



In Touch ... (for now)

See the back cover for more information.

Message from our Executive Director



Terry Hidichuk, Executive Director

Toto, I have a feeling we are not in Kansas anymore.
L. Frank Baum

Inside this issue:

Message from our Executive Director	1
Congratulations Grads	1
Grand Opening	2-3
Letter from the Moderator of the UCC	4
Congratulations June 2013 Graduates	5
Passages — John Leshyn	6
Events	7
Beat the Rush!	8

Those words of Dorothy to Toto ring true for theological education at the University of Winnipeg. Theological education is no longer housed in venerable and familiar Bryce Hall. Theological education is no longer administered from a Faculty structure. We are not in Kansas anymore but theological education at the University of Winnipeg exists in a new form at a new place but with the same mission to offer excellence in theological education within a liberal arts university. As the mission statement says we still “welcome all those who wish to study theology and we seek to empower leaders for religious and social service by providing a safe and respectful environment.” The United Centre for Theological Studies will still offer graduate theological education but our structure will give us the flexibility to be more nimble in offering program to the wider community such certificates, lectures and conference. Our new location at 520 Portage with the Global College and with Menno Simons College affords the possibility of synergies to develop among the three entities such that there can be courses cross-listed in areas of common academic

interest, and other program developed just because we are living in a common neighbourhood. This is all very new for all of us, including those of you with a long and cherished interest in the Faculty of Theology. If you have questions and or suggestions call and we can talk. Something even better than that would be coming down and having a cup of coffee or tea and little conversation. I look forward to that. Like the announcer says in that old Motel Six commercial: “we’ll leave the light on for you.” Blessings

Terry

Congratulations June 2013 Grads!

Certificate in Theology:

Joseph Constant
Pat Van Ryssel

Bachelor of Theology:

Jennifer Dresser

Master of Divinity:

Kenneth Austin
Michele Sala Pastora
Christine Salstrom

Master of Arts (Theology):

Carol Boyko
Brenda Suderman

Master of Arts in Spiritual Disciplines and Ministry Practices:

Barbara Fugelsang
Susan Butler-Jones
Elizabeth Sawatsky

Master of Sacred Theology:

Susan Foley-Currie
Marion Magnusson
Beverley Marlo-Espinoza



...con't on pg 5

We're on the web
theology.uwinnipeg.ca



Grand Opening



Pipe Ceremony — Dr. Lloyd Axworthy and Alex Beardy Student in the Indigenous Spiritual & Pastoral Care Diploma.

On Wednesday October 9th The United Centre for Theological Studies celebrated its birth with a service of celebration and commemoration. Dr. Terry Hidichuk, the Executive Director of the Centre welcomed Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg and approximately 60 others who filled Ridd Sanctuary for a service that included a Pipe Ceremony, with Dr. Axworthy and Alex Beardy a student at the Centre, remembrances of the Faculty of Theology, leadership by the Rev. Bill Millar of Knox United Church and Tanis Kolisnyk a student at the Centre, greetings from Rev Cheryl Kinney Matheson President of Manitoba Northwestern Ontario Conference and a solo by Rachel Landrecht. Following the service those gathered in the Ridd Sanctuary, joined others on the lawn in front of Wesley Hall where the Very Reverend Stan McKay elder and former Moderator of the United church of Canada offered prayers



Rev. Bill Millar - Knox United Church.



Rev. Harold King - Past Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Rev. Terry Hidichuk Executive Director The United Centre for Theological Studies.



Rev. Cheryl Kinney Matheson, President of The Conference of Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario, The United Church of Canada .

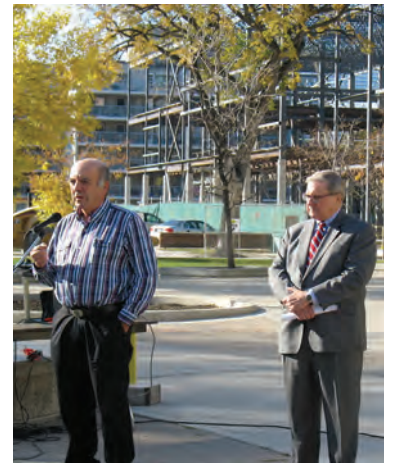


left: Afaf Abodigin, Drummer



Middle: The Service is over,

Right: The Very Rev. Dr. Stan McKay and Dr. Lloyd Axworthy.





Mr. Bill Weissmann sounding the Shorfar to lead the way to our new office space at 520 Portage Avenue.



North End Women's Drum Group



Above: Past and Present Students Left to right: Doug Koop, Beth Sawatsky, Tanis Kolysnik and Catherine Pearse.



Above: Jackson Beardy Hoop Dancer Below: Jackson Beardy Hoop Dancer and Byron Beardy Traditional Singer.

and Dr. Axworthy gave an address celebrating the past and introducing the future of both the United Centre and the Global College. Jaki Skye and the Drummers and Dancers of North End Women's Centre offered their gifts. Byron Beardy (traditional singer) and Jackson Beardy (Hoop Dancer) sang two traditional songs. Dr. Dean Peachey Acting Principal of the global college then invited everyone to the new offices of the United Centre and the Global College at 520 Portage for an Open House.

It was great day and the weather was fabulous.





THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario
M8X 2Y4 Canada



L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA

416-231-5931 1-800-268-3781
F: 416-231-3103
www.united-church.ca

October 9, 2013

Dr. Lloyd Axworthy,
President & Vice-Chancellor,
The University of Winnipeg,
515 Portage Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2E9

Dear Dr. Axworthy,

I send you, and all those gathered in the Carl Ridd Chapel this afternoon, greetings and best wishes from The United Church of Canada as you celebrate the grand opening of The United Centre for Theological Studies.

The historic commitment of The United Church of Canada to both accessible higher public education and excellent theological studies is in the DNA of the University of Winnipeg. The United Church, in turn, has been blessed by generations of strong leaders and fine scholars who emerged from the classrooms and hallways at the corner of Balmoral Street and Portage Avenue.

We celebrate that this tradition of excellence is a treasure that will endure even as its earthly vessel takes a new form, and changes its address. We also celebrate how the United Centre for Theological Studies is a visible symbol of the ongoing relationship between The United Church of Canada and The University of Winnipeg. The new centre bears witness to this relationship when it says of itself: "We are shaped by the historic contributions of The United Church of Canada and its commitment to the social gospel movement, liberation theology, and whole world ecumenism." For this, we are thankful.

We join you in celebrating all that is past, all that is emerging, and all the future ways the church and the world will be enriched by the students of the Centre for Theological Studies who will succeed those who were formed in Wesley Hall, Bryce Hall, and the Carl Ridd sanctuary.

Blessings,

The Right Rev. Gary Paterson
Moderator
The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada

cc.

Dr. Terry Hidichuk
Executive Director
The United Centre for Theological Studies
The University of Winnipeg





Congratulations June 2013 Grads!



Brenda Suderman received the Graduate Student of Highest Distinction Award, and the Gawthrop Prize for highest overall GPA in Theology.

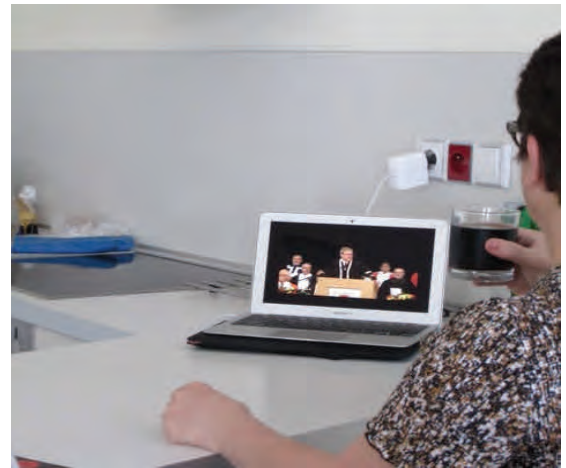
Elizabeth Sawatsky received the Nisbet Memorial & Winchester Prize for the second highest overall GPA in Theology.

Christine Salstrom received the Tait & Anderson Prize for third highest overall GPA in Theology.



Left: Terry Hidichuk and Brenda Suderman awards ceremony June 2013.

Right: Toasting the Graduates - Sandy Peterson watching the live feed of UofW Convocation while visiting Ellie Stebner in Prague, CZ.



Above: Arthur Walker-Jones; Terry Hidichuk, Jennifer Dresser, Michele Sala Pastora, Brenda Suderman, Susan Butler-Jones, Chris Salstrom, Sue Folie Currie, Marion Magnusson, Joseph Constant, Pat Van Ryssel, Beth Sawatsky, Carol Boyko, Jane Barter Moulaison, Greg Glatz & James Christie. Missing: Ken Austin, Barbara Fugelsang and Bev Marlo Espinoza.



Religion Reason and the Common Good
Above: Bill Blaikie and Allan Gregg

On October 23rd the 4th Annual Knowles-Woodsworth lecture was given by Allan Gregg, prominent Canadian pollster and political pundit. The lecture, entitled Reason, Religion, and the Common Good, was attended by just over 100 people in Eckhardt- Grammatte Hall. Gregg spoke to his concern, as someone whose entire life has been devoted to the value of research, about the serious decline and devaluation of evidence-based policy making under the current federal government.

Lamenting the elimination of the mandatory long form census on 2010, by 2012 he recalled how he was alarmed by what he saw as a definite pattern of attempting to eliminate or silence anyone who might use science to challenge government policies, particularly in the policy area of criminal justice and the environment. This was followed by a passionate defence of the role of reason in a healthy democracy.

Gregg's talk concluded with a call for a constructive relationship between reason and religion, or more precisely, non-fundamentalist religion and non-fundamentalist secularists, that could provide a moral foundation for a politics of the common good, in which there would be " a premium placed on equality, social justice , and responsibility".

The full lecture is available on [Gregg's own website](#), and will be on the Knowles-Woodsworth website at some point in the near future.

Bill Blaikie

In the Globe and Mail Canadian University Report, a student comment on her experience of the University of Winnipeg noted an emphasis on "community engagement, international practicum placements, leadership, experiential learning, and taking our learning and applying it beyond the classroom."

She could have been speaking specifically about the new synergies among the evolutionary – even revolutionary – The United Centre for Theological Studies, the Global College and Menno Simons College. More than the renewed space at Menno Simons is being shared: it's a world view. As both Professor of Whole World Ecumenism and Dialogue Theology in the Centre, and Director of the Ridd Institute for Religion and Global Policy in the Global College, I feel this especially keenly. I enjoy the great privilege of being one of the explicit links in our collaborative work.

Courses in Dialogue Theology are now a key element in our regular course and programme offerings, with our Intro to Dialogue Theology course and World Faiths in Film: The Asian Traditions being on the books for January. (Watch our website.)

JOHN WILLIAM LENSHTYN John William Lenshyn, 61, passed away early Friday morning, October 4, 2013, in the loving presence of family after a short and courageous battle with brain cancer. John leaves to mourn his loving wife Kathleen, sons Christopher (Katrina) and John Paul, daughter Tatiana, grandchildren Asher and Deklan, father John Lenshyn, sisters Kathleen and Judy, nephews, nieces, and many friends and colleagues. He was predeceased by his beautiful mother Anna Lenshyn.

Contemplative, mystic, Jesus radical, John was a servant of people. Born in Hamilton Ontario, John ventured through life with joy, vigour and a keen awareness of the deeper meanings in life. He loved his wife, and children dearly. A high school graduate from Welland High and Vocational School in Welland, Ontario, John held a Sociology degree from the University of Western Ontario, a Masters of Divinity from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart Indiana, and a Doctorate of Ministry from Providence College and Seminary. A pastor for many years, a spiritual care facilitator for many more years, and a registrar for a few, John served people with his love, brilliance, deep empathy and sense of humour. His contribution to the field of and advocacy for the spiritual care for the sick, aging and dying is significant and defined his later years. He loved the Wolverhampton Wanderers, 60's music, the solitude of the outdoors and cats. He was a man with a deep seeded peace and is a current participant in the grand, divine communion. He will be missed dearly. "Lately it occurs to me what a long, strange trip it's been." - Truckin', Grateful Dead The Funeral Service was held at 1:00 p.m., on Tuesday, October 8, at Charleswood United Church, 4820 Roblin Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba. In lieu of flowers, please donate to CancerCare Manitoba, Alzheimer's Society or Hospice and Palliative Care Manitoba.

The United Centre for Theological Studies would like to express its sincere sympathy to the family and loved ones of John. He will be missed.

A number of co-sponsored events are upcoming, too: on November 14th at 7 pm the Centre, the Ridd Institute and the Manitoba Multi-faith Council will host an evening on A Charter of Values or a Charter Vision: Religious Symbols in the Public Square; on December 12th at 7 pm, Prof. Ahmad Youssif of the newly former International Institute of Wasatiyyah (Moderation) at the International Islamic University of Malaysia will speak on Moderation and the Muslim World.

On a more far flung note, I will be a delegate from October 30th to November 9th at the General Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Pusan, South Korea; and have been named a Canadian delegate to the 9th General Assembly of Religions for Peace, to be convened in Vienna in late November.

All of this will be grist for an ever expanding teaching, research and writing mill that will play a role in the next phase of the 142 year history of theological studies at the University of Winnipeg.

James Christie



“Let All the Trees of the Forest Sing for Joy” (Psalm 96:12)

Biblical Ethics for a Changing Climate

An Adult Series on the Psalms, Biblical Ethics and the Changing Environment
with Dr. Arthur Walker-Jones, University of Winnipeg

October 21 - Silent Spring: Introduction to Ecological Interpretation of Scripture (Psalm 8)

October 28 - Ancient, Environmental Wisdom: Gardening with God in the Book of Psalms (Psalm 1)

November 4 - Where the Wild Things Are: Leviathan, Free Willy, and the Oceans (Psalm 74)

November 11 - Healing Earth, Healing Ourselves (Psalm 74)

November 18 - With All Creatures Sing: St. Francis’ Vision of an Ecological Future (Psalm 148)

Format

Mondays 7:30-9:30pm

7:30 Music

7:40 Introduction and Overview

8:00 Small Group Check-in

8:20 Presentation

9:00 Small Group Discussion

9:20 Music

All Sessions at St. Mark’s Lutheran

600 Cambridge

Each Session will include an action step

An ecumenical exploration

\$5.00 per session at the door

To register contact Hillary at 204-253-1491 ex 20 or email officeadmin@faithlc.ca

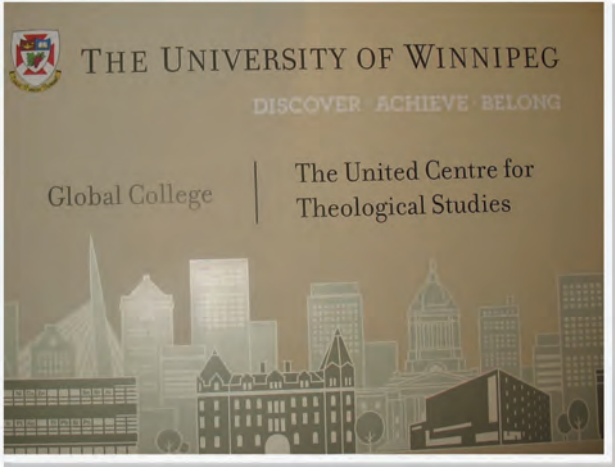


THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

In Touch ...(for now)

The United Centre for Theological Studies
offices: 520 Portage Avenue
Phone: 204-786-9320
Fax: 204-772-2584
E-mail: theology@uwinnipeg.ca

The United Centre for Theological Studies is committed to excellence in theological education within a liberal arts University. We welcome all those who wish to study theology and we seek to empower leaders for religious and social service by providing a safe and respectful environment for critical reflection that is contextual and global in scope and values social and ecological justice. We are shaped by the historic contributions of the United Church of Canada and its commitment to the social gospel movement, liberation theology, and whole world ecumenism.



**New name, new look, new newsletter title.....
What do you think our newsletter should be called?
Send your suggestions to Sandy Peterson
s.peterson@uwinnipeg.ca ASAP!**

Beat the RUSH, Register for Winter term NOW! Did you know that you can register for Winter classes now and not pay your fees until January 17, 2014? **Bursary Deadline December 1, 2013**

Click here for our [timetable](#) Remember you must be registered to qualify for a bursary!



Congratulations to **Tanis Kollisnyk** on the occasion of her ordination as Deacon within the Anglican Church of Canada on Sunday, November 3, 2013
l-r: Rev. Steven Scribner, Rev. Deacon Helen Hunter, Rev Deacon Elaine Pinto, The Rt. Rev. Donald D. Phillips, Rev. Deacon Eric Parsons, Rev. Allison Chubb, Rev. Deacon Dayle Michaud, Deacon Michele Barr, front row: Rev. Deacon Tanis Kollisnyk and Rev. Deacon Alison Ward-Westervelt.

