

anthem

FALL 2017 THE MAGAZINE OF AMBROSE UNIVERSITY



Escaping to freedom

Generosity brought a family to
Canada. Gratitude pays it forward.



**See inside
Impact Report
2016-17**

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“We are confronted anew with our calling to live out the truths for which others have worked, suffered, struggled and died.”

Dr. Kyle Jantzen

Get the full story in this issue's Spotlight feature, beginning on page 16.

On the cover

A poignant chapter in one family's remarkable story was written thanks to a life-changing gift received decades ago. Gratitude inspires them to pay it forward for future generations of students. Read the full story on page 8.

Photo courtesy Hanna (Truong) Temple



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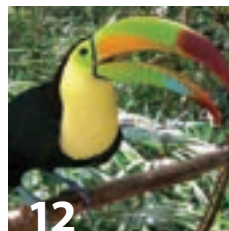
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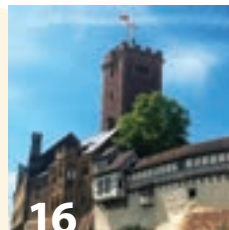
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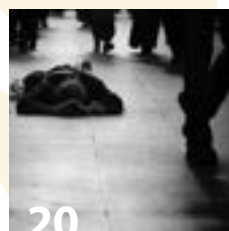
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Making a difference

We are hard wired — it is etched into our souls — with a deep and profound desire to make an impact, to make a difference, for God and for others. We want our lives to count; we want to do our part.

I have known the deep joy of planting a tree with a granddaughter, only seven years old, and hearing her say: "Grandpa, we did it!" She knew that together we had done something worthwhile.



The genius of an Ambrose education is precisely that it is all about equipping and empowering women and men to make a difference — in the church, in the world and in the created order.

Whether through business, the arts or education, whether through the professions or as a craftsperson, all of our students know they are called to provide a redemptive engagement with the world.

Those called into ministry — as pastors and missionaries — have at root, as the heart and meaning of their calling, to then, in turn, equip all of God's people to make a difference Monday through Friday. As we like to say, they "preach for Monday morning." We long to prepare leaders for the church who get this.

This issue of *Anthem* highlights many of the ways in which our students and graduates make a difference. Their stories show that an Ambrose education is precisely about empowering, equipping and encouraging them so that their difference is aligned with the kingdom purposes of God.



Gordon T. Smith, PhD

President
Professor of Systematic and Spiritual Theology

The genius of an Ambrose education is precisely that it is all about equipping and empowering women and men to make a difference.



What might the world look like in 50 years and beyond?

What questions do we need to ask, preparations should we make, and solutions ought we to pursue for such a world? What do various academic disciplines offer in reflection on these questions, and how might they point to a hopeful future? Ambrose's day-long Annual Research Conference on April 4, 2018, will spotlight student, faculty, staff and alumni research and scholarly activity to offer perspective on these big questions.

ambrose.edu/ambrose-research-conference

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

Getting to know U

Getting off to a good start at university is an important first step on students' academic journey. From Sept. 3–5, 2017, 124 undergraduate students new to Ambrose University took part in New Student Orientation, one of three offered (the others were for B.Ed. and Seminary students), in what Lisa Moran, First Year Experience Coordinator, describes a "bridge to academic success and, increasingly, to life success."

The power of orientation lies in helping students transition

not only into effective post-secondary students,

but also into adults ready to succeed in life. Orientation blended fun, information and a reflective night of worship, striking a balance between forging friendships and focusing on strategies to success with studies. "When they start classes, we want everyone to recognize someone they met in orientation," Moran says. "It isn't magic, but we know it's important to students' success."



FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

National grant advances FCI research

The groundbreaking research into the health of Canada's church congregations being undertaken by Ambrose University's Flourishing Congregations Institute has received a major boost: a national Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant for 2017–2020. The "Flourishing Canadian Congregations in Catholic, Mainline, and Conservative Protestant Sectors" project continues the partnership between the University of Saskatchewan and Ambrose, led by co-investigators Drs. Joel Thiessen, Arch Wong, Bill McAlpine and Keith Walker, who is also the principal SSHRC investigator. The FCI has already completed more than 100 interviews and nine focus groups, and the SSHRC grant and other partners will fuel the next phase: a national survey with congregational leaders and congregants, to be followed by in-depth case studies of select congregations, interviews and focus groups. Public events will share findings and facilitate networking opportunities among scholars, denominations and congregations throughout the project. Learn more about this exciting initiative at flourishingcongregations.org.

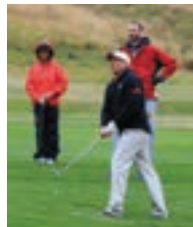


Strengthening enrolment, growing church leaders

On Nov. 10, 2017, Ambrose University joined two other educational institutions and two church denominations to sign a Memorandum of Understanding intended to train leaders for the Christian Church in Canada. Ambrose, the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, Emmanuel Bible College, the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada and Rocky Mountain College recognize the challenge educational institutions face in maintaining and growing student enrolment and, at the same time, the critical need for formally trained church leaders. "This partnership among the schools affiliated with the Evangelical Missionary Church and Ambrose, including the seminary and school of ministry affiliated with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, will strengthen both church communities," says Ambrose president Gordon T. Smith. "Instead of competing, the schools will collaborate in joint and shared programs. In so doing, we will leverage our distinctive strengths — including our regional strengths — and use resources more effectively." Learn more about what this new strategic relationship means for the partners at ambrose.edu/news.

Duffers double dollars

Wind. Rain. Cold. And, at \$50,000, twice the dollars raised at Ambrose University's annual Golf Tournament than in the previous year. More than 120 people — 100 golfers, plus sponsors and event volunteers — took to The Links of GlenEagles, on Sept. 13, 2017 (ending Calgary's 37-day streak of great weather) to help keep the Ambrose Lions at the top of their game. Funds raised are crucial for student athletes, who benefit from scholarships, athletic therapy, travel and equipment and from the support of coaches, chaplains and staff. These vital mentors help Lions Athletics fulfill its mission of "pursuing excellence, building family, becoming disciples" to develop athletes who make a difference in their communities. Ensuring the Lions compete against some of Alberta's top teams, the tourney also helps with the costs associated with Ambrose's membership in the highly competitive Alberta Colleges Athletic Association. Plans are already underway for next year — mark Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018, on your calendar!



Workshops ... where you are

Ambrose University is trading the campus for the community in a new series of one-day workshops, giving people the opportunity to learn where they live and to decide if the taking part in the workshop will be professional development or used as credit toward a university degree. John Van Sloten, well-known former senior pastor at Calgary's New Hope Church (and guest author of the Looking Forward column in this issue of *Anthem*), kicked this off on Nov. 22, 2017, with Preaching People's Jobs: Learning how to exegete and preach vocation, at Brentview Baptist Church. "We're eager to respond to the need for deeper knowledge that's been expressed by churches and people in ministry who want to know and do more," says Mark Buchanan, associate professor of Pastoral Theology in the Ambrose Seminary of the first-time series. "We want to ensure they receive the full value of Ambrose and, at the same time, we also strive to provide essential course material to our Seminary students in the best way possible."

The second in the series will run on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018. For details, contact Buchanan at mbuchanan@ambrose.edu.



Star Party eclipses expectations

All eyes were on the skies at 11:33 a.m. on Aug. 21, 2017, when 450 people of all ages gathered at Ambrose University to share in a rare cosmic event: a near-partial eclipse of the sun. The event — which drew more participants than Calgary's Telus Spark Science Centre — was one of several Star Parties that Stephen Jeans, professor of astronomy, organizes throughout the year to enable people to learn and to feel more

connected to the Earth. "The general public doesn't fully understand cosmic events and there are lots of misconceptions," he says. "The Sun is still a window to knowledge about how the universe works, and eclipses are very important for helping solve some of its mysteries." Rarely does Jeans have an opportunity to bring out the telescopes for day-time viewing, so "party" it was.

People watched the eclipse using pinhole "cameras," special solar-viewing glasses and Ambrose University telescopes, while eclipse-themed music (think *Don't Take my Sunshine Away* and *Moondance*) and baked treats (crescent moon-shaped cookies) added to the fun atmosphere.



Teaching by example

Recognizing a key donation from Ken and Mavis Farkash, of Vermilion, Alta., Ambrose named the Farkash Classroom after them in the Residence and Education Centre in 2012. Quite literally building on that support, the Farkashes generously offered a second gift, this time to finish three classrooms, two counselling rooms and one student gathering area, creating a sense of place for students and faculty in the B.Ed. program and adding to the spaces available to all Ambrose students. "We're honoured to receive this gift from a couple who believes so passionately in teaching," says Joan Wolf, major gifts officer. "This not only benefits Ambrose students today, but also the students our graduates will teach in the future."



(L-R) President Gordon Smith, Ken and Mavis Farkash, Sherry Martens (Associate Dean of Education).

Escaping 'The Beast'

On May 6, 2016, Ambrose University opened its doors to 130 people seeking shelter from 'The Beast,' a raging forest fire threatening the homes and lives of people in Fort McMurray, Alta. On Aug. 22, 2017, the Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) presented a plaque to the university recognizing the response.

"Ambrose went above and beyond to ensure that our friends from Fort McMurray were well cared for, not only by providing accommodations, but also by ensuring that the families' emotional and physical well-being improved during their stay," says Tom Sampson, CEMA Chief, who made the presentation to university leaders.

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ALISON SPRINGER

**STRENGTHENING THE CONFIDENCE OF YOUNG
WOMEN AND CHANGING 'GIRL CULTURE'
IS HELPING GIRLS BE THEIR BEST —
AND KEEPING THEM SAFE**

Alison Springer (CNC Bachelor of Religious Studies – Youth Ministry 1997) clearly remembers how she found her calling in life.

Having coached girls' basketball and volleyball for several years, she saw how practices often derailed on Mondays because the girls were dealing with what happened to them on the weekends. Then, while pastoring youth, she learned one of the girls had been sexually assaulted — again.

"I said 'enough is enough' and 'something needs to be done,'" Springer says. That 'something' was a drive to change 'girl culture', creating a rapidly growing movement to help girls tap into their strength in order to lead happier, healthier and safer lives.

"God gave me this idea for running a yearly girls' conference to reduce and even prevent the incidence of violence against females," she explains. "By learning practical street smarts and gaining confidence, girls will be more aware, wiser and better able to make good choices in life."

Springer's idea became a reality 10 years ago, with 30 girls attending the inaugural conference. A few years after that, Young Women of Power (YWOP) was born. Today, more than 2,000 young women aged 12-30 take part in workshops, clubs, a forum, school assemblies and community networks every year.

In the spotlight now is a curriculum — PivotFWD — which launched in fall 2017 to take the message out to more girls. Recognizing its potential to truly transform girls' lives, the Government of Alberta has announced funding for the curriculum so it can be put into the hands of teachers and community workers. PivotFWD will be taught in schools across the province, and will

also be available to agencies working with girls. YWOP will serve as the main resource for everyone who teaches it.

"It is one thing to start something like this, but when you see the momentum building, you know God is doing this," Springer says. "Schools recognize this is something they need and that it's exactly the material and content to serve the girls in their areas. This has the power to unite schools and communities to resolve issues that girls face every day."

If making a profound difference in the lives of girls isn't impressive enough on its own, even more extraordinary is that Springer has achieved all of this in her "spare time" and as a volunteer. A professional speaker by trade, she supported YWOP's early days through her business, and only in recent years has received funding through provincial and federal governments to support development of the curriculum and help with administrative costs.

A core of fellow volunteers — including Shelley Geary Harriman (CNC 1999), who serves as the on-site conference coordinator and a number of Ambrose practicum students who get involved as part of their course requirements — has also been crucial to success, enabling YWOP to move farther and faster than Springer ever envisioned.

"Over the years, we've been growing into the shoes we're now wearing," she says. "God has helped me use the challenges I experienced when I was growing up — just about the only black kid in my school in Hamilton for several years — and has given me the gift of public speaking. This has enabled me to embrace myself as a female to communicate with young girls today in a way that really gets to them."

6

THREATS TO CONFIDENCE

PivotFWD helps young women make choices — choices that can literally be the difference between life and death — by addressing key issues that cause girls to struggle:

- self-image
- family
- friendships
- dating relationships
- school culture
- mental health

There is little doubt that there's a growing urgency to the message.

"I'm not sure the issues girls face today have changed much in recent years, but there's certainly more intensity," Springer says, noting the influence of TV, movies and magazines has been overtaken by the immediacy of social media. "The root issues of insecurity and self-image haven't changed, but the avenues have.

"People need to feel comfortable in their own skin, and there's very much an 'air' or message going on that you're not good enough unless you look or act a certain way. YWOP is a way to expose the lies and see truth.

"People are able to live better lives when we're walking in truth, and YWOP is setting people free. It is empowering young women to know who they are and what their real identity is — and giving them the confidence to walk in it." □

Get involved, give your time or talent, invite Alison Springer into your organization or learn more about YWOP at ywop.ca.



Escaping to Freedom



A poignant chapter in one family’s remarkable story was written thanks to a life-changing gift received decades ago. Gratitude inspires them to pay it forward for future generations of students

Hannah (Truong) Temple sees the life-changing power of generosity every day: by looking at her own family’s story of incredible hardship, resilience, courage and success. The Canadian chapter began in 1980 — and continues to unfold today with plans to create a New Canadian Bursary at Ambrose University.

Temple was only two years old when her family joined an estimated one million people escaping South Vietnam on a desperate flight to freedom. Brutal conditions following Saigon’s fall to North Vietnam’s Viet Cong forced families to risk all they held precious to find safety, and perilous

journeys would see a staggering 40 per cent die from starvation, dehydration, illness, pirates or drowning. Canada offered one of the world’s few lifelines and, over more than a decade, 200,000 Indochinese refugees, including tens of thousands from Vietnam, found a new place to call home. They found hope and started new lives largely because Canadian churches refused to look away and reached out to help.

“When you hit rock bottom and have nowhere to go but up, you recognize

“When you hit rock bottom and have nowhere to go but up, your life is in the hands of God.”



Archival photos courtesy Hannah Temple; Temple family photo by Tereasa Basaraba.

your life is in the hands of God,” says Temple (CBC; Bachelor of Arts – Religion and Christian Studies 2001), the Financial Aid and Awards Coordinator at Ambrose. “We owe our lives to church congregations who stepped up to help, which at the time was quite courageous and controversial.”

Unconditional love opens doors to hope

Kind and open hearts at Central Baptist Church in Victoria, B.C., saved not only one family of four, as they had originally intended, but two close-knit, multi-generational families, the Truongs and Quaches, totalling 16 people.

“Our journey to Canada took 11 months, and for 10 of those months my father was separated from his wife and children,” Temple says. She explains that her father, an entrepreneur in the pen-making business, took several years to save every ounce of gold he could in order to pay guards to look the other way when it was time for her family to

leave South Vietnam. “It was a huge risk. There was no guarantee we would survive,” she says of the rickety, unsafe boat they boarded, and the treacherous time at sea.

“My mother’s inner strength, in particular, was remarkable. She was only 30 and had six children, but she kept us together.”

Forced to live in two separate and overcrowded refugee camps, the family would reunite only when everyone reached Canada. All 16 members of the Truong and Quach families lived in a two-bedroom house provided by the church until the Truongs were able to move into their own home.

“They did so much,” Temple says of church members. “Not only did they provide a place to live, they helped us adjust to life in Canada, to speak English, and gave my dad a job as the church’s first caretaker, a job he still has today at age 64.”

Gratitude inspires a living legacy

Compelled to express gratitude for the generosity her family has received, and to share their remarkable story, Hannah Temple is working to establish an endowed bursary to help newcomers to Canada overcome financial obstacles to post-secondary education, and chart their own journeys of success.

“Education has empowered me in so many ways, and given me a different world view. In some ways, it has been a different kind of escape for me,” she says. “In my role at Ambrose, I see students every day who are struggling financially. What God did for my family was incredible, and by creating this bursary, we can share our story and create a legacy.”

Her goal is to secure \$50,000 in funding — from churches who have been part of her family’s life, as well as from family members,

friends and others — to create an endowed fund. She’s already received support from Central Baptist Church (Victoria), Foothills Alliance Church (Calgary), Burnaby Alliance Church Beulah Alliance Church (Edmonton), Kamloops Alliance Church, and Victoria Chinese Alliance Church. These generous contributions give her confidence that reaching the funding target will provide for a meaningful bursary every year, starting in 2019-20, with the principal remaining untouched and lasting in perpetuity.

“We’re incredibly thankful for the limitless love of Central Baptist Church, the freedom Canada offers, the education we’ve received and the opportunity to give back.” □

Every family has a legacy to share. What’s yours?

Hannah Temple’s story proves every family, every church and every community can change lives. Gifts large or small to Ambrose University, for one-time student awards or to support endowed funds to last in perpetuity, can break down financial obstacles to post-secondary education and unleash the potential within every person.

To learn more or to create your family legacy, please visit ambrose.edu/donate.

Page 8, top photo: Two-year-old Hannah (Truong) Temple, seated on her grandmother’s lap, was one of 16 refugees from Vietnam who were able to escape to Canada — and freedom — because of the generous hearts at Central Baptist Church in Victoria, B.C.

Page 8, bottom photo: Hannah Temple (front row, second from left) credits her mother’s remarkable resilience for keeping her family together during incredible hardship.

Page 9, Hannah Temple’s family today, (L–R) Elijah, Evangeline, Ed, Hannah and Madalyn.

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Music matters

There's more to music than meets the ear, and Pat Belliveau is passionate about developing Calgary's young talent

Pat Belliveau doesn't skip a beat when asked why music is important. "Music engages the brain and can make you an overall better person, regardless of what you end up doing in life," he says. "And it adds to the quality of life of communities."

Joining Ambrose University four years ago, Belliveau teaches saxophone, and last September took over lead of the Jazz Ensemble. Having played the sax since age 12, Pat brings experience performing with well-known names such as Petula Clark, Neil Sedaka, Vic Damone, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, Maureen McGovern, Mel Torme, and a long-time gig with the Prime Time Big Band, together with a passion for teaching so that students will be inspired to do the most with their musical gifts. "Ambrose sees the importance of offering music programs to develop the whole person," Belliveau explains. "It's the only place teaching jazz and contemporary music at the post-secondary level — and the only way we can keep our music talent in the city. "If music students can't complete their studies in Calgary, we lose them. That's good for other places, but not for us. The more we can keep our talent here, the more 'artistic fuel' we have."

Ambrose's music programs are highly attractive because of their high quality. In addition to being a freelance musician, Belliveau holds a Bachelor of Music (Jazz Studies). All members of the music faculty have solid academic chops accompanied by experience. "We're touring, recording, playing good shows," he says. "Ambrose is a guarantee of quality." That combination is the key, because great players don't necessarily make great teachers.

"I've made enough mistakes that I can help others," he says with a laugh. "I know from my own experience that people learn in different ways, so I try to ensure every student receives the type of learning that works best for them. If I see they're struggling, I come at it from a different angle. I'll keep teaching in multiple ways until students get it."

They'll also get the benefit of insight Belliveau gained over 30-plus years as a "small business" owner. "For students who want to be performers, for example, we can talk about building their networks, so they know people in the music scene and can start working right away."

For students, that hits all the right notes. □



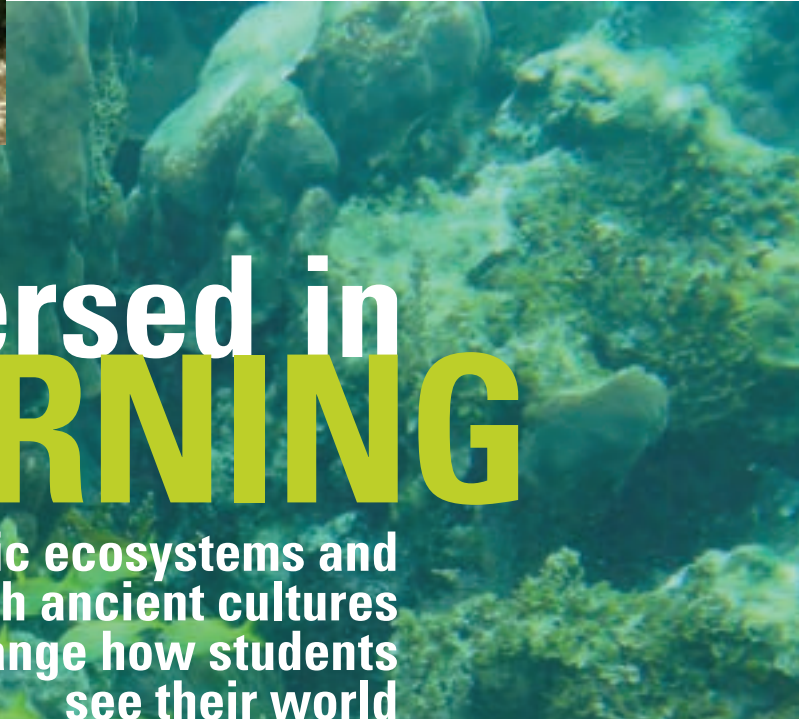
Photo courtesy Pat Belliveau

“ The more we can keep our talent here, the more 'artistic fuel' we have. ”



Immersed in **LEARNING**

Exotic ecosystems and
rich ancient cultures
change how students
see their world



There's something about swimming with a manatee that makes you want to know more about the species in your own backyard. Something about exploring archeological sites deeply rooted in ancient cultures that makes you reflect on your own. Something about learning by being there, by seeing, doing, touching and interacting, that enriches your learning and creates memories to last a lifetime.

Fourteen students experienced that "something" for themselves last spring, travelling to Belize and Guatemala April 30–May 9, 2017, to take part in Ambrose University's first field course in Conservation Biology and Anthropology in Belize and Guatemala.

The interdisciplinary trip, funded in part by a Campus Alberta Grant for International Learning, blended a focus on anthropology with conservation and marine biology, illuminating the intersection between people and place.

"You can learn about different biological systems in a classroom and from textbooks, but there's nothing like seeing a whole different system in person," says Carol Kroeker, associate professor of Biology, explaining that a field course is built into Biology 404 every year.

"There's nothing like being there to understand a different culture, and to see the impact of people on the ecological balance."

From manatees to mangrove swamps

"Seeing ecosystems we don't have in Canada changes how students look at the whole planet," Kroeker explains, adding that swimming at a coral reef with manatees, barracuda, sharks, rays and a bounty of tropical fish — and a night snorkel to see it all in a truly

different light — is nothing short of "mind blowing," and the kind of thing that has the power to change thinking and inspire action.

In a visit to the Belize Zoo, a leader in animal conservation and rehabilitation, and the Blue Morpho Butterfly Farm, a research facility dedicated to preserving butterfly species and botanicals essential to their survival, students went behind the scenes to speak directly to zookeepers and researchers.

At the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center on Carrie Bow Cay, students met scientists and attended lectures on current research, and at Tobacco Caye Marine Station, they took part in a dozen snorkel dives in one of the world's richest areas for marine biodiversity.

"There was unbelievable diversity," Kroeker says. "Students were fascinated by what they were seeing — and they saw through a different lens. If they saw some garbage in the water, or a banana or coffee plantation, they would see the impact of people on the environment."

Connecting to culture

Visits to Mayan cultural sites, punctuated by a two-day trip to Tikal National Park and the Yaxha archeological dig site, deep in the Guatemalan jungle, brought home how rich and advanced Mayan culture, lifestyle, farming and astronomy was, and showed how science underscored much of what people were able to accomplish millennia ago.

In Belize, students entered the Mayan world of worship at Actun Tunichil Muknal, accessing sacred sites through narrow, dark caves, many of which were almost filled with water. Deep in the cave, they saw more than 1,400 Mayan artifacts, showing the great effort the Mayan people expended to follow their beliefs.

Leaving footprints

"We are always mindful of the eco footprint we leave, and about helping to make a difference in the communities we visit," Kroeker says of the intentional integration of service and learning. "We believe this adds to the experience and to the learning."

Students visited a local school and met with students, and literally got their hands dirty working with rangers in Tikal to help remove invasive plant species that are threatening native habitat.

In travelling to the various locations, the group also contributed financially to advancing conservation agendas. "If we spend dollars in the right places, at research stations that are trying to save species, or at places like the Belize Zoo and the butterfly farm, which are working hard to conserve native species, then we realize the power of ecotourism," Kroeker says. "We come home more intensely focused on saving our ecosystem and the importance of biodiversity. We hope we've contributed to other communities' ability to do that as well." □

What students say

'This has been life-changing for me. I will never forget the temples, and the snorkeling, and the manatee!'

'I learned so much about the coral reef, the jungle and the animals.'

'To be able to walk in the buildings and up the temples ... and see how the [Maya] lived was amazing.'



INTERNATIONAL@HOME

Students tap into technology to take part in a virtual-learning experience in Mexico

During the 2017 winter semester, a group of Ambrose University students explored conservation issues and efforts in the Baja California, Mexico, by watching humpback whales in their nursing grounds, 'swimming' with a 25-foot whale shark, attending guest seminars by Mexican researchers and taking part in grassroots conservation efforts — all without leaving Alberta.

Ambrose's first i@home grant from the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Advanced Education enabled lecturer Graeme Gissing to develop a new, experiential international component in his Conservation Biology course. Students were able to take part in bi-directional cross-cultural learning because "virtual experiences" eliminated cost, time and travel barriers.

"Any time you expose students to other cultures, you build curiosity and broaden their view of the world," Gissing says. "Students were enthusiastic and came away with a greater appreciation for societal differences, international scientific research and local conservation issues."

The project hinged on a new partnership with Dr. Javier Salgado-Ortiz of the Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo in Morelia, Mexico. "This collaborative approach was essential for developing and delivering course content and was the source of the guest speakers from Mexico," Gissing says, adding that Francisco Gómez, Director of the Museo de La Ballena y Ciencias del Mar (the natural history museum in La Paz) was also a key contributor.

Live broadcasts via the Ambrose learning system, recorded interviews with people directly involved in conservation efforts in Mexico and videocasts created in the field by Gissing, who travelled to Mexico to facilitate the project, were delivered to Ambrose students in the classroom.

"Taking part in live broadcasts was imperative," Gissing says, "because a two-way exchange of information fostered student engagement and enabled students in Alberta to interact with guest speakers from Mexico."

Topics were wide-ranging, including the positive and negative effects of ecotourism, the impact of environmental toxins on American Kestrels and the differences between Canadian and Mexican university systems.

Pleased with students' feedback and how the international component energized both them and him, Gissing believes what's been gleaned from this pilot project will shape future offerings at Ambrose.

"I firmly believe experiential learning is essential as it provides an opportunity for students to become fully engaged and invested in the learning process," he says. "This facilitates greater absorption of knowledge and, more importantly, generates a passion for learning. With the advent of simple and effective web-based conferencing software, the world can truly be at the fingertips of our students." □

Any time you can expose students to other cultures, you build curiosity and broaden their view of the world.

Listening can be life-changing

Around the campfire, kids share their yearning for people — and places — who care

When you're the Camp Director of a kids' camp and retreat centre, you have a wide-open window into the world of today's young people. Ric Cyr and his wife, Charlene, are blessed to gain those insights at Eagle Bay Camp, 23 acres located along the shores of B.C.'s beautiful Shuswap Lake.

Ric sees how "his" kids — including son Scott and the 2,500 young people who visit the camp every year — try to find their way, and he hears how Ambrose University reveals people's passions.

"Every evening at camp, we gather together and talk, and we have the opportunity to listen and help direct people spiritually," he says. "When we see kids have a calling for ministry or Christian work, or another vocation, we encourage them to pursue their dreams through Ambrose."

In addition to finding high-quality programs that will open the doors to ministry and other careers, students find something they crave: authentic relationships.

"I've learned that one of the biggest things kids struggle with today is their relationship with their parents," Cyr says, explaining that he and camp colleagues were surprised to learn this from a recent survey.

"Kids don't communicate as much with their family members as perhaps kids did in the past, so relationships with peers and others become very important.

"I hear all the time that at Ambrose, there's a real sense of belonging and fit. I hear how there are people who act like parents, who really care, and who go above and beyond what you'd expect at a university.

"Kids know when someone doesn't care about them. At Ambrose, the real caring is a big draw."

Cyr's son, Scott, knows what a life-changing difference that can make. He was able to overcome obstacles early in his time at university because a professor offered invaluable guidance and care. At Ambrose, Scott was a worship leader with the Legacy Youth Conference, and he's continued to follow that passion. Today, he's a worship pastor at Vernon Alliance Church, where he guides young worship leaders. "My son has seen the value of Ambrose firsthand," Cyr says. "He's been able to stay in touch with a lot of professors and fellow students. He feels part of a real 'family' — and that's huge for kids." □

For more information about Eagle Bay Camp, visit eaglebaycamp.com.



Charlene and Ric Cyr

Kids know when someone doesn't care about them. At Ambrose, the caring is a huge draw. ”

A portrait of Martin Luther, a German theologian, philosopher, and reformer. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing a black cap and a black robe with a high collar. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right. The background is a textured, light green color.

Travelling a 500-year story that began with 95 theses

by Dr. Kyle Jantzen

Throughout 2017, Christians in Germany and around the world have been celebrating the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation — in church services, sermon series, scholarly conferences, museum exhibitions, films and public lectures, many dedicated to Martin Luther. Here at Ambrose University, History and Music faculty collaborated on a public lecture and musical performance on the theme, “Singing the Gospel: Lutheran Hymns and the Success of the Reformation.”

But what makes the Reformation so important that we celebrate a series of events that took place mostly in the back corner of Germany five centuries ago? *Anthem* put the question to Dr. Kyle Jantzen, professor of History and program chair, who, along with 12 History and Theology students, explored Luther’s impact during a Reformation-themed educational tour in May 2017.

What I love about educational trips is the opportunity to “travel a story.” Reformation tours are especially good for this. We get to see so many sites from the life of Martin Luther: Wittenberg, the centre of his reformation activity; Erfurt, where he studied and grappled with his personal spiritual doubts; Eisenach, where he hid in the Wartburg; and Mainz, where he defended his religious convictions while on trial before the Holy Roman Emperor and a host of German monarchs and high Roman clergy.

The 12 of us started our journey in Prague, Czech Republic, where amid the splendour of the late-medieval castle, churches and university, we visited a rather plain yellow building: the Bethlehem Chapel, Jan Hus’ church. Hus was a professor, priest and preacher who launched a series of criticisms against the Roman church, aiming to make clergy and laity more equal within Christianity, reduce the power of the papacy, increase the place of Scripture in Christian preaching and make the church simpler, poorer and humbler — like Christ. For these ideas, Hus was burned at the stake at the Council of Constance in 1415. Like John Wycliffe, whom he admired, Hus illustrates the ever-present call for reform in Christianity, and reminds us that Martin Luther was neither the first nor the last reformer.

From Prague we made our way to Germany, stopping in Dresden and Leipzig to see the ways in which Protestant Christianity gave expression to beautiful architectural and cultural monuments. The highlight was attending the performance of a Bach Motet in Leipzig’s St. Thomas Church, where Johann Sebastian Bach invested years of labour, building on Luther’s musical legacy by writing hundreds of beautiful pieces of Lutheran church music.

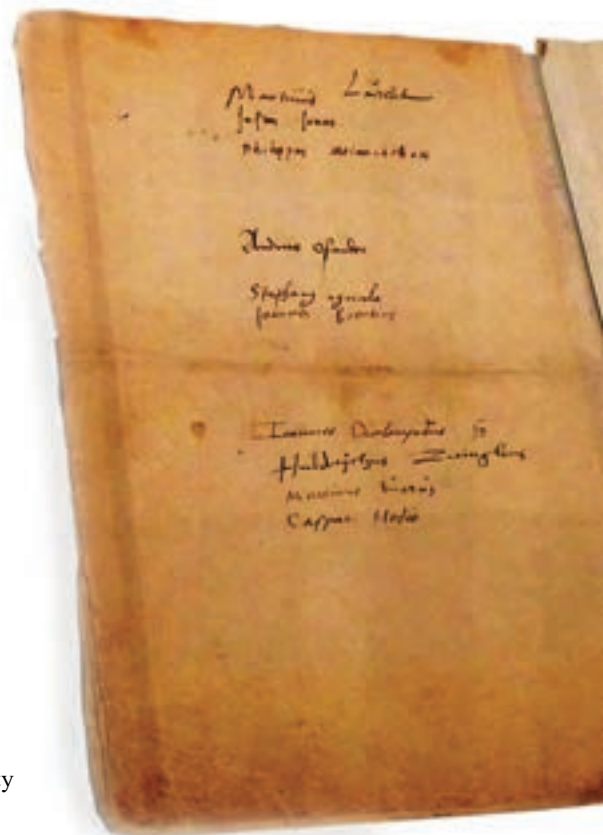
The heart of our trip took us through Wittenberg, Erfurt and Eisenach. In Wittenberg, we worshipped in both the Town Church, where Luther regularly preached, and the Castle Church, where he is said to have posted his Ninety-Five Theses. Together with Christians from many nations, we sang the Luther hymns “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” and “Dear Christians, Once and All, Rejoice,” we read Scripture, we heard the Gospel preached, we recited the Apostles’ Creed, we prayed the Lord’s Prayer, and we took communion together.

What does it mean to participate in a church service in Wittenberg?

What does it mean to worship where Luther once contended for the authority of Scripture in the life of the Church, for the priesthood of all believers, for salvation by grace and faith alone?

In my experience, it reminds us that we’re part of a 2,000-year tradition of faith. It reminds us that we’re part of the worldwide body of Christ. It reminds us that our faith is not trivial, not temporary, not dependent on any particular worship style or cultural context. And it reminds us that others have gone before us in the faith, sacrificing much for the sake of the Gospel.

In Wittenberg, we experienced the Reformation in several ways. The old town itself is compact and quaint — a place in which it’s easy to imagine Luther, his university and church colleagues, his students and townspeople walking to and fro. Indeed, the Berlin artist Yadegar Asisi has created a stunning 360-degree multi-media panorama depicting life in Reformation Wittenberg, a powerful immersion into Luther’s world. >



Martin Luther and nine Reformers signed the Marburg Articles following the 1529 Colloquy in Marburg, Germany.

“ We are confronted anew with our calling to live out the truths for which others have worked, suffered, struggled and died. ”

Our trip back in time continued at the Lutherhaus, the former Augustinian Friary given by the ruler of Saxony to Luther as a home for his family. Luther's wife, Katharina von Bora, an accomplished businesswoman, managed this busy home, arranging provisions for the dozens of family members, students, visiting scholars and churchmen who dined regularly at the Luther table.

The event around which the 2017 Reformation anniversary revolves is the Oct. 31, 1517, publicizing of Luther's 95 Theses, and the story of how Luther's criticism of the sale of indulgences evolved into a full-blown struggle against the Pope and the system of authority within the Roman church. Throughout the Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church had grown into the most important institution in medieval European society. By the 16th century, it needed some reform. Administratively, many higher clergy, including popes, were corrupt, more focused on politics or luxury than spiritual matters. Liturgically, both the Bible and church services were in Latin, which meant that as Latin gave way to various national languages, Europeans largely lost access to the Bible and the ability to understand their church services. Theologically, sacramental and penitential systems had become complex and detached from early Christian teachings.

Luther's 95 Theses were his invitation to academic debate about these problems.

First and foremost, Luther was trying to correct certain abuses within the existing system of salvation, forgiveness and pastoral care, and, in particular, the problem of selling indulgences — those pardons from penance.

Now penance wasn't supposed to replace confession and forgiveness, but that's what was happening in practice. By Luther's time, giving a small gift to the church had become a way of essentially "buying" an indulgence,



so that preachers like the famous Johann Tetzel delivered sermons urging people to acquire indulgences for their dead relatives. One of the famous lines from the era sums it up: "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, so the soul from purgatory springs." It's not difficult to imagine how ordinary Christians, so concerned to earn salvation and forgiveness, would line up to buy indulgences.

Luther wanted very badly to stop this practice, so first and foremost, the 95 Theses were about taking sin seriously, and taking repentance seriously. As the very first thesis states: "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (Matt. 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." Related to this, Luther was very concerned about the greed behind the spiritually abusive sale of indulgences, and he wanted the clergy to focus on praying for Christians rather than making false promises about selling Christians forgiveness apart from repentance.

Since money from the sale of indulgences was used to build St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Luther also mentions in thesis 86 that the pope

should probably build St. Peter's with his own money. For Luther, charity was far more important than funnelling profits from indulgence sales to Rome. As thesis 43 puts it, "Christians are to be taught that he who gives to the poor or lends to the needy does a better deed than he who buys indulgences."

Finally, rather than preaching the sale of indulgences, preachers, Luther says, should preach the Word of God. As Luther wrote in thesis 55, it was 100 times more important. As for ordinary Christians, the last two theses capture Luther's hope that "Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their Head, through penalties, death and hell. And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace (Acts 14:22)."

This was a sharp rebuke to clergy involved in the indulgence trade, a reminder that their power over Christian souls was limited, and that repentance, charity the preaching of Scripture, and faith in Christ were really at the centre of Christianity. That's what the 95 Theses were all about.



We followed Luther’s story from this early protest through his establishment of a new kind of church — a movement that has grown into the whole family of churches we call “Protestant.”

We learned how Luther overcame his own spiritual struggles, rediscovering justification by faith. As he grappled with the idea of God’s justice in Romans 1, suddenly it became clear to him: “I began to understand that ... the justice of God is that by which the just person lives by a gift of God, that is by faith. I began to understand that this verse means that the justice of God is ... that by which the merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written: ‘The just person lives by faith.’ All at once I felt that I had been born again and entered into paradise itself through open gates.”

Luther discovered Christ “as a gift, as a present that God has given you and that is your own,” and described the Gospel as “the overwhelming goodness of God” and “the great fire of the love of God for us, whereby the heart and conscience become happy, secure, and content.”



Throughout our Reformation trip, my students and I repeatedly encountered two other important Reformation ideas: the power of the Bible, translated by Luther into ordinary German, to transform individual lives, churches and communities; and the priesthood of all believers — Luther’s critique of the belief that professional clergy are more important or more spiritual than Christian lay people.

All this, and so much more, is why Luther’s 95 Theses matter in 2017.

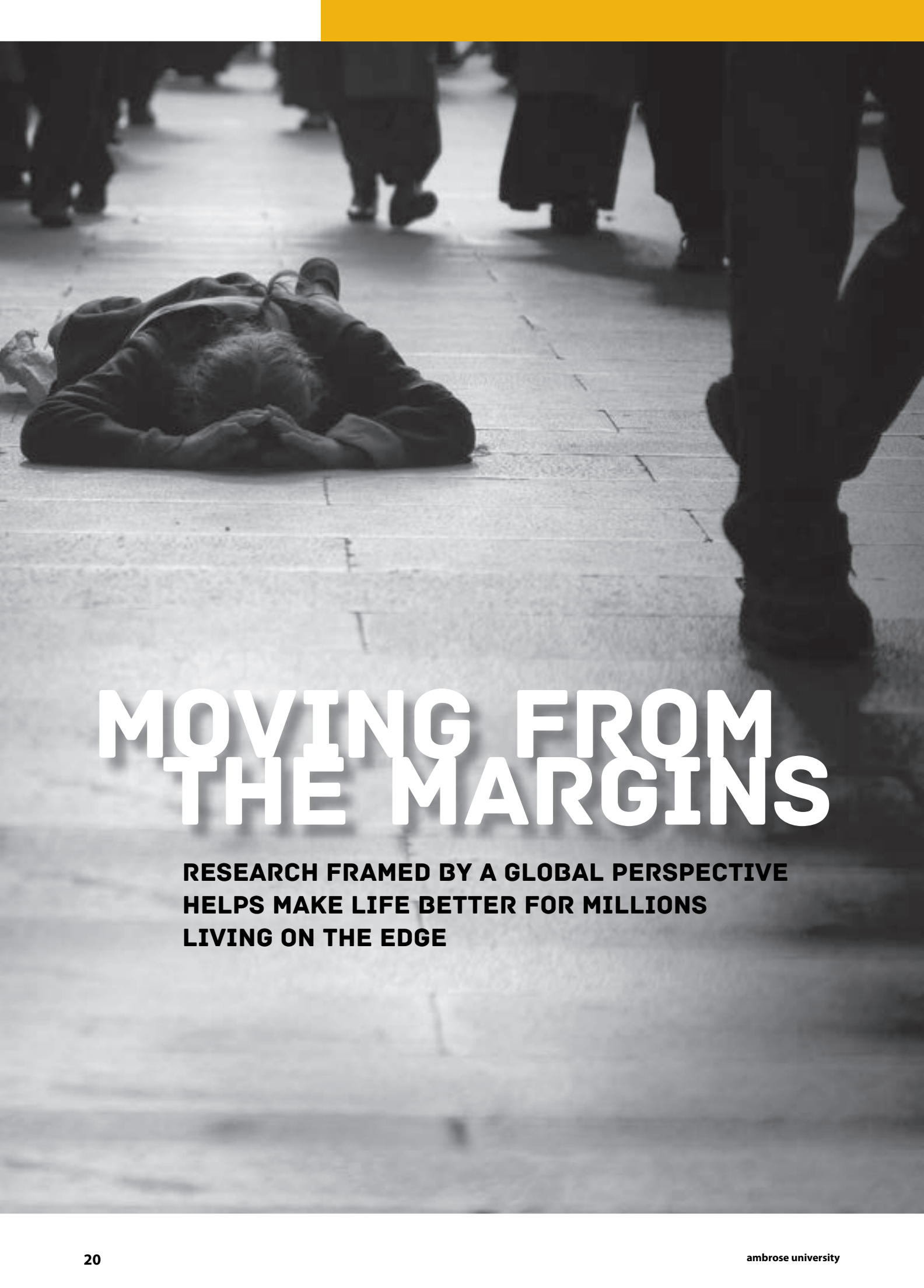
Christian history tells us who we are and where we came from. Luther’s Reformation reshaped Christianity, and set the pattern for so very many of our contemporary Christian beliefs and practices.

Whether travelling in Germany, reading about Martin Luther, or hearing about his Reformation, we learn another part of the story of Christianity. We are reminded again of the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us in the faith, and are confronted anew with our calling to live out the truths for which others have worked, suffered, struggled and died. □

Page 18: Dr. Kyle Jantzen (L) and students stand at Luther’s tomb in All Saints’ Church in Wittenberg

Page 19: (top L–R) Luther’s study in Lutherhaus, Wittenberg; Jan Hus Memorial and Church of Our Lady Before Tyn Church in Prague

Page 19 (bottom L–R): Market square in Wittenberg; Wartburg Castle



MOVING FROM THE MARGINS

**RESEARCH FRAMED BY A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
HELPS MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR MILLIONS
LIVING ON THE EDGE**

"The overriding theme of international and community development is social justice. How do we look at development policy, program and practices that make life better for people?"

Dr. Rita Yembilah, who joined Ambrose University's Canadian Poverty Institute in 2016 as Senior Researcher, is driven to answer a question with profound implications not only for the well-being of millions of people around the world, but also for many right here at home. She offers a global lens through which to see myriad challenges, a passion for research — and for translating that research into action.

Growing up in Ghana, where she read books brought to the country by missionaries, Yembilah became aware of Canada, its geography and its people, developing a picture in her mind's eye of a place that was peaceful and green. Calgary didn't really appear on the radar until she started to think about graduate studies. She completed her BA (Human Geography) in 1999 at the University of Ghana in Accra and plunged into the unknown to pursue her Master's, and subsequent PhD, at the University of Calgary.

Through her studies and research, Yembilah developed extensive expertise in international and community development, including poverty and precarious livelihoods, social conflict, African studies, Indigenous knowledge and gender education. She taught at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana and the U of C and, in addition to her role at Ambrose, currently teaches at Mount Royal University. Her cross-cultural experiences include looking at cultural and livelihood conflicts that arose from the settlement of nomadic Fulani people who came to Ghana from West African countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. She also worked with rural Ghanaian communities to on the uptake of land registration and tree-titling (a new concept for farmers who have not traditionally owned land and trees). This combination of academics and

experience gives Yembilah a distinct view of the world, and drew her to the CPI. "I know about poverty from around the world," she says. "I bring a perspective as an immigrant, as a woman, as someone new to Canada. I believe my background can enrich the CPI's work."

Her first assignment confirmed she'd made the right decision. The report on a CPI project to develop a multidimensional definition of child poverty, which would be used to inform practice in Calgary, was released in March 2017.

"We looked at existing research and listened to what agencies said about current definitions not squaring with practice," Yembilah says, explaining that hard-and-fast rules don't work in all cases, and agencies are often challenged to make decisions they feel are in the best interests of families, but which don't necessarily go by the book. "We are piloting a framework that enhances the way agencies work, guiding them in how to use a tool which gives them more latitude in how they respond to families' needs."

RESEARCH THAT'S REAL, RELEVANT AND NEEDED RIGHT HERE

What's key in this project and in others undertaken by CPI is to ensure that what's learned through research actually makes a difference in people's lives.

"I want my work to be relevant to what people are doing in the moment. I understand the value of peer-reviewed journals and understand that this is how you expand knowledge," Yembilah says. "But too many times, I've seen that work stay on the shelf. I'm driven to do work that impacts policy right away."

"There is nothing more rewarding, personally and professionally, than to hear people say they are looking at the work of the CPI and thinking differently about how to structure or write about their project, or that they are going to use our terminology for their next funding proposal."

Given that the CPI has only existed for three years and comprises a very small group of people, Yembilah is excited by what's been achieved so far. "Only five of us worked on the child poverty definition project," she notes. "But we worked together very effectively, and it proves that good things do come in small packages."

Going forward, she anticipates more of the same. Her current assignment, expected to be completed sometime next spring, centres on the justice system. It includes looking at how the system is structured, how people access it, seek help and qualify for legal services, and identifying barriers people face. The aim, once again, is to be a catalyst for a far-reaching ripple of change.

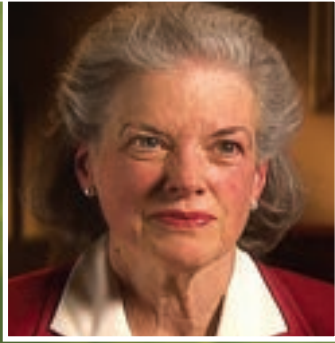
"We are proving that you don't need to be many years old or very big to make an impact," she says. "We have a singular focus on the voice of the marginalized. We talk to people who are poor and vulnerable in a way that lets them know someone knows they are here, knows who they are."

It's a view — and a discussion — that Yembilah says needs to start right here. "Because our city has a reputation for being rich, it is too easy to forget that there are people who struggle," she says. "Although there is a lot of good work around poverty in Calgary, this work remains a niche area in our city."

"Calgary needs a conversation that raises the profile of poverty work and develops our collective consciousness about how we talk about poverty. It is our moral obligation as a city to see how we can help people out of the situation they're in, without stripping away their dignity." □



Dr. Rita Yembilah



2018 Pastors' CONFERENCE

Fleming Rutledge is a preacher and teacher known throughout the U.S., Canada, and parts of the UK. She is the author of eight books, including, *The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ*. One of the first women to be ordained to the priesthood of the Episcopal Church, Fleming served for fourteen years on the clergy staff at Grace Church in New York City.

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 8 & 9, 2018



Along the Road to Freedom *Mennonite women of courage and faith*

26 paintings by Winnipeg artist Ray Dirks honouring women who brought their children out of the Soviet Union to lives of peace and freedom in Canada and Paraguay.

THE GALLERY@
AMBROSE

February 10, 2018

OPENING
PROGRAM and
RECEPTION

Ambrose University
Sunday, February 25

2:30 – 4:30 pm

From court to chaplain

Jordan Dyck is inspiring women's basketball team players to take their relationship with God to a new level

Attending Ambrose University and playing on the women's volleyball team was such a positive experience in **Jordan (Denham) Dyck's** life, she's staying connected to the Lions to offer her time and talents so young players can reap the same rewards.

"Ambrose was completely transformational for me," says Dyck (Bachelor of Arts – Behavioural Science '16 and current Bachelor of Education student) of the great environment combining academics, athletics and spirituality. "I found who I was in Christ, and took my relationship with him to a new level — and I want to let others in on the excitement."

As a player, she captained the team and also served as assistant coach. "Without doubt, it was the best team I've ever played on," she says. "Coach Colin [Kubinec] emphasized 'playing free;' playing without pressure of failure and being loved and supported by your team. When you're true to yourself, it makes you a better player."

That approach aligned naturally with Dyck, who always had an affinity for the "team" aspect of sports. Now, she brings all of the passions ignited at Ambrose together as the chaplain for the women's basketball squad.

"It is life-giving and fun for me to give back spiritually," she says, "to get to know each member of the team and show that I love, encourage and support them."

At the individual-player level, that may be going for coffee and talking about Jesus, or inviting those interested in knowing Jesus to "hearing from God" sessions where they can explore and discuss their faith in the company of others. For the team as a whole, she offers prayer and encouragement before games.

"One of my heart's greatest joys is seeing improvement, the 'aha' moments," Dyck says. "It is so rewarding when I see someone feeling more confident in herself, being more welcomed on the team, and everyone playing better."

"I'm not there to nag them or to ask if they're going to church. But I am using my gifts to help develop women's basketball culture." □

*Jordan Dyck has one more reason to be grateful for her Ambrose University experience: it's where she met the love of her life, **Michael Dyck** (Bachelor of Theology – Church Ministry '16), who played on the men's volleyball team and is now the team chaplain. Michael is currently pastoring at First Korean Presbyterian Church of Calgary, just a few blocks from the Ambrose campus.*



“ I am using my gifts to help develop women's basketball culture.”

Follow the Lions! Get in on all the action.



facebook.com/ambroselions



twitter.com/ambroselions



instagram.com/ambroselions

A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a plaid shirt, and a young man with curly brown hair, wearing a dark jacket, are sitting at a table in a laboratory. They are looking intently at a beaker and test tubes on the table. The woman is in the foreground, and the man is slightly behind her. The background is a blurred laboratory setting.

Preparing students to thrive

Every member of Ambrose's extended family can help students flourish — and to follow God's calling

A new school year is full of new beginnings. For anyone whose university days are behind them, this time of year is also a time for reflection.



< Alanna Schwartz

She also knows that every step and success along her career path will be taken, in large part, because of gifts from members of Ambrose's large, extended and supportive family — a network of people who donate to the university

"I'm reminded of the difference a quality, faith-centred education makes," says **Alanna Schwartz**, who enrolled at Ambrose University after seeing how her parents and older cousins were positively impacted by their time at Canadian Nazarene College.

"I was inspired by seeing see how my family and friends were able to grow in their relationships with Christ and develop close, lasting relationships with their peers," she adds.

Ambrose has been preparing men and women for wise, joyful, and redemptive engagement in the church, society and the created order through several generations, and Schwartz was able to experience firsthand a genuine community with classmates and professors.

She felt the support and encouragement of a group of people who truly cared about her and, thanks to encouragement from professors, support from staff and taking part in volunteer work, also found what she's passionate about: working with the Indigenous population and reconciliation through the arts.

"Ambrose has given me more opportunities than I could have ever imagined," says Schwartz, adding she's confident that with the wide variety of skills she's developed, she is prepared for what is next, whatever God's path for her maybe.

so students like Schwartz have the opportunity to grow and build strong foundations for the future.

Because what students learn at university sets the trajectory for every step of their life's journey, every gift to Ambrose makes a tangible difference — not only in the lives of students, but in communities in which graduates live, work and serve.

"I'm grateful for how big a part the university has played in my family history and my future," Schwartz says, noting that this history continues to be written as her brother enters his first year at Ambrose in fall 2017.

"He's looking forward to preparing for what God will call him to do," she says. "And it's with financial support from the entire Ambrose community that people like us can impact the world by living out God's calling of service."

Post-secondary education has the power to transform lives and communities — and a generous community has the power to transform education and ministry, enabling students to realize their calling to serve communities that need Christ." □

Thanks to financial support

36

ministry students have begun fall internships in churches across Canada.

940

students are taking life-shaping classes at Ambrose.

12,471

Ambrose graduates are serving and changing Canadian communities.

Your gift will help prepare passionate young adults ready to serve in God's Kingdom.

Learn more at ambrose.edu/donate.

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

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

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

coming events

Ambrose Acting

As it is in Heaven

by Arlene Hutton; directed by Kate Newby; a co-production with Fire Exit Theatre

March 22–24, 2018
Nightly 7:30 pm; also weekend matinees 2 pm

Engineered Air Theatre,
Arts Commons
Tickets \$25 (\$20 students/seniors)
at fireexit.ca

What Dreams

May Come:
Everything looks different in the dark

written and performed by the Ambrose Theatre 2017–18 class

April 5–7, 2018

Ambrose Studio Space
(Residence Education Building)
Tickets \$10 by contacting
Val Lieske, vlieske@ambrose.edu



Program Day

January 25, 2018

An annual tradition kicking off the semester by giving students an opportunity to delve more deeply into their disciplines. Hands-on opportunities, guest speakers, presentations by experts, off-site field trips and host of activities offer insights that expand knowledge and enrich the learning experience. Watch for details to be posted on campus.

Day of Prayer

February 6, 2018

Join students, alumni, staff and the entire Ambrose community to ask for God's care and blessing upon the life and mission of the university. Details on specific on-campus activities will be available on the Ambrose website as they are confirmed.

Ambrose Alumni

All Roads Lead Home

February 25, 2018

7 pm

Dessert evening with your fellow alumni. Come share some laughs, memories, and reconnect with your fellow alumni family.



Free tickets available at <https://ambrose.edu/allroads>

All that Jazz

Jazz Day 2018

March 3, 2018

9:45 am – 4:30 pm

Join the Ambrose Jazz Faculty for an exciting day of master classes, clinics, jam sessions, and a faculty concert!

Stefano Valdo – bass
Michelle Grégoire – piano
Neil McVey – guitar
Tyler Hornby – drums
Pat Belliveau – sax
André Wickenheiser – trumpet
Dave Reid – trombone

> Register at: Ambrose.edu/jazzday
or email music@ambrose.edu

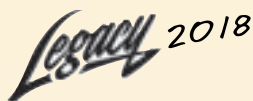
> Register early and save!
\$75 until February 12
\$90 after February 12

Legacy Youth Conference

March 16–18, 2018

The annual LYC brings close to 700 Grades 10-12 students from across Canada together at Ambrose to go deeper with God.

> Visit legacyyouthconference.com for full details



Annual Research Conference – The World After Tomorrow

April 4, 2018 • 9 am–4:30 pm

What might the world look like in 50 years and beyond? What questions do we need to ask, preparations should we make, and solutions ought we to pursue for such a world? What do various academic disciplines offer in reflection on these questions, and how might they point to a hopeful future?

This annual event spotlights student, faculty, staff and alumni research and scholarly activity, through conference presentations and poster exhibits. Submission deadline for proposals and abstracts is Tuesday February 20, 2018.

> Get all the details at ambrose.edu/ambrose-research-conference

Ambrose Lions 2018 Home Schedule

Basketball

Friday, January 19
SAIT Trojans

Saturday, January 27
St. Mary's Lightning

Friday, February 2
Olds Broncos

Friday, February 9
Lethbridge
Kodiaks

Friday, February 16
Red Deer College

Saturday, February 24
Medicine Hat Rattlers

Volleyball

Saturday, January 6
Lethbridge Kodiaks

Friday, January 12
Olds Broncos

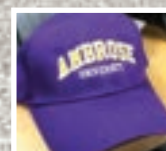
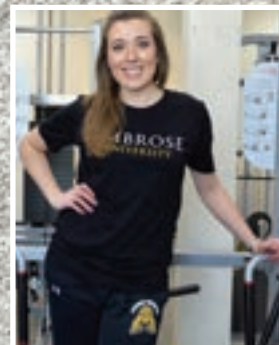
Friday, January 26
Medicine Hat Rattlers

Saturday, February 3
SAIT Trojans

Thursday, February 8
Red Deer College



AMBROSE UNIVERSITY



Whether you are a student, parent, faculty, alum or just a fan, wearing official Ambrose University clothing shows your pride and support when cheering on Lions athletic teams or just kicking around the Campus.

**Ambrose Bookstore
...more than just books!**

Monday – Friday: 10 am – 4 pm
bookstore@ambrose.edu
403-410-2939

Ambrose University is blessed to be part of a large, growing and vibrant community. Meet some of the many people within it — and share your own news with others by visiting ambrose.edu or emailing anthem@ambrose.edu.

Stay in TOUCH!



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youtube.com/ambroseuniversity



[@ambrose_uni](https://twitter.com/ambrose_uni)



[@ambrose_uni](https://www.instagram.com/ambrose_uni)

Dr. Sharon Bull (NUC '72) recently retired from Northwestern Nazarene University in Idaho. Prior to this, she was awarded the prestigious Emily Russel Award at the Association of Christian Librarians 2017 Annual Conference in Michigan. The award recognizes outstanding contribution to Christian librarianship. She leaves a global legacy of advancing Nazarene higher education and generations to come will benefit from her service.

Gordon and Eleanor Fowler (both CBC '57) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Oct. 5, 2017, by attending Chapel at the Ambrose University campus. They live in Calgary and are thankful for their six decades serving the Lord and one another.

Eric and Gwen Persson (both CBC '65; Eric CTS'85) live in Edmonton, currently serving at Beulah Alliance as the Transitional Global Impact Pastor. The couple was honoured recently for their 48-plus years of service with the C&MA.

Dallas Strangway (CBC '53) lives in Edmonton and was honoured recently by the Western Canadian District of the C&MA for 39 years of faithful service with the C&MA.

Shirley Thiessen (alumna and former Admissions Counsellor) received a Calgary Police Service Exceptional



Recognition Award at the annual Chief's Awards Gala in June 2017, honouring her work with the CPS death notification course and helping city police officers cope with being the bearers of devastating news. Shirley's personal experience when being notified about the sudden death of her son, Jordan, and the impact this had on her family, prompted her to share her story in order to improve CPS training. Shirley has also founded Corner Bend Consulting to assist people in their grieving process.

Rob and Debbie Toews (both CBC '87) were honoured recently for 25 years of service with the C&MA. They have three adult children and since 2005 have served as Program Director at Camp Nakamun.

Passing into the presence of Jesus

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

Rexford Boda joined the faculty of Canadian Bible College in 1965 as Director of General Studies, later adding Director of Athletics to his responsibilities. In 1971, he was appointed Academic Dean, and in 1979 President of CBC and Canadian Theological Seminary, a position he held until leaving the schools in 1988. Dr. Boda's teaching and mentoring had an impact on hundreds of students, some of whom now serve as faculty at Ambrose University. "Dr. Boda was a terrific teacher and his course, Christian Theism, was hugely significant to me personally as an 18-year-old," said Ambrose president Gordon Smith. "He demonstrated that Christians could, and needed to, take the mind seriously. He sustained a vision for higher education that continues to this day in what is now Ambrose University."



Rev. Richard Reichert (CBC '65; CTS '75) passed peacefully into the presence of his Lord on June 16, 2017. Richard was born in Outlook, Sask. He was ordained to the ministry in 1977, while serving at Luseland Alliance Church. In 1979, he and his wife, Hope, left for overseas ministry with the C&MA in Ecuador. In 2003, they transitioned to the Caribbean Sun Region and finished their ministry in Mexico City in 2013. They retired to London, Ont., where they worked actively on their "bucket list."



Preaching people's jobs

by John Van Sloten

Over the past five years, I have preached Sunday sermons on many different vocations: auto mechanics, emergency room doctors, investment bankers, Walmart greeters, firefighters, accountants, electricians, forensic psychologists, landlords, servers, nephrologists, florists and more.

As I have engaged all of these jobs, I have come to realize that each is a kind of *parable* — a lived-out story *within* which and *through* which God speaks.

Jesus often cited people's jobs in his parables: farmers, managers, labourers, jewel merchants, kings and judges. I have always thought these work references were merely illustrative, but now I sense Jesus was doing something more.

Jesus knew human beings were made in the image of a working God; that a farmer's agrarian wisdom, a manager's shrewdness and a jewel merchant's passion to find the best, were gifts from God. He knew these workers were *like* God in all the good ways they laboured; even as sanitation workers are like God when they remove the trash to make room for the new, or when a geophysicist is able to see unseen things, or when a hairstylist attentively makes people new.

Jesus knew God was the source of the innate goodness of the work that he referenced. He knew the aptitudes and passions being cited were God spoken. Perhaps this is why his parables were so powerful! Jesus knew the vocational truth he was naming was revelatory.

I think Jesus wants us all to know what he knows.

My sense is we've got a city full of workers who long for him to do exactly that! Only, in order for that to happen, we'll need a more robust theology of vocation.

Many Christians have never been taught that work can be a place where they can experience God through their vocational image-bearing (and not just through their morals, ethics, integrity or witness, or through working for the common good).

Few have ever imagined that what they love and are good at is connected to what God loves and is good at. They've never considered those times of vocational flow — where time disappears and they get lost in the goodness of work — could be places where God is near; in the creating, cleaning, healing, serving, managing, building, learning or accounting moments.

But what if they did? Our city would be transformed.

Think about it. Structural engineers would be made new as they more deeply engage God's calculus-conceiving mind, which would transform how companies shape the buildings they design. This, in turn, would connect with transformed builders, who would have already begun to construct their projects in ways commensurate with God's eco-building heart; using energy-efficient materials and minimally intrusive excavation techniques. And project suppliers, of course, would also be online; designing products that bio-mimic God's creative patterns in nature. And so on, and so on, until the entire fabric of a city's economy is rewoven into something new — which will then impact other cities and countries and the whole of our world.

On a new heaven and Earth, we're going to know God in all that we do; including our work. Knowing him now at work is a foretaste of that eventuality. □



Many Christians have never been taught that work can be a

place where they can experience God through their vocational image-bearing. ”

*John Van Sloten is a pastor, teacher and writer who lives in Calgary. His second book, **Every Job a Parable: What Walmart Greeters, Nurses and Astronauts tell us about God** (NavPress) was released recently. John has received two John Templeton Foundation grants, exploring the intersection of faith and science in the context of preaching (sermon videos are available at johnvansloten.com). On Nov. 22, 2017, John led a one-day Ambrose Seminary workshop, entitled **Preaching People's Jobs**, the first in a series of in-community workshops. The next will be held on Jan. 31, 2018. For information, email Mark Buchanan at mbuchanan@ambrose.edu.*

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