrose business students gained exposure to the world of international business during a two-week trip to Europe.*

### **Ambrose in Europe**

On April 24, a group of Ambrose business students and their professors left a snowy Calgary and headed to Europe for a two-week travel study trip, part of the course *Business in the European Union*. Although European air travel had been paralyzed the previous week by cancellations related to the volcanic ash cloud over the northern part of the continent, the Ambrose group experienced little disruption to their trip, something trip organizer Assistant Professor of International Business, Jeff Huebner, was very thankful for.

When asked what his aspirations for the trip had been when he was planning it, Huebner commented that, “This is the type of trip that you hope and pray will open the students’ eyes to a larger world that is out there filled with opportunities and challenges that can shape the future direction of their career paths and cause

them to seek out God’s calling for their life, wherever that may lead.”

Beginning in London, England, the group had the opportunity to take in some of the famous London landmarks as well as hosted visits to the Bank of England, the London Metal Exchange, and a meeting at the London offices of BMO Investment Banking.

While exploring the city, the group visited Canada House, overlooking Trafalgar Square, which has housed the Canadian High Commission since 1935. To the group’s delight, they also found another little slice of home in the shape of a Tim Horton’s – but apparently the doughnuts didn’t compare favourably!

From London the group moved on to Brussels, where the students toured the European Parliament and Council and met with the Head of the Trade and Economic Policy Section of the Canada-EU Mission. A highlight was a tour of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Headquarters and a briefing and discussion on NATO’s missions and operations, with a specific focus on Afghanistan. Travelling further east into Germany, the group toured the European Central Bank, and the BMW factory in Leipzig.

Completing the trip were stays in the Czech Republic and Poland which provided yet more opportunities to observe the spectacular European landscape and architecture, as well as to enjoy a soccer match, a Classical Music Gala Concert at St. George’s Basilica in Prague Castle, a tour of a consumer retail company, and a lecture at the Warsaw University of Technology Business School.

It was a very busy itinerary, but the students on the trip had no complaints. Said Daniel Yu, trip participant: “This trip has definitely been one experience that I will chalk up as once-in-a-lifetime. It has been a struggle to sum up this two week trip exploring Europe with close friends and two professors that have spent the last several years mentoring us. I have definitely enjoyed every moment of it, the relationship building, AMAZING food,

the sights and wonders of Europe, and the opportunity that God has given me.”

Jeff Huebner is already looking ahead to next year and a planned trip to Latin America in partnership with the Behavioural Science program at Ambrose. The trip will involve visiting microfinance projects in the field and assisting with local community development projects. This travel course will take place over the first two weeks of May, 2011. 

Contact: Jeff Huebner  
jhuebner@ambrose.edu, 403.410.2000 ext. 6915

### **History Going to Italy and Greece**

The Ambrose History program is offering an exciting educational travel experience next spring – Italy and Greece: Exploring the Classical and Christian Sources of Western Culture. From May 2-14, 2011, we’ll discover ancient ruins, early Christian sites, museums, art galleries, and much more in the great cities of Rome, Florence, Assisi, Delphi, Olympia, Corinth, and Athens. Travel is by motor coach and accommodations are centrally-located four star hotels. Roman catacombs, Greek temples, Renaissance palaces, monastic devotion, world class art and culture – even a ferry across the Adriatic Sea! This trip is a unique combination of history, devotion, and exploration into the ancient Mediterranean world and the earliest roots of European Christianity. 

For more information, please contact Dr Kyle Jantzen, Ambrose History program, at [kjantzen@ambrose.edu](mailto:kjantzen@ambrose.edu) or 403.410.2000 ext. 6902.

A full itinerary and overview video are available at [www2.ambrose.edu/dept/history/travel](http://www2.ambrose.edu/dept/history/travel)



*Next spring Ambrose history students will travel to Italy and Greece to explore the classical and Christian sources of Western culture.*

## Biology Equipping New Lab



*Dr Carol Gibbons-Kroeker teaches students in one of the Ambrose laboratories. She is seeking equipment that will fully outfit the newest of the two labs.*

The growing Ambrose biology program has added a second laboratory to serve the 37 Biology majors and the 3 full-time faculty members. Biology professors Dr Carol Gibbons-Kroeker (program chair), Dr Jessmi Ling, and Dr Ross Gilmore are preparing students for careers in Medicine, Dentistry, Chiropractics, Pharmacology, Optometry, and Veterinary Medicine as well as graduate studies. Students graduate with the knowledge needed to write the Medical Colleges Admission Test and the Dentistry Admissions Test.

The Ambrose Biology program helps students integrate scientific knowledge with their faith, and form values and convictions based on sound reasoning and clear methodology.

Third year student Amanda Garrow knew that she needed to go to a school where the professors are interested in the students as people as well as in results. “The professors at Ambrose actually care about their students, not only academically, but personally as well. They are available to answer students’ questions, and are always available for extra help. I also loved the fact that the class sizes were small,” says Amanda. She is hoping to go on to study veterinary medicine following graduation from Ambrose.

Student Scott Willms was really attracted to this program when he first heard it introduced back in 2008. “First of all, Carol Kroeker is an unbelievable professor who really cares about her students,” says Scott. “Just last month, she enabled me to sit in on a bio-medical engineering conference to see if I liked it or not. I also appreciate the independent study project that is done in this program. I was able to research the tendon arrangements

in different animals and gained a lot of experience and knowledge in the process. I hope to apply to medical school at both universities in Alberta and eventually become a doctor related to sports medicine. Hopefully, one day I will work with a professional sports team. However, I would also like to spend about a quarter of my year every year overseas offering help to people who are less fortunate than those in our western culture.”

To enhance the learning experience of students like Amanda and Scott, the Biology program faculty want to add new equipment to the new Ambrose laboratory. Here is a list of equipment they would like to purchase:

- Anatomy/physiology model sets (\$500)
- Spectrophotometers (\$1500 each)
- Physiology recording systems (\$3000 each), with accessories (\$1000)
- Gel Electrophoreses Imaging system (\$7500) with accessory trays (\$1000 each)
- Infrared Spectrometer (\$10,000)
- Proton NMR Spectrometer (\$20,000)

To donate toward the purchase of one or more of these items, contact Dr Carol Gibbons-Kroeker: [ckroeker@ambrose.edu](mailto:ckroeker@ambrose.edu), 403.410.2000 ext. 5910 

### Retooled for the New Mission Field

At Ambrose we are challenged by the call of Jesus in Matthew 24:14 to preach the gospel in all the nations. Our particular mission is to prepare those who will take the gospel to places and people where Christ is not yet known and where borders are closed. Therefore we describe the missionaries we educate and train as international workers to help them enter creative access countries that are hostile to the gospel. We also refer to missions as cross cultural or intercultural ministry to

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protect the identity of these workers. Even as the world becomes a more difficult place to spread the gospel, educating young people whom God has called to serve as international workers, particularly in creative access countries, is ever at the core of all we do on our campus, and we have a dedicated team of academically and experientially qualified faculty guiding our students through their training.

The undergraduate missions preparation program led by Dr Emma Emgård is called Intercultural Studies reflecting the intention of the program to get students ready to minister effectively in a foreign culture. The name of the degree also makes it easier for graduates to enter creative access countries. Dr Emgård brings years of experience with Youth with a Mission into the classroom.

At Ambrose Seminary Dr Charles Cook, who is Professor of Global Studies and Missions, heads the MA in Intercultural Ministries. Dr Cook travels

globally teaching pastors and academics how to preach the gospel in their particular culture. Dr Cook participated in the recent Lausanne Conference on Evangelism in Cape Town, South Africa, and was part of the team that developed the curriculum used at the conference's remote sites.

Ric and Ruth-Anne Gilbertson, Co-Directors of Converge, the department for candidate mobilization and development for The Christian & Missionary Alliance (C&MA) in Canada, are strategically located on the Ambrose campus.

Student preparation for missions happens cross-culturally in a global setting as well as in the classroom. Students do a six to nine month internship called on *Site* that immerses them in a foreign culture. Often students are placed in creative access countries which is a truly stretching experience.

This emphasis on preparing workers for ministry in creative access environments is a direct response to the mandate of The

C&MA, The Church of the Nazarene and other sending agencies to take the gospel to unreached people in areas that are not open to the gospel. **E**

### Ambrose Business Students Win Case Competition

Students in the Ambrose Bachelor of Business Administration program won the business case competition at Mennonite Economic Development Association (MEDA) 2010 annual North American convention held in Calgary in early November. The team of four students, TJ Smith, Rebecca Ross, Yena Kenzo, and Andrew Lodge, were enrolled in the BUS 310 Strategy course this fall. Professor Jeff Huebner incorporated the case into the course curriculum so that students could prepare for the competition as part of the class work throughout the term.

The focus of the case study was a local early childhood education services company called Little Wonders where the

Roy had just been saddled with an unthinkable print deadline.....

Annie, what are we going to do?!?!

Annie was panic stricken, but knew exactly what had to be done...

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www.rhinopronto.com

**Rhino Pronto – proud printer of Anthem**

owner-entrepreneur was looking for advice and recommendations on how to develop and grow her business.

The competition took place in downtown Calgary at the Westin Hotel on November 6 during the conference. The Ambrose team competed against teams from Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia, Goshen College in Indiana, and Bluffton University in Ohio. The students each won a cash prize of \$100.

This was the first time that a team from Ambrose has competed in a business case competition. Congratulations to the team and Jeff Huebner! 📧

### Ambrose Students Feed the Seed

Residence students at Ambrose purchase a meal plan at the beginning of the academic year to cover their meals in the Ambrose cafeteria. A student-led initiative encouraged students with funds remaining at the end of the year to donate a portion of the funds to The Mustard Seed, a Calgary-based Christian organization that works to meet the needs of the less fortunate. The initiative was warmly received by students and a cheque for \$1300 was presented to representatives of The Mustard Seed in early October.

Ambrose Vice President for Finance & Operations, Kevin Cawthra, commented, “We encourage our students to engage with the broader world and this is an example of our students taking the initiative to help others in a tangible way.”

Student leader Alex Cole, who championed the initiative, said, “We chose The Seed because a number of Ambrose students, faculty, and staff are already active volunteers at the organization, so this financial gift was a natural extension of that involvement.” 📧

### Spiritual Emphasis Encourages Students to Dance in the Light

Dr Barry Moore began his ministry working with students so it is fitting that his 50th year anniversary tour of Canada included time with students at Ambrose.

Dr Moore was the plenary speaker



*Dr Barry Moore chats with students during Spiritual Emphasis days. Dr Moore, who is celebrating 50 years of evangelistic ministry, was the plenary speaker.*

at the annual Spiritual Emphasis event held every fall on the Ambrose campus. The two-day event also featured breakout sessions led by Oz Lorentzen from the King’s Fold Retreat and Renewal Centre called *Listening to the Voice of God - Guided Prayer Experience*, and Ambrose Alumni Cam and Candace Aitken spoke on *Spiritual Warfare*. Rob Brown, pastor of Calgary’s RockPointe Metro Mercy Church, and recent Ambrose graduate, spoke on the topic of *Church on the Fringe* and Ambrose Professor Dr Bill McAlpine addressed students about *Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church*.

Ambrose Seminary students held their own discussions including one led by Ambrose Adjunct and Director of Converge Dr Ric Gilbertson on *The State of Evangelism Today*.

In one plenary session, Dr Charles Nienkirchen, Ambrose Professor of History and Christian Spirituality, moderated a discussion with Dr Moore that probed topics such as vocational settledness, changing attitudes of Canadians toward evangelistic ministry, cultivating spiritual health, and mentoring. Students were able to ask questions and learn from Dr Moore’s wealth of ministry experience.

Dr Moore’s time on campus was an opportunity for him to pass the torch of evangelism to the next generation that will take the gospel to Canadians and others in the world in the context of the 21st century. 📧

## Ambrose Seminary

### ON-LINE COURSES

#### Fall 2011 – Winter 2012

##### FALL 2011 (September – December)

#### OT 5010L – Old Testament Foundations with Dr Rick Love

This course lays the foundation for Old Testament study by providing a window into the historical, cultural and geographical background, the literary and theological content and the practical relevance of the Old Testament.

#### ED 5010L – Teaching and Learning with Dr Bernie Potvin

This course will provide opportunity for participants to understand the learning requirements of people in churches by examining a variety of learning theories, perspectives and principles relevant to teaching ministries.

#### EV 5010L – Personal and Corporate Outreach with Dr Charles Cook

This course seeks to integrate evangelism and evangelistic practice with the purpose of developing a wholesome biblical life-style conducive to personal and community outreach.

##### WINTER 2012 (January – April)

#### NT 5010L – New Testament Foundations with Dr Michael Pahl

In New Testament Foundations we will explore the history, literature, and theology of the collection of writings we call the New Testament.

#### CH 5010L – Christianity in History with Dr Kyle Jantzen

You will explore Christianity from the Early Church to the present, and meet a fascinating variety of Christ followers and church leaders – traditionalists and revolutionaries alike – struggling to work out their Christianity in the diverse social and cultural contexts of the world.

**For more information contact  
Dr Arch Wong, Dean of the Faculty  
of Theology:  
awong@ambrose.edu  
403.410.2000 ext. 2909**

## Alumni Update

### What I am Reading These Days

Please email us to let us know what you are reading, and in a few sentences, tell us what you think. Here is the third submission.

**Terry Fach** (CNC '83), pastor of Calgary Trinity Church of the Nazarene, writes, "I love to read and am from the 'many-books-at-the-same-time' school – usually a mix of old and new, fiction and non-fiction." **Terry** tells us that this list is the current mix: *The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See*, by Richard Rohr; *The Opposable Mind: Winning Through Integrative Thinking*, by Roger Martin; *The New City: How the Crisis of Canada's Cities is Reshaping Our Nation*, by John Lorinc; *Eat, Pray, Love*, by Elizabeth Gilbert; *The Razor's Edge*, by Somerset Maugham.

### Prayernet

The Ambrose Prayernet is a large group of alumni/faculty/staff which has committed to pray for urgent requests, emailed to them by Sharon Ralph, the alumni coordinator. These requests are originally sent to Sharon, along with the specific request that they be forwarded on to Prayernet. If you would like to sign up to belong to this praying group, you can do so at the bottom of the "change of address" form on the alumni website, [www2.ambrose.edu/alumni/address](http://www2.ambrose.edu/alumni/address).

### An Opportunity for Alumni to Feature Their Events Online!

Are you planning an occasion and want to let our alumni know? An alumni reunion? A conference that you are hosting? Travel opportunities? Your own concert? You can have this information appear on the Ambrose alumni website. Contact us to have your events posted and include your email address and your website address, if you have one. Note – we post only those events that our alumni are specifically arranging/hosting. Check out what events are being planned by our alumni ([www.ambrose.edu/alumni](http://www.ambrose.edu/alumni)), and contact us ([alumni@ambrose.edu](mailto:alumni@ambrose.edu)) to have your events posted.

### "Finishing Well" Seniors' Retreat, May 16-18, 2011

Dr Charles Price from People's Church in Toronto, is the special speaker. There will also be excellent music and very informative seminars.

Accommodation will be available in the Ambrose Residence or at area hotels. More information will be available on the Ambrose website.

### Farewell from Sharon Ralph, Coordinator of Alumni Relations

After more than ten very pleasant years serving as the coordinator of alumni relations, my new adventure as a "Retiree" is about to begin. But what mixed feelings I have! Ambrose has been a huge part of my life since 1988 when I began working in Campus Services on the Regina campus and moving on to other roles over the years. I was so blessed to have always had the "very best job on campus" and I will always miss it. What a privilege to serve God by being allowed to serve the Ambrose Alumni.

I will miss you – your emails, your phone calls and letters, your visits, and meeting you in my travels to many different places. As I think of how our alumni serve in the world, I am amazed and humbled. What a great group of people you are, and what a challenge to my own faith and commitment! I am not sure how God will lead me in the coming years, but I pray that He will give me opportunities to make the world a better place by serving Him wherever He takes me. And I pray for Ambrose and for the Ambrose Alumni as they continue to serve with courage and faith, equipped and enabled and guided by Christ. Thank you for ten wonderful years!

- Sharon Ralph

### 1940s

**Ken McVety** (CBC '48) had a "red letter month" in October! On the 12th, he and Anne left Vancouver for their 25th trip (since retirement) to go to China and Japan. "The Lord has opened the way for two more *Bible Seminars in China*, with our PowerPoint and Chinese printed materials." On the 16th, **Ken** and Anne joined some 200 staff members for 60th anniversary celebrations of *Word of Life Press Ministries* in Tokyo. A highlight of the event was the dedication of a new mobile unit, to challenge the churches to grassroots evangelism and to the use of the music CDs and Bible based DVDs now available to them. They also celebrated the 40th anniversary of the *New Japanese Bible*, now used in most Gospel-preaching churches in Japan. Over 15 million copies have been printed! Also in the busy month of October, **Ken's** latest book, *Seven Awesome Days* was launched, "free (like God's sunshine) on the internet for all to read... [www.SevenAwesomeDays.com](http://www.SevenAwesomeDays.com). It tells of the Grand Initiator and His wondrous works. This new website joins [www.RobinsonCrusoe.ca](http://www.RobinsonCrusoe.ca) and its clear gospel appeal after ten years of internet ministry." And on the homefront, the **McVety's** weekly small group Bible study has resumed, and another has been added for immigrant neighbors from Iran, Korea, and Brazil. "Join us in praising God for all He has done over many years."

### 1950s

Congratulations to **Eugene** (CBC '50, '67, CTS '95) and **Muriel (Green) Kelly** (CBC '50) who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on September 30. They were married September 30, 1950, and began home service with the C&MA in Trail, BC. They began their missionary service in Colombia in 1954, where they spent 18 years before being reassigned to Lima, Peru to serve as coordinator of the *Encounter With God* project. After 12 years, they moved to Quito, Ecuador and continued to promote the *Encounter With God* ministry throughout Latin America. They now live in Regina, SK, and continue to be involved in a variety of ministries in Canada. The **Kelly's** three children live in the USA, along

with nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. "God has blessed us abundantly over the past 60 years. He has been our 'Rock and Refuge.'"

**Russ Swanson** (CBC '51) has had a great year. He turned 80 on June 30 (congratulations **Russ!**) and the occasion was celebrated on July 1, "with so many happy memories, including a 'look back' at graduation day from CBC in 1951." **Russ** and his wife, Helen, have served in a variety of ways on Quadra Island in BC, since 1951.

### 1960s

**Sheila (Stonehocker) Frank** (CBC '68) and her husband Ron have recently relocated to Red Deer, AB, to be closer to family. **Sheila** came to CBC after spending one year at Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills, AB, and then she stayed on the CBC campus, while completing a teaching degree at the University of Regina. **Sheila** and Ron went to the Yukon to teach 'for a year or two' and then retired, having actually spent 40 years in that area! During that time they also were involved in a Friday night kids' club, and in camp ministries at Hidden Lakes Bible Camp. They have three married daughters and nine grandchildren.

**Margaret Louis** (CBC '63) still lives in Waterloo, ON. Although she misses her husband **Arthur** (CBC '63) who passed away 15 years ago, she is thankful for the opportunity to visit his family and his grave in Los Angeles every year. She still uses the talents God has given her, especially in music. She hopes to continue travelling, and if plans go well, to move to Toronto in July, 2011, and to Victoria, BC, in July, 2012. Margaret hosted a "73rd Birthday Celebration, Thanksgiving Party and Concert" at the Kitchener-Waterloo Chinese Alliance Church in Waterloo, ON, on November 13. This was also a farewell party for all of her friends and former colleagues at the University of Waterloo. She can be contacted at [mlouis@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mlouis@uwaterloo.ca) or at 519.747.1552. She will be in Hong Kong in January and part of February, 2011.

## 1970s

**Brian C. Austin** (CNC '76) writes, "I was a relatively poor student, coming to CNC too young – actually running away from home and pleasing Mom and Dad at the same time. In spite of the years there and at the U of M, I didn't complete any degree. However, I did gain much from my time at CNC. I met my wife, **Carolyn Shaw** (CNC '77) and I gained a deeper grounding in my faith. We now have three grown daughters and seven grandchildren. We are active in the Hanover Missionary Church in Hanover, ON. I've recently published my second book, a historical novel, titled *Muninn's Keep*. More information and excerpts can be found on my website at [www.undiscoveredtreasures.org](http://www.undiscoveredtreasures.org). Somewhere along the line I discovered the wonder of history and the thrill of research. Too bad it didn't happen while I was still a student. We have kept close ties with a number of former CNC students, but have lost touch with many. **Carolyn** is a physiotherapist travelling regularly between two hospitals. She has just received a 25 year ring, and has also worked in two other hospitals and done homecare physio during her career."

**Joy (James) Kaiser** (CNC '71) enjoyed catching up on campus and alumni news recently, after being "out of the loop for too long." She writes, "I'm currently working/ministering at a facility for seniors in Shawnee suburb of Kansas City, on the Kansas side. On Sundays I play for the Church of the Nazarene service and sing a concert each week. My part-time business, *Sounds of Joy*, allows me the privilege of singing for other senior care facilities around the city as well. Find me on [www.facebook.com/profile/joyjameskaiser](http://www.facebook.com/profile/joyjameskaiser)."

**Doug** (CBC '71) and **Gladie** (**Myklebust**) **Russell** (CBC '65, '67) live in beautiful Victoria, BC where **Doug** is a chaplain in an independent retirement residence run by Baptist Housing. **Gladie** is doing some writing, and recently published her book, *Praying Through the New Testament*, to assist people to pray God's Word back to Him. She found it a spiritual journey to put it together and it is now available on her website at [www.scriptureprayers.ca](http://www.scriptureprayers.ca).

**Gladie** invites folks to visit their website and drop them a line. **Doug** and **Gladie** have three married children and eight grandchildren.

**Rick** (CBC '70) and **Helen Wiebe** (CBC '69) have a busy retirement. They have been very active the last few winters with a group called Mobile Missionary Assistance Program, which is a group for Christian RV'ers who volunteer at camps, churches etc. Check out the member homepages at [www.mmap.org](http://www.mmap.org) for news about their involvement, and where you can also see photos of them, their co-workers and the projects that have occupied them for four months every year. "We are enjoying serving the Lord with MMAP and may be increasing our time involvement. Our home is currently Westbank, BC. When not MMAP-ing, **Rick** teaches woodcarving, does commissioned carvings, sells carving tools, and drives a limo." They hosted a "carving vacation" in August. **Helen** does freelance bookkeeping, as well as keeping track of their business matters. They have two married daughters, Heidi and Brenda, and two adorable grandkids, Jordan, 6, and her brother Nathan, 4.

## 1980s

After quite a few years serving in the Pacific Northwest District of the C&MA, and as a youth pastor, **Bonnie Govinchuck** (CBC '82) Nakashimada has worked for a couple of years for George Fox University as the Director of Graduate Admissions and Regional Sites... "the world of higher education is quite fascinating! The position requires some travel and is never boring." She has a son who is a freshman at George Fox and a daughter who is a junior in high school.

**Richard Knox** (CTS '88) and his wife Robin live in Prince Rupert, BC. Their son, **Joshua** (CBC '99) lives in Vancouver where he works for the Pan Pacific Hotel. Their daughter, **Heather** (CBC '01) was married on May 2, 2009 to Graham Pennington, and Jonah Dylan was born to them on May 4, 2010! In the last few years, **Heather** achieved her commercial pilot's license and flew for West Coast Air

out of Vancouver, then later for a company out of Saskatoon. She then became an administrative assistant for HAZMAT in Regina. **Richard** and Robin continue to attend Cornerstone Mennonite Brethren Church in Prince Rupert, where **Richard** pastored until two years ago. He remains active in the church community, preaching and volunteering with the Gideons and with Lighthouse Harbour Ministries.

**Lois Polege** (CNC '88) writes, "After spending five years teaching as a 'Nazarene in Volunteer Service' in Papua, New Guinea, in the early 90s, I have been back home in Sedgewick working in adult literacy and career counseling for about 13 years. Currently I am excited about my 'Learning Coach' position in which I support adults who are finishing their high school diploma or preparing for the GED exam. I continue to be very involved with our local church and have really been enjoying leading some Beth Moore Bible studies this past year. I also serve as Sunday School chair. I have many great memories of CNC days including good friends and lots of opportunities to learn and grow. I am grateful for the solid foundation for my faith which those days helped me to build. (I graduated in 1988 with a Bachelor of Arts and Religion, along with a B.Ed. from the University of Manitoba in 1989)."

**Bill** (CBC '86) and **Melody** (**Boonstra**) **Young** (CTS '87) live in Calgary, and operate a school bus company in the city. They are active members of Calgary First Church of the Nazarene. **Melody** is an avid scrapbooker, and she also travels from time to time with **Ian Charter's** or **Don Quantz's** (both current Ambrose faculty) Ambrose choirs. **Bill** teaches Grades 1 to 6 Sunday school/children's church and helps from time to time in the youth group.

## 1990s

**Dave Blundell** (CBC '94) recently published a book (that was the result of his Masters degree) called *Hungry For Life: A Vision of the Church that Would Transform the World*. The book is published by WestBow Press, a division of Thomas Nelson. The book contains a written endorsement by **Dave Brotherton** (CBC '85, current

faculty). Quoting from **Dave Blundell's** blog, "For certain ... my hesitancy to add more 'stuff' to the shelves of bookstores, coffee tables, and Amazon's website caused me to turn off my computer more than once. However, as a reader and a leader, I am tired of reading about how poor much of the world is and how poorly the Western church is doing. (It's pretty easy to get an audience by being constantly critical.) Instead, I want someone to paint a different picture. I want to read something that motivates me with the vision of a different, and very possible, reality. I want something to move toward, not just away from. I want to read something transformational, not guilt-driven behaviour modification. I want someone to help me be part of the solution, not just the problem. So ... more than once, I picked up my computer again and kept writing." For more information check [www.daveblundell.ca/book/](http://www.daveblundell.ca/book/). There are also some reviews listed at the bottom of the page... one specifically written by Dave Brotherton on the Global Vault website, ([www.globalvault.ca](http://www.globalvault.ca)) ... which is managed by **Ron Brown** (CTS '77) who serves at the Western Canadian District Office for the C&MA.



**Victoria (Steele) Dulisse** (CNC '93) was involved in a medical mission and adventure during August and September, 2009, along with a team of physicians, registered nurses, university students, and support staff. They flew into Lilongwe in Malawi and travelled to the clinic in Ngodzi, which is situated in the valley along the Malawi River in southeast Africa. They were there for two weeks, running clinics for eight days, including travel to an outpost clinic. **Vicki** worked as an RN, side by side with the doctors, treating the most common maladies, malaria and its complications, pneumonia, HIV and its complications, parasitic infections, burns and febrile

convulsions. The remaining days they did HIV presentations and clinics, travelling to and from the base, working with the children, assisting with the church services on the two Sundays and attending the Mvuu Game park/shopping/and the Catholic mission museum. They also distributed funds that had been previously raised for water treatment tablets.

After graduation from seminary, **Victor Koop** (CBC '78, CTS '94) and his wife, **Gail (Martens)** (CBC '95), and their family served in pastoral ministry until 1997 at the Evangelical Free Church in Quill Lake, SK. Then **Victor** pastored at the Evangelical Free Church for six years in Onoway, AB. Following that, they spent a few months serving in a Mennonite colony in Cleardale, AB. They now serve a small church in Dorion, ON where they have been since the summer of 2005, and have been blessed to build a church, "that is a miracle story in itself." **Victor** writes, "We have four children – our oldest Paul is 30 and lives in Edmonton, married and runs his own renovation company. Darlene is 26 and is living in Thunder Bay and works for Superior Propane. Jeff, 21, graduated from school a year ago and spent one semester at Providence, and is now living with his brother in Edmonton and hopes to find work. Tim...plans to go to college in Thunder Bay."

**Jaelyn (Culbert) Korsch** (CBC '97) reports that she is doing well since receiving the Liberation Treatment in August in New York. "Please add a thank you to alumni for all the prayers and support given for this treatment! It was a success!"



**Namgyu Lee** (CTS '96) continued studying for a while after leaving CTS. He earned a ThM at ACTS Seminary in British Columbia, and then earned his Ph.D. at

the University of Manchester in England. He was involved in church planting in 2001, and now is senior pastor of a Korean church in Langley, BC, where he has served for over eight years. **Namgyu** and his wife, Heejoung, who he refers to as a great coworker of his life and ministry, have two teenaged sons who love music and debating, a daughter who "is a bookworm" and a six-year old son who started elementary school this year.



**Judi** (former CBC faculty) and **Henri Levesque** (CTS '81) have four grandchildren – Monique and Chris have three, (Norah 7, Hayden 3, Ryder 1) with a new baby due soon, and Noah and Kim have Sawyer (8 mos). **Henri** is busy with renovations and landscaping. **Judi** continues to teach at the Conservatory and accompany recitals, etc. She recorded her new CD, *Psalms for Pilgrims*, with soprano Cathy Rempel Quicke. For more information, email [psalmsforpilgrims@gmail.com](mailto:psalmsforpilgrims@gmail.com) or [hjlevesque@sasktel.net](mailto:hjlevesque@sasktel.net). **Judi** and **Henri** are planning a holiday to Wales and England in December.

**Tom McCullagh** (CBC '95) and his wife **Rachel (Tymchak)** (CBC '88) live in Regina. **Tom** still serves at Glencairn Alliance Church, now as a lay-person. But in his new role as a chaplain, he coordinates the chaplaincy program for the "F" Division of the RCMP in Saskatchewan. "It has been and is an amazing opportunity."

**Eddie** (CTS '94) and **Bonita (Friesen) Mwuunvaneza** (CTS '95) have been in Rwanda, serving with the EFCCM for a few years now. Their children, Ishema (16), Inyota (14), Imfra (10), and Inzobe (8) have adjusted very well to the move and are enjoying Rwanda. **Eddie** and **Bonita's** main work is to facilitate training in trauma counseling. They have teamed up with students from Providence College, who have done one training conference so far with over 100 church lay leaders. The **Mwuunvanezas** also

have community programs in a neighborhood outside Kigali, which include four soccer teams and a choir. They are building a thatch community centre where more teaching will take place. Their family has expanded, and it now includes six teenage and young adult orphans, Papi, Onesphore, Senta, Agnes, Uwera, and Verena, who live with them and are learning about family life. Three of the girls from the girls' soccer team were living in dangerous situations, so they now live with the **Mwuunvaneza** family, and attend school. This is the first time they have lived in a family environment, and the **Mwuunvanezas'** prayers are that they will see Christ in them. **Eddie** has joined the pastoral team of their church, and **Bonita** has started a cake and cookie business to provide employment for a group of young women with no income.



**Becky (Ralph) Sarafinchan** (CBC '98) writes, "Darrell and I are busy with our small renovations business, and love watching our two girls grow up. I have so many fond memories of my CBC days. One in particular is starting class with **Ken Schamuhn** (former faculty, CBC '70) reading an excerpt from *My Utmost For His Highest*."

## 2000s

After graduating from Ambrose, **Allyson Conrad** (AMBROSE '08) worked for a while in Ontario, and then in 2009 she moved to Busan, South Korea to teach. She is enjoying it immensely and plans to stay for at least a few more years. She joined a small Baptist church, and has learned to read, write, and speak the language, and is working on building up her vocabulary. She lives near her Korean friend, whom she met in Calgary, and is making many friends, getting to know the culture and people more each day. Her job as a teacher is rewarding and pays well. She misses family, but enjoyed her parents' visit, and

then the time she spent in Ontario this summer. "I feel at home and secure here, I'm where I am meant to be for this part of my life. So I have very little to complain about or be sad about..."

**Jennifer (Adams) Dormer** (AUC '08) is working for Canada Diagnostcs Centre, and is involved in a young married's small group, a worship team, and as a youth leader at Foothills Alliance, her home church. "No kids to mention yet, but we are hoping to get a puppy in the next couple of weeks to start practicing our 'parenting' skills. Just waiting for **Adam** (current Ambrose student) to finish his last year of classes then looking forward to his internship and where God leads us after that."

**Brianne Collins** (AMBROSE '09) was recently accepted into graduate studies at the University of Calgary. She started a two year, full-time program in September, 2010. **Brianne** will be studying under Dr Hank Stam in the Department of Psychology (specifically theoretical psychology).

**Kelly Dyer** (AUC '01) recently moved to San Jose, Costa Rica to attend language school for a year before heading to South America as an International Worker with the C&MA. "It is our hope and prayer that I will be able to be in Caracas, Venezuela in a year's time as part of a church planting team. I'm starting to get settled back into the life of a student again and I am loving the opportunities to explore this beautiful country." **Kelly** would appreciate prayer as she studies the Spanish language. Connect with her at [kjdyer@hotmail.com](mailto:kjdyer@hotmail.com) or on her blog, [www.facebook.com/l/b8db9CPNZjdV1Ji5S8v2l5P0quQ](http://www.facebook.com/l/b8db9CPNZjdV1Ji5S8v2l5P0quQ); [www.scribblesinthesun.blogspot.com](http://www.scribblesinthesun.blogspot.com)

**James Edel** (CBC '02), writes that he and his wife Yvonne and their daughter Naomi have started an assignment in Japan (starting Oct 1). **James** is teaching all ages in a small city called Nikaho.

**Lynnette Harris** (CBC '03) has returned to Manitoba, after a few years ministering to youth in London, England, with the Salvation Army. She is the director of Student Services at Booth University College in Winnipeg. "I...can tell that this job is a great fit for me. I am very

excited to be working with students and in a Bible college setting. CBC changed my life and made me who I am today... I only hope I can help students and support them the way the faculty at CBC/Ambrose have helped and encouraged me."

**Samantha Ko** (AS '08) is excited and filled with joy as she begins her next involvement under The Christian & Missionary Alliance. She recently completed her missionary apprenticeship with Toronto Alliance Church, and God has led her to a new area of service. Highlights along this journey have included her attendance at the C&MA General Assembly in Turkey, during which time she received her acceptance by the denomination to be an international worker, serving with the Vietnamese living in Cambodia. She was also encouraged and amazed at the power of God, which was evident in her visit to a rehab centre during a trip to Serbia, where she saw lives changed, and a breaking out of the bondage of sin and darkness. Following that, a six-day personal retreat in London helped her to spend time with God, reflect on the trips and ministries she had recently experienced. **Samantha's** preparation for her work in Cambodia included a two-week pre-field orientation in Calgary, a short stay in Edmonton, a visit to her homeland from June to August for family gatherings, and visiting friends and donors. A two-week language acquisition program was completed in Toronto in August, and **Samantha** headed to Cambodia in September.

**Isaac Olufemi Ojewole** (AS '07) was married in August 2008 in Calgary. His wife, Aramide (Oyedeki) Oluwayemisi, is also from Nigeria. **Isaac** has been overseeing a new church in Calgary and "the Lord has been our guide." His wife attends school outside of Calgary.

**Megan Polowski** (NUC '04) serves at the Church of the Nazarene in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, which celebrated five years of youth ministry on August 15, 2010. While a student at NUC, **Megan** spent two summers in the Yukon, working in the daycare, leading VBS (Vacation Bible School) and falling in love with the north. After graduation she moved to Whitehorse. In the

summer of 2005 she began the church's youth group, where she has ministered to well over 100 kids, held hundreds of youth events, and has taken the youth on several trips including "Youth Camp" in Edmonton, "three60five" in Nipawin, SK, a youth conference in Mexico, and a "Work & Witness" trip to Poland. **Megan** is also involved on the church's worship team, has been director of VBS for eight years, serves on the church board and daycare committees, and will get involved in just about anything, "especially if there is pizza or iced cappuccino mentioned." (**Megan** works along with **Norm** (CNC '85) and Heather **Hajian** (U of M '85) who also serve at the church, and who just celebrated 25 years of marriage! Congratulations, **Norm** and Heather.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Dr **Dennis Straub** (AS '07) who earned his doctorate a few months ago.

Rev **Robert Wilms** (AUC '06) who was ordained in September, 2010. **Rob** and **Char (Ralph)** (AUC '04) live in Calgary with two-year old Elizabeth, and are expecting baby #2 in early October. They serve in pastoral ministry at Rockyview Alliance Church in Calgary.

Rev **Jeremy Zacharias** (Ambrose '07) who was ordained in December 2009, and who serves at McDiarmid Drive Alliance Church in Brandon, MB.

**WEDDINGS**



**Callie Clark** (NUC '06) and **Essam Atta** (current AS student) were married on June 19, 2010, in Calgary, AB, where they continue to live. They plan to enter doctoral programs in the future, but for now

**Callie** is a science instructor at SAIT Polytechnic, and **Essam** serves at the Mustard Seed Shelter.



**Derrick Gilbertson** and **Rebecca Thistle** (both Ambrose '10) were married on July 10, 2010, and now live in Calgary, where **Rebecca** serves in the enrolment office at Ambrose University, and **Derrick** is employed by a local roofing supplies company.

**BIRTHS**



**Jaxxon Anderson**, was born to **Bryan** (CBC '02) and **Krystal Anderson** on June 11, 2009. **Jaxxon** and his twelve-year old brother are keeping their family of four very busy!



**Elijah Edmund Kai Bergen** was born on May 1, 2010, a little brother for **Lara Gwyneth Leigh Bergen** who was born April 24, 2007. Mom and Dad, **Roslyn (Weber)** (CBC '04) and **Jason Bergen** are enjoying parenting two little ones. Jason is still running his painting company in Edmonton, and **Roslyn** is on maternity leave from Beulah Alliance Church in Edmonton.



**Kendall Ann Brown**, was born on May 7, 2010, to **Dave** (CBC '02) and **Erin (Koudys) Brown** (AUC '07) who recently moved to Ontario where **Dave** is the new lead pastor at Bayridge Alliance Church in Kingston. Previously, **Dave** and **Erin** were at Grande Prairie Alliance Church in Alberta, where they ministered as Community Life pastor. **Kendall's** older brother, **Cole**, was born March 16, 2008.



**Aaron Timothy Cambers** was born on March 15, 2010. His parents, **Jamie** and **Catherine (Thistle) Cambers** (both NUC '05) and big brother **Noah** (2 1/2) are doing great. **Jamie** is working in sales and as a musician, and **Catherine** is working at the Pregnancy Resource Center in Moncton, NB.



**Benjamin Liam Cawthra** was born on March 24, 2010 to **Kevin** (CBC '01, current staff) and **Helen (Bartsch) Cawthra** (CBC '01). **Benjamin's** older brothers are **Marcus** (4) and **Damion** (3).

**Isaac Daniel Gaw** was born on February 25, 2010, first child for **Matt** (CTS '07) and **Ingrid Gaw**, who serve in pastoral ministry at South Gate Alliance Church in Calgary.

**Bryan Samuel Hollinshead** was born on June 17, 2010, first child for **Lee** (CBC '99) and **Jana Hollinshead**, who serve in pastoral ministry at the Alliance Church in Winfield, BC.



**Alaya Janelle Jarvie** was born on April 29, 2010, second child for **Jon** (Ambrose '07) and **Carmen (Neufeld) Jarvie** (CBC '00). **Alaya's** older brother is **Brennan Paul** who was born in June, 2008.

**Joel Scott Schalin** was born on August 9, 2010, second son for **Michael** (Ambrose '07) and **Cara Schalin** who serve in pastoral ministry at Parkview Alliance Church in Vermilion, AB. **Joel** is a great addition to the family and very much loved by big brother **Jude**.



**Evangeline Selah Temple** was born on August 17, 2009, and recently was welcomed into her new family, parents **Ed** and **Hannah (Truong) Temple** (both CBC '01), and older sister and brother, **Madalyn** (3) and **Elijah** (6). The Temples serve in pastoral

ministry in Kamloops, BC, with The C&MA.



**Tanner Elijah Ulriksen** was born to **Chris** and **Terra-Lynn (Bradbury) Ulriksen** (both CBC '01) on April 14, 2010. **Tanner** joins with his older brothers, **Darrian**, **Avery**, and **Cayden** to round out the family to four wonderful boys. **Cayden** has declared **Tanner** to be his baby.

## MEMORIAMs

**Adina (Schmidt) Chapman** (CBC '47) passed into the Lord's presence in Calgary, AB on July 6, 2010. As she put it in some of her last words, "It's time to go home, isn't it? . . . I want to go home." She was holding a portrait of herself and her late husband, **Gordon V. Chapman** (CBC '47), who had passed away seventeen years before her. **Gordon** and **Adina** met in Victoria, BC where she graduated as an R.N. and midwife in 1946 from the Victoria General Hospital. She served as a nurse in the hospital in Ceepeecee, BC in preparation to go with The C&MA to Indonesia, where they served for 40 years. **Adina** did nursing care in a remote area, taught for many years, and wrote a book on the life of Jesus Christ, published in the Indonesian language, that is still considered one of the government approved textbooks on the Christian religion. "If one were to count the number of Indonesians, who without hesitation would call Adina 'Ibu' or 'Mother,' then her children would number in the hundreds." **Adina** is survived by her five children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, including alumni, son

**Richard** (CBC '73), his wife **Jean**, daughter **Kathleen** (CBC '77, CTS '86) and her husband **Dale Ibsen** (CBC '78, CTS '85) and their two children **Celine** and **Michael** (both current AUC students), son **Tim** (CTS '93) and his wife **Pat** (CBC '81). The family arranged for charitable donations, in **Adina's** honour, to be received by her alma mater, Ambrose University College.

**Margaret Elizabeth Mary (Waite) Christensen** (CNC '38) of Calgary, AB, passed away June 30, in her late 90s. She was the widow of Dr Charsten Christensen, a former minister in the Church of the Nazarene who passed away in 1992. After graduation, she pastored churches in Alberta (including in Brownvale) until her marriage to Charsten in 1939. Together they spent many years pastoring and teaching in Alberta, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan. In 1959, they moved to Calgary where she remained faithful in work for her Lord. For hobbies, she grew prize-winning roses and enjoyed painting, as well as several other crafts. In her later years, she enjoyed visiting elderly ladies hoping to relieve some of their loneliness. She is survived by three sons, one daughter, and their families, as well as her two sisters and their families.

**Jean (McKenzie) Edey** (CBC '46) went to be with her Lord on April 5, 2010 at the age of 92 years. Left to cherish her memory are her husband of 62 years **Reg** (CBC '48, former staff), and five children and their families, including daughter and son-in-law, alumni **Norma** (CBC '73) and **Les Kingdon** (CBC '95). **Jean** dedicated her life not only to her Lord and her family, but also to children around the world, and she was particularly remembered for her generosity to less fortunate people.

**Jim Holden** (CTS '82) passed away on January 26, 2010. He and **Janet**, who survives him, had worked with SIM in Angola for many years but, more recently served under the Navigators in Angola. "**Jim** leaves a legacy of academic achievement, but his greatest contributions were what he did with his education: 1986 to 2003 seminary training church leadership and pastoring at the Instituto Superior Evangelico de Lubango (ISTL); teaching at the Private University in Lubango,

Angola, where he taught English from 2008 to 2010; development of a children's discipleship program with a six-year curriculum; establishment of Know-How as an English Institute to make a contribution to the youth of Angola, allowing them to pursue further studies in computer and business. His work was developing the business side, curriculum development, teacher training, etc. However his over-riding theme and work focused on helping the young people involved develop spiritually. He quickly adopted roles of father, counselor, and advocate for the many students and teachers that came through the doors, and continued to do so until the end of his life." **Janet** and the children, **Esther**, **Paul**, **Daniel**, **Elizabeth**, and **Jonathan**, continue to live and serve in Angola.

**Joanna Johnson** (CBC '71) passed away in her 57th year, on March 4, 2010, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She will be missed by her sister and brothers, and many other family members and friends. She had lived in Waterdown, ON for most of her life, had worked for many years at McMaster University, was a committed member of the Waterdown Alliance Church, and a long-time member of the John Laing Singers.

On July 23, 2010, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and pastor, **Edward McCarthy (Ted)** (CBC '42), went to be with his Lord whom he loved and served. Predeceased by **Ruth**, his wife of 50 years, **Ed** leaves to mourn his loss, his wife **Irene**, daughters **Vivian** (Ray) **Foley** (CBC '65), **Valerie** (CBC '69) (Wes) **Field**, **Ruth** (Lawrence) **Hahn** (CBC '69), **Nola** (Don) **Renfrew**, 11 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. He will be missed by many other family members. **Ed** and **Ruth** ministered in eleven C&MA Churches in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Throughout the years **Ed's** dry sense of humour served him well. He loved people and had a gift for encouraging others. Leading Bible studies, preaching, visiting and serving as chaplain at Kelowna General Hospital were activities that **Ed** enjoyed and pursued with enthusiasm until his recent illness.

### Thanks to our alumni for submitting these news items.

If there are other alumni and former students, faculty, staff who would like to have updates published in *Family Ties*, please send your items to the alumni office – alumni@ambrose.edu

Be sure you specifically ask to have it published, and we will make every attempt to include it. Please mention the school(s) with which you were associated, and the years.

# Providing a Home Away from Home

Connie Russell  
Residence Director

As a former Ambrose student, living and experiencing the community life in residence was one of the most formational aspects of my education. However, coming to school I was unsure of what living in residence would be like. I can very distinctly remember having to say goodbye to my parents in my dorm room and feeling a swirl of emotions. At seventeen, I was nervous to leave home for the first time and scared that I wouldn't be able to make friends. Little did I know that the residence would fast become my home away from home and that the women there would become some of my most intimate friends and confidants. Perhaps most significantly, it was during my time in the residence that I was able to take the solid foundation of faith my parents had

provided me with and learned to live out my own relationship with God confidently and independently.

One of the role models that I had in the residence was my first Residence Assistant (RA), Sarah. She was a third year student who was chosen to shepherd the women on my floor. Sarah was welcoming, fun, warm, and was always willing to be a listening ear. Through her leading and teaching, I was challenged to pursue a deeper understanding of who God is and how to live a holy life that is honouring to Him. Through the residence Floor Meetings (Bible study times), small groups, prayer times, and community life my relationship with God was constantly fed and I grew rapidly in knowing Him better. It was also in residence that I was given some of my first opportunities to lead my peers and to discover that God has gifted me with the ability to lead and influence others. Two years after being a very tentative freshmen and being cared for by my RA, I had grown into a poised

leader and was given the opportunity to be an RA to my own floor of women. Through the various successes and failures of that year, God used my time of ministry in the residence to refine and mature me.

Now, several years later, as the Residence Director at Ambrose, working alongside my husband Matt, I have had the privilege of seeing students move on from the tentative fear of their first days on campus and develop into mature, confident, and spiritually grounded young men and women. Residence life has provided the context for this transformation. Living and learning in community provides ample opportunity to interact with other students with different ideas, interests, and backgrounds. The Ambrose Residence program does this while also providing the support and nurture of a confessing Christian community. This setting has been instrumental in the development of students as whole persons. It is my prayer that it will continue to be such a setting for generations to come. ☑

## Note from the Ambrose Career Development Centre

Thank you to all the organizations and churches that have forwarded information about full-time and part-time job and ministry opportunities for our students and graduates! We are now able to post these opportunities on the school website, providing easy access for our students and alumni from around the world! We welcome employment opportunities for local, national, and international settings whether it be for summer employment, part-time, full-time or contract work in any field.

**Post opportunities:** Send an email with employment details to [careerdevelopment@ambrose.edu](mailto:careerdevelopment@ambrose.edu). When you send in a posting, please tell us that you are alumni. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept telephone requests at this time.

**Information for employers:** [www.ambrose.edu/career/employment/employers](http://www.ambrose.edu/career/employment/employers)

**Looking for work?** View opportunities: [www.ambrose.edu/career/jobboard](http://www.ambrose.edu/career/jobboard)

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Please contact Harry Huebner  
Director of Planned Giving  
Phone: 306.591.4920  
Email: [hhuebner@ambrose.edu](mailto:hhuebner@ambrose.edu)





# modular courses

## SPRING 2011

April 26 to May 21

### **May 2 – 6**

**Alliance History & Thought**

*Seminary & Undergraduate*

Ken Draper

**The Food Course: Remembering Jesus When We Eat & Drink**

*Seminary & Undergraduate*

Jo-Ann Badley

**Perspectives of the World Christian Movement**

*Seminary & Undergraduate*

Jaffray Centre

**Forensic Psychology**

*Undergraduate*

TBA

### **May 9 – 13**

**Early Christian Spiritual Practices and Their Relevance for Today**

*Seminary & Undergraduate*

Carne Maier

**Prayer in the Bible**

*Seminary & Undergraduate*

Rick Love

**Designing Discipleship for your Church**

*Seminary & Undergraduate*

Eric Geiger

### **May 16 – 20**

**Leadership Course**

*Seminary & Undergraduate*

Terry Young

**Daniel and Jeremiah**

*Seminary*

Tremper Longman III

**The Pauline Letters**

*Seminary & Undergraduate*

Rob Snow

**Human Trafficking**

*Seminary & Undergraduate*

Emma Emgård

### **May 21 – 25**

**The Church's Ministry with Children and their Spiritual Formation**

*Seminary & Undergraduate*

Scottie May

**Personal Formation and Development**

*Seminary*

Peter Ralph

**Alliance History & Thought (taught in Mandarin or Cantonese)**

*Seminary & Undergraduate*

Francis Tam

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