Bruce McLeod in Faithful Conversation

N. Bruce McLeod Emm 5T3, inaugural recipient of the Emmanuel College Distinguished Alumni/ae Award, was honoured on May 14, 2009, at the annual luncheon of the Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association. The award joins the long list of honours McLeod has received in recognition of his vision and leadership as a minister of The United Church of Canada and as a public figure.

There was no great blinding light that called Bruce McLeod to ministry. In fact, he describes his first forays into the world of theology as “sort of stumbling in, and there I was.” At the time of his graduation from the University of Toronto, there was a shortage of ministers. That, combined with the model of McLeod’s own minister at Deer Park United Church, suggested to him that theology might be something to try. He’s taken pleasure in his choice ever since.

“For one thing, it wasn’t predictable. As a minister, you’re always dealing with new situations with people or always going to be with people facing tough circumstances,” says McLeod. “I led a sheltered life, and the first funeral I ever attended was the one I took in my first church, up in Georgian Bay. From the beginning, it struck me as a great privilege to be with people in crisis.”

McLeod particularly enjoyed the time he spent with a congregation, speaking out the good news of Christianity in relation to the modern day. “I always had in mind that there might be a person in church that day who had never been before and might be a bit skeptical. I was a bit skeptical myself at first. I loved the opportunity to address them and me. I think if I hadn’t had the responsibility of preaching every Sunday, my own faith might not have grown.”

In time, McLeod’s ministry extended beyond the pulpit. His leadership in the church and the community has been demonstrated through his service as Moderator of The United Church of Canada (at the time of his appointment in 1972 he was the youngest person ever elected to this office) and through his involvement with the Canadian Council of Churches; World Council of Churches Eminent Persons teams; World Conference on Religion and Peace, Canada, an inter-faith forum for Sikhs, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, Christians and other faiths; Coalition Against the Return of the Death Penalty; and Ontario Human Rights Commission, among many other organizations.

In the 1980s, and well into the 1990s, McLeod frequently served as an international observer or monitor in such places as Honduras, Ethiopia, Taiwan, Haiti, Bangkok and Zimbabwe. He also became a regular

Continued on page 2
An Open Engagement of Questions and Answers

Sandra Beardsall Emm 8T5, 9T6, came to theological study as a lifelong churchgoer, always having been interested in questions of faith. “The church is about a community with a powerful vision of how we live together in justice and grace,” she says. “Theology helps the church to articulate that vision.” Beardsall’s pursuit of a doctor of theology degree came after several years of serving congregations in Newfoundland and Labrador. The desire to complete a doctor of theology arose, in part, from her longtime interest in ecumenics and the desire that Christians might know one another better and work through differences to genuine unity. The other force was her desire to understand the Methodist history that had shaped and continued to inform her parishioners.

Beardsall is now a professor of church history and ecumenics at St. Andrew’s College in Saskatoon. Her research interests have refocused on issues in the Prairie context, such as the church’s responses to social issues, as well as the theology that emerges from ecumenically-shared ministry congregations. A minister and a professor, she stands in the worlds of the church and the academy, articulating the unbreakable link between the two.

“To do that, you have to know what God’s world is about,” he says. “The church needs to listen to people of other faiths and of no faith. We must be open to change. There’s always a danger of settling down too soon.”

During his days as a theological student, McLeod enjoyed the academic part of preparing for ministry and, after Emmanuel, completed a doctor of theology at Union Seminary in New York. For him, academia’s theological conversation must always engage with the rest of God’s world. “To do that, you have to know what God’s world is about,” he says. “The church needs to listen to people of other faiths and of no faith. We must be open to change. There’s always a danger of settling down too soon.”

That intent to stimulate conversation with the world motivated his teaching as an adjunct professor of practical theology at Emmanuel College (1982-1991), and is underscored by an impressive list of books and numerous articles, in such journals as the Princeton Review, Christian Century and Theology Today.

Through it all, McLeod remained a minister. For 41 years he tended to rural and urban congregations, small and large in scale. When he was periodically engaged in other work, he says, it was the funerals, weirdly enough, that he missed.

“The pastor has the opportunity to be there when nobody knows what to do. To be with people, to hold them, and be held by them in return, is the best thing in the world.”

Music is what first plunged Luke Powery Emm 0T7 into theology’s deep waters. Looking for a firmer theological foundation for music while completing a master of divinity, Powery’s interests broadened to include worship studies. Ordination then followed, and it was as an associate pastor for the International Protestant Church of Zurich that he focused in on the preaching event, ultimately bringing him to Emmanuel for a doctor of theology in homiletics. “Preaching is a divine human venture, rhetorical but deeply theological,” he says. “Somehow, God and humanity collaborate for this potentially transformative event. In some ways, it is mysterious because we don’t control the impact, we only play a part in it.”

Powery has continued to define his interests. As an assistant professor of homiletics at Princeton Seminary, he has located those interests at “the intersection of pneumatology, preaching, worship, performance studies and culture, particularly expressions of the African diaspora.”

At work in an institution of the church, as a doctor of the church, significant questions now exist. “How do we translate what we’re talking about in the academy to the church and vice versa? Are we listening to what’s going on, on the ground?” he asks. “It is a radical openness to the other that we’re talking about here. Even if the other is one we disagree with, are we open to having a mutual criticism and the act of learning from each other?”
If you happened to be around Emmanuel College during the summertime, you no doubt noticed a wide variety of construction activities: scaffolding on windows to repair historic leaded glass and frames; the large bin in back of Emmanuel to dispose of the old roof over the chapel and make way for the new one installed in August; or dust in the hallways from a complete overhaul of room 119, now a fully modern classroom complete with media technology. Less noticeable, except for those of us who work in the building, was the asbestos removal in the basement. In short, the summer was loud, sometimes smelly due to paint and glue, occasionally hot, often dirty and dusty, with office furniture out of place and workers standing in our windows peering at the glass and working with caulk, lead, and putty. Some say creativity often appears in the midst of chaos, and this was certainly the case around Emmanuel this summer.

The fall term is now in full swing, and all of us have been busy with construction activities of a different sort. Faculty members met in retreat during the first week of September. Among other things, faculty discussed the nature of Emmanuel’s mission and whether we should seek to fine-tune it or redefine it fully in order to address more directly the contemporary challenges found in both church and culture.

Faculty reflections about the mission of Emmanuel were also included in discussions that began later that month among members of the new Task Group for Strategic Planning. The task group will be meeting regularly over the course of the next 15 months to define a clear, compelling, future direction for the College. The group’s goal is to develop a new five-year plan to be presented to the Board of Regents in December 2010. As well as myself, members of the group include: Michael Blair, executive minister with the Intercultural and Diverse Communities in Ministry Unit of The United Church of Canada; Murray Corlett Vic 6T1, chair of Victoria University’s Board of Regents; Shirley (Hong) Hoy Vic 7T3, member of Victoria’s Board of Regents and former city manager for Toronto; Marilyn Legge Vic 7T4, Emm 8T1, associate professor of Christian ethics; Ian Manson Emm 8T8, 9T9, member of Victoria’s Board of Regents and minister of Royal York Road United Church; Robert McGavin Emm 0T7, former chair of University of Toronto Governing Council; Tom Reynolds, associate professor of theology; Carolyn (Hughes) Tuohy Vic 6T6, professor emeritus of political science at U of T; and former senator and moderator of The United Church of Canada Lois Wilson, most recently ecumenist-in-residence for the Toronto School of Theology.

Besides new educational initiatives (see pages 4 and 5), Emmanuel College has been busy tending to construction on the administrative front. We are seeking to create fresh and consistent approaches to the visual identity of the College, and you will begin to notice subtle differences in design features associated with our newsletter, starting with this issue, as well as our stationary and other materials in the near future. In addition, we are currently designing a new website that we hope to ‘roll out’ by the end of January 2010. During the summer, we worked through issues related to navigation, content, and style, and we are now building on the results by working with web designers.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Emmanuel College has added a new staff member devoted to the matter of recruitment. Leanne O’Neill is a member of The United Church of Canada and a graduate of Carleton University, with a BA in political science and a concentration in gender and politics. She is currently working on a post-graduate certificate in non-profit and voluntary sector management at Ryerson University. For the past two years, O’Neill has worked in the Volunteer Resources Department of the Yonge Street Mission, where she developed and implemented processes to recruit, coordinate, support and supervise over 3,400 volunteers annually. We are excited about the resources and gifts she brings to the College.

The name of the game around Emmanuel this past summer and early fall appears to have been construction. There is much that is new happening around the College. If you get the chance, drop by this fall to take a look for yourself!
Reunions, a Convocation and an Installation

The exploration of theology in a contemporary context was at the heart of Alumni/ae Days 2009, Watering Our Roots: What's New in Theology Today, on May 13 and 14. Graduates from the classes of 1950 to 2008 were in attendance at the faculty-led sessions that took place over the two days and where valuable perspectives were shared. The Alumni/ae Days 2009 program concluded with the annual luncheon where the Emmanuel College Distinguished Alumni/ae Award was presented to inaugural recipient Bruce McLeod Emm 5T3 (see page 1).

Many alumni/ae remained on campus May 14 to attend the afternoon convocation of Emmanuel’s Class of 2009 and the official installation of Principal Mark Toulouse. The ceremony also celebrated this year’s honorary degree recipients, William Blaikie Emm 7T7, well known as one of Canada’s longest-serving members of Parliament, and William Wright Vic 6T1, Emm 6T4, a celebrated organist who has helped shape the music community for more than 40 years.

500th Anniversary of John Calvin’s Birth

Emmanuel College marked the anniversary of John Calvin's birth this June when it co-hosted with Knox College Rediscovering Calvin: Resources for Renewal Today. More than 200 delegates attended the three-day conference in celebration of history, theology, ministry, music and literature shaped by Calvin’s efforts for Reformed Christianity in the 16th century.

Emerging and established scholars and ministry practitioners from Canada, the United States, Europe, Asia and Australia led 28 lectures and workshops that examined the historical importance of the influence of Calvin’s theological leadership on civil society and the practical application of his preaching and teaching in ministry today. Featured speakers included Pulitzer Prize-winning author Marilynne Robinson, eminent feminist theologian and Calvin scholar, Union Theological Seminary president Serene Jones, and one of the most important evangelical scholars writing today, Alister McGrath from Kings’ College in London.

Black Leadership and the Church in the Canadian Context

Emmanuel College, with the Intercultural and Diverse Communities in Ministry Unit of The United Church of Canada, will host a colloquium October 16 and 17 on the subject of Black leadership in the church. Leaders from within the Black Canadian church community will meet with well-known professors and church leaders who have shaped Black theologies based on the Black experience in the United States. The aim of the discussions will be to engage the Black experience within the Canadian context of church life and encourage a revitalization for the Black church community in Canada by forging new and important bonds with theologians, community leaders and other religious scholars throughout North America.

This November, the College again partners with the Intercultural and Diverse Communities in Ministry Unit by co-sponsoring a gathering of the Black Religious Scholars group during the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, this year being hosted in Montreal.
Emmanuel College’s efforts to expand the scope of its teaching on the relationships between Christianity and other religions continue to move forward with a proposed Canadian Certificate of Muslim Studies. With the support of a grant from the Canadian Dawn Foundation for its first two years, the certificate program will be launched by Emmanuel in January 2010 as a pilot project.

“We are excited about the opportunity to collaborate with Emmanuel College in providing support for this program,” says Roshan Jamal, president of the Canadian Dawn Foundation, which was founded with the primary purpose of supporting the creation of programs, courses and educational materials in Islamic studies at universities, colleges and other learning institutions. “The Canadian Certificate of Muslim Studies will provide both an opportunity for basic training on Islam and the development of leadership skills to assist in the delivery of chaplaincy services.”

A rich diversity of expressions of faith continues to grow within urban and rural settings. In response to the growing global community, centres of theological education need to work intentionally to create forums where persons representing diverse faiths may engage one another and discover common concerns. For example, a fundamental theological commitment within the Muslim faith stresses faith in God, and God alone. Like Christians and Jews, at their best, Muslims are critical of those who confuse their own religious truth for God’s truth as they believe in the importance of accepting other believers and have always affirmed the legitimacy of both Christianity and Judaism.

“This new program will help both Muslims and Christians respond to the 21st-century context in a manner that takes seriously the importance of dialogue and discussion across the boundaries of differing languages and religious traditions,” says Principal Mark Toulouse.

For more than a year, Emmanuel College has been engaging in consultation with representatives from the Canadian Dawn Foundation, the Canadian Council of Imams, Toronto School of Theology and the Canadian Council of Muslim Women as to how to aid the Muslim community in addressing the challenges they face as they integrate into Canadian life. The new Canadian Certificate of Muslim Studies is the result of these conversations.

Hustler Young Men’s Bible Class Funds Bursary

For 87 years, the Hustler Young Men’s Bible Class has provided Christian fellowship and charitable donations. This strong tradition continues through a gift of $40,000 to establish the Hustler Young Men’s Bible Class Bursary at Emmanuel College, to be awarded to basic degree students who have demonstrated financial need.

“Many of the Hustler members belong to the United Church and we felt it was important for the group to do something that would help people going into ministry,” says John Conforzi, president of the 2009 executive of the Hustler Young Men’s Bible Class. “Given what we want this gift to accomplish, Emmanuel College was the natural place to establish the bursary.”

The creation of this endowed bursary by the Hustler Young Men’s Bible Class is timely, since Emmanuel College has been working hard to address the increased financial challenges students face while completing graduate-level studies. The bursary is also a lasting tribute to the work of the Hustler Young Men’s Bible Class, whose operations came to a close this year. The Hustler Young Men’s Bible Class was founded in 1922 in Toronto by renowned philanthropist George Cedric Metcalf (1903-1998).
Why Contextual Education?

BY JOAN WYATT

Emmanuel College, after several years of consultation with alumni/ae, presbyteries and Conference and General Council committees, designed and began to implement, in September 2008, a revised basic degree curriculum. The curriculum is designed to develop knowledge, skill and values from contextual awareness, analysis and sensitivity. Leadership in ministry, whether in a rural, suburban or urban congregation, a social agency or an innovative form, requires an ability to understand appreciatively, describe and to re-imagine a particular context. The letters of the Apostle Paul model such contextual particularity, as do the gospel narratives.

In continuity with the new curricular design, “contextual education” has replaced “field education,” itself a renaming and re-conception of “field work.” The change from “work” to “education” signaled a shift from applying theory to skills that were then practiced, to integrating and learning by doing. This shift also focused attention on the development of self-knowledge, a capacity insuring that, in their inter-actions, the needs of spiritual leaders would not compromise the care of souls under their stewardship. The shift also introduced an action-reflection model of learning that sought to instill a lifelong habit of theological reflection and co-operative learning in community.

The present shift to contextual education builds further on these prior developments. Added is the emphasis that all practice in ministry is contextual. Each faith community has a unique social and spiritual character; so too, each individual is a unique living text that is constantly in the process of change as new experiences, knowledge and values are integrated.

The consistent appreciation of and skill to read, translate and then give feedback to individuals and faith communities seeds the ground for tilling, sowing, and harvesting new growth. As once Peter’s dream invited him into a new way to regard what is clean and unclean, so too, students in contextual education are encouraged to love the questions, trusting a living God who inspires new ways to be with and for the world God loves.

So how do we currently seek to accomplish such outcomes in contextual education at Emmanuel College? In their first year of studies, students take a course entitled Context and Ministry. Here they begin to deepen self-awareness in relationship to one another and in relation to living texts that are visible in the city of Toronto. The course begins with a day at Regent Park. This singular setting with its particular history, architecture, social, economic, religious and ethnic particularities introduces students to both the process and the rich experience of observing and beginning to read a living text. Written texts, guests and further site visits examine other living texts, like relationships with Aboriginal peoples, African Canadians, newcomers to Canada and street folk in Toronto. In this process, students engage in reflections on missional issues such as racism, hetero-sexism, poverty, inter-culturalism, ethnic diversity and the distribution of social benefits, as well as their own personal and theological responses to these challenges.

In their second year, students are placed, as in previous manifestations of contextual education, in social or congregational settings to undertake intentional learning under supervision. Weekly classes facilitate peer group processes devoted to biblical/theological reflection on critical incidents and verbatims. Both instructor and peers offer critical feedback each week focused on identified personal learning goals. This develops capacity to give and to receive effective critical feedback, deepens self-awareness and underscores the importance of peer group supervision for ongoing effective and accountable leadership.

The third-year course is an integrative, summative exercise that affords students opportunity both to assess their own learning to date from classes and supervised internships, but also to develop a vision and plan for structuring ongoing learning and self-assessment beyond the College. While integration of personhood, experiences and cognitive learning is a factor in all College courses, it is the particular focus of contextual education. In this sense, it is itself a living text constantly in a state of construction and re-construction.

For me it is a privilege to teach, to learn and to engage with students, supervisors and particular contexts. Over the past 10 years, I have been offered a glimpse of the challenge and the joy of being part of the living body of Christ, itself a primary living text that illumines the particular stones that need to be moved so that more can walk together in peace.

Joan Wyatt Emm 876, professor of contextual theological education, is the director of contextual education at Emmanuel College.
Careers

**J. Scott Boughner Emm 9T6** received a doctor of ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary in June.

**Barb M. Janes Vic 7T7, Emm 8T4** and **Tom Sherwood Emm 7T6** have been named co-recipients of the 2009 McGeachy Senior Scholarship. Janes’ work as a McGeachy scholar will be to emphasize the need to rediscover hospitality to the arts as a core expression of faith and practice. Sherwood’s research will be in relation to the Baby Boomer generation’s perspective on church and society.

**Doug Wright Emm 8T3** was installed as president of the London Conference of The United Church of Canada for 2009-2010, at the conference’s annual meeting in May. **Maya Landell Emm 0T7** was named president-elect.

Deaths

**Edgar G. Cowan Emm 4T2,** in St. Catharines, Ont., Nov. 18, 2008.

**F. James Telford Vic 4T6, Emm 4T9,** in Toronto, Nov. 11, 2008.

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**2009 Distinguished Alumni/ae Award Call for Nominations**

The Emmanuel College Distinguished Alumni/ae Award is presented annually to an Emmanuel College alumna/us whose vision and leadership have distinguished him or her through extraordinary and exemplary ministry to the church, academy or society at large. The award recognizes recent or lifetime achievement and the scope of one’s contribution can be at the local, national or international level.

Nominations for the 2009 Distinguished Alumni/ae Award recipient are currently being accepted. Applications must be received by Nov. 20, 2009. Visit www.vicu.utoronto.ca/emmanuel to nominate an Emmanuel alumna/us.

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**2009-2010 Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association Executive**

**Honorary President:** Mark Toulouse, principal of Emmanuel College

**President:** Ann Fleming Emm 9T5

**Past President:** Coral Martin Emm 0T2

**Vice-President:** Richard Choe Emm 8T9

**Members-at-Large:**

- Diane Bennett-Jones Emm 0T9
- Mary Dodge Bovaird Emm 8T8
- Kent Garrett Emm 9T9
- Mary Lee Laing Emm 0T2
- Joan McCalmont Emm 8T8
- George Moore Emm 9T7
- Janet Petrie Emm 9T8
- Eleanor Scarlett Emm 9T6
- Dale Skinner Emm 0T3
- Neil Young Emm 8T6

**Emmanuel College Students’ Society Representative:** Karen Eade

**Faculty Representative:**

- Paul Wilson Vic 7T2, Emm7T9

**Secretary:** Linda Tung Vic 0T6, alumni affairs officer

The ECAA is committed to encouraging an ongoing relationship between the alumni/ae and their college.

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**MILESTONES**

Alumni are invited to send information for inclusion in Milestones. For marriages, please indicate, if applicable, whether you prefer to be known by your married or birth name. An obituary must accompany death notices.

Or e-mail your Milestones news to emm.alumni@utoronto.ca.
Continuing Education and Coming Events

OCTOBER

The Spirituality of African Canadians: Excerpts from My Memoir
Oct. 15, 4 p.m., Emmanuel College Chapel. Admission free.

Parish Nursing Ministry Education Program: Levels I, II, III and Continuing Education
A unique congregational model for education that involves not only the registered nurse but parishioners and clergy, offered by InterChurch Health Ministries in partnership with Emmanuel College and the International Parish Nurse Resource Center.
Saturdays, Oct. 17-Nov. 21, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Emmanuel College.
Program fee $350 for nurses; $101 for clergy and other participants.
Register by contacting InterChurch Health Ministries at 905-841-7619.

November

Children and Youth Ministry Workshops
This is Not Sunday School: Transforming Your Children’s Ministry with Andrea Wheaton
Chiclets, Snickers and the Kin-dom of God with Kerrie Perry
Explore the possibilities for transforming your youth programming.
Nov. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Burton Avenue United Church, Barrie.

Greening and Growing Congregations: The Emerging Church with Bruce Sanguin
Author and minister Bruce Sanguin shares thoughts about the environment and The United Church of Canada in this two-day workshop for clergy and lay leaders.
Nov. 13, 7:30-9:30 p.m.;
Nov. 14, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Eglinton St. George’s United Church, Toronto.
Workshop fee: $60 or $20 for Nov. 13 only, $50 for Nov. 14 only.
Visit www.esgunited.org or www.vicu.utoronto.ca/emmanuel/coned for registration details.

The Waiting Heart: A Pre-Advent Retreat for Ministers with Anne Simmons
Engage in spiritual activities that feed the soul and that can be integrated into daily life.
Nov. 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Emmanuel College.
Workshop fee $80, includes lunch. Register by Nov. 9

Making the Most of Retirement with Mary Helen Garvin and Peter Scott
Explore the spiritual, psychological and emotional work required to make the transition into retirement.
Nov. 4-6, Crieff Hills Community, Puslinch, Ont.
Workshop fee $370. Register by Oct. 20 by contacting Centre for Clergy Care at 416-978-7799.

The Cousland Lecture
Doing Theology in a World Church: Thinking about Faith Amidst Diversity and Plurality
Peter C. Phan, Ellacuria chair of Catholic social thought at Georgetown University in Washington and president of the Catholic Theological Society of America, will deliver this year’s Cousland Lecture.
Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m., Emmanuel College.
Admission free; registration required.

Sunday Mondays: Preaching for the Seasons with Paul Wilson
An opportunity to renew one’s preaching through sermon preps and labs.
Nov. 23, Jan. 11, Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Emmanuel College.
Workshop fee $240, includes lunch. Register by Nov. 9.

ONGOING

Between Being and Doing: Care of Body, Mind and Spirit for Ministry with John Buttars
A flexible program for presbyteries, geared to address the life-giving personal, spiritual, physical and religious practices, both individual and corporate, essential for the kind of leadership that God’s mission requires. Course dates are arranged upon request and the program’s length can be customized for an hour-length meeting, two-hour workshop or day-long retreat.

SAVE THE DATE

Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Days 2010
The ECAA Executive looks forward to seeing alumni/ae at its annual gathering where the 2009 Distinguished Alumni/ae Award recipient will also be recognized (see page 7).
May 12 and 13, 2010.
Watch www.vicu.utoronto.ca/emmanuel for event details.

For details and registration, visit www.vicu.utoronto.ca/emmanuel or contact Betsy Anderson at ec.events@utoronto.ca or 416-813-4096. A congregational discount of 15% is available for groups of two or more participating members.