Glenys Huws: Teacher and Student of the Word

In 2008, the Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association established the Distinguished Alumni/Alumnae Award. It honours and brings attention to Emmanuel College graduates whose vision and leadership have distinguished them through extraordinary and exemplary ministry to the church, academy, or society at large. Such recent or lifetime service and contribution can be at the local, national or international level.

At the Alumni/ae Days Luncheon on May 12, Glenys Huws Vic 6T5, Emm 6T8 was presented with the “elegant looking” award: “I’m both honoured and humbled to be named,” she said, “as I was anything but a distinguished student.” While Huws confessed that she bore some of the responsibility for her academic record, she also pointed out that there were certain “contextual elements” that may have hindered her progress.

She was a Victoria University student in the 1960s at a time when women were a minority in academia. Women were admitted, but did not always feel fully welcome. While Huws is quick to point out that “nobody was nasty or brutish about it,” there was a clear message that women were something of an afterthought.

It is because of women such as Huws, however, that this type of culture no longer exists. Nancy Hardy Emm 6T8, Emm 8T7, friend and former classmate, describes her as a “feminist before most of us even knew what the word meant.” And it is this sense of “justice and inclusion” that would drive Huws’ ministry.

Huws has been actively involved in the United Church of Canada (UCC) since 1968 providing leadership in both educational and outreach ministries to numerous congregations, from Ontario to Manitoba, British Columbia and beyond.

Her career began as the director of Christian Education and Community Work at Westminster United Church in Winnipeg. The 1970s brought her back to Ontario where, in 1972, she received her MEd from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, U of T.

From 1980 to 1984, she was co-deputy secretary of the Ministry, Personnel and Education (MPE) Division at the UCC. It was here that her focus on disenfranchised groups—women, Aboriginal peoples and others without appropriate support and advocacy—took shape. From 1980 to 1990, she was the staff person for the Training for

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Native Ministry Committee and helped to develop the community-based model for Native ministry preparation and the establishment of three Aboriginal theological centres/programs in the UCC. During this time, she taught courses in leadership development, group work, educational theory and practice, pastoral care and counseling at the Centre for Christian Studies in Toronto. In 1990, she received her EdD; her thesis focused on women and transformative education.

Through the 1980s and 1990s she worked with various groups including the Movement for Christian Feminism, Friends of Affirm, Deaf Ministries Group, All Native Circle Conference and the Francis Sandy Centre. She had a particular interest in Aboriginal rights and concerns and focused her leadership on equipping First Nations people for ministry in their own communities. In 1995, as director of the Francis Sandy Centre, she helped develop a program which allows its graduates to receive a Bachelor of Theology degree from Queen’s University. In the fall of 1999, she worked with the Division of Mission in Canada, UCC, but this time her focus was devoted to a task force assigned with coordinating ministries with the deaf.

Under the same appointment, she staffed the national Committee on Sexism.

While working with these groups, Huws, in her own words, became “enlarged” as a person: “I learned different cultural languages; my understanding of God was expanded. I was able to recognize my own privilege and occasionally to relinquish that privilege. I understand what happened to me as an experience of God’s grace.” In spite of all that she has done, and the recognition that she has received, she remains ready to learn from those she teaches. She is at once a theological expert and a humble student of God.

Reflecting on Huws’ career, it becomes clear that there has been a dramatic shift in the culture of academic and spiritual institutions. Where she co-ordinated the United Church’s first research project on women in ministry, several have been done since. When she graduated from Emmanuel in 1968, she was one of only four women, roughly 15% of the class. Over the next 40 years, the percentage of women graduates increased and, in 2008, women made up nearly 60% of the class. And it cannot go unmentioned that the entire entering MDiv class of 2010 was female!

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In all her endeavours, she has been supported by her husband Harry Oussoren Emm 6T8. He and their two sons Jeremy and Joel are “the well-spring of [her] joy and [her] sense of purpose.” Together they are actively involved in their local church where Huws is the editor of its newsletter.

Emmanuel College is proud to recognize Glenys Huws. Receiving the Distinguished Alumni/Alumnae Award is particularly appropriate in view of her long career as an instrument of change in so many areas. Emmanuel College honours her fight against institutional and theological exclusion and celebrates her with pride.
There are many new things to celebrate at Emmanuel College. This coming fall, we have a very strong entering class in the advanced degree (AD) programs (ThD, DMin, ThM). As of this writing, 13 new AD students will join us in September; four others have accepted our offers of admission and deferred until fall 2012. Our admission committee is currently considering one additional ThD application. This strong activity in the AD program is good news indeed. We are also excited about the current levels of interest being shown in all our basic degree programs for this fall, and expect a strong number of admissions in our MDiv program. Further, we are celebrating the appointment of Natalie Wigg-Stevenson to our faculty position in contextual education. The Board of Regents approved her appointment on April 7 (see page 4). Wigg-Stevenson is filling the position vacated by Joan Wyatt Emm 8T6, whose distinguished career as a minister and teacher we honoured during a reception on March 30. As well, Abdulaziz Sachedina joined us on July 1 to begin his work as distinguished visiting professor of Islamic studies.

Financial support from the United Church, for the second year, has also been increased for Emmanuel College, now providing just under 10% of our total budget. This partnership is central to Emmanuel College’s work. Together with the church and the other theological schools and centres, we continue to work on developing the future ministry of the church. As all in the church know, registering in an MDiv program is an expensive proposition. In order to help potential candidates for ministry explore theological education and the Master of Divinity program at Emmanuel College, we are pleased to announce a new “MDiv Entrance Tuition Grant” for entering students. Beginning this September, Emmanuel College will provide full tuition grants for all courses (up to 10) taken in the first 12 months for every entering, domestic MDiv student. Emmanuel College has dedicated funds for this program for entering classes for the next two years (and any current students who have not yet completed 10 courses). Financial support for the program will be reviewed in 2013. Please help us alert those who might like to explore theological education, without having to pay tuition for the first year. And if you could consider a gift to help us provide a permanent endowment to make these tuition grants permanent for all entering students, we would love to hear from you!

On February 9, the Emmanuel College Council unanimously approved our new Strategic Plan and recommended it to the Board of Regents. On April 7, the Board also unanimously approved the plan. The new plan received its official launch at a celebratory dinner on the evening of April 19 at Emmanuel College. Special thanks go to the members of the Task Group who have been at work to help us define our vision, mission and values statements and to construct our five-year strategic plan. Thank you, Michael Blair, Murray Corlett, Shirley Hoy, Marilyn Legge, Ian Manson, Robert McGavin, Tom Reynolds, Carolyn Tuohy and Lois Wilson.

Finally, on behalf of the Emmanuel community, I would like to commend Fred Graham on being named co-winner of the Davidson Trust Award for excellence in teaching. Please read more on page 5.

Be sure to visit www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca to view the full Tuition Waiver Grant document and our Strategic Plan.

STRAIGHT OBJECTIVES FOR EMMANUEL COLLEGE
1. Enhance educational excellence
2. Create connections to Emmanuel’s urban context, the global church, and the diversity they represent
3. Educate leaders, in association with the United Church of Canada, to be attuned to the changing context of church
4. Strengthen financial sustainability
5. Develop more effective structures of governance
Natalie Wigg-Stevenson
Joins Faculty

Natalie Wigg-Stevenson has been appointed director of contextual education and lecturer in theology, effective July 1. “I am looking forward to joining Emmanuel’s creative and compassionate faculty in working to prepare future leaders for ministry in Canada,” says Wigg-Stevenson. As director, she will work with Emmanuel College students to develop capacities considered foundational for a life of responsible and reflective church leadership. As part of her portfolio she will provide opportunities for students to examine their own ministry and its broader, socio-political, economic and cultural implications. Since her own ministry has focused on emerging ministries, youth ministry and urban ministry, she will bring this experience to the position. She is an ordained Baptist and holds an MDiv from Yale Divinity School. She will graduate from Vanderbilt Divinity School this summer with a PhD in theology and as a Fellow in the Theology and Practice Program—a program that challenges graduates by “requiring work that connects church and academy.” “In my opinion, the growing edges of contextual education are where some of the most interesting work in theological education is being done and can be done right now. I am eager to work with Emmanuel’s diverse student body to continue imagining what ministry can look like in the 21st century,” says Wigg-Stevenson. Emmanuel College is delighted to welcome her to the faculty.
Fred Graham Named Davidson Trust Award Recipient

Congratulations to Fred Graham who has been named co-recipient of the United Church’s 2011 Davidson Trust Award for “excellence in teaching and scholarship in theological education.” The Davidson Trust Award was made possible by Roy Mitchell Davidson who had an interest in the United Church’s commitment to theological study and teaching.

Graham is the Deer Park Assistant Professor of Church Music, director of chapel, and the founding director of the Master of Sacred Music degree program at Emmanuel College. “Grappling with music and its pastoral dimensions has always been a core component of study at Emmanuel, and of life in parishes,” writes Graham in *Faculty Voice* on page 6. As a professor, he is described as “creative and thorough in his ability to construct and implement meaningful course outlines, engaging his classes on many different levels, both in musicianship and in theological understanding.” Outside of Emmanuel College, Graham is an active member of the ecumenical Consultation on Common Texts, and supports local parishes in need of music leadership, from time to time.

Honouring Norman Jewison

Emmanuel College extends its gratitude to John Patterson Vic 6T6 and his wife Thea, who have generously donated $12,500 for Emmanuel College’s Global Experience Fund. The gift is made in honour of past Chancellor Norman Jewison Vic 4T9, an exemplary ambassador of Victoria University.

“Norman’s contribution as an artist has been to raise human consciousness and awaken human conscience,” says Patterson. “His artistic expressions through film have always exhibited a global perspective and a cross-cultural sensitivity. Through his work, he makes a profound gift to social-justice priorities, across the planet.”

Jewison was raised in the United Church, while growing up in Toronto, and credits Vic with giving him a start in theatre. He is best known for directing films such as *In the Heat of the Night*, *The Thomas Crown Affair* and, most recently, *The Statement*.

Through his films, Jewison has raised awareness about racism and other social injustices. “It is with much delight that Thea and I make this contribution to the work of Emmanuel College,” says Patterson. “That the college should use it to strengthen the global exposure of emerging church leadership is a wonderful affirmation of the role of the church in this ‘one world’ society, with which we have been blessed.”

Muslim Studies Program Receives Generous Support

Emmanuel’s program in Muslim studies received two very generous donations this spring. Developed through consultation with a variety of Muslim community leaders, the program includes academic and continuing education components. Both dimensions of the program help Muslim leaders and community members develop their skills more broadly to meet the diverse needs of the growing Muslim community in Canada.

Dawn Foundation Board members, Sajjad Ebrahim (seated, left) and Cassim Degani (standing, left), joined Victoria University President Paul Gooch (seated, right) and Principal Mark Toulouse (standing, right) on campus to sign a gift agreement worth $125,750. The foundation is eager to further support Emmanuel’s bourgeoning academic program in Muslim studies and the arrival of Emmanuel’s new distinguished visiting professor of Islamic studies, Abdulaziz Sachedina.

Also joining President Gooch and Principal Toulouse on campus, Moez Kassam (centre). Kassam has been a long-time admirer of the work of Abdulaziz Sachedina and wanted to support the academic program associated with Sachedina through his generous gift of $155,000. Emmanuel College is proud to have the support of Kassam and the Dawn Foundation.
Talking about the importance of music in United Church worship, a recent graduate of Emmanuel College remarked, “It has been said that the union creating the United Church of Canada was due in no small part to the fact that the three denominations had been singing many of the same hymns for years. I feel my education taught me to use music and its theology wisely to continue to strengthen our union in the future.”

That “education” was strengthened for the student, while he attended Emmanuel, through the curricular decision two years ago to make the study of hymns and songs mandatory for all MDiv students. Peer relationships changed owing to the inclusion of church musicians in the student population, when Canada’s preeminent Master of Sacred Music program became available at Emmanuel. Meanwhile, the United Church has claimed another first in approving steps towards becoming a Congregational Designated Minister/Music (CDM/M), acknowledging the vital ministries of music leaders in congregational life.

Grappling with music, with its pastoral dimensions, has always been a core component of study at Emmanuel, and life in parishes. Now there are structures to nurture it into excellence. It remains to encourage and facilitate the growth of practitioners whose responsibility it is to sing faith into life.

Interpretation plays a major role in theological scholarship: interpreting scriptures, theologies, pastoral praxis. Interpretation also plays a major role in the ministry of music. Music leaders interpret through choice of melody, poetry, tempo, and instrumentation. Although the role of minister of music until recently was confined to accompanying hymns and the occasional anthem, new paradigms include studying scripture passages to ascertain texts and themes related to hymns and anthems; learning how to play percussion; learning how to coach a praise band; teaching a cappella songs from Latin America or Africa. Ministers of music now use multiple approaches to interpretation. They will be accessing and processing the Word through cadence, melody, varied genres and metre.

Not all music does this. I share with my classes that there is no thing called sacred sound. The pipe organ is not “holy,” though it is acoustically the best instrument to lead human voices in worship. Certain sounds are made sacred by association, and certainly music that has biblical or commonly approved religious text acquires a sacred stature. Every performance of music, with or without text, is a form of interpretation, and ultimately, of critical assessment, an exercise in making beauty.

In her essay “The Art Patron,” found in For the Beauty of the Church, author Lauren Winner relates that the Jewish community taught her the principle of hiddur mitzvah. This is the idea of not only doing the commandments, but going further to beautify them.

The roots of this commandment may be found in Ex. 15.2, translated something like: “This is my God, and I will beautify him with praises.” In a passage of the Talmud, the rabbis muse: What exactly does it mean to beautify God? How does one “beautify God with praises?” The answer: Adorn yourself before him by a truly elegant fulfillment of the religious duties; for example, a beautiful tabernacle, a beautiful palm branch, a beautiful ram’s horn, beautiful show fringes, a beautiful scroll or the Torah, written in fine ink by a skilled penman, wrapped with beautiful silks.

It involves not just any old ram’s horn, but an exquisite one; it involves not just a length of silk, but a finely woven and beautifully coloured one. So it is with music, fine and exquisite. Sacred music is a worthy offering to God from whom it comes, presenting it with the strength and stature to beautify God and to re-present the biblical narrative or theological truth. Theology uses language to its utmost when speaking of God, who is almost the indescribable. Music, though often wordless, has an innate power to persuade, to move, to delight and illumine.

Musician and liturgist Jeremy Begbie would say, “Music is a practice.” It has many related practices: aesthetic, performative and reflexive. In practice, corporate unity is most visible when the congregation unites in praise or lament, and when a choir rehearses and performs. Choral discipline includes paying attention to unity within the group: physical presence; breathing, pitch, standing/sitting, loud but not too loud; being one in the spirit.

Perhaps Emmanuel graduates have framed it best: “In my Emmanuel education, I learned we do not just sing. With those words on those tunes we worship, we pray, we meditate, we reflect theologically.”

“In the preface to Voices United, I found these words: ‘Hymns and songs convey the biblical and theological substance that will form worshipers into thinking, passionate, and courageous disciples of Jesus Christ.’ As a minister of liturgy, my aim is to realize that goal of creating disciples every week.”

Worship does not have music. Worship is musical. In service, music moves us to “a more profound alleluia.”

Fred Graham is the Deer Park Assistant Professor of Church Music, director of chapel, and the founding director of the Master of Sacred Music program.
Achievements

**Tom Crothers Emm 8T8** published his second novel *Sandfires* (DreamCatcher Publishing, Saint John, New Brunswick, 2010). *Sandfires* is set mainly on Prince Edward Island, circa 1924, and has been nominated for a 2011 Governor General’s Literary Award for fiction. Crothers’ first novel *Bumps* was published in 2009 (DreamCatcher Publishing). Crothers’ play *What If, Mr. Robinson* (Fiddlehead Poetry Books, Fredericton, NB) caught the attention of the Irish Repertory Theatre Company of Canada, and he is currently in negotiations with them. Crothers retired from ministry in 1997. Since then he has devoted his time to writing.

**Susan E. Eagle Vic 7T3, Emm 7T7**, former London, Ontario city councillor and recently named pastor of Grace United Church in Barrie, was inducted into the London City Press Club Newsmakers’ Hall of Fame this past autumn, for her contributions to the London community. During her service as city councillor, Eagle juggled her ward responsibilities and her responsibilities to Kilworth United Church, where she served as minister.

**David Hewitt Emm 8T6** has been appointed executive secretary of the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada, effective January 1, 2011. Hewitt has previously served in ministry with pastoral charges in Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, as youth staff in Vancouver, and as United Church formation director at Atlantic School of Theology.

**Sheryl Johnson Vic 0T9**, MDiv student at Emmanuel College, served as an NGO delegate to the UN Commission on the Status of Women this past March in New York. Johnson was also part of the joint World Student Christian Federation and World Council of Churches delegation in June. Johnson, originally from Winnipeg, is co-chair of the Student Christian Movement of Canada, and a Canadian board member of the World Student Christian Federation (North American Region).

**Bill Kervin Emm 9T4**, associate professor of public worship and acting director of chapel at Emmanuel College, published *Gathered for Worship* (United Church Publishing House) this past December.

**Janet (White) Stobie Emm 8T9** has recently published her fourth book, *A Place Called Home*. A joint venture with Lindsay’s homeless shelter, Stobie’s book presents a very real picture of rural homelessness. The heart-warming story and exquisite illustrations are intended as an educational tool as well as an entertaining read for children and adults. All proceeds go to the Lindsay shelter. Read about Stobie’s books and writing at www.revjantheauthor.blogspot.com.

Deaths

**Arthur C. Dayfoot Vic 3T8, Emm 4T3**, in Toronto, on November 22, 2010.

**Carol Gierak Emm 8T6**, in Richmond Hill, Ont., April 1, 2011.

**Elmer Harke Emm 7T7**, in Whitecourt, Alberta, on October 23, 2010.

**Allan Hunt Emm 4T9**, in Medicine Hat, Alberta, on April 24, 2011.

**G. Beverley Johnston Vic 4T9, Emm 5T1**, in Burlington, Ont., August 26, 2010.

**George L. McPhee Emm 8T2**, in Windsor, Ont., on January 25, 2011.

**Elgin R. Rintoul Emm 4T9**, in St. Thomas, Ont., on May 18, 2011.

**Ellen Turley Emm 8T7**, in Kamloops, B.C., March 26, 2011.

**J. Robert Watt Vic 4T3, Emm 4T7**, in Toronto, on November 16, 2010. Memorial donations can be directed to the J. Robert Watt Scholarship for students at Emmanuel College by contacting the Office of Alumni Affairs and University Advancement at 416-585-4500.

**Charles L. Wooley Emm 4T8**, in Regina, Sask., on September 20, 2010.

On-line Now!

Emmanuel’s new Tuition Waiver Grant and our Strategic Plan can be viewed at www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca.
CONTINUING EDUCATION AND COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Drawing from a Deeper Well with Anne Simmonds
Monthly group spiritual direction for ministry personnel.
September 26, 2011 to June 4, 2012, one Monday a month, 9:30 am to 12 pm, Emmanuel College.
Workshop fee $325, before September 9. After this date, regular fee $350.
Register by September 19.

October

Conflict Resolution and Church Leadership with Lyn Adamson
A three-part workshop about interpersonal communication and conflict resolution skills for leadership in church settings.
October 17, 2011, January 30 and April 16, 2012, 10 am to 4 pm, Emmanuel College.
Two-day workshop fee $175, includes lunch.
Three-day workshop fee $250, includes lunch.
Register by October 10.

An Active Faith: A Certificate in Church and Community
Introductory course with Glenys Huws and Harry Oussoren.
Tuesdays from October 18 to November 22, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Emmanuel College.
Workshop fee $300.
Register by October 7.

November

Liturgy Reality Check: A Worship Clinic with Bill Kervin
Join Emmanuel College Professor Bill Kervin Emm 9T4 and ministry colleagues to reflect on your experiences as a worship leader in the first years of ministry. Enjoy time and space to worship together, be spiritually nurtured and share with others.
November 7, 10 am to 3 pm, Emmanuel College.
Workshop fee $80.00, includes lunch.
Register by October 31.

The Waiting Heart: A Virtual Pre-Advent Reflection Time with Anne Simmonds
Engage in spiritual activities that feed the soul and that can be integrated into daily life.
November 7, 14, 21, by computer and phone from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.
Workshop fee $60.00.
Register by October 31.

Save the Date

175th Afternoon Tea
Sunday, October 16, following the service, Alumni Hall and A.B.B. Moore Foyer, Victoria College Building.
More info about Vic 175 events can be found at www.vicu.utoronto.ca/about/vic175.

Alumni/ae Days
May 9, 10, 2012
Watch for updates at www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca.

For event details and registration, visit www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca 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, and students pay half price. There is a 15% discount for an individual attending two or more events in the year.

Call for Nominations
Do you know an Emmanuel College graduate whose vision and leadership have distinguished her or him through extraordinary and exemplary ministry to the church, academy or society-at-large? Nominate her or him today for the 2011 Distinguished Alumni/ae Award. The Distinguished Alumni/ae Award recognizes recent or lifetime achievement and the scope of one’s contributions can be at the local, national or international level. Nominations for the award’s 2011 recipient are currently being accepted and must be received by Nov. 30, 2011.
Visit www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/alumni to make your nomination.