Nan Hudson: Grounded in Faith, Ministry and Making a Difference

Twenty-five years after graduating from Emmanuel College, Nan Hudson Emm 8T9 has only recently begun her congregational ministry. She always joked that she would do it “in [her] old age: ‘I guess I am there!’” Since September 2014, Hudson has been “happily serving” at Faith United Church in Courtice, Ontario. “If I had known congregational ministry would be this much fun, I might have done it earlier,” she says, “but if I had, look at all the opportunities I would have missed out on.” The ECAA Executive commends the unconventional path Hudson has forged and is pleased to award her the Distinguished Alumni/ae Award for 2014.

Hudson’s path to congregational ministry has been neither straightforward, nor conventional. After receiving her BA in environmental studies from the University of Waterloo in 1977, she began volunteering with Canadian Crossroads International in Calcutta, India, with Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity. That experience in India laid the groundwork for her continued involvement and work with disenfranchised and at-risk communities. She spent the next six years working for World Vision International (WVI) engaged in faith-based, grassroots development work, which brought her to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and then to Manila, Philippines, for over three years. While she enjoyed the work, she was struggling personally; she was homesick, and with the religious right rising in the U.S., she found the California-based WVI, increasingly conservative and at odds with her more progressive beliefs. After weeks of prayer, she made the decision to return to Canada to continue her work in community development, but to do so out of her own church and in her home country.

Enrolling at Emmanuel College was an obvious next step for Hudson because she wanted to engage in further studies. Continued on page 2
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to explore her sense of call: “I knew I was called to mission and justice work, but didn’t know if a call to ordination was a part of that.” When she first began at Emmanuel, she had a sense that she “didn’t fit’ the ordination stream exactly, but [she] ‘didn’t not fit’ either.” What was clear, was her desire to continue in the work of mission outreach, “where the gospel intersects with the needs of the world.” Thanks to the advice and encouragement of an insightful professor, the late David Newman, Hudson pursued a joint-degree program with the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto alongside her MDiv from Emmanuel: “It proved to be perfect for me, opening new opportunities for learning that really shaped me. My experience at Emmanuel gave me wonderful training for broad forms of ministry. The joint-degree program equipped me with a set of skills that allowed me to keep one foot in the secular world and one foot in the church throughout my entire career.”

Following the completion of her MSW/MDiv from U of T and Emmanuel College, Hudson pursued a doctorate in ministry from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Illinois, and graduated in 1997. Prior to that, she was ordained to outreach ministry in Toronto’s Parkdale neighbourhood in 1989. Over the next three years, Hudson served as the executive director of Shalom House. In that role, she learned that food security—access to affordable, nutritious food—was a primary concern for newcomers to Canada. She and her staff started the city’s first community garden and kitchen program. In time, she joined with other community members to found the Toronto Food Policy Council, and co-founded the Field to Table program (now known as the Good Food Box), which links Ontario farmers to low-income, urban residents. Originally established with just 47 boxes, the program now distributes approximately 4,000 Good Food Boxes each month through about 200 Toronto neighbourhood drops: “I guess what was so cool about this kind of alternative ministry was that it enabled some remarkably collaborative partnerships that really made a difference in people’s lives,” says Hudson.

She firmly and passionately believes that faith and ministry have to be grounded in making positive change: “I also believe that the gospel narrative suggests that ministry is to be liberating on every level of a person’s life,” she says. In that vein, Hudson pursued work within the United Church as area secretary for East Asia. In that role, she linked churches in Canada, the United States and Japan in cooperative initiatives. In 2001, she co-hosted the first meeting since the
Earlier this year, Tom Tanner, at the Association of Theological Schools in Pittsburgh, used ATS statistics to analyze enrollment trends. Since 2009, enrollment has dropped across the 273 ATS schools by around 5%. He found that the number of students actually enrolled in degrees has dropped only by about 3%. My own analysis of the MDiv program has shown that enrollment has declined by 8.3% since 2009 among ATS-affiliated, protestant and interdenominational schools in North America (including U.S. and Canada), and has declined 10.91% among those same schools located in Canada. However, other degree programs are growing and making up for some of the numerical decline. Tanner found six positive trends in enrollments across North America. The following represents a summary of his findings, with some comments pertaining to how Emmanuel College fits these patterns. Since 2009:

1. ATS schools are growing in the PhD and DMin programs. Emmanuel's PhD program is growing, enrolling 11 new students this fall. Emmanuel’s DMin program, as part of the TST program, remains about the same size as in recent years;
2. ATS schools are enrolling and graduating larger numbers of professional MA students. At Emmanuel, our professional MA program is the Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS), and the program has been growing steadily. This fall, we enrolled more MPS than MDiv students for the first time in Emmanuel’s history;
3. ATS schools have enrolled record numbers of academic MA students. Emmanuel’s current version of this program is the Master of Theological Studies (MTS), which is experiencing small growth. Yet, a new, one-year, conjoint academic MA between Emmanuel (all TST schools) and U of T will begin accepting students in fall 2016. The MA in Theological Studies will be a significant new degree for Emmanuel College;
4. ATS schools have enrolled record numbers of “minority students.” A good number of ATS schools, including those in Canada, do not collect or record these numbers. Yet growth, particularly in the U.S., among African-American (14% of U.S. population, 2.9% in Canada) and Latina/Latino (17%, 1.2% in Canada) student numbers, is strongly evident. Together, along with other minorities, they make up close to a third of students in U.S. schools. The profound diversity found in Canada is spread broadly across a greater number of ethnic identifications, with no one group comprising more than about 4–5% of the population (Aboriginal, for example, is around 4.3%). Emmanuel’s visible-minority enrollment is around 24% compared to the 33% found in U.S. schools, but these figures include our international students;
5. ATS schools are enrolling record numbers of international students. This trend is beginning to show up to some degree in Canada as well, though in U.S. schools, the number is approaching 40% of all students. Emmanuel’s Master of Sacred Music is routinely attracting international students, and the PhD and Master of Theology (ThM) at Emmanuel are also attracting international students. About 13–15% of Emmanuel’s students are international;
6. ATS schools are enrolling their strongest numbers of the age groups 50-plus and 30-something students. Emmanuel has grown in percentages in both these categories since 2009. Last year, 33.6% of Emmanuel’s students fell into the 50-plus category (compared with a 19% average of all ATS schools), and 25.2% of our students in the 30-something category (compared to 28% in ATS schools).

According to Tanner, the numbers “point to an overall stability in the numbers of students completing degrees at ATS member schools” and the “trends described here suggest a brighter future for graduate theological education . . . than is often reported.”

This fall term, Emmanuel enrolled one of its largest entering classes in basic degrees (combined enrollments in the MDiv, MPS, MTS, MSMus) in the last decade. We also have a strong entering class in our PhD program. Somewhere around 43% of schools in the ATS grew or had stable enrollments in the past year. Yet, this still means that around 57% of schools are experiencing some kind of drop in student numbers. Those who grew the largest are those who “have recently implemented new degree programs or new delivery systems or both.” Emmanuel’s new programs in Sacred Music, Muslim Studies and Buddhism, and the new PhD have certainly helped create more stable, even growing numbers for the school. We are hard at work getting a new, conjoint Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts in Theological Studies approved through the University of Toronto. These are challenging times for theological education, but Emmanuel College, like some other schools, is making the most of exciting new opportunities.
CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE
The Honourable Frank Iacobucci, C.C.
Receives Honorary Degree at Convocation

The Honourable Frank Iacobucci was named Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, in recognition of his exemplary career and his commitment to Canadian education and legal culture. His achievements were celebrated at the Victoria University convocation on May 15, 2015.

Iacobucci is a distinguished academic and jurist who served as the 67th Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada from 1991 to 2004. Born and raised in Vancouver, B.C., he received his BComm and LLB from the University of British Columbia, and went on to earn his LLM and diploma in international law from the University of Cambridge, England. He has had a distinguished career at U of T, serving as associate professor and then professor of law, associate dean in the Faculty of Law; dean (1979–1983); and vice-president and provost (1983–1985). In 1985 he was appointed Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General for Canada and served in this capacity until 1988 when he was appointed the Chief Justice of the Federal Court. Upon retiring from the bench in 2004, Iacobucci returned to U of T to serve as interim president and has also served as counsel at Torys LLP. A leading authority on legal relationships with Canada’s First Nations, he has acted for provincial and federal governments on many assignments, and recently conducted a review of the treatment of persons in crisis for the Chief of Toronto Police Service. He has received numerous honorary degrees, and has been recognized in both Canada and abroad for his accomplishments, including his 2007 appointment as a Companion of the Order of Canada. In April, 2014, Iacobucci was appointed an Honorary Witness by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

William Robins Appointed Victoria University President

William Robins, a professor of English and Medieval Studies and an internationally respected scholar, has been appointed president and vice-chancellor of Victoria University. Robins is the 13th president in Victoria’s 179-year history, succeeding Paul W. Gooch, president since 2001. Robins began his five-year term on July 1. His installation will take place during the University’s Charter Day Convocation on October 14, 2015 in the Isabel Bader Theatre. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Robins holds a BA from Brown University, an MPhil from the University of St. Andrews and a PhD from Princeton University. To read the entire announcement, visit uof.t/me/robins.

Making Music at Emmanuel

Emmanuel College has recorded One God, Many Peoples: Making Music at Emmanuel, a celebration of music and devotion from a multicultural and interfaith perspective. The CD is produced by Juno award-winning bassist George Koller and has the participation of Emmanuel faculty and students including William Kervin Emm 9T4, Swee Hong Lin, Tom Reynolds and Becca Whitla Emm 1T3. Visit www. emmanuel.utoronto.ca/about/ECMerchandise.htm to read more about the featured music and to purchase a copy of your own.
Extraordinary Gift Creates First Professorship in Chinese Buddhist Studies at Emmanuel College

Through an extraordinary donation of $1.1 million from Buddhist Youth Alliance International, Emmanuel College established the Shi Wu De 敦禮ü 教授ship in Chinese Buddhist Studies. In addition to the master’s program featuring Studies in Buddhism, Emmanuel College has also developed a six-credit Diploma in Buddhist Mindfulness and Mental Health. These academic programs have been designed for people who want to integrate the wisdom of Buddhism into professional and personal practices. “The fact that the study of Buddhism now joins Muslim Studies and our historical Christian areas as a distinct professional stream at Emmanuel College is an exciting development,” Principal Mark Toulouse says. “This program naturally emerges out of the College’s vision which recognizes that concepts of justice, goodness and love are larger than any one particular religion or tradition can fully define by itself. We are profoundly grateful to Buddhist Youth Alliance International for generously endowing this professorship.”

The Shi Wu De 敦禮ü 教授 will teach courses in Chinese Buddhism, and in other areas of Buddhism that will serve to provide a broad understanding of Buddhist traditions. Every course in the master’s and diploma streams is open to all students enrolled in any degree programs. While some courses emphasize one religious perspective or another, all courses endeavour to respect diverse religious perspectives. The College is pleased to have already enrolled eight in the stream and nine in the diploma program, and is looking forward to continued growth and interest in these unique academic programs.

Emmanuel Goes to Washington

Emmanuel College, in recognition of the College’s ground-breaking work in creating new interreligious academic programs within theological education, received an invitation to participate in President Obama’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge Gathering in Washington, D.C., on September 10–11. The invitation to attend the event included an invitation for Principal Mark Toulouse to attend a special meeting at the White House on Thursday morning. Toulouse and Nevin Reda represented the College at the general gathering, held at Howard University, where institutions of higher education across the world shared models of interreligious education and community service engagement in order to help other universities, colleges and theological schools who are just beginning such programs.

The Blue Jays Try to Sing Before Price, Tulowitzki and Revere Join the Nest

On April 14 alumni/ae enjoyed a beautiful night at the Rogers Centre, watching the spring line-up of the Blue Jays take on the Tampa Bay Rays. This outing was organized as part of the annual Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Day celebration. Toronto suffered a frustrating 3–2 loss to the Rays, but no score could wipe the smile off the faces of alumna Alison Mock Emm 1T4 and her daughter Sarah; they went home with a game ball and a program, both signed by Steve Geltz, winning pitcher for the Rays.
As part of my research leave from Emmanuel College last year, I spent six weeks in April and May as a kitchen volunteer at Iona Abbey, on the Isle of Iona on the west coast of Scotland. I baked dozens of loaves of bread and scores of scones; chopped bushels of onions, carrots, celery, and courgettes; cooked pot loads of soups and stews; and washed sink loads of pots, pans, knives, dishes and cutting boards. I attended daily worship in the abbey church (leading worship once) and the weekly ceilidh at the village hall (dancing a few times). I shared in the regular tasks and weekly cleaning of our volunteers’ living area. And I tried to stay warm and dry in the wet and wind-swept Hebridean spring. Through it all, I worked, prayed and laughed alongside remarkable people—resident and volunteer staff and community members from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Congo, England, Germany, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Paraguay, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland (the Italian part), Uganda, the United States and Wales. In short, I experienced life in community at Iona.

The Iona Community runs the programs at Iona Abbey, and others in Glasgow and on the Isle of Mull. A dispersed ecumenical community, the Iona Community was founded in 1938 by Church of Scotland minister George MacLeod. Motivated by a desire to renew the church’s work and witness on economic justice and peace-making, MacLeod brought unemployed skilled labourers and young ministers-in-training from inner-city Glasgow to the Isle of Iona to share a common life while working together to rebuild the monastery’s living quarters. Since those early years, the Iona Community has completed the renovation of the abbey and has operated a range of activities in advocacy, service, hospitality and worship on Iona, Mull, and in Glasgow. Iona’s spirituality is not one of withdrawal from the world, but of engagement with it.

Iona had been the site of a Christian monastery since 563 CE when the Irish monk Columba landed with a group of followers and established a community that became an important centre for European Christianity for the next thousand years, sending out missionaries and welcoming pilgrims. Like other monasteries and convents, Iona Abbey was abandoned during the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century. By the nineteenth century, however, the Isle of Iona and its ruined abbey had become important symbols of both Scottish identity and Celtic Christianity. The Duke of Argyll gave the abbey to the Iona Cathedral Trust in 1899, on the condition that the abbey church be operated for all Christians. From 1902 until 1910, the Trust rebuilt the abbey church.

MacLeod’s vision for the renewal of the church’s work therefore encompassed not only Iona’s historic spiritual legacy and earlier rebuilding efforts, but also the stark needs of a society in the grip of the Great Depression and living on the brink of the outbreak of another world-devastating war. For the approximately 270 members and 1,600 associate members of The Iona Community today, then, Iona is as much about the working for peace, justice, and the integrity of creation as it is about prayer, worship, and community life.

I had known about the Iona Community and its work for many years, both from friends and colleagues who are members or who had visited Iona Abbey, and through the Iona prayers and hymns that are utilized regularly by the Emmanuel College community in worship services. I visited Iona for the first time in July 2012 as part of a larger holiday in Scotland. While our sojourn on Iona was brief, it made a deep and lasting impression. Having a “why didn’t I think of this before?” moment during morning prayer in the abbey church, I saw that the Iona Community’s values of justice, peace and creation are close to my own faith convictions, and research and teaching interests in theology and social justice. I immediately knew that Iona would play a big role in my research leave that was then two years away.

Over the next year and a half, as I sorted out what shape that role would take, I realized that I could research Iona’s theology and spirituality anytime, anywhere. The extended time afforded by a research leave, however, made possible an extended experience of life in community as a volunteer at Iona. That experience of shared work and worship, while certainly not always easy, has not only renewed my own faith practice, but also given me insight about and inspiration for my work as a teacher and theologian engaged with social justice, peace-making and care for creation. I plan to return to Iona soon. More importantly, I will try to live by one of the Iona Community’s unofficial slogans: “be Iona wherever you are.”

Michael Bourgeois is vice-principal of Emmanuel College and an associate professor of theology. He will be returning to Iona in June 2016 with Toronto School of Theology students enrolled in his course “Iona: Justice, Peace, Creation.”
News and Moves

To read more alumni/ae updates or to submit your own, visit Ministry on the Move at www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/alumni.

Sara Wilson completed a Master of Sacred Music degree in 2012. She describes her two years at Emmanuel College as “wonderful.” Since graduation, she has worked with Maritime Conference Youth Forum as its music leader, participated in the Behold! conference in Halifax, and opened a music studio in her home where she teaches private voice lessons. Read more about Sara online or e-mail her at sara.michele.wilson@gmail.com.

Professor Phyllis D. Airhart was a finalist for the 2015 Canada Prize in the Humanities for her book, A Church with the Soul of a Nation: Making and Remaking the United Church of Canada (McGill-Queen’s University Press).

Aruna Alexander Emm 0T6 was presented with the Provincial Newcomer Champion Award from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade, “in appreciation of [her] excellence in promoting cross-cultural understanding and implementing programs to help settle and connect newcomers in [her] Community.”

The Second: A Novel about Spirituality, Religion and Politics (Exile Editions, 2013), a new novel by Alan J. Cooper Vic 6T9, Emm 9T7, examines spirituality and how it differs from organized religion.

For over 50 years Ed File Vic 5T4, Emm 5T6 has trained and inspired leaders of marginalized people to fight for their rights—in Canada (Canadian Urban Training Project), globally (World Council of Churches URM Advisory Committee) and in Taiwan (Taiwan Urban Rural Mission). For this, he was awarded the Albert J.F. Lin Human Rights Award from the Taiwanese Human Rights Association of Canada. In his 32 years of work with Albert Lin, File has played a key role in Taiwan’s peaceful democratization.

Nancy Hardy Emm 1T2, 8T7, 6T8 has published Worship in the City: Prayers and Songs for Urban Settings (UCPH, 2015). It was created to offer prayers and hymns to help congregations and individuals celebrate, lament, find healing and practise justice in the city. Visit www.ucrdstore.ca for more information. In 2013, Nancy was awarded a McGeachy Scholarship, resulting in this book.

Nazila Isgandarova, a student at Emmanuel, has received a 2015 Forum for Theological Exploration Fellowship for Latino/a, Asian and First Nations Doctoral Students. She will join a class of 20 students in Atlanta, Georgia, and receive a stipend to support her studies.

Births

To Bronwyn Corlett Vic 0T3, Emm 1T0 president, ECAA, and Daniel Halloran, a daughter, Morgan Corlett Halloran, on August 21, in Toronto.

To Sara Wilson Emm 1T2 and David Campbell, a son, Benjamin Lawrence Erskine, on August 26, 2015, in Bridgewater, N.S.

Deaths


Gordon Burgess Emm 5T1, in Toronto, August 10, 2015.

F. James “Jim” Burn Emm 5T6, in Cobourg, Ont., May 16, 2014.

Mary Aileen (McKellar) Harris Emm 0T2, in St. John’s, Nfld., November 15, 2014.

Alexander Manson Vic 4T3, Emm 4T6, in New Westminster, B.C., September 16, 2015.

Diane Carol Morrow Emm 9T4, in Parry Sound, Ont., March 29, 2015.

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? The Distinguished Alumni/ae Award recognizes recent or lifetime achievements at the local, national or international level. Nominations for the 2015 award are currently being accepted and must be received by Nov. 30, 2015. Visit www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/alumni.htm to make your nomination or download the nomination form.
NOVEMBER

The Toronto Festival of Preaching
with Rev. Dr. Leonard Sweet joined by
Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, Rev. Dr. Pamela
McCarroll and Rev. Fleming Rutledge.
November 1–3, Yorkminster Park Baptist
Church, 1585 Yonge Street.
Workshop fee $255 in advance/$150 for
students, includes Monday lunch, dinner,
coffee breaks and a wine-and-cheese reception.
Register online at http://www.lesterrandall.com.

Treatment, Not Judgement:
LGBTQ-Affirming Healthcare
and Inclusive Language
November 6, 6 pm to 8 pm,
Emmanuel College.
Workshop fee $15

Preacher Gym: A Sacred Playground
for Creative Exploration
with Florence MacGregor
November 7, 10 am to 3 pm,
St. David’s United Church, Woodstock.
Workshop fee $50 plus HST, includes lunch.
Register by October 30, 2015.

Nourishing Creativity
with Barbara Muir
November 9, 16 and 23, 2015, 10 am to 1 pm,
Emmanuel College.
Workshop fee $150 plus HST. If you wish
to register for Storytelling in Ministry as well
(see below), the joint fee is $250 plus HST.
Register by November 2, 2015.

Storytelling in Ministry
with Barbara Muir
November 9, 16 and 23, 2015, 1:30 pm
to 4:30 pm, Emmanuel College.
Workshop fee $150 plus HST. If you wish
to register for Nourishing Creativity as well
(see above), the joint fee is $250 plus HST.
Register by November 2, 2015.

I Want To Be In That Number
with Lois Wilson Emm 7T8
Lois will discuss her latest book and the
ecumenical leaders around the world who
have shaped her faith and discipleship.
November 12, 2 to 4 pm, Church House,
3250 Bloor St. W., Toronto.
Workshop fee $10.

Intercultural Worship:
Faithfully Living into God’s Call
with Adele Halliday, Robin McGauley
and Alydia Smith and co-sponsored by Five Oaks
November 20–21, 2015, with three conference
calls following the program: February 3,
April 6 and June 1, 2016, 7 pm to 8:30 pm,
Workshop fee $160, $100 for students in
grades 9–12 accompanied by an adult.
Register online at www.fiveoaks.on.ca.

FEBRUARY

Longer Lenses: Preaching Lent
and Easter as One Piece
with Malcolm Sinclair Emm 7T0
February 1, 10 am to 3 pm, Emmanuel
College or on-line. Workshop fee $95 plus
HST, includes lunch. Register by December 21
for early-bird fee $75, or by January 25, 2016
for regular fee.

SAVE THE DATE FOR
EMMANUEL ALUMNI/AE
DAY 2016: APRIL 18
Your ECAA Executive is pleased to
announce that the date for Emmanuel
Alumni/ae Day is Monday, April 18,
2016. The spring event will feature our
annual worship, presentation of the
2015 Emmanuel College Distinguished
Alumni/ae Award, time to gather
with former classmates, faculty and
staff, and more! Save the date and
stay tuned for more details. We look
forward to welcoming you back to
campus in April!

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:
CHRISTIANITY AND CHINA IN THE
21ST CENTURY
OCTOBER 22–24, 2015 AT EMMANUEL COLLEGE
All are welcome to attend an international conference
to reflect on contemporary developments in Christianity
in China. Internationally respected scholars and church
leaders from Fudan University, the Divinity School Chung
Chi College, Purdue University, Yale University, and many
more will gather to reflect on contemporary developments
in Christianity in China. To read more and register, please
visit http://uoft.me/9K.

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.

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