Emmanuel’s First Chair in Church and Community

This past February, after an extensive search, Emmanuel College announced Pamela D. Couture as the first appointee to its new academic chair, the Jane and Geoffrey Martin Chair in Church and Community. The creation of the Martin chair, and Couture’s appointment, are exciting developments for the College as Emmanuel has never had a faculty position dedicated specifically to exploring the connection between church and community through scholarship, teaching and professional activities.

Pamela Couture is an accomplished pastoral theologian and scholar, as well as an ordained United Methodist minister and community leader. She will join Emmanuel in July 2010, coming from Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo., where she has held the position of vice-president of academic affairs, dean and professor of practical theology. At a time when the mainline church is re-imagining its future, Couture’s teaching and research, as chair, will be charged with connecting theological interpretation to the formation of Christian leaders who can contribute to the renewal of the church’s ministry and mission.

The news of Couture’s appointment has been met with great anticipation at Emmanuel. The chair’s selection process involved an extensive amount of work from a number of different groups—Emmanuel alumni/ae, faculty and staff, church leaders, the Toronto School of Theology, Victoria University—and has produced a “first-rate appointment,” says Emmanuel College principal Mark G. Toulouse.

“Dr. Couture brings an exciting variety of gifts, all of them devoted to making connections between church and community. In her work, she has sought to bring the practices of ministry into active conversation with social conflict, global Christianity and issues that especially affect women and children, and cases of poverty. Her appointment represents an outstanding addition to our faculty.”

The Martin chair is expected to enrich Emmanuel College in a number of ways. The new chair, made possible through a generous gift from Jane Brushey-Martin Emm 0T2 and her husband, Geoff Martin, enables the College to hire a senior scholar like Couture, whose primary work will contribute to the formation of students as leaders for a variety of community and religious contexts. The holder of the chair will also help students engage more meaningfully and intentionally in the socio-political, economic and cultural aspects of Christian identity and church life. In today’s context, says Principal Toulouse, “this kind of critical analysis is essential to successful public leadership in either church or society.”

Continued on page 2
“Pamela’s scholarly work in pastoral care and pastoral theology helps to fill a gap in the current configuration of our faculty’s teaching and research areas. Further, she possesses a very strong record of accomplishment of connecting, in dynamic and formative ways, theological reflection to Christian practice.

“She also brings an international reputation to the chair’s responsibility for offering a variety of approaches and methodologies to the task of understanding the relationship between church and community.”

Couture’s life work has been to bring together pastoral theology and social responsibility. She will bring two decades of academic work to the conversations and issues that will emerge through the Martin chair.

In the resurgence of interest in practical theology in the 1980s, Couture became the first person to receive a PhD in practical theology from the University of Chicago. There, she worked to combine ethical reasoning with critical correlation of the social sciences and practical theology, thinking broadly about the specialized practices of ministry, the role of ministry and theology in community and society.

In her scholarship, she addresses the question of church and community through the lens of issues affecting women and children, impoverished communities, families, social conflict and global Christianity. The focus on poverty, particularly how poverty shapes the lives of women and children, is motivated by a combination of personal and academic-related factors. Most of Couture’s family were “economic” immigrants to the United States, in the wave of immigration that took place from 1880 to 1920, selected for their skills and ability to contribute to the economy. She credits her local congregation, as a child in Elyria, Ohio, with schooling her in social concerns—Couture’s later association with the Methodist church in Chicago would further serve to emphasize social responsibility as imperative. Her work at the University of Chicago then fostered an academic interest in the way families struggle in different economic communities, and the differences between the public and private manifestation of that struggle.

She has made several trips to Africa in an effort to examine the question of how the church might best contribute to peace through an active and ecclesial practice of caring for human beings in the midst of their particular needs. As part of her research, she worked with an interfaith coalition that brought a major gift of pharmaceuticals to 11 different hospitals and clinics in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

As a pastoral theologian, Couture has been active in both community and church outreach, fostering new understandings of evangelism and mission, and in developing skills among students in areas associated with public theology and community leadership. She is currently working on a project documenting the peacemaking practices of the Luba people of the DRC.

Couture’s enthusiasm at joining Emmanuel College equals that of Emmanuel’s anticipation of her arrival. Couture remembers learning of the position description for the chair and thinking it would be a “perfect fit.” Her concern for poverty, which is often a marginalized issue, could be central to the chair’s activities, and her interest in peacemaking in the DRC could be brought into dialogue with new and important audiences. There was also her own feeling of being very comfortable with the expressed faith of the United Church of Canada.

Her delight in the opportunities presented by the Martin chair is clear. Couture is honoured to be working with the faculty of Emmanuel and the administration of Victoria University as well as excited about having access to the resources of the University of Toronto and the city of Toronto. Also clear, she adds, are the outcomes of possible networking opportunities between the United Church, the Methodist presence in Canada, and the United Methodist Church.

“The Jane and Geoffrey Martin Chair in Church and Community holds the potential to address the current challenges facing church and community in Canada, and around the world,” she says. ©

Pamela Couture (far left) with ministers of the Luba tribe in Kikunki of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Couture is currently working on a project documenting the peacemaking practices of the Luba people of the DRC.
In addition to all our normal academic work and continuing education endeavours, we have had a busy and productive year around Emmanuel College. Last October, with the United Church of Canada, we sponsored a consultation on Black leadership and the church in the Canadian context that attracted more than 20 ministers representing seven different denominations. We provided hospitality for six visiting scholars: three from China, one from Korea, one from Africa and one from South Africa. We also completed an extensive search for the holder of Emmanuel's first Jane and Geoffrey Martin Chair in Church and Community, announcing the appointment of Pamela D. Couture to the position (see page 1). Also, in February, we formally launched both the Canadian Certificate in Muslim Studies program (see page 4) and a new website, which I encourage you to see for yourself by visiting www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca. These are but a few of the activities of the College in the last six months; there are some other developments I want to say a bit more about.

The Task Group for Strategic Planning began its work last September and has met regularly to work toward the development of a five-year plan for Emmanuel. Through a process of consultation with both faculty members and the task group, the creation of new vision, mission and values statements has now been completed. When you visit the website, you will find the statement under "About Emmanuel."

Alongside the work of the task group, Emmanuel's faculty and staff are engaged in a self-study for the Association of Theological Schools. As is the case for all accredited theological schools, re-accreditation takes place every 10 years. Professor Michael Bourgeois is chairing the self-study committee and he will be writing the College's final report, once faculty and staff have completed their analysis of our current life and future plans.

Over the course of this past year, Emmanuel College has been exploring the question of visual identity. In addition to a changing website, the process has created a new look in other ways. You will notice that the College's crest (seen here) has been given a cleaner and more contemporary look, while retaining all its essential elements. The "X" at the centre represents the St. Andrew's Cross and signifies both the cross of Christ and the College's connections to Presbyterians (the national cross of Scotland). It can also be interpreted as the first letter in the Greek word for Christ, which is a traditional reference to Christ (connecting to the crest of the United Church of Canada). The sun represents Christ as the "sun of righteousness" (Malachi 4:2). The lamp of learning is the symbol of guidance and knowledge and spirituality, a reminder of the faithful presence of God (and a reference to the lamp in the crest of Victoria University).

The burning bush is the symbol of God's appearance to Moses, a symbol of immortality and permanence (and a reference to both the original Knox College crest and the crest of the United Church of Canada). The three maple leaves are emblematic of Canada, but also a joining of three Canadian churches (the Methodist, the Presbyterian, and the Congregationalist) in the United Church of Canada. Finally, the open book represents the centrality of both the Bible and the Word of God within the life of the College (this symbol is also found on the crest of the United Church of Canada).

Emmanuel has also created a new logo, which appears on the banner of this newsletter. The intertwined "e" and "c" represent Emmanuel College's belief that Christian faith should engage others where they are, by creating "intertwining" conversations with members of other Christian traditions (ecumenism), of other religious understandings (interfaith), and also with those who do not identify with any particular religious faith. The circular shape of the logo alludes to the world in which we live and, as well, to the College's commitment to a globally aware understanding of Christianity. The purple represents a number of historic connections: the colour associated with our heritage in the old Knox College and the Christian understanding of the majesty of God and God's justice, but also the liturgical uses of the colour as it represents penitence. The gold symbolizes Emmanuel's relationship to Victoria College—its official colours scarlet and gold—and, liturgically, the brightness of day or purity, holiness, triumph, and the feast days commemorating Christ and the apostles. Finally, the open sides of both the "e" and the "c" provide a picture of the College's openness to intellectual understanding and dialogue across a variety of beliefs, to cultural and ethnic diversity and differences, and to the congregations and communities that surround us on all sides.
Bessie E. Lane Emm 6T0 has filled many different roles for many different people over the years. She has been an educator, pastoral care provider, preacher, colleague, social activist, hospitality giver and friend. Constant throughout, however, is the inspiration she has been to those around her. For 50 years, she has committed herself to faithful service of the church and its people, and on May 13, 2010, in recognition of a lifetime of achievements, the Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association will honour Lane as the 2009 recipient of the Emmanuel College Distinguished Alumni/ae Award.

Lane received a master of religious education from Emmanuel while studying concurrently at Covenant College, now known as the Centre for Christian Studies. She went on to serve as the centre’s dean of residence and director of field education, and was ordained in 1976, bringing her energy and leadership to a diversity of programs in Canada and abroad.

Lane has served congregations in Vancouver as well as Lindsay, Sudbury, Whitby and Oshawa, Ont., guiding a range of activities from a lay leadership development program to the building of a new church structure. She has shared in team ministry, emphasizing leadership development, world mission, Bible study, confirmation instruction and chaplaincy; and filled many leadership roles in presbytery and conference situations. In wider service, Lane has worked with Habitat for Humanity, taking her to building sites in Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico and Trinidad; and with the Canadian Foundation for World Development, spending five months in Grenada distributing needed materials from Canada. She has co-led educational tours to Israel and Palestine, participated in an exposure tour to Cuba with the Christians Learning Internationally New Knowledge group, and taken part in a study tour of Amity projects in northern China.

Lane received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Laurentian University in 1996 and, in 2006, was presented with a Companion of the Centre Award by the Centre for Christian Studies.

If you wish to attend the luncheon in honour of Lane on May 13 ($25 per person), please contact the Victoria Alumni Office at 416-585-4500. The Distinguished Alumni/ae Award will be presented at the Alumni/ae Days 2010 Luncheon.

For luncheon registration details, see “Alumni/ae Days 2010” in coming events on page 8.

Emmanuel College has received a grant from the philanthropic foundation Lilly Endowment Inc. that will allow alumni/ae to have free access to an online collection of more than 150 major religion and theology journals available through the American Theological Library Association catalogue ATLASerials (ATLAS).

Graduates will be able to read or research the history of a topic using journals from as early as 1908 to the present, drawing from over 285,300 articles and book reviews. ATLAS materials cover such topics as the Bible, archaeology and antiquities; human culture and society; church history, mission and ecumenism; pastoral ministry; world religions and religious studies; and theology, philosophy and ethics.

Alumni/ae can access the ATLAS catalogue through Emmanuel’s online alumni community at www.alumni.utoronto.ca/emmanuel. Registration with the alumni community is required in order to create a user account that can then access the ATLAS catalogue.
Accessing Continuing Education Through Technology

This spring, Emmanuel College began the process of exploring best practices for continuing education programs that seek to deliver resources across distances by using technology. It is a critical first step in addressing the need to offer programs in formats conducive to gathered learning and virtual learning communities.

“Many ministers and their congregants are looking for ways to access theological continuing education in a way that meets the realities of their fast-paced lives,” says Betsy Anderson Vic 8T2, Emm 8T7, coordinator of continuing education for Emmanuel College.

Conversations began in March with presbyteries about establishing program partners. Additional discussions are also scheduled to take place with staff from continuing education programs in United Church theological schools from across the country.

With the support of a Creative Initiatives grant from the United Church of Canada, Emmanuel College hopes to begin developing and implementing pilot projects this year that use technology to extend and enhance its continuing education programming.

Alumni/ae Days 2010 to Explore Religion and Public Life

Religion and politics will be the driving topics of Alumni/ae Days 2010 this May 12 and 13. The Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association has brought together a distinguished group of participants to lead the discussions that fall under this year’s event theme, Religion and Public Life: The Power of Politics, Religion and Faith.

Former Saskatchewan premier Lorne Calvert will be the keynote speaker, addressing alumni/ae and friends the morning of May 12. Calvert is the current principal of St. Andrew’s College at the University of Saskatchewan. Ordained in the United Church of Canada in 1976, Calvert began his ministry in Gravelbourg, Sask., before serving as a senior member of the ministry team at the Zion United Church in Moose Jaw, Sask., from 1979 to 1986. It was then that he entered provincial politics as a New Democrat. As an MLA, he would handle a number of portfolios, including the health and social services ministries, before becoming Saskatchewan’s premier in 2001, a position he held until 2007. Until his appointment to St. Andrew’s College in 2009, Calvert served as leader of the Opposition in the legislature.

Following Calvert on May 12 is a panel discussion with Jean Augustine, who in 1993 became the first African-Canadian woman elected to the House of Commons and currently serves as Ontario’s fairness commissioner; Cheri DiNovo Emm 9T5, 0T2, NDP MPP for Toronto’s Parkdale-High Park; and Rob Oliphant Vic 7T8, Liberal MP for Toronto’s Don Valley West and the party’s veterans affairs critic. Former Emmanuel College principal Roger Hutchinson Emm 7T5 will moderate the panel discussion, which will explore how faith and political decisions inform one another, as well as the role of the church in Canadian politics. A Q&A between alumni/ae and friends and the panelists will also take place, facilitated by Emmanuel College’s associate professor of Christian ethics, Marilyn Legge Vic 7T4, Emm 8T1.

On May 13, Emmanuel College principal Mark G. Toulouse and associate professor of theology Michael Bourgeois will lead an Association of Theological Schools self-study survey and discussion. The annual Alumni/ae Days worship service will follow, featuring a sermon by Calvert. Alumni/ae and friends are then invited to join the Alumni/ae Days Luncheon, at which the presentation of the Emmanuel College Distinguished Alumni/ae Award to 2009 recipient Bessie Lane Emm 6T0 (see page 4) will take place. The Victoria University Convocation and Emmanuel College Graduation ceremony will conclude the day’s events.

For registration details for Alumni/ae Days 2010, see page 8.
The Liturgical Movement 2.0

BY WILLIAM S. KERVIN

One of the things I enjoy most about teaching is the paradoxical experience of rediscovering the familiar, or as T. S. Eliot put, to “arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.”

When I first offered my seminar course, Contemporary Issues in Worship, about a decade ago, most students exhibited only a polite interest in the significance of the ecumenical Liturgical Movement. As one put it, “It’s just so 80s.” Many were suspicious of normative claims on contemporary liturgical practice based on select historical artifacts. For example, just because we may have in our possession the earliest known Eucharistic prayer, attributed to Hippolytus of Rome, AD 215, does not necessarily mean that all communion prayers must imitate it in order to be faithful.

Perhaps such resistance is part of our “free church” and liturgically liberal DNA. If so, we can be thankful for this genetically programmed hermeneutics of suspicion, for as it turns out, such instincts seem to have proven to be accurate. Recent scholarship has shown that Hippolytus’ prayer is no urtext. In fact, it appears to be part of a collection drawn from a variety of sources, different geographical regions and various time periods, from as early as the mid-second century to as late as the mid-fourth century. Moreover, worship in the Early Church as a whole is now believed to have been characterized by liturgical variety, regional diversity and cultural pluralism. Thus, what was once widely held to be a patristic norm is now frequently viewed as Hippolytan fundamentalism.

Does this render the reforms of the Liturgical Movement invalid? And what relevance does such scholarship have for worship in contemporary contexts? When students in Contemporary Issues in Worship considered the history and significance of the Liturgical Movement this time around, I caught some glimpses of a significant shift in perspective.

Rather than cynicism in the face of some of the flawed history, they were impressed by the desire to root liturgical renewal in serious scholarship. They marveled at the movement’s commitment to ecumenical cooperation. They were surprised by the origins of so many of their own liturgical practices in the reforms of Vatican II and our denominational liturgy committees. They were inspired by the then radical and prophetic calls for liturgical enculturation and the “full, conscious, active participation” of the whole people of God in worship. They were taken with the theological and social analysis of secularism, individualism, capitalism and consumerism, which lay at the heart of the movement’s response to the contemporary context.

In short, they recognized their own story in the Liturgical Movement’s narrative.

While they continued to engage the material critically, they also viewed it as having something to do with their own liturgical identities. In spite of its methodological flaws and scholarly shortcomings, it could also be appreciated as a living history of instructive, even inspiring, responses to issues that persist today. Thus, the Liturgical Movement was viewed not so much as a collection of mummified remains in need of an autopsy to determine the cause of death, but as a rich renewable resource to be stewarded with critical appreciation and respect.

Now they’ve got me thinking. Perhaps what we are seeing is the emergence of what could be called Liturgical Movement 2.0—a new way of engaging the “technology” of the previous Liturgical Movement. To use the analogy of Web 2.0 (short for the World Wide Web, version 2.0), Liturgical Movement 2.0 will need to involve a less hierarchical, top-down, one-way dissemination of information and findings. While built on the same “platform” (i.e., the foundations of the Liturgical Movement), a more two-way, interactive and relational matrix of experimentation and interdisciplinary research will be required to enrich the next generation of liturgical renewal.

Signs of Liturgical Movement 2.0 are already among us. Sensitive worship leaders have become dissatisfied with the bifurcation of worship into “traditional” and “contemporary” camps. They know that worship is too important to be driven by either nostalgia or consumerism. Worshippers are becoming as tired of slick mega-church strategies as they are of mainline institutional maintenance. Liturgical scholars are becoming more radically interdisciplinary, crossing the boundaries between subjects, peoples, cultures and faiths.

Liturgically, some say what we need is more experience of Holy Mystery—perhaps, more ritual, symbol and sacrament, not less. Others argue for public worship as prophetic witness—the church as a visible justice-seeker and peacemaker. Perhaps both perspectives are rooted in the same challenge: liturgy needs to be decolonized.

William S. Kervin Emm g7t4 is an associate professor of public worship at Emmanuel College. Read his blog at www.billworshipblog.blogspot.com.
Careers

ROSS BARTLETT EMM 9T2 is a team leader with St. Matthew’s United Church in Halifax.

WILLIAM A. BLAIKIE EMM 7T7 was appointed to the Manitoba cabinet on Nov. 4, 2009, as the minister of Conservation. In addition to his new cabinet responsibilities, Blaikie became the government house leader.

HEATHER M. HEMMING EMM 9T2 is currently completing a master of social work degree at Dalhousie University.

FRED JOBLIN VIC 6T8, EMM 7T1 is recording a CD of ballads of the spirit, developed in collaboration with JOHN WESLEY OLDHAM EMM 6T9.

JOHN WESLEY OLDHAM EMM 6T9 and LARRY MARSHALL EMM 7T6 recently released Music of the Spirit: Songs of the Heart. The songbook includes 27 poems by Oldham set to music by Marshall, who was a tenor soloist for the CBC and church choirs in Toronto. Music of the Spirit is available for purchase, $10 or free-will donation, by contacting Oldham at johnomar@mts.net, 204-489-6919 or 76 Marygrove Cres., Winnipeg, Man., R3Y 1M2.

PAUL SCOTT WILSON VIC 7T2, EMM 7T9, professor of homiletics at Emmanuel College, served as the general editor of the New Interpreter’s Handbook of Preaching, a reference tool for preaching, with articles on every facet of Christian sermon preparation and delivery. The handbook was recently selected by Preaching magazine as the 2010 Preaching Book of the Year.

Marriages

ROSS BARTLETT EMM 9T2 and HEATHER M. HEMMING EMM 9T2 married on Nov. 28, 2009, in Halifax. The preacher was ROB FENNELL EMM 9T4, 0T5.

Deaths


AUDREY (BLACK) HONEY EMM 4T0, in Toronto, Nov. 30, 2009.


VICTOR WILKINSON VIC 4T3, EMM 4T6, in Courtland, Ont., July 24, 2009.

Marriages

ROSS BARTLETT EMM 9T2 and HEATHER M. HEMMING EMM 9T2 married on Nov. 28, 2009, in Halifax. The preacher was ROB FENNELL EMM 9T4, 0T5.

Births

To RENE BAERGEN EMM 0T3 and Anna Baergen, a daughter, Selina Yvonne Janecek Baergen, on Dec. 30, 2009 in Toronto.
APRIL

Small Group Ministry
with Karen Hillman Millson
This day-long workshop will introduce participants to small group ministry in congregational settings. Topics will include the key ingredients of a small group, structure and support for small group ministry, following the flow of energy to find small group leaders, and the “Dos and Don’ts” of small group ministry.
April 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Emmanuel College
Workshop fee $80, includes lunch.
Register by April 12.

MAY

Alumni/ae Days 2010
Religion and Public Life:
The Power of Politics, Religion and Faith
Over the course of this two-day event, engage in thought-provoking discussion on the matter of religion and politics, and explore how faith and political decisions inform one another, as well as the role of the church in Canadian politics. The Alumni/ae Days Luncheon on May 13 will also feature the presentation of the 2009 Distinguished Alumni/ae Award to Bessie Lane Emm 6T0 (see page 4).
May 12, 9:45 a.m.-6 p.m., includes lunch and a wine and cheese reception;
May 13, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., includes breakfast and lunch, Emmanuel College.
Alumni/ae Days fee $100.
May 13 only; Alumni/ae Days Luncheon and ECAA Annual General Meeting, fee $25.
Register by contacting the Victoria Alumni Office at 416-585-4500 or toll-free 1-888-262-9775.

Crucified Woman Reborn: Current Responses with Doris Jean Dyke, Marjory Noganosh, Rita Leistner and Pat Capponi
Almuth Lukkenhaus’ statue, Crucified Woman, has graced the gardens of Victoria University since 1986. Gather to honour the many faces of the Crucified Woman at this two-day event, exploring the hopes and passions she continually evokes. Activities include arts expression, keynote presentations and reflections from those currently engaged with the struggles of women.
May 14, 5 p.m.-9 p.m.; May 15, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Emmanuel College.
Workshop fee $80, includes supper on May 14 and lunch on May 15.
Register by May 5.

JUNE

The Singing Thing: New Horizons
with John Bell
Join John Bell, a Church of Scotland minister and member of the ecumenical Christian community on the Isle of Iona, for a day of singing and discovery. The Singing Thing: New Horizons will focus on expanding the song repertoire of the people of God, giving attention to local heritage and world heritage.
June 12, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Andrew’s United Church, Toronto.
Workshop fee $80, includes lunch.
Register by June 2.

Starting Well: First Years in Ministry
Starting Well offers new ministers opportunities to reflect on the context and practice of their ministry in an affirming environment. Participate in small and large group discussions and seminars, personal reflection, and worship, and learn from case studies prepared by participants. The 2010 offering of Starting Well is open to those people who have been ordained or commissioned in the last three years and to those who participated in Starting Well for the first time in 2007 and 2008.
June 14-17, Emmanuel College.
Workshop fee, pre-May 15, $435 for commuters (includes meals); $635 for workshop and three-night accommodation (includes meals); $700 for workshop and four-night accommodation (includes meals). An additional $50 is charged for registrations received after May 15.
Register by May 21.

More Franchises: A Second Cup 2010
Learn about models of ministry and best practices from across the United Church of Canada. Choose from over 100 workshops, presented by leaders from every province across Canada, sharing what God is doing in their midst. Workshop streams include: Renewal, Spirituality and Faith Formation; Rural and Small Church; Reaching Out (Social Justice Community Ministries), New Models/Leadership; Intercultural/Aboriginal; and Stewardship. Keynote addresses given by Kofi Hope, Tite Tienu, Rafeel Raza and Michael Ward. For more information, visit www.united-church.ca and select “Get Involved.”
June 19-21, Emmanuel College.
Conference fee $295; pre-conference events on June 18, additional registration fee.
Register by June 1.

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.