

anthem

SUMMER 2013

THE MAGAZINE OF AMBROSE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE • SEMINARY

NEW FACES ...a passion for ministry

Mark Buchanan
and Terry Young

AMBROSE





“Ambrose seminary is built on the quality of its personnel, and we are delighted to be adding such strong practitioners to our faculty ranks,” notes Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Paul Spilsbury. “Both Terry Young (L) and Mark Buchanan bring many years of pastoral experience as well as theological reflection to the classroom; and I have no doubt that students will be deeply enriched by their teaching.” President Gordon T. Smith concurs, adding that, “Students will have the benefit of learning from professors who are intimately aware of the rhythms and routines of congregational life and leadership.”

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Summer 2013

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Publication Agreement Number:
40063422

Anthem is published two times per year by the External Relations Department at Ambrose and sent to alumni, friends, and stakeholders.

Ambrose is a Christian university college accredited by the Campus Alberta Quality Council, the Association for Biblical Higher Education and the Association of Theological Schools. Ambrose is the official denominational school of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada and The Church of the Nazarene Canada. It serves over 700 students representing many denominations in arts and science, education, undergraduate ministry and seminary programs.

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AMBROSE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Uniquely positioned...

As a very intentionally-Christian university and seminary, Ambrose is uniquely positioned, with a dual identity in the church and in the academy.

The university and seminary are unapologetically academic — part of the Campus Alberta, with a seminary accredited with the Association of Theological Schools — with a vision for academic excellence in the service of the church and the world. We recognize something attested to throughout the history of the church: that academic excellence is not a threat to the church but an invaluable means by which Christ fosters the capacity of the church to witness to the reign of Christ. Always? No, of course not. But academics at its best equips the church to be its best.

But the reverse is also true. That the church at its best is invaluable to the academic world. The university arose from within the church — in the middle ages. And the world of the academy — scholarship, learning, the intellectual life — all thrive if they are anchored in the witness of the church.

And so we actively nurture our identity as an academic institution, something inherent in our mission and calling. But then also, we actively foster the other side of our identity — in the church. And this means so many things. It means that we are eager for our students to be active participants in local churches. It also means that we are always asking how we can partner with churches in fulfilling the mission of Christ and that we are keen to foster the capacity to fulfill its capacity to engage the mission of God in the world. And it means that we take denominations seriously — eager to foster the capacity of denominations to equip their respective congregations — whether in the establishing of new congregations, the renewal of congregations or the capacity of congregations to equip their members to be all that God is calling them to be.

On the church side, we've made some notable appointments this Fall — with three experienced pastors joining the Ambrose team and community: Terry Fach, Terry Young and Mark Buchanan. Of the many notable features of these appointments, not least is that each is coming directly out of the joys and sorrows of congregational life. These gentlemen are master teachers and leaders; they are also pastors, with an intimate knowledge of how congregations work.

With this issue of *Anthem*, we welcome them to Ambrose University College and Seminary.

Dr. Gordon T. Smith

Ambrose University College
President

We actively nurture our identity as an academic institution, something inherent in our mission and calling. But then also, we actively foster the other side of our identity – in the church.



FACULTY *focus*

DR. JULIE KAYE

Sociology: the science of society, social institutions, and social relationships; specifically: the systematic study of the development, structure, interaction, and collective behavior of organized groups of human beings. (*Merriam-Webster*)

Ambrose Assistant Professor of Sociology Dr. Julie Kaye is certainly fulfilling this definition as she continues to conduct research into human trafficking and the various forms of insecurity experienced by trafficked persons. Her doctoral dissertation is entitled *Human Insecurity and Anti-Trafficking Policy: Representations of Trafficked Persons in Canada* and addresses the politicization of human trafficking and the effects that has on trafficked persons.

As part of her research she met with frontline workers, some of whom had first-hand experience of being trafficked, as well as government, non-government, and law enforcement representatives. Although often human trafficking is considered synonymous with sexual exploitation, Kaye's research also highlights examples of labour trafficking, where people are brought into the country on the pretext of work, only to find themselves in exploitative working conditions, whether in agricultural, industrial, food service, domestic caregiving, or garment industries. Often, even when removed from those situations, the trafficked person is fearful of recrimination — criminalization or deportation, for example — if they give evidence against their abusers and so criminal conviction of the traffickers can often be difficult.



“ THROUGH RIGOROUS SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS I AIM TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO BEST RESPOND TO MULTIPLE FORMS OF INEQUALITY, AND I BRING THESE DISCUSSIONS TO THE CLASSROOM. ”

Although Julie successfully defended her dissertation in early May, 2013, her involvement with human trafficking research continues both independently and through her work with ACT Alberta. This work allows her to engage with key government, non-government, and law enforcement stakeholders to help develop a protocol for responding to the rights and needs of victims of human trafficking in Alberta. She has also provided direct assistance to individuals affected by trafficking through her work with the ACT. Prior to becoming their Research Advisor, Julie was the coordinator for the Calgary Chapter of ACT, managing a network of stakeholders and facilitating awareness-raising campaigns and training sessions for government, law enforcement, service providers, and the general public on human trafficking.

However, Julie's interests stretch beyond the confines of North America. In 2006 Julie and her husband Tony spent four months in Ghana while she conducted research that eventually led to her Masters thesis *The Politics of Ethnicity in West Africa: Conflict and Reconstruction in Northern Ghana*

and publications in academic journals, such as the *Journal of Development Studies* and the *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*.

All of this travel and research informs her work in the classroom, particularly in classes like *Social Problems* and *The Sociology of Conflict and Peace*. She brings the same passion to the classroom as she does to her research: “Through rigorous social scientific analysis I aim to understand how to best respond to multiple forms of inequality, and I bring these discussions to the classroom.”

Julie is no stranger to Ambrose having graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Nazarene University College (NUC) in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in Behavioural Science. She credits her time at NUC with giving her the educational grounding that has allowed her to succeed in her educational pursuits to date: “The liberal arts foundation of my behavioural science degree provided me with what I needed to pursue diverse opportunities in the fields of social services, development, and research. Time and again I have been grateful for the rigorous training which I received, which has enabled me to excel in my post-graduate endeavours.” Julie joins a growing list of graduates who have eventually returned to the schools in a teaching capacity.

With many peer-reviewed articles already published, and a book in the works, it is clear that Julie is a great asset to the behavioural science program, complementing the work of her colleagues, and bringing another dimension to the program. □

WELCOME *aboard*



Dr. Linda Schwartz

has been appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science at Ambrose University College. She has twelve years of experience in advanced education administration, most recently as Executive Director of the Office of the Provost at the University of Calgary. Her extensive administrative experience is coupled with ongoing contributions to academic research. She holds a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Manitoba and a PhD in Music Theory from the University of Minnesota. Her recent Interdisciplinary Studies dissertation examines “ideological and methodological assumptions that shape current praxis in undergraduate tonal music theory instruction in the North American music academy.”



DR. LINDA SCHWARTZ

In addition to the University of Calgary, Dr. Schwartz has also served in senior administrative positions at Medicine Hat College, Trinity Western University, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and the University of Winnipeg. “Linda brings a wealth of experience and expertise in post-secondary education in Alberta and other parts of Canada,” says Dr. Spilsbury. “I am delighted that she is joining us, and I am sure that she will make a key contribution in a very significant time in the life of Ambrose.”

David Iremadze, PhD (Cand.), joins the Ambrose faculty as an Associate Professor of Business Administration. David has held various executive, consulting and teaching positions in NGOs, universities, and several entrepreneurial startups. His PhD studies are in Business Administration with a focus on management which he is completing through St. Mary’s University, Halifax, NS. Prior to his studies at St. Mary’s he attended Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA, where he earned a Master of Business Administration degree and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and International Studies.

He has taught at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB, in Grenoble, France, and in Tbilisi in his native Republic of Georgia, in Eastern Europe.

With many years of business experience David will bring valuable hands-on experience of the business world to the classroom. He also recognizes and applauds Ambrose’s



DAVID IREMADZE

commitment to the integration of Christian faith and principles in its teaching, and its pursuit of truth and its redemptive impact on church and society: “Undergraduate business education is not just about developing intellect or business acumen, but about the holistic development of moral, reflective individuals who are committed to and capable of positively affecting their surroundings while remaining lifelong learners.”



DR. ARIES SUTANTOPUTRA

With time spent studying in Australia and the Netherlands, as well as industry experience and undergraduate studies in his native Jakarta, Indonesia,

Dr. Aries Sutantoputra, newly appointed Associate Professor of Business Administration, brings an international perspective to his work.

His undergraduate degree is in Economics majoring in Management from the University of Tarumanagara (Jakarta) and he also has a Master of Science Degree in International Financial Management from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. His PhD in Management comes from Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

His teaching interests range from organizational behavior, human resources management, and business strategy to environmental reporting, sustainability, and corporate social responsibility. He has eight years of teaching experience in Jakarta, Melbourne, and Vancouver and numerous conference presentations and papers to his credit.

Terry Fach, an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene, has accepted



TERRY FACH

the position of Campus Chaplain beginning August 1st. Fach has been serving in Calgary for the last 16 years as the lead pastor at Trinity Church, a congregation that he helped to found in 1997. He is an alumnus of Canadian Nazarene College, and has taught philosophy and theology at an earlier iteration of Ambrose through the 1990s and early 2000s.

Terry was drawn to the position by a desire to support students at a pivotal time in their lives. "As an undergraduate at Canadian Nazarene College the direction of my life and faith was profoundly shaped both in the classroom and in co-curricular experiences," Fach shares. "At times it was a messy, deconstructive exercise but the example and guidance of faculty helped me stay the course. I want to make that kind of contribution now. Though my role is not pastor, and Ambrose is not a church, the position of campus chaplain allows me to practice a kind of pastoral vocation in a setting where I feel very comfortable."

Regarding his vision for spiritual life at Ambrose Fach is eager to see hearts and minds engaged in the kingdom of God: "My desire is to foster a rich worshipping life at Ambrose and encourage scholars and students alike to see both liturgy (practices of worship) and lectures at the centre of Christian formation. Christian scholarship demands formation and it is in worship that we encounter the presence of Christ and are invited to enter into transforming union with him. Worship is not merely an individualistic exercise, we are being formed together into a sign and foretaste of the kingdom of God, a peculiar group of resident aliens, a community defined by our compassion for all of creation." □

Every issue of **anthem** profiles members of **Ambrose University College's faculty, staff and students.**

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Eunice SMITH



Teaching has always been an important part of Eunice Smith's ministry as she endeavoured to impart not just knowledge, but her enthusiasm for her subjects. "Surely, for any teacher of God's Word, one of the greatest sources of joy and thanksgiving is to learn of the fruitful, faithful service for His Kingdom of ones' former students," she says.

Eunice G Smith (née Veley) has graduated three times from Ambrose: in 1951 from Western Canadian Bible Institute as Valedictorian, in 1968 from Canadian Bible College, and in 1975 from Canadian Theological Seminary with *Suma Cum Laude*. Add to this some forty years spent serving with The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Latin America, and her landmark ordination into the Alliance in early June of 2013, and it quickly becomes apparent that Eunice is a distinguished Ambrose alumna.

She was born in Belleville, Ontario, the younger of two daughters. Her parents were active members of Belleville Alliance Tabernacle (now Quinte Alliance Church) and their faith was marked by devotion and discipline. Though Eunice's father died when she was 4 years old, the church continued to be a central factor of daily living. Eunice was thirteen when she received a definite call from the Lord to serve Him in missions. Her call was acknowledged by her mother, and by her pastor, Rev. Victor Freeman.

In 1947, she left Belleville for Regina to attend Western Canadian Bible Institute. Determined to make the most of her time at WCBI, Eunice registered for every course she was permitted to fit in. Eunice thrived in this environment, noting that, "My studies and all that the college involved were a whole new world for me. I wanted to learn everything that was offered. There is no way to measure how formative the college was for me and my future ministry".

Eunice graduated from WCBI in 1951. Earlier that year another major development in her life was meeting Cecil Smith as they worked together on the publication of the *Challenger*, the WCBI yearbook. They were married in 1952. They continued to live in Regina while Cecil finished his studies, and Eunice taught English at WCBI. However, the Lord had already made clear to them that they would

serve together and so they served in three parishes in Saskatchewan — Hawarden, Elbow, and Strongfield —before being appointed by the Alliance to serve in Ecuador, South America. They left for language study in Costa Rica in 1956 with two children, Gordon and Judy.

Their first assignment was to the seminary in Guayaquil where Eunice taught several different subjects over the years. Eunice and Cecil also spent time in the mountain cities of Quito and Ambato, and in the jungle, east of the Andes among Quichua-speaking people. But, one of Eunice's greatest joys was being able to help prepare the young men and women she met for ministry in churches throughout the region and she still receives messages from her former students. It is clear that Eunice and Cecil had an impact on those they encountered in Ecuador, but equally that their time there impacted their own lives.

"Two trips to Peru, illnesses, wonderful camping trips beside the Pacific Ocean, our last home in Ecuador was across the street from the ocean estuary and occasionally baby iguanas lost their way and would end up in our yard. So many stories, I don't know where to start!"

Of course, throughout these years, there were home assignments and these afforded the opportunity for further studies at Ambrose with a Bachelor of Theology earned in 1968, a Master of Missiology in 1975, and a Master of Divinity degree at Tyndale Theological Seminary in Toronto, in 1983. Wherever Eunice studied, she also taught: Greek at Ambrose, and missions and Tyndale. A third child, Benjamin, was born to the Smiths during one of their furloughs.

In 1983, the Smiths were reassigned, this time to Mexico City where they dedicated themselves to church-planting. Once again Eunice's main responsibility was teaching,



although now teaching new believers the fundamentals of the faith. Teaching has always been an important part of her ministry as she endeavoured to impart not just knowledge, but her enthusiasm for her subjects. "I want to teach in such a way that students find the subject at hand valuable, enjoyable, enriching in its own right, worth their time and effort, engendering a desire to continue studying and learning, asking and discussing beyond the minimum requirements and even as though there were no credits or 'degrees' to earn. Surely, for any teacher of God's Word, one of the greatest sources of joy and thanksgiving is to learn of the fruitful, faithful service for His Kingdom of ones' former student."

In 1996 Eunice and Cecil returned to Canada and settled in Richmond, BC, where Eunice still lives and is active in Richmond Alliance Church. Cecil passed away in December, 2012. Eunice's role in the church, not surprisingly, given her history, is one of teaching. She has taught adult Bible classes and has been involved with the missions program keeping the congregation connected to the international ministries of the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

In July, 2012, delegates to The Christian and Missionary Alliance General Assembly voted to change the wording of the ordination policy to reflect 'persons' rather than 'men'. This allowed a woman like Eunice, who has served the Alliance wholeheartedly for sixty years, to be ordained as a minister within the church.

On June 9, 2013, Eunice was ordained, at Richmond Alliance Church, the first woman to be ordained by the Canadian Alliance. "I am honoured that my call and commitment is

recognized as Cecil's was in 1956 in Guayaquil, Ecuador. I am blessed and encouraged to know that other women ministers will soon be thus honoured." Eunice has been convinced of the rightness of women's ordination for many years, but didn't let that belief limit her own service. "I never expected it to be realized — nor did I, for that reason, serve with less energy wherever assigned. Despite the long wait, the Lord will honour with blessing the denomination's decision to recognize the gifts of His Spirit in those He calls, whether men or women."

Looking back in her long career Eunice is quick to recognize the influence of key individuals in her life in keeping her connection to the Alliance: Rev. William Willoughby who dedicated her as an infant also married Cecil and Eunice, 22 years later. And Rev. W. McArthur, who officiated at the burial of her father, was her Greek professor in Regina. "His passion to understand and communicate the message of God's Word was contagious."

Eunice also acknowledges that it was her parent's faith and openness to follow the Lord's leading that laid the foundation for her life of service. "When I teach the Pentateuch I summarize the Lord's instructions for Ancient Israel, and for us, with a simple sentence: *Trust and obey and remember and tell the children*. Those words characterized the life of my parents." And, it seems, they also tell the story of Eunice's commitment to service, to learning, and to teaching in her own life. □

...a commitment to service,
to learning, and to teaching...

LIONS roar

Female Athlete of the Year Kaila Strohschein; Women's Futsal

Kaila Strohschein is from Edmonton, Alberta and just graduated from Ambrose University College with a degree in Behavioural Science. She played 3 years as keeper for the Ambrose Lions women's futsal team and this past year was the women's futsal representative on the Athletic Leadership Team.

This past season she was awarded the 2012-13 Ambrose Lions Female Athlete of the Year. This award is given out annually to the athlete who displays and demonstrates exceptional ability on the field of play and a dedication to the Ambrose Lions athletic program.

"She is a player that you can build a team around", states Athletic Director Ryan Willison. "That is exactly what we have done over the last couple of years. Our teams are stronger because she was on them."

Kaila always played with great passion and ability and was always there when her teammates needed her. As a keeper she is the last line of defence, and she was recognized as one of the top performers in the Alberta Colleges Athletic League, when she was named to the All-Conference team. She also played an integral role in leading the women's futsal team to the 2012-13 ACAL Provincial Championship.

Willison goes on to say, "Kaila is very deserving of this recognition and as a graduating athlete, she will be missed".



2012-13 Ambrose Lions ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Male Athlete of the Year Dylan Squires; Men's Volleyball

Dylan Squires is a 2nd year setter with the men's volleyball team. He is from Eaglesham, Alberta and is currently a Behavioural Science major.

In 2012-13, Dylan was recognized for his fine performance on the court and his contributions to the athletic program. As a result he was named the Ambrose Lions Male Athlete of the Year.

"Dylan is one of those guys that coaches dream about having on their team", notes Athletic Director Ryan Willison. "He is very teachable, is plays at an extremely high level and while he is a fierce competitor, he is also one of the nicest young men I have had the privilege of being around."

Dylan was named the ACAL Player of the Year and helped to lead the men's volleyball team in capturing the 2012 ACAL Volleyball Provincial title on Ambrose's home court.

Not only does he excel in volleyball, but he is also an avid hockey player. He has played the past 2 years on the Ambrose Lions club hockey team and this past year served as the player representative on the Athletic Leadership Team.

Dylan will be returning to Ambrose in 2013-14 and again in 2014-15 when the volleyball program makes the jump to the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC).



Ambrose Lions Volleyball Teams make the jump to the ACAC

On Tuesday, May 7, 2013, the Ambrose Lions men's and women's volleyball teams officially gained acceptance into the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC). This move was preceded by the men's and women's futsal teams who gained acceptance to the ACAC in 2011.

The Ambrose Lions athletic program has been members of the Alberta Colleges Athletic League (ACAL) for the last 10 years and have proven to be one of the strongest programs in that league, winning 17 league championships in that period of time in Basketball, Futsal, Hockey and Volleyball.

"The ACAL has been a very good league for us, but the time has come for us to make the next step and face a new challenge." says Athletic Director Ryan Willison. "The ACAC provides us with that challenge."

The Lions men's and women's volleyball teams are coming off their best season at the ACAL in their history, with identical 11-1 regular season records and both capturing the provincial championships which were hosted by Ambrose. "Being able to win the league championship on our home court was exciting for our players, but also for our entire community" Willison explains. "The stands were full, the atmosphere was outstanding and our teams came through with clutch victories."

The Lions first applied for entrance to the ACAC in November of 2012. The applications process was followed by a site review committee from the ACAC in February of 2013. The site review committee gave a positive recommendation which was later ratified through a vote of the general council of the ACAC in May. The Lions will now begin play in the ACAC in September of 2014. "Ambrose is positioned well to succeed at this level. We have strong institutional support both financially and philosophically; we have great academic programs and a phenomenal community atmosphere and all of that gives us the ability to recruit top quality athletes" Willison states. "We also have hired Colin Kubinec as our Assistant Athletic Director and Head Women's Volleyball Coach and he will provide leadership to our program."

Kubinec joined the program in the summer of 2012 after a stint coaching at St. Mary's University College and after playing five years of ACAC Volleyball at Briercrest. His knowledge and experience will strengthen the Lions program and help them gain the competitive advantage they need. Kubinec had this to say about his role at Ambrose. "I am very excited to be working with the volleyball program as we transition to the ACAC. Ambrose has great school spirit when it comes to athletics, the volleyball program has been growing and progressing over the past few years, and I feel blessed to join the program at this exciting stage as we continue to grow."

Returning to coach the men's volleyball team is the 2012 ACAL Coach of the Year Mike Dandenault. He will be entering his 3rd year as the team's bench boss and has most of his championship team returning and also has a few new recruits he will be adding to his stable.

One of those returning players is reigning ACAL Player of the Year and Ambrose Lions Male Athlete of the Year; Dylan Squires. The 2nd year setter out of Eaglesham, AB will be leading the charges for this year and into the future. He will be bolstered by the return of the Ingram brothers, Brent and Mark, and outstanding right side hitter, Curtis Dyck.

The women's team has a younger core group of players but standout leftside Jordan Denham along with middle Nadine Rank and 3rd year setter Liana Massie; this team will have strong leadership. Kubinec will be adding a strong recruiting class to the mix and expect that this team will challenge for another provincial title.

"I am very excited about the team next year. I believe the new athletes will be great additions to our program and our core returning athletes will provide leadership on and off the floor." Kubinec continues, "It will be an important year of growth, not only in our regular season play, but also in our exhibition play against other ACAC teams. These matches will be great tests and indicative of the level that we are seeking to excel at."

The 2013-14 season will be a year to prepare for the jump to the ACAC in 2014-15. Both volleyball teams will play exhibition games and tournaments against other ACAC and CCAA teams in order to sharpen their skills and improve upon their readiness for that competition.

Along with those tournaments, the teams will continue to play in the ACAL and also games in the Prairie Athletic Conference (PAC) which is based out of Saskatchewan. Ambrose will host the ACAL provincial championships on November 15-16 and then travel to Saskatoon to compete in the Western Canadian Championships from November 29-30, 2013.





**Terry Young and
Mark Buchanan**

NEW

**Life transitions often
come unexpectedly. Two
new Ambrose faculty can
attest to this reality.**

Terry Young spent fourteen years at First Alliance Church in Calgary, and more recently has been working with River of Life Alliance Church. Mark Buchanan had spent seventeen years as Lead Pastor of New Life Community Church in Duncan, BC. Both are now Associate Professors of Pastoral Theology at Ambrose Seminary.

So why would two established, respected church leaders make the move from the pastorate to academia? Both agree: The opportunity to invest in young leaders. Dr. Young elaborates: "I see a great opportunity to pass on to the emerging leadership generation some wisdom from experience, current research, and best practice, but also the opportunity to engage with and learn from younger leaders."

no interest in pursuing the opportunity at that time. However, Ambrose president Gordon T. Smith continued to meet with Buchanan and eventually his persistence paid off. "Gordon contacted me directly in November and asked if we could meet. That started a conversation that involved several more meetings and led to my decision in early April to join the Ambrose faculty." Having made the decision to join Ambrose Seminary, Buchanan was able to feel some excitement about his new role: "I'm really looking forward to being in an environment of accelerated spiritual and intellectual formation. And the students, the faculty, the president's vision — all of that inspires me as I make the transition." His wife, Cheryl, recently completed her Masters

continues, "Saying goodbye to this place and these people is the hardest thing about this move." Conversely, while Young will not be moving to a new city, this will be the first significant career transition since Deb, his wife of 35 years, passed away in December, 2012 after battling cancer. Not being able to share this with Deb makes the transition harder.

The appointment of Buchanan and Young has been enthusiastically received throughout the constituency, but nowhere with more pleasure than in the Ambrose leadership. Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Paul Spilsbury notes that, "Ambrose seminary is built on the quality of its personnel, and we are delighted to be adding such strong practitioners to our faculty ranks."

FACES

...a passion for ministry

Buchanan and Young came to Ambrose via very different routes. Young is an alumnus of Canadian Bible College and has taught a number of courses for Ambrose over the years, primarily in the area of church leadership which is an area he is particularly interested in — his PhD work focused on holding environments for leaders with a focus on clergy and non-profit leaders. He says he has always loved the mission of Ambrose and saw it as something he wanted to be a part of. Teaching in a seminary was something that he and his wife had talked about at length over the years and so, when this opportunity arose, the move to the relative familiarity of Ambrose seemed like the right thing to do.

For Buchanan, on the other hand, the process of discernment was more gradual. He was initially approached about the possibility of a move to Ambrose in October, 2012 but had

in Spiritual Formation and so he hopes they will now have opportunities to minister together. Young, meanwhile, looks forward to "...wrestling with the new realities of seminary education and hopefully pioneering some new ground in concert with colleagues." The challenge of devising ways to help develop pastors at a wider and broader level through Ambrose is also something that he is ready to embrace.

But, transition isn't always easy. For all their excitement about their new assignments, Young and Buchanan have challenges, too. Young's transition is simpler, geographically, because he is already in Calgary, but Buchanan will be making the move from Duncan, B.C., with all the logistical detail that entails. And, it is a wrench to leave southern Vancouver Island for the Prairies. As he puts it with characteristic good humour, "Let me point out the obvious: there's NO OCEAN." More poignantly he

Both Mark and Terry bring many years of pastoral experience as well as theological reflection to the classroom; and I have no doubt that students will be deeply enriched by their teaching."

President Gordon Smith concurs, adding that, "Students will have the benefit of learning from professors who are intimately aware of the rhythms and routines of congregational life and leadership."

With the retirement of Dr. Peter Ralph (*see story in Family Ties section, page 20*), the face of Ambrose Seminary is beginning to change. Having two such notable professors joining the faculty is part of a broader strategic plan to continue to strengthen the seminary. Add to that the recently introduced scholarship for students in the third year of the Master of Divinity program and it is easy to see renewed growth in the seminary. □

The Canadian Chinese School of Theology at Ambrose Seminary (CCSTAS) welcomed its first students in the fall of 2011. As enrolment increased in the last two years, the need for an additional full time faculty member to share the teaching load became apparent.

Dr. Marcus Tso has been appointed as Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies (Chinese Program). He is a biblical scholar and will provide a biblical academic research resource to the Chinese students. Dr. Jason Yeung, Principal of CCSTAS noted, "I am looking forward to seeing Dr. Tso, not only for his teaching, but also for the team building in the Chinese School of Theology." Marcus has a PhD from the University of Manchester and has been teaching in the Lower Mainland area in British Columbia for the last number of years.

DR. MARCUS TSO



We asked Marcus how he felt about his move to Ambrose...

*What attracted you to CCSTAS?
Why did you decide to apply?*

As someone who came to faith in Christ through a Chinese Alliance Church in Vancouver (Newbern, 1979-1980), I have always had a heart for Chinese churches, and a great concern for their future. I believe that it is crucial for Chinese churches in Canada to raise leaders who will be able to negotiate the cross-cultural and cross-generational challenges that they face. I believe CCSTAS is doing some very important work towards that end, training church leaders who can work in a variety of cultural contexts to serve the church.

Although my journey in the past decade has taken me beyond my cultural-ethnic roots, I still find myself serving frequently among Chinese Christians in one setting or another. Therefore, the position at CCSTAS seemed to be an excellent match for my background, training, and experience. Furthermore, I had already known a few faculty members from Ambrose before applying, which gave me a sense of personal connection to this school.

What excites you about this new role?

The relative youth of CCSTAS also offers exciting opportunities to do something new, different and, by God's grace, effective for bringing greater health to the Chinese churches of Western Canada and beyond. I have already met some of the students, and judging by my interactions with them and Dr. Yeung's comments about the student body as a whole, they are highly motivated and eager to learn. This thrills me tremendously!

加拿大恩道華人神學院

BOARD profiles



Wayne Bernakevitch of Regina, SK, has been appointed to the Ambrose Board of Governors for a four-year term. Mr. Bernakevitch is a senior partner at McDougall Gauley LLP, the oldest law firm in Saskatchewan. He has practiced for thirty years and his specialties are corporate/commercial, charitable, estate planning/business transition, financing, and real estate.

He has past board experience with Child Evangelism Fellowship, Promise Keepers, The C&MA, Canadian Bible College, Regina and District Chamber of Commerce (past president) and his local church and is currently on the board of the Christian Legal Fellowship, Youth For Christ, two public companies and two private companies.

He has been married to Marjorie for 43 years and they have three children: Lindsay (golf professional), Brendan (articling with Norton Rose in Calgary) and Adrienne (works with Google in Mountain View USA).

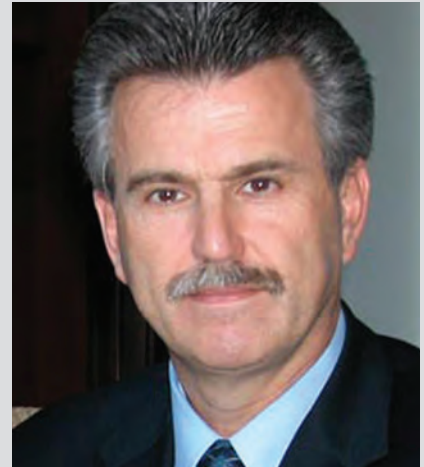
Wayne sees a great need in the world for young Christians who are able to engage the society around them in meaningful and practical ways. "Ambrose has the ability to help young people build and strengthen their faith and world views so that they are better able to do this. Additionally, as a school in itself, Ambrose has the ability to impact the educational community and the City in similar ways. I want to use my particular expertise to assist in this process as I am able to."



Rev. Brent Trask is the District Superintendent of the Western Canadian District of The Christian & Missionary Alliance. Brent has been serving Christ and His Church in Alberta since 1984; one year pastoring at Southgate Alliance (Edmonton); 25 years pastoring at RockPointe (Calgary) and ministered as District Superintendent since 2011. He has a Bachelor of Theology and partial Master of Divinity from Canadian Bible College/Canadian Theological Seminary and Ontario Theological Seminary.

"I count it as a great privilege to serve on the Ambrose BOG, to give back to the institution that has given so much to me and to the advance of God's purposes throughout the world. My years at CBC (78-82) and CTS (85) played a huge role in maturing my faith, expanding my knowledge, developing my skills/spiritual gifts, providing an amazing alumni community to do life with over these past three decades and preparing me for a lifetime of Kingdom service. I see Ambrose as an essential partner in the mission of making disciples of all people and training leaders who will display the life and Gospel of Jesus in every arena of society."

Brent and Mandy have three children: Rebecca (Ambrose Intercultural Studies Grad – 2014), Stephanie (Martin) and Michael.



Ken Stankieveh is the newly-appointed Chair of the Ambrose Board of Governors. He served on the Ambrose board from 2010 – 2012 but had to step back for a year for personal reasons. He re-joins the board now in 2013.

He is a well-respected member of the Calgary business community having spent 35 years at the helm of the Acuren Group of companies, the largest Materials Engineering and Testing Company in the world, and as CEO and Chairman of a number of other companies. He has served as a board member for several private and public corporations in North America. In addition, he has served as a trustee and director for several national technical and training boards in Canada.

Mr. Stankieveh is an energetic supporter of his local church (First Alliance Church, Calgary) and international humanitarian programs in SE Asia and the Middle East. Both Ken and his wife Caroll originated from Three Hills, Alberta where Ken's Grandfather (Ambrose Stankieveh) was one of the original ranchers who homesteaded in the nearby community in the early 1900s. Ken and Caroll have two married children Amber (Alex) and Charles (Candice), a granddaughter Ava and grandson Cohen. Ken brings a wealth of experience and valuable business acumen to the board.



...LAYPERSONS DO NOT APPRECIATE THE SUBSTANTIAL HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL LINKS BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE WORLD OF PRIMITIVE CHRISTIANITY

Ballooning over airy chimneys in Cappadocia



Why Christians should travel in **TURKEY**

Charles Nienkirchen PhD

‘Turkey...a place of Christian pilgrimage?’ questions a seasoned, Calgary church goer. ‘I’m saving my money to go to the Holy Land.’ Like many Christians, he was unaware that more than 66% of the New Testament sites plus numerous Old Testament ones are actually in Turkey. Even if they have been looking at their Bible maps for years, they have not recognized that the region identified as ‘Asia Minor’ is modern Turkey. The Euphrates River (the most mentioned river in the Bible next to the Jordan) which is a branch of the river that flowed through the Garden of Eden (Gn 2:14), has its source in the snows of mountainous, eastern Anatolia (Turkey). Turkish academics even claim the original Eden within their country’s borders. The protohistorical narrative of the Bible takes the patriarch Abraham from Mesopotamia to Canaan via Haran (Gn 11:31), situated on the Fertile Crescent where the highlands

of eastern Anatolia intersect the Mesopotamian lowlands. Genesis 8:4 identifies the final resting place of Noah’s Ark after the Great Deluge as the mountains of Ararat which Jews and Christians have traditionally located in the same region. Near the village of Mahser, a Noah’s Ark Observation Centre purports to show visitors a geological outline of the actual Ark. The tomb of Noah is allegedly in Cizre. In short, there is an immense wealth of biblical and early Christian history to be explored in Turkey, a crossroads of world civilizations since antiquity and a strategic bridge between Europe and Asia.

Unfortunately, many laypersons do not appreciate the substantial historical and geographical links between Turkey and the world of primitive Christianity. This is somewhat understandable since western Christians do not readily associate their roots with a predominantly Muslim country in which Christians of all stripes constitute only a minuscule fragment of the population. Even if Turkey’s large number of biblical venues is second only to Israel, it still doesn’t equate in many western, Christian minds with a designation of the ‘other Holy Land’.

That said, faith tourism is definitely on the rise in Turkey though most Turkish guidebooks make only token mention of biblical sites.

For over three decades I've been professorially absorbed with traveling the Book of Acts. This has propelled me to Turkey numerous times to consider the animating themes and formative events which determined the spiritual character, historical development and geographical spread of first-century Christianity. My initial, educational travel venture to Turkey was entitled *The Cross, the Cave and the Crown* – the cross signifying the transforming message of apostolic Christianity; the cave taking us into the monasticized, desert world of the Cappadocian Fathers with their charismatic theology of the Holy Spirit; the crown representing the jeweled, imperial Christian civilization of the Byzantines which endured for over a millennium until the conquest of Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

My primary goal for the adventurous souls who have joined me on these journeys has been to take the walls off the classroom. I have wanted to place them in a stimulating, multi-dimensional, learning environment to enable them to recover lost dimensions of their Christian heritage and have their imagination ignited by a recollection of the robust, spiritual energy of the first generation of believers. I have desired that they see the diverse, dramatic cast of the New Testament as ordinary persons, inflamed by a Spirit-filled vision of Jesus, who lived extraordinary lives and in many instances came to a martyrly end. Such flesh and blood heroes of the faith from all classes of society are not some romantic, biblical fiction with whom to have a fantasized, devotional connection but rather empowered persons to be emulated. Despite their frailties, they lived out their faith with integrity amidst pressures exerted by oppressive forces. They were real people in a sophisticated and technologically advanced world

whose life journeys can at least be partially reconstructed and ruminated on through travel in Turkey.

Ironically, this contemporary 're-imagining' of the early Christian story has gone on in the shadow of the mosque and not the church, in a land where the prophet Muhammad's minaret eventually came to displace Jesus the Messiah's cross as the preeminent, cultural symbol of religious loyalty. Yet at this point in the history of the post -9/11 world when Christian-Muslim relations are strained across the globe, there is something mysteriously compelling and religiously appropriate about western Christians returning to their roots in a hospitable, easily traveled, 'secular', Muslim country to be reinvigorated by a reconsideration of the sacred Scriptures in some of their original historical/geographical settings.

Turkey, as the backdrop for so much of the New Testament, should rightfully loom large in the minds of western Christians as the 'other Holy Land'. Such an appellation should not be dismissed simply as a commercially motivated, touristic distortion though it does have evident economic benefits to the country. Indeed, it was here that Christianity which began as a renewal movement within Judaism with Jesus of Nazareth, made a decisive leap from its Jewish cradle, morphed into a predominantly Gentile movement, and was launched towards the West. In fact, the name 'Christian' entered the pages of history at Antioch on the Orontes, today the southeastern Turkish city of Antakya. Here began a centuries long relationship between the Gentile followers of Jesus and the Graeco-Roman empire, what eventually spawned a 'Christian civilization' in the East and the West. A few kilometres to the south, the Mediterranean ruins of the ancient port of Seleucia Pieria from which Paul and Barnabas embarked for Cyprus on their first missionary journey (Acts 13:4), are still visible. They feature a massive tunnel constructed by the Romans to manage the irregular

flow of the Orontes River, a stupefying, engineering feat that has survived the ravages of time.

Personal faith can undergo a life-changing revitalization with the aid of a fertile imagination enlivened by following in the footsteps of 'the faith' in its beginnings. Travel can lift the soul out of lukewarmness. It can also cause one to be overcome by unexpected moments of spiritual intensity on the road, even numinous dreams by night. Many western Christians are drawn to Israel, the 'Holy Land' of Jesus, to reconnect with their spiritual roots. This is where the 'Gospel Trail' starts for them. Holy Land tourism continues to thrive there with the relentless and well endowed, promotional assistance of the State of Israel. However the pilgrim's road which commences in Israel and the lands of its Arab neighbours, traverses the Mediterranean and winds on in Turkey, the 'other Holy Land'. The popularity of Turkey as a preferred destination in the travel industry is growing rapidly. Over 3.5 million persons annually visit Ephesus (albeit many are cruise ship tourists and not pilgrims), the country's most developed site, at times converting it into a virtual 'Disneyland of classical archaeology'.

Traveling the beautiful and harshly sculpted Turkish countryside, one is immersed in the ongoing, adventure packed narrative of the early church. It is possible to retrace the tumultuous, missionary odysseys of the Apostle Paul, savouring his emotion charged, pastoral letters to churches in Galatia, Colossae and Ephesus. Pisidian Antioch (Yalvac), a pristine but oft neglected piece of New Testament archaeology sits picturesquely and peacefully at 1236 m. in the foothills of the Sultandagi mountains and is currently entering a new, dynamic, phase of excavation. The volcanic, Greek island of Patmos is only a short boat excursion off the Turkish coast. It is dominated

continued on next page >

Why Christians should travel in **TURKEY** *(continued)*

by the icon rich, 11th century Monastery of St. John the Theologian which is the heart and soul of the island. In the Cave of the Apocalypse, sanctified by claimed traces of the Apostle John's residence, one can take to heart the Revelator's prophetic and in some cases searing inventories of the spiritual condition of the Christians of Ephesus (Efes), Smyrna (Izmir), Pergamum (Bergama), Thyatira (Akhisar), Sardis (Sart), Philadelphia (Alashehir) and Laodicea (Goncali) at the close of the first century. These sites, framed by both urban and pastoral landscapes, are all archaeologically present in Turkey and serve up the kind of inspirational ambiance in which pilgrims can muse. With open Bible in hand they can hear the stones speak from another time. The list of familiar and obscure New Testament, place names which summon pilgrims to Turkey is lengthy — the regions of Cilicia, Lycia, Pamphylia, Pisidia, Syria, Galatia, Asia Minor and Phrygia; the cities of Tarsus, Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Myra, Patara, Perga, Hierapolis, Miletus, and Assos. Mark Wilson's, *Biblical Turkey* (2010) is a superb, meticulously detailed resource for the Christian Turkey sleuth.

There is considerably more in Turkey to see by way of Christian heritage beyond the first century. Though disappearing, some of the most ancient branches of global Christianity which speak Armenian and Syriac can still be found in eastern Anatolia. If one continues down the corridors of Christian time, one can follow the trajectories of early Christian belief debated and defined by the Seven Ecumenical Councils and enshrined in the creeds for centuries up to the present day. Nicea (Iznik) (325), Constantinople (Istanbul) (381, 553, 680-681, 787), Ephesus (Efes) (431) and Chalcedon (Kadikoy) (451) contribute their intrigue-ridden stories to the history of Christian dogma. The fairy chimneys of Cappadocia, a masterful creation of nature honeycombed with frescoed, rock churches and hermit caves, stand as timeless monuments to the 4th century, theological heavyweights who championed orthodoxy — Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nyssa and Gregory Nazianzus. Further to the east, a short distance from the Syrian border, one can contemplate the almost bizarre, skyward asceticism of the 5th century, otherworldly, Syrian hermit,

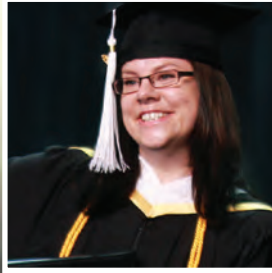
Simon the Stylite the Younger while standing at the base of the remains of the column on top of which he lived austerely for 41 years. At the western end of the country in Istanbul (once glorious Constantinople) which spans two continents, it is still possible to gaze upon the breathtaking, architectural magnificence of Hagia Sophia, the largest church in the world in the 6th century, now a museum. Justinian, the emperor who had it built, in an outburst of hubris, boasted that it exceeded the beauty of Solomon's temple. In recent years the dazzling mosaics of the third Church of the Holy Wisdom to stand on the site have been restored painstakingly, resurrecting the regal splendours of a bygone, Christian empire.

On one occasion, when traveling in Turkey, two members of a *Down Ancient Paths* group sitting near the front of the bus, engaged in a continuous reading aloud of the Book of Acts. During a restful interlude, our Turkish driver, moved by what he had heard as he drove, said to the two women, 'if you read anymore, I will have to convert.' I asked him, 'do you know how much of the Book of Acts actually occurred in Turkey?' He responded, 'no'. Ironically, though separated by faith and continents, the Muslim bus driver and the seasoned, Calgary church goer were united in their common unawareness of Turkey as a bona fide, Christian 'other Holy Land'. □

Dr. Nienkirchen is the creator/ Director of the government award winning *Down Ancient Paths Travel Study Program* at Ambrose University College. He will be leading Summer School in the 'Other' Holy Lands 2013 (Turkey/Greece/Albania) (May 7-31/2013).



Theatre on the Pergamum Acropolis
Photo courtesy of Dr. Robert Snow



Grad 2013



The 72nd Baccalaureate Convocation and the 42nd Seminary Convocation of Ambrose University College was held on April 27, 2013

One hundred and forty-one students walked to the stage to receive their diplomas, 104 from the Faculty of Arts & Science, 15 from the Faculty of Theology [Undergraduate] and 22 from the Faculty of Theology [Seminary].

The Ambrose gymnasium was packed for the graduation ceremony, which was also broadcast live over the internet. Lorna Dueck, host and executive producer of *Context with Lorna Dueck* delivered the convocation message. Dueck urged each graduate to live a life of intentional surrender to God: "He is the source of your self-expression, every job you take on, every child you raise, every friendship that you make—it is all about connecting the source of your self-expression to Him."

Concerning the opening portion of Joshua 1—do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth—she added, "after twenty years of applying Biblical analysis to current events, I am deeply convinced that the teachings of God give people unparalleled access to life-giving principles, to the gift of shalom in this world." Dueck's message reminded Ambrose graduates to be grounded in their faith so that their service can flow out of a life-giving dependence on God.



Orientation

Orientation prepares you to succeed academically and connects you with all aspects of student life. It's a great chance to make friends, explore the campus, and set yourself up for a rewarding school year.

Classes begin on September 4, and this year's Undergraduate Orientation will run from September 2 to 3. Events include a campus tour, sessions on residence commuter life, games, chapel, a seminar on academic success, and chance to learn about your skills and personality through the Clifton *StrengthsFinder*.

Orientation ends on the evening of September 3 with the annual Undergraduate Student BBQ.



For Seminary students, orientation will take place on September 3. You'll attend chapel, tour the campus, be welcomed by the president of Ambrose, attend a seminar on seminary life, and finish off with a BBQ for new and returning students, along with friends and family. To register for your orientation, visit ambrose.edu/orientation.

English graduate wins SSHRC funding

Celine Ibsen, a recent graduate of the Ambrose English program, has won funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for her upcoming Master's study at Dalhousie University. She applied to SSHRC for a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship to fund her research on the relationship between ecology and epistemology in *John Milton's Paradise Lost*.

SSHRC is the federal research funding agency that promotes and supports post secondary-based research and training in the humanities and social sciences. Ambrose recently achieved full institutional eligibility with the SSHRC, and Ibsen's award is the first instance where a SSHRC scholarship has been granted to a student affiliated with Ambrose, rather than to an Ambrose graduate studying at another university.



SSHRC's review process ensured that Ibsen's application received "expert adjudication... through an independent merit review process designed to ensure the highest standards of excellence and impartiality" (www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca). Dr. Tim Heath, Chair of English, says, "Celine's application was successful in part because of its strong ideas but also very much because Celine worked incredibly hard at making her writing utterly clear."

For her part, Ibsen remarks that she would not have applied successfully without the encouragement of her professors. "I have been supported and challenged every step of the way," says Ibsen.

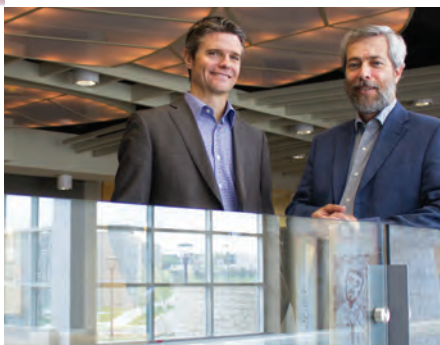
"At Ambrose I have learned to think and write with clarity and confidence. Those skills are definitely in demand in the job market, but they are also very rewarding in their own right."

New Testament spirituality

This fall, you have the opportunity to study the New Testament with the leaders of Ambrose University College. Dr. Gordon T. Smith, President of Ambrose and Professor of Systematic and Spiritual Theology, is teaming up with Dr. Paul Spilsbury, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins, to offer you an engaging and transformative exploration of New Testament spirituality.

Learn about the biblical and theological underpinnings of Christian spiritual life as they are set forth in the writings of the New Testament. You'll be challenged and encouraged as you examine theoretical and practical issues in community with your classmates and professors.

- You'll gain a working knowledge of the theology of the New Testament as it bears upon issues related to Christian devotion and spiritual practice.
- You'll have the opportunity to carefully consider the spirituality of the various writers of the New Testament.
- You'll reflect, in community with your classmates, on how to live out the insights of the New Testament in your own spiritual life.
- You'll also gain the perspective to assess both historical movements and current trends in Christian spirituality from a New Testament point of view.



Dr. Paul Spilsbury and Dr. Gordon T. Smith

Syllabus will become available on the first day of class. For more information about this course, please call the Enrolment office at 403-410-2900 or email: enrolment@ambrose.edu.

A delightful time of fellowship

The Church of the Nazarene, one of the founding denominations of Ambrose University College, held its quadrennial General Assembly from June 19 to 27 in Indianapolis, Indiana. On Sunday, June 23, a morning communion service in the Indianapolis Convention Center had over 20,000 people in attendance. Following the service, Canadian delegates attended a luncheon co-sponsored by Ambrose University College and the Church of the Nazarene Canada. The luncheon provided an excellent opportunity for Canadian delegates to connect with the vision of Ambrose and the work of the Church of the Nazarene in Canada. Former Ambrose staff, parents of incoming students, parents of graduating students, pastors, and district superintendents from across Canada mingled, sharing memories and making new connections.

The program included Gordon T. Smith's report on the work of the Church of the Nazarene. Dr. Smith's report on Ambrose was also a highlight; delegates left with a clear sense of the valuable role university education continues to play in training the next generation of leaders in the Church of the Nazarene.

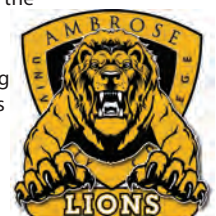
Overall, the luncheon underscored the bond between Ambrose and the Church of the Nazarene Canada, as delegates celebrated a shared purpose and took the time to enjoy and strengthen friendships. "This was an excellent opportunity for Canadians, and those with a Canadian connection, to meet together for fellowship and camaraderie. What a delightful time we had together," comments Dr. Smith.

Action summer camps

This summer, Ambrose partnered with Athletes in Action (AIA) to offer basketball and volleyball training camps. AIA excels at mentoring and coaching young athletes while integrating sport and faith.

Partnering with AIA enables Ambrose to support an excellent ministry while also reaching out to Calgary's athletic community.

The camps focused on developing the total athlete, with attention to physical, mental, and spiritual development. University and college players and coaches offered athletes a progressive skill development program that teaches the keys to skill success, while also giving athletes ample playing time to put these keys into practice.



The basketball camp featured coach Rod Sawatzky, who has played and coached for Canadian Interuniversity Sport, hosting over 200 shooting clinics for every level, and Matt Letkeman, a member of the Jr. Men's National Team and Canada West rookie of the year.

Volleyball camps featured high-level coaching from both AIA and Ambrose staff. Janelle Rozema, current assistant coach for the University of Alberta Pandas, former Assistant Coach at Trinity Western University, and former Head Coach at Columbia Bible College was one of the lead coaches along with Colin Kubinec, current Women's Volleyball Head Coach and Assistant Athletics Director at Ambrose University College.

For now its home

Don Whitford, a resident of Murdoch Manor in Calgary's East Village, had to move unexpectedly across town during Calgary's recent flooding and wasn't sure where he was going to land. But, all things considered, he couldn't be happier with the results.

Whitford is one of close to 100 displaced Calgarians now staying at Ambrose University College in the city's southwest. With the support of Alberta Health Services and several other agencies, Ambrose is providing temporary shelter and health care until it's safe for evacuees to return home.

"This place is excellent," Whitford says. "The people are so good, the food is excellent, and anything you need as far as medical care — you get it. I can't give the staff enough praise."



Don Whitford

AHS provides a team of four or five nurses on site each day who help residents manage chronic health conditions. They also provide access to mental health counseling, as well as a physician, if needed.

Meeting these needs sometimes means going well above and beyond the call of duty, according to Julie Kerr, Vice-President Community, Rural & Mental Health for the AHS Calgary Zone. She says a nurse who was volunteering on Saturday night at another city reception centre heard that a resident arriving at Ambrose was without necessary supplies to manage their diabetes.

"It happened the nurse's own specialty was in treating diabetics, and so she was able to secure what she needed and get the supplies up to Ambrose. It is truly amazing what our people are doing to help others in need," Kerr says.

Paul Spilsbury, Ambrose University College Vice-President Academic, says he's proud of how staff at his institution have also stepped up to support those in need. "This is really outside the normal course of their duties but we're happy to have been able to contribute," Spilsbury says. "We're also grateful for the partnerships we've had with AHS and the Calgary Emergency Management Agency."

For his part, Whitford isn't sure when he'll be back in his apartment at Murdoch Manor, but until then he has a short message for everyone who's been involved with his Ambrose University College experience: "Thanks to all the volunteers."

Story by Greg Harris; Photo by Paul Rotzinger
Adapted with permission from Alberta Health Services. Original story at: www.albertahealthservices.ca/8715.asp#UcONSOLZlh8.facebook.

Seniors retreat

In May, 2013 around 120 seniors — defined for the purposes of this event as those over the age of 55 — gathered at Ambrose for a retreat. Travelling from as far afield as Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Ontario, the group gathered together for times of fellowship, teaching, and relaxation.

Our speakers were Rev. Barry Moore, an energetic octogenarian who brought the messages Being Filled with the Holy Spirit and Faith, and Characteristics of Those Called Christians in Acts and 1 Peter, and Dr. Gordon T. Smith who spoke compellingly on the themes of *Generation to Generation – Passing along Wisdom and Blessing and Making [Some] Sense of the Pain*. In addition to the main speakers numerous workshops were offered covering subjects as diverse as the book of Revelation, engaging those of the Muslim faith, and why literature matters.

The afternoons provided some free time as well as a fascinating pottery demonstration by local Greg McRitchie on one of the days, and a guitar recital by Ambrose student Mike Ibsen on the other afternoon.

But part of the joy of events like these are catching up with old friends people haven't seen in many years. It became something of an unofficial reunion of the classes of 1954 – 1956 with old classmates connecting in some cases for the first time since graduation. Following the evening services the room was abuzz with excited chatter, impromptu gatherings, and informal coffee meetings. Many who traveled from out of town stayed in the Ambrose residence and there, again, there were evening gatherings as people brought each other up to date on many years of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all the adventures in-between.

Ambrose staff thoroughly enjoyed hosting the group and look forward to another successful event in 2014. Our plenary speakers next year will be Mark Buchanan, popular author and newly appointed to the Ambrose seminary, and Gordon T. Smith.

The event will be held May 13 – 15, 2014 on the Ambrose campus. If you would like to receive further information as it becomes available, please email seniorsretreat@ambrose.edu.

Delve into the Global Christian Heritage...



The Quest for Ancient Christians in Tropical South India (via Hong Kong)
January 16 – February 10, 2014

Down Ancient Paths/Voyages to Antiquity Mediterranean Cruise
March or April, 2014 (TBA)

Summer School in the 'Greater' Holy Land (Lebanon/Jordan/Israel)
April 30 – June 5, 2014

Retracing the Footsteps of Ancient Celtic Christians in the United Kingdom (England/Scotland/Wales)
(July 15 – 30, 2014)

Ambrose's government award-winning Down Ancient Paths Travel Study Program is featuring the following upcoming ventures in 2014.

Contact Dr. Charles Nienkirchen at cnienkirchen@ambrose.edu for more information.

FAMILY ties

Dr. Peter Ralph Retires

After 23 years of teaching in the Ambrose seminary, Dr. Peter Ralph is retiring. He will be deeply missed by the Ambrose community. Peter has made a lasting contribution to the spiritual formation of countless students who have passed through Ambrose, and to the culture of the institution itself.



"Peter Ralph has been an integral part of Ambrose Seminary (and Canadian Theological Seminary) for more than two decades," says Paul Spilsbury, Vice President of Academic Affairs. "His personal wisdom and deep understanding of the needs of the church have made him a sought-after guide and mentor to students and colleagues alike. Both inside and outside of the classroom Peter has offered a voice of insight that will be greatly missed by many at Ambrose."

Dr. Ralph began his journey with what is now Ambrose University College at Canadian Bible College in Regina. Not surprisingly, he cites the creation of Ambrose in partnership with Nazarene University College and the formation of a faculty of Arts and Science as the biggest changes he has encountered during his time with the institution.

While the school has grown and changed, the joy of teaching has remained at the core of Dr. Ralph's vocation. He will miss mentoring students in his favourite classes, Personal Formation and Development, and Interpreting Scripture for Preaching and Teaching, but there are also many things he's anticipating in his retirement.

"I'm looking forward to following my vocation in new ways," Dr. Ralph relates. "I'm excited to have more time to grow in prayer, write, contribute to the salvation and formation of my grandchildren, date my wife, experience creation, recover the arts in me, enjoy and bless friends, build hot rods, stuff like that."

As he goes, Dr. Ralph offers a final insight to students, staff, and faculty at Ambrose: "God is out there, doing new things in new places. I want Ambrose to move always towards what God is doing in the world, and discover God's provision on the way."



Births

Thich Truong (AS '12) and **Alyssa (Buszowski) Truong** (Amb '09; AS '12) are enjoying ministry and preparing for their transition in the next number of years to enter into international work. Since graduating in April 2012, Thich has been working full-time as an Associate Pastor at Rockyview Alliance Church in Calgary, Alberta, focusing on the areas of worship and missions. They celebrated the birth of their first-born son Elliott James Truong on September 29, 2012.



Dusty Benner (CBC '02) and wife **Chandra** (CBC '03) welcomed their fifth child on November 6, 2012, a girl named Avirly Sherry Benner. Dusty and Chandra are located in Boise, Idaho, planting a C&MA church focusing on establishing a network of missional communities.



Weddings

Greg Nyobole Kilbrai (Treasurer & VP Finance & Business 1996-2000) married Thobela Nyobole July 14, 2012 at Cape Town, South Africa.



In Memoriam

Rev. George E. Wall, resident of Grande Prairie, went to be with his Lord on Saturday, December 8, 2012, at the age of 100 years. George was born on October 7, 1912 in Hodgeville, Saskatchewan, the middle of five children with two sisters and two brothers. He furthered his education at Canadian Nazarene College in Red Deer, AB, and was ordained in 1953. He pastored for 33 years in BC, AB, SK, NWT and the U.S. He is survived by his wife Sarah of 68 years, 3 children, 5 grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren.

Rev. Cecil Smith, (CBC '54; CTS '75), passed away December 6, 2012 in Richmond, BC at the age of 81. Cecil is lovingly remembered by his wife of 60 years, **Eunice Smith** (WCBI '51; CBC '68; CTS '75); his eldest son **Gordon Smith** (CTS '78) (**Joella** (CBC '77)); grandsons Andrew (Sherrri) and **Micah** (Amb '06) (**Sarah** (Amb '04)) and their children; his daughter **Judy Henry** (CBC '74) and family; and his youngest son Benjamin Smith (Anne Leary) and family. Cecil was born in Edmonton, AB March 12, 1931. He met Eunice in Regina, SK while attending the Canadian Bible Institute and after graduating and pastoring for a number of years in Saskatchewan, left for the mission field in Ecuador, in 1956.

News and Notes

Jerralynn (Lynn) Medaris attended CNC, Red Deer in 1959 and 1960.

"I finished school with a degree in education and minor in church music from Pasadena College, now Point Loma. I taught grades 3, 4 and 5 in California as well as playing piano for the church. Then I changed to high school geography, math and choir for a couple of years. My greatest desire was to get into the travel industry so after taking time off to produce 2 boys, we were transferred to Houston which had an International School of Travel, where I went back to school. In 1980, I became a Travel Advisor. I must admit, I still love my work and have no desire to retire!

Along with the travel positions, I have served as Minister of Music. I retired from church music, I thought, until we came back to South Carolina, play the organ for the church and have started a handbell choir.

I married Eugene Hayes, a retired forester with the Department of Agriculture. He graduated from Clemson University in South Carolina and we have been here for 7 years now. We have two boys, one a retired Colonel in the Marine Corp and our oldest son is in construction in Arkansas. We have 4 grandchildren and the oldest one just presented us with 2 great grandchildren over the last 2 years. They live in Arkansas."

Vic (CBC '78; CTS '94) and **Gail Koop** (CBC '95) live in Ashcroft, B.C., where Vic serves as Pastor of the Sage Hills Evangelical Free Church. Moving to Ashcroft from Dorion, ON in December 2010, Vic and Gail are enjoying their ministry in this community of about 1,700. Gail teaches piano students and is involved in women's ministries. They have been serving with the E. Free Denomination for 18 years. Oldest son Paul and wife Missy have one son, Elam. Darlene is serving with the E Free Church Mission in the Ukraine. Learning to speak the Russian language, she plans to work in orphanages. Jeff, their second son, works in Edmonton. Tim, the youngest, attends Columbia Bible College in Abbotsford, B.C.

...ONE OF MY GOALS IS TO MAKE A HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT MAKES CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION DISTINCTIVE



New Campus Chaplain

TERRY FACH

CAMPUS CHAPLAIN

It is a privilege to return to Ambrose University College in the role of Campus Chaplain. When asked what drew me to the role one reason stands out. As an undergraduate at Canadian Nazarene College (an earlier iteration of Ambrose) the direction of my life was profoundly shaped both in the

classroom and in co-curricular experiences. Time spent in the chapel and at the hockey rink was as formational as the classroom. Beginning to forge a faith that was my own was at times a messy, deconstructive exercise. Fortunately the example and guidance of Christian faculty helped me to stay the course. I want to make that kind of contribution now, especially through the ministry of The Chapel (sadly my hockey-playing days are almost over).

My goals for The Chapel and my role at Ambrose begin not surprisingly with worship. My hope is to foster a rich and diverse worshipping life and encourage Christian scholars (whether professors or students) to see both worship and lectures as central to Christian formation. Formation is not just about knowledge but also about the shape of our heart's desires. Taking "every thought captive to Christ" (2 Cor. 10:4-5) means not only thinking and understanding all things in Christ but also nurturing desire for God's kingdom more than any other thing. Samuel Wells, former Dean of Duke Chapel, says that to worship is to say "All the reality I've ever known is swallowed up in you; I've been walking my life into a headwind and now I want to turn around and be swept off the ground by your Spirit." That sounds just right to me. Worship supports the singular goal of Christian higher education: to know, love and serve Jesus Christ. In worship we experience the very presence of this Jesus and are invited into transforming union with him. Worship with excellence and passion makes transformative learning possible, so there is a lot at stake here.

I have a few other goals and one big dream. My desire is to see The Chapel promote Christian formational practices that link us not only to our holiness tradition but also (like our namesake Ambrose of Milan) to the breadth of the whole Christian tradition. Another goal as campus chaplain is to make a helpful contribution to the conversation about what makes Christian higher education distinctive. Finally, a dream for a chapel building: to someday see a sacred space — an iconic building — erected on the Ambrose campus for the purpose of worship. I hope you'll excuse a chaplain dreaming about a chapel!

If you have any questions about The Chapel at Ambrose or would like to contact me for any reason I would love to hear from you (tfach@ambrose.edu). And please pray with me that these hopes and goals will come to fruition in the months ahead.

FINISH FREE



New bursary covers third-year of tuition for Master of Divinity Students

Ambrose Seminary is pleased to announce that the third and final year of the Master of Divinity program is now free! In order to receive this bursary, students must complete the first 60 credits towards the MDiv at Ambrose with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

This new bursary program will accomplish two things. First, it will highlight the value of the three-year MDiv as a quality theological program for ministerial formation. Second, the bursary will remove what is often a significant barrier for students – the increasing costs of higher education.

“MANY CANDIDATES FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY WANT THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY BIBLICAL LANGUAGES IN-DEPTH AND TAKE COURSES THAT WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH A MORE FULL FOUNDATION FOR RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP.”

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