

Perspectives

June 2006

Volume 22 Number 2



35th Convocation, May 8, 2006

“Tonight I stand with you, dear friends, to celebrate the work and accomplishments of the 64 graduates we will honour in these hours; to celebrate the teachers who have walked with them and the staff who have companioned them; to celebrate the life and work of three honorary degree recipients from our partner churches, whose contributions ignite our passion for God’s work in this new day; to celebrate the story of a school which has offered itself over several decades to the work of theological education on the edge – the edge of the country, the edge of the ocean, the edge of educational vision, the edge of theological discourse...”

And so, with these words from our Principal, Wendy Fletcher, the grand celebration of Vancouver School of Theology’s 35th Convocation began.

“On this occasion,” Wendy continued, “I am reminded of Schubert’s Unfinished Symphony. The lines of music living off the page reach toward us: an invitation to begin; an opening into beauty; a movement into trauma and tears; and then an opening into beauty once again – but unfinished... music moving everywhere, enfolded and re-imagined a hundredfold through the legacy and beginning place of this unfinished symphony.”

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VST

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From the Principal's Pen

Vancouver School of Theology is committed to exemplifying a model of stewardship for our financial and human resources, and to uphold and honour the legacy entrusted to us by our partnering denominations and predecessor schools. This model is based on principles of simplicity and balance, moving toward renewal and transfiguration from the unsustainable to the sustainable. Its hallmark is accountability to a balanced budget while tending carefully the core programs and constituencies of the School.

For close to two decades the Board of Governors, the Principal, and most recently, the senior administrators of the School (the Administrative Staff Group, or ASG) have been grappling with financial challenges that have beset Vancouver School of Theology. Deficit budgets have been passed (reluctantly) year after year always with the hope and expectation of "better times ahead."

Ten years ago the Board developed a creative and visionary plan to use the legacy of our land to finance the future of VST. This plan is now near completion. We have re-leased parcels of previously undeveloped land, built a new student residence and completely renovated and retrofitted the historic Iona Building, our School home.

A companion project is the Landmark Legacy campaign. Imagined in 2002 and implemented early in 2004, its goal is to raise \$2 million in cash and pledges and a further \$1 million through planned gifts realized in coming years. Its purpose is to support operations and programs by increasing the School's endowments and bursaries and supporting specific projects. People are being very generous – over \$1.5 million has been pledged, several more gifts are in process and work continues that promises to take us over our goal.

The development of our lands was seen in the very early days of planning as the financial salvation of the School. What the School had to come to terms with in January of 2005 was the reality that the land

development was not the panacea originally believed and that we were operating beyond our means with no apparent end in sight.

At its meeting in February 2005, the Board mandated then Principal, Ken MacQueen, and VP Academic and Dean, Wendy Fletcher, to devise a plan that would see financial self-sufficiency within five years. Their plan, approved by the Board in October 2005, saw a 25% reduction in staff, administrators and faculty. In January of 2006 as Dr. Fletcher assumed the role of Principal it quickly became clear that this plan had not gone far enough.

A second phase of restructuring has been introduced, led by Dr. Fletcher and the ASG, approved unanimously by the Executive Committee and Finance Committee of the Board, and ratified by the full Board at their May 5-6, 2006 meeting. This phase sees a further reduction in staff positions. The employees affected were given official notice on May 8, with May 12 being their final day of work.

We remain committed to the core mission of the School – degree programs preparing people for ordered and lay ministry in the full diversity of vocational options and delivery methods, Native Ministries and our partnerships with First Nations, congregational development and continuing education through the Chalmers Institute. We continue to reach outside of ourselves, toward the greater global community, with ever new ears, new eyes, new questions.



From the Principal's Pen

This is a time of adjustment and hope for Vancouver School of Theology, as we live into these days with deep trust in the considerable efforts made to live faithfully within the human and financial means afforded to us. We do this work fully trusting that the Spirit is animating us well into God's future.



We honour those employees who have left VST over this past year. Some have retired, and their positions will not be refilled; some have come to the end of contract terms; and some have moved on because their positions have been changed or ended through the restructuring.

It is such a significant time of change for VST, for those who have left and those who remain, that we name these people who have served God through the mission of the School, some for more than a decade or two!

With gratitude and a myriad of feelings we say good-bye and thank you to:

Mariana Asan (*Library*)
Shabinder Bhoparai (*Cafeteria*)
Mary Campbell (*Development*)
Philip Crowell (*Faculty*)
Hugo Dominguez (*Facilities*)
David Ewart (*Chalmers Program Associate*)
Rachel Fox (*Reception*)
Margaret Gopaul-Singh (*Accounting*)
Carolyn Grayson (*Housing*)

Glenys Huws (*Faculty*)
Seok-Leng Khor (*Administrative Support*)
Alan Lai (*Faculty*)
Jim Lindenberger (*Faculty*)
Ken MacQueen (*Principal*)
Sheila Morris (*Communications*)
Ken Sherlock (*Finance*)
Parminder Sandu (*Cafeteria*)
Ted Siverns (*Faculty*)

Doreen Stephens (*Archives*)
Gerald Turnbull (*Librarian*)
Ann Watson (*Archives*)
Cary Williams (*Technology*)
Eric Wong (*Cafeteria*)
Vicki Woodward (*Accounting*)
Patti Zazulak (*Graphic Design*)



Auxiliary to the Vancouver School of Theology

Dessert Party

When: September 28, 2006, 7pm

Where: St. Mary's Kerrisdale, 2490 West 37th Avenue, Vancouver

Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett
"A LITURGICAL FASHION SHOW"

Music: St. Mary's Kerrisdale Choir

Tickets \$10 (from your church's VST rep or at the door)



The Library Staff (left to right) Robert Eldridge, Gillian McLeod, Faye Chisholm, Val Borthistle



Follow the Book

On May 10 members of the VST community joined together and walked from the old to the new with a single volume from the library collection. We placed the book on the new shelves and thus began our move!

The company National Library Relocations with president Scott Miller at the helm handled the task with poise and confidence and our move was completed on time with no injuries to persons or collections. The 100,000 or so item collection, including fiche, film, books, videos, rare items and staff paraphernalia was packed and trucked over, one load at a time, from the Chancellor building to the renovated space in the Iona building. There were 6 staff from New York, New Jersey

and Massachusetts plus up to 10 other temp workers from the Vancouver area. At least two of these young men were from elsewhere in the world, visiting and working in Canada. We were thrilled to play host to our visitors and provided a tour of the Iona building and a few of the local tourist sites. Scott Miller and his staff, who have seen libraries all over North America, were impressed with our space and especially our view. He declared our reference study area the “most beautiful environment for studying” that he’d seen. And he moved the library in California with the Redwoods built in!

The library staff is settling into the new space and are inclined to agree with Scott. We experienced a few challenges during the first weeks finding places for everything but are now feeling more at home. There was a worry for awhile that Gillian would never unpack her space but it has happened.

Trophies Found!



These trophies from the Anglican Theological College came to light during the Library move – they join the “Archie Cup”, originally from Columbian Methodist College.



Right into the New Space!

On the first floor you will find our Circulation, Reference, current periodical, study and office areas as well as the Thomas Merton Reading Room. Downstairs rests the temporary Archive offices, study spaces and our collection. There is a Rare book room with new seismic shelving, a faculty research room and the bound periodicals. We are adding a location for the oversize items in the collection.

Many thanks to all who helped plan, pack and move. We appreciate your thoughts, your prayers and your work. Please come and visit and any one of the library staff will be pleased to take you on a tour. We are planning a community celebration for the “opening” in September when more of the students are here. We hope to see you there.

Gillian McLeod, *Library Director*



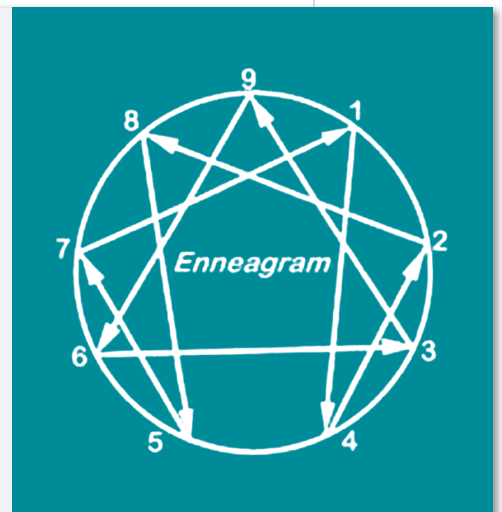
THE ENNEAGRAM

as a Way of Spiritual Transformation

NOVEMBER 16-21, 2006

Rosemary Heights Retreat Centre, Surrey, BC

Registration for this event: 604-822-9815



meetings with our den

VST sends representatives to various meetings of our denominational partners. In this issue we report on three such meetings.

Richard Leggett and Martin Brokenleg were delegates to the Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster, May 26-27 in North Vancouver, and Corinne Rogers spoke about VST and answered questions from delegates.



Richard Leggett addresses youth delegates to Synod



Tara King travelled to Nanaimo to attend Roots & Shoots, the general meeting of the United Church, BC Conference, and then to St. Catherines for the Presbyterian general assembly. She reports...

The task of calling forth and growing the churches' future leaders falls to us all, which is why attending regional and national church conferences is an important part of my job as Coordinator of Student Recruitment.

In many ways VST is an easy place to sell. We have stellar faculty, fascinating classes, and an exciting and diverse student body all in one of the most beautiful locations on this planet. What's not to love? But, theological education is falling on hard times across North America, and drawing students into study is becoming increasingly difficult. Of the students who do come to theological schools, more and more of them do not seek ordination for their future. All of this means that the work of student recruitment requires creativity, flexibility and guts. It also means that student recruitment is a very big job, far bigger than one single person.

VST's student body demographic has shifted dramatically in the last 10 years. While the bulk of our student body still comes from our supporting denominations, the single largest group of students is those from "other" traditions. These people often hear about VST through tangential means including alumni, faculty, friends of VST and the internet. Tending to the relationships with our supporting denominations while developing new relationships and constituencies is an exciting challenge not just for me but for all who support the theological work of VST.

ominational partners

...the world we minister to is a world full of diversity...

The following is an excerpt from Deb's address to the 132nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Brock University, St. Catherine's ON, June 3-9

My name is Deb Stanbury and I am the student representative from St. Andrew's Hall/Vancouver School of Theology. It is with great excitement that I am preparing to enter my second year of the Master of Divinity program and am a member of Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church in the Presbytery of Oak Ridges.

One of the things that has been experienced at Assembly this week, and that I have experienced at VST this past year, and that really each of us experiences everyday as we encounter and explore the world around us, is our diversity. VST is a very diverse community being made up of students from the Anglican Church, the Presbyterian Church, and the United Church, as well as many students who are from denominations other than those three. The Presbyterian Church in Canada is a diverse church and the world we minister to is a world full of diversity.

Diversity is a good and healthy thing. It is our diversity that makes us who we are. Being in relationship with and in conversation with people who are different from you is an incredible learning experience. You do not always have to agree with your friends but listening to and honouring their point of view, even though it is different from your own, teaches you so much, gives you a greater respect for each other, gives strength to your friendships, and builds authentic community.

This diversity also opens us to the possibility of questions. I have learned that life is not about having the right answer; it is about asking the right questions.

Daniel Migliore in his book, *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*, warns us:

“When faith no longer frees people to ask hard questions, it becomes inhuman and dangerous. Unquestioning faith soon slips into ideology, superstition, fanaticism, self-indulgence, and idolatry. Faith seeks understanding passionately and relentlessly, or it languishes and eventually dies. If faith raises ever new questions, then the theological task of the Christian community is to pursue these questions, to keep them alive, to prevent them from being forgotten or suppressed. Human life ceases to be human not when we do not have all the answers but when we no longer have the courage to ask the really important questions.”

It is in asking these hard questions that there is the greatest opportunity for growth. We grow as people, we grow as a community, we grow as a denomination, we grow closer to one another and closer to God. In *Letters to a Young Poet*, Rainer Maria Rilke writes,

“Have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and try to love *the questions themselves* as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. *Live* the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.”

Have courage to ask the questions, embrace the questions, live the questions, and love the questions. Let's hold hands with one another and with hope and God as our guide live our way into the answers.



Receiving Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa



Archbishop David
Crawley



Bill Walker

The Rev. Dr.
Brian Thorpe



The Chancellor conferred three honorary degrees. The recipients, Archbishop David Crawley (*Anglican*), the Rev. Dr. Brian Thorpe (*United*) and Mr. William McFarlane Walker (*Presbyterian*), reflect our historic partnerships and their lives and work exemplify the vision and principles that VST holds up in its teaching.

2006 VST GRADUATES

Diploma in Christian Spirituality

Lucinda Louise Terry

Certificate in Canadian Studies

Ikura Keita
Iwasaki Kyoko
Otaka Atsuki
Suzuki Rise
Tanabe Hiroyuki
Li Yaqi
Yagi Miyuki
Yoshinaga Michiko

Completed a Program in Theological Studies

Chang Se Charles Ahn
Hyo Young Joo
Ruth Marguerite McCowan
Sandra Gail Nixon

Diploma in Denominational Studies

Robert Charles Smith

Diploma in Christian Studies

R. Shane Bengry
Graham Kyle Brownmiller
Susan Kathleen Burns (*also receiving MATS*)
Roxie Anne Crowell (*also received MATS*)
Elaine Lois Diggle
Kelly Shannon Duncan
Katherine Elaine Foulkes
David Walter Gully
Kathryn Hoodikoff
Catherine Patricia Jennings (*also received*

MATS)

Clara Joyce King
Geoff Salomons
Jessica Robin Schaap
Guan Ming Parker Shieh
Deborah May Stanbury
Kristen Nicole Steele
Arthur Robert Thomas, Jr (*also received M.Div*)
Elizabeth Anne Vaughan
Patricia Sophia Whiteley (*also received MATS*)

- 64 degrees and diplomas conferred
- 19 M.Div. degrees • 9 MATS degree • 3 D.Min.

35th Convocation, May 8, 2006



Another honour bestowed at Convocation was that of Professor Emeritus (posthumous) to the Rev. Dr. David Morgan Lochhead, United Church minister, scholar, theologian and professor.

Master of Divinity

Lyle Adams
 Kristine Angela Maria Arndt
 Gordon Blue
 Clyde Garrett Davis
 William Earl Doyle
 Blake Thomas Field
 Paul Beaumont Guiton
 Dawn Katherine Hermann
 Carolyn Delia Martin
 Willard Ambrose Martin

Shannon Jean McAdam
 Sanghyuk Moon
 Christine Ann Muise
 Gail Dianne Newell
 Elegwen O Maoileoin
 Arthur Robert Thomas, Jr
 Ivy Colleen Thomas
 Lee Titterington
 Margaret Anne Watts-Hammond

Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Susan Kathleen Burns

Deborah Anne Cameron-Fawkes
 Roxie Anne Crowell
 Susan Frances DuMoulin
 Catherine Patricia Jennings
 Tara Bentall King
 Ann Louise Patterson
 Kelly Jean Van Der Gang
 Patricia Sophia Whiteley

Doctor of Ministry

Sylvia Dawne Cleland
 Alfred Heung-Soo Lee

Charles William Morkin

Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa)

Archbishop David Crawley
 The Rev. Dr. Brian Thorpe
 Mr. William Walker

Professor Emeritis

The late Rev. Dr. David Lochhead

2006 VST GRADUATES



Jake McKay

I O N A R E

On May 5, 2006 members and friends of the VST community gathered to celebrate the re-opening of the historic Iona building, home of Union College since 1927, now the locus of VST.

We gathered in the Rotunda to opening prayers offered by our Chancellor, Archbishop Douglas Hambidge, and Jake McKay, followed by Board Chair Ken

Carty's welcome and expressions of thanks from Louise Rolston, Chair of the Landmark Legacy Campaign and Conrad Guelke, Chair of the Property Management Corporation Board.

The following is a condensed version of remarks Wendy Fletcher made to those gathered:

Those of you who have been in my office will know that I keep an antique china cabinet there filled with my great grand mother's china teacups. Last night in my office, as I prepared in anticipation of today's events, I was drawn to open the top drawer of that cabinet which I have not opened for several years. In that drawer are the articles of memory which hold for me the meaning of the story which is my life.

Today, we gather in both a concrete and a symbolic way from the many circles which overlap to weave the story of this community. We gather together today to open the top drawer of our common life and to consider the memorabilia, the artifacts we have gathered there to mark and help us remember not only who we are, but the story of where we have come from – the meaning of our common life.

In our drawer are birth certificates- a birth certificate from 1927 when the United Church opened this building and said: we declare this building to be about God's work and we commit ourselves today and into the future to struggle to understand what that means for the sake of generations yet unborn; and a birth certificate also from 1927 when the Anglican Theological College of this province opened its doors across the street and said: we will serve God with glad hearts and a song on our lips, no matter what the cost; and also in our drawer a birth bracelet from 1971 marking the safe delivery of Vancouver School of Theology.

In our drawer is a flower, a flower of celebration marking the day when our friends the Presbyterians at St. Andrew's Hall entered into a new partnership with us.

In our drawer is an eagle feather, a bundle of sage and a pair of moccasins which remind us of the redemptive beauty, strength and historicity of our partnership with First Nations peoples.

Some memories are hard ones – but we must bring them out of the drawer for they too teach us the path of our future becoming.

In our drawer are old bank books, too many years overdrawn. In our drawer are love letters marking the hope but then the disappointment of those who came to



Principal Wendy Fletcher talks with past Principals Bud Phillips and Ken MacQueen

IONA REOPENING

O P E N I N G

us in expectation and left feeling disappointed, harmed or betrayed.

In our drawer are some old wedding rings left behind when marriages failed, when hoped for programs couldn't sustain and people whom we loved and who loved us couldn't stay.

Today we gather and pull out artifacts and symbols from our memory drawer; we gather as a communal witness to the meaning of the story our past living has made, in all of its beauty and with all of its pain. As we open our hands and hearts to release our past, we become

our present and as we release the present, now already passing, we are freed to become our future, to live the art God intends in us.

May the God of beginnings unending sustain and enliven the work which was begun in us long before our time; may the God of beginnings unending sustain and enliven the work of those who will walk this road long after we are gone. Amen.



Louise Rolston



Carmen Lansdowne and family members



Audrey Halsey, President of the Auxiliary to VST, and Betty Pletcher, Past-President, unveil plaques in the rotunda



Iona Hotel Opening

The Iona Hotel is open for business! Book your personal stay or conference today; call Elaine, Housing & Conference Coordinator at 604-827-3054 or email vstconf@vst.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR RIGHT NOW!

3rd Annual Archie Open

Brought to you by
Archie, the Archives Wonder Dog

*In loving memory of Bob Stewart,
to raise funds for the new archives at VST*

September 25, 2006
University Golf Club

Call 604-822-9813 for registration
and sponsorship information

People

People is a column for your news. If you or someone you know has news to share, please send it to the editor, Vancouver School of Theology, 6000 Iona Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 1L4 or email: corinne@vst.edu

Faculty:

Martin Brokenleg has contributed a chapter entitled 'Lakota Hca' in "Other Voices, Other Worlds: The Global Church Speaks Out on Homosexuality" published by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd., 2006.

Welcome to our two new Directors of Denominational Formation, **The Rev. Dr. Glen Davis** (Presbyterian) & **Dr. Janet Gear** (United Church). Glen comes to us with 18 years experience with the national office of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and 15 years of service among the Korean community in Japan. Janet brings a deep commitment to the United Church with a passion for youth ministry and justice ministries and is an astute theologian.

Pat Dutcher Walls was guest preacher on Pentecost Sunday at Langley Presbyterian Church, and facilitated a vision planning day for St. Aidan's Presbyterian Church, New Westminster, on June 10. In February at Gordon Presbyterian Church in Burnaby she co-led a day long workshop on pastoral care for lay leaders: "Presenting the loving presence of Christ in our pastoral visits" with Roberta Clare of the Elder's Institute at St. Andrew's Hall.

Presbyterians, Uniteds, Anglicans, Baptists, and Mennonites, 75 strong, attended a two-part adult education workshop at Knox Presbyterian Church, New Westminster in January. In Part 1 **Pat Dutcher Walls** offered "An Evening with the Hebrew Bible", followed

a week later by **Stephen Farris**: "An Evening with the New Testament."

"Religion and Ethnicity" is the title of a paper **Wendy Fletcher** delivered at the Congress of Learned Societies at York University in June. That same month, as member of the steering committee of Chief Academic Officers, she was keynote speaker for the Dean's Conference at the biennial meeting of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). She also visited three ATS-accredited schools offering consultation in leadership development and conflict management.

Shiella Fodchuk has been given an appreciation award from the BC Association of Clinical Counselors for her contribution to the development of a competency profile for the profession of counseling therapy.

Richard Leggett led

a course in Christian worship for the Moosonee School for Ministry of the Diocese of Moosonee Chisasibi, Quebec from the 17th to the 27th of June, and travels to Regina, Saskatchewan in July to be one of the two primary speakers at the biennial Lutheran/Anglican national worship conference.

The first comprehensive guide to the history and usage of the original Book of Common Prayer and its numerous descendants throughout the world, "The Oxford Guide to The Book of Common Prayer: A Worldwide Survey" (available July 2006), counts **Richard Leggett** as a member of the editorial board and a contributor.

During the late winter and early spring **Jim Lindenberger** and wife Susan have been taking part in the B.C. Coastal Water Bird Survey, a research project of Bird Studies Canada and the

Canadian Wildlife Service. The study is tracking changes in the distribution of waterfowl along the B.C. coast as the habitat is altered under pressure from development and human habitation. Jim and Susan's area of observation is on Iona Island, including the sewage ponds and shore between the two jetties there. They are also volunteer observers with the

In the course of late June and July, as the demolition and redevelopment of the Chancellor property takes place, the splendid trees, great and small, that adorn the lawn along Chancellor and Iona will be cut. On Tuesday June 13th **Lynne McNaughton & Gerald Hobbs** conducted a liturgy of farewell and thanksgiving and also said a final farewell to the Chancellor Buildings, which for nearly eighty years have housed the Anglican Theological College and (since 1971) parts of VST.



People

Jericho Stewardship Group in a regular bird count of Jericho Park.

Staff:

Congratulations to parents **Rhonda Carriere** and **Steve Black** and sister Sophie on the birth of their new baby girl, Alathia Rose, on May 27.

Alumni/ae:

The Rev. **Donna Hagen** ('01) and her husband Darnell were blessed with an early Christmas present in 2005 - daughter Ella Joan Ruse Hagen, born December 1st in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

In early May **Wendy McFeely** ('02) traveled to visit her new granddaughter. She writes: "I'm just back from a most enchanted two weeks with our wee Maude and her loving and most competent parents! Her name is Marie Ann Maude Wright - to be called Maude. She shares the name with my mom who died last year, and my maternal grandmother - all pretty wonderful, indeed. I think jet lag will keep me from the graduation ceremonies tonight, but I will be there in spirit with you all, as for the Iona opening... trust that it was a grand and relaxing celebratory event, after the many months of disruptions untold ..."

Ordinations:

June 25th at 7:00 p.m.
Christ Church Cathedral
The Rev. Heidi Brear

(M.Div. 2004 - Christ Church Cathedral) to the priesthood,

Christine Conkin

(M.Div. 2005 - for the Diocese of Calgary) as transitional deacon,

The Rev. Paul Guiton

(M.Div. 2006 - St. Oswald and St. Andrew) to the priesthood,

Linda Varin (MPS 1999 - St. Hilda, Sechelt) for the diaconate.

Passings:

Val Anderson (*d. March 30*), minister in the United Church of Canada and former professor at VST; coordinator and editor of Canadian Multi Faith Action; founding chair of the Vancouver Food Bank and the Pacific Youth and Family Addiction Service Society; received the Good Neighbour Award in 1990 along with honors from the Social Justice Foundation of BC; elected to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia in 1991 (BC Liberal Party), and re-elected in the 1996 and 2001. He was remembered in the provincial legislature as a man with iron convictions who worked very hard for people who had somehow fallen through the cracks of society.

Ashley Brear (*d. April 22*), recipient of the prestigious 2005 YWCA Young Women of Distinction Award for her outstanding leadership in fundraising for the battle against cancer. She died peacefully after an almost three-year battle with cancer, surrounded by her

family and her beloved boyfriend Brian. She was at peace and will no longer be in pain.

The Rev. Dr. Tom

Bulman (*d. January 19*), graduate of Union College (1954) and United Church minister; CAPPE Supervisor and hospital chaplain for many years and taught many of our students. Tom died as a result of injuries received in a car accident in November 2005.

Marling Kilgour (*d. May 12*), a long-time supporter of VST and the United Church; established the Marling Kilgour Bursary at VST in 1988 to assist United Church students.

The Rev. Dr. Albert

King (*d. March 23*), former minister at Metro United Church in Victoria and a member of the VST Board of Governors from 1981-1991.

June Lythgoe (*d. March 31*), served on local and national committees for the United Church; 10 years as Director of the Office for Women Students at UBC and 10 years as Director of Professional Programs in the Faculty of Education.

Donald Edward Mann

(*d. March 20*), served as a sub-lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve during World War II, returning home to join and graduate from the first law class at UBC; practiced law in Vancouver for over 40 years; longtime member of St. Francis-in-the-Wood.

Welcome to new staff members:

Blair Galston, archivist for the United Church, BC Conference. Blair shares a temporary office with Anglican archivist Melanie Wallace on the lower level of the VST Library as they both await the building of new archival space.



Mike Wellwood joins us as Director of Finance and Personnel. Mike comes to us from the Synod office of the Diocese of New Westminster where he managed the finances of the Diocese and assisted 80 parishes throughout the diocese with various aspects of their financial life.



Elaine Young,

Housing & Conference Coordinator, joined us in April from Canadian Memorial United Church. In her role there as Office Administrator, one of her main responsibilities was managing all aspects of external bookings for the church and Centre for Peace. She has a wide variety of volunteer experience in the Anglican church and wider community, much of it focused on hospitality and event coordination.



We also welcome summer staff **Jeanine Saville**, Housing & Conference Assistant, and **Robyn Williams**, Chalmers Summer School Assistant.

Reminiscences of Teaching at VST

On May 13, 2006, Jim Lindenberger interviewed Lloyd Gaston (Professor of New Testament 1973-1995, Professor Emeritus since 1995) at the Gastons' Lion's Bay home. This is a portion of that interview.

Jim Lindenberger Lloyd, what do you think has been distinctive about VST's teaching program over the years?

Lloyd Gaston What I wanted is for our students to have a very firm grounding in the academic things one needs to know to function effectively in ministry in a very complex world. So we --and by "we," I'm talking about the whole school as a collective-- wanted to prepare them not just to know things, but to be able to do things. And I think we had tremendous success! When I think of a great many of our graduates over the years, I think that somewhere in Canada, many in this province, there are some very fortunate congregations to have such leaders.

J.L. What about your own teaching methodology?

L.G. Well, I kind of made up my own little strategy because of a number of people that came in who were really opposed on principle to any kind of biblical strategy. (God said it, and I repeat it, and we don't need

any more.) So I used a secret technique, which I would sometimes reveal afterwards and sometimes not--a kind of shock method. Again, following Karl Barth, "The one who is not shocked by current biblical scholarship doesn't really know enough to be able to function in today's church ." So I would try to shock them, and very often succeeded. And then after that, would shock them once more--because it is a theological school--by saying theological things in class, which were always far more conservative than any of them had expected after that kind of acid bath that they were put in at the beginning. So I delighted in doing that, to the point that it was something that carried over for the whole curriculum.

J.L. Your speaking of shocking some, surprising some people by making theological statements that weren't what they would have expected reminds me of one student who said "I never realized Lloyd was a Christian until I heard him preach!" I always thought that was a rather nice compliment.

L.G. (Laughs) It was, and it wasn't an accident. I was doing that on purpose. To give one example of a kind of shock that was a bit funny, for a while you taught Hebrew in the interterm in January. Now I'm very nervous the first day of class - I'm intimidated by students - doesn't last long. And so I never tell them what the class is going to be like on the first day because I'm so afraid I'll get it wrong. So I say, "Let's wait 'til next time, and we'll jump in the middle of things right now. Anyway, as part of that kind of playful beginning, they all came into my class, and I greeted them in Hebrew - I used all sentences that I'm sure you used in your Hebrew class. And I was sure that everybody understood them. But there was one person who registered late, who had not taken Hebrew, and almost fell off his chair, because he thought I was speaking in tongues!

A full version of this interview, including Lloyd's recollections of studying at Basel in the 50's with Karl Barth and Oscar Cullmann, his time as research assistant with Gerhard von Rad, and his early days at VST, is available for download from www.vst.edu.



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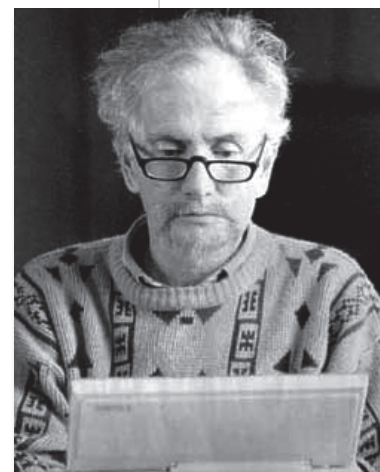
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This year marks the 70th anniversary of the birth of David Morgan Lochhead, the United Church minister, scholar, theologian and professor whose teaching at Vancouver School of Theology influenced and formed generations of ministers. His prophetic work in the field of interfaith dialogue and digital theology – the impact of information technology on our ecclesiastical and global communities – gave rise to communities of dialogue and communication in the ecumenical church and beyond its boundaries and gained him an international reputation.

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