

New Lecturer



Our new lecturer in New Testament is Dr Michael Bird from Queensland in Australia. Mike formerly served in the Australian forces as a paratrooper and even after beginning full-time studies for his PhD, served in the Chaplain's department and in Intelligence. He is an able scholar who has published a significant number of important journal articles, for so young a scholar. Mike is married to Naomi and they have two daughters, Alexis (5 yrs) and Alyssa (9 months). Given the difference in temperature between Queensland and Dingwall, any donations of woolly hats, scarves, gloves or Damart goods will be gratefully received!!

Principal at Balmoral

The College Principal, the Rev Professor Andrew McGowan was privileged recently to be invited to stay at Balmoral Castle as guest of Her Majesty the Queen and to preach on the Sunday morning at Crathie Kirk. A number of ministers are accorded this honour each year. Also present at the service in Crathie with the Queen were HRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. The service was conducted by the retiring interim moderator, the Rev Ian Brown. We congratulate the new minister of Crathie, the Rev Kenneth Mackenzie, known to many friends and supporters of HTC, on his appointment.



Murray & Bruce Lectures

Dr David Wenham will deliver the second F.F. Bruce lecture on Wednesday 14th December at 3pm. The subject of his lecture will be 'The Sermon on the Mount: The Greatest Sermon ever Preached'. It is to be hoped that as many people as possible, especially ministers, elders and students, will attend.

In the last Newsletter we intimated that Dr Sinclair Ferguson was to give the second John Murray lecture this year. This has now been changed because, in the week that he was to have given the lecture, he is now to be inducted as minister of 1st Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina. We congratulate Dr Ferguson on his appointment and look forward to him delivering the third John Murray lecture in the autumn of 2006.

The John Murray Lecture will now be delivered by the Rev Dr Douglas F. Kelly, Professor of Systematic Theology in Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina. Dr Kelly is a Trustee of HTC. His lecture will be given at 7pm on Wednesday 14th December and the subject is 'Triumphant Christ in Today's World'.

Both lectures will be given in Castle Street Church of Scotland in Dingwall, close to the College.

Staff News

Many of you will know by now that the Rev Richard Gibbons, organiser in evangelism for the Church of Scotland (covering the Highlands) had suffered a serious heart failure a few weeks ago. We are delighted that, after surgery in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, he is making good progress. As you may remember from the last Newsletter, Richard had been teaching two modules at HTC, in the area of applied theology, since Dr Noel Due returned to Australia. We are very grateful to two of our full-time PhD students, Mike Rasmussen and Mike McKelvie, for taking on the teaching of these modules. Both of these men are from the USA.

MTh papers with Aberdeen

All of the papers for the validation of the MTh in Reformed Theology have now been lodged with the University of Aberdeen. It is our hope that this degree will be available from August 2006.

We have the permission of the University to invite applications from interested students, always remembering that the degree is 'pending validation'. Those who already have a first degree in theology, at honours' level, should contact us for further information.

The Graduation

We were delighted to have Dr Sam Larson, Professor of Ministry and Academic Dean of Reformed Theological Seminary as guest speaker at this year's graduation.

The Graduation service was held on Friday 30th September. Anne Sikorski and Morag MacLeod received the Access Certificate in Christian Theology. Alan McLeod received the Certificate of Higher Education in Theological Studies. Shirley Riddell and Walter Waheed received the Bachelor of Arts in Theological Studies. Martin Brudenell and Paul Thompson both received the Bachelor of Arts in Theological Studies with Upper 2nd Class Honours.



Walter Waheed

Malcolm Maclean, a BA graduate of HTC, this year completed the Doctor of Ministry degree. Only two students have completed two degrees at the College, the other being Dr Robert Shillaker, now part-time lecturer in Systematic Theology.

We congratulate Dr Maclean on this achievement. The other students to receive the Doctor of

Ministry degree were Klaus Buwert, Jeff Lowman and Jim Thompson. We have had several Church of Scotland Ministers among our

Doctor of Ministry graduates and this year was no exception. Klaus is a Church of Scotland Minister in Wishaw and his dissertation was an assessment of the home mission strategy of the Church of Scotland. Jeff Lowman completed his work in the USA, having completed his earlier modules at HTC. Jim Thompson carried out an assessment of twenty five years of preparing young people for church membership in his congregation in Northern Ireland.

Two of our American postgraduate students completed their work and graduated this year. Clay Quarterman, working in theological education in Ukraine with Mission to the World (the mission arm of the Presbyterian Church in America) completed his PhD on Presbyterian missiology. Clay grew up in 1st Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi, where his father is an elder. Brad Mercer, who coincidentally is one of the associate ministers at 1st Presbyterian Church, Jackson, completed his M.Phil degree, focussing on the theology of C.S. Lewis.

Photo of graduation

Shirley Riddell with Rev Alexander Murray

Students

Kenny Ross, who graduated last year, has recently become Minister of a Baptist Church in England. We were delighted recently to receive news from him but particularly pleased by what he said about the value of the education and training he received at the College. He then concluded by saying, 'thank you as a college for your teaching, fellowship and love. I pray that God will bless you and allow you by His grace to produce servants who are willing to take the lowest place, and seek to honour Him that He might then honour them.'

Evangelical Theological Society

In order to develop and promote the academic profile of our developing new university, UHI encourages academic staff to go to conferences and helps with the cost of attendance at both UK and international conferences. This has enabled Professor McGowan, Dr Grant and Dr Bird to attend the Evangelical Theological Society in Philadelphia in November, where Professor McGowan and Dr Bird are both giving papers. This conference is followed by the Society for Biblical Literature, which Drs Grant and Bird will attend and the American Academy of Religion, which Professor McGowan will attend. There will be about 7,000 people attending these three conferences.

You don't have to wait until August to start a course at HTC.

Speak to our Academic Officer about January 2006 entry to the open learning BA Theological Studies course.

Academic News

The time has come round for the re-validation of our BA (honours) in Theological Studies. Our Vice Principal and Course Leader, the Rev Hector Morrison, will be leading the work in preparation for this. It is anticipated that the internal validation will be in January and the external in April.

UHI

- UHI has a policy of placing staff with its Academic Partners. It is our pleasure to host four members of the Executive Office staff here at HTC. We have Ian Morrison, UHI Widening Participation Manager, Julie Cribb, UHI Community Learning Manager and the two people who head up the UHI library team, Gillian Anderson, the UHI Librarian and Elizabeth McHugh, the UHI Electronic Resources Manager.
- As we noted in May, the big task for UHI this year is to get tDAP. For further information, see web page www.uhi.ac.uk/dap/
- We worked closely with Stefanie Cadenhead, member of the team at EO. We congratulate her on her new job, working at the Barn Church of Scotland in Inverness.
- As an academic partner of the UHI Millennium Institute, we were very encouraged to see the First Minister of the Scottish Parliament, Jack MacConnell, performing the official opening ceremony at the new UHI Executive Office building, the imposing former Northern Infirmary on the banks of the River

Ness in Inverness. We are also very encouraged when he conveyed on that occasion the important information that UHI's application for degree awarding powers, a vital step on the road to full university title, had been of a sufficiently high quality to ensure that the audit process could commence, with hope for outcome in about a year's time.

Graduate in Canada

Malcolm Macleod, who completed his BA degree while living in Stornoway, has now been appointed as Minister of Victoria Park Associated Presbyterian Church, Toronto, Canada. Malcolm attended college by video-conference from Lews Castle College in Stornoway. If you want to know more about his church, consult his web site on www.apctoronto.com

Picture of college

Would you prefer to receive your HTC Newsletter by e-mail?

If so, e-mail us on htc@uhi.ac.uk and we will put you on the e-list!

Mission Visits

HTC regularly receives visits from the general secretaries of various missionary societies, often accompanied by missionaries home on furlough. We regard this as an important opportunity for our students to hear about what God is doing in different parts of the world and to test if God's call on their lives might be to work overseas. Our Missions Co-ordinator and Bursar, Sandra Macdonald, herself a missionary in Thailand for almost quarter of a century, organises these visits. Already this academic year we have had visits from Simeon Ewing, talking about work in Ukraine; Phil Steed of OMF describing a visit to Japan, Mainland China & Macao; and Will Niven of ECM, speaking about an Albanian Church Planting Apprenticeship. Coming soon is Shirley Fraser of Friends International, speaking about the work they do with international students. In the New Year, representatives from Wycliffe and Leprosy Mission will be visiting.

Conference Facilities

We have an excellent conference room in the College and are able to provide all that is required for various types of meetings, including power point projection, video-conference facilities, and so on. We can also arrange meals through arrangements with various catering companies. Many groups now use this facility. It has been used by the board of Ross & Cromarty Enterprise, by BP, by the Health Board, the Education Department, by SEPA and many others. If you need somewhere to hold a meeting, please consider hiring HTC.

Volunteers Needed

HTC has many volunteers who help us by giving a few hours each week. Some of them work in the library, some in reception and some help with very specific tasks. For example, we have a retired Minister, who used to be an accountant, who administers the Gift Aid Scheme. Could you give a few hours each week? Do you have skills which would help the college? Have you taken early retirement and find that you have some spare time? Contact Lewis Vernal at the College for more information.

Learning Centre

As part of UHI, we want to provide a service to our community and so, in our Learning Centre, we are offering many different courses. There are courses in computing, in languages, in digital photography, in website design, in sign language for the deaf and much more. It is even possible to do a degree course through UHI. We have students who, by video-conference, are taking degrees in Gaelic, in Rural Development and in Culture Studies (including history and archaeology). If you live locally and would like to take a course, speak to our Learning Centre manager, Kevin Sinclair.

Open Learning

There are many people who would like to study theology but for financial or work or family reasons cannot move to Dingwall for three or four years. The good news is that you can study for your BA in Theology wherever you are. It can be done by traditional learning packs posted to your door, or by web-based materials which are already available. In fact, if you live within reach

of one of the 14 Colleges of UHI, you can come into the classroom by video-conference! Don't let distance stop you becoming a student.

New Library

The HTC library is now the largest of all the Colleges in UHI and growing fast. We currently have over 45,000 volumes. We have plans to reconstruct the ground floor of our rear building into a large open plan library and to convert the 'bothy' (a building in the car park) into a dedicated student centre. This project will cost £175,000. Fraser Jackson, our IT Technician and Library Cataloguer, has created a virtual tour of what this new library will look like. This project will take place in a couple of years' time when we have raised the money.

Profile - Rev Donald MacIver, BA MA



The Rev Donald MacIver is the course leader for our Access to Theology course, which is running in full-time mode as well as open learning this session. Donald is the minister at Fearn Free

Church of Scotland and is married to Isabelle and have three children. Donald, who is originally from the Isle of Lewis, was minister at the Free Church of Scotland in Cumbernauld. He was Principal at Dumisani Theological Institute and Bible School in South Africa, where our colleague the Rev Dr Alistair Wilson has now followed in his footsteps, to take up the Principal's role there.

Doctor of Ministry

The Doctor of Ministry course has proved to be popular with students from the UK and from the USA. It is designed for ministers who already have at least three years of experience and it is very practically based. It is taught on a modular basis. For each course, Ministers read six or seven books over a period of months, then they come to HTC for one week of teaching, seminars and so on. Finally they write a 25 page essay. The students take eight such courses (for three of which they go to the USA) then they write a 30,000 word dissertation.

The next course is to be taught by the Rev Dominic Smart in January 2006 and is entitled 'Communicating in a Postmodern World'. Then, in August 2006, the Rev Eric Alexander will teach a course on 'Expository Preaching' (one of our most popular courses) and then, also in August 2006, Dr Allen Curry from Reformed Theological Seminary will teach a course entitled 'Theology of Ministry'. If you are a Minister, why not sign up now? Contact Ruth Craigie at the College.

The Church of Scotland

On Friday 11th November, a group from the Church of Scotland Council of Ministries visited HTC. This visit followed a decision at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland back in May, to consider whether HTC meets the criteria to be recognised as a place of education and training for the Church. If successful, this will mean that prospective Church of Scotland ministers could come to HTC. At the moment, candidates must go to one of the universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, St Andrews and Aberdeen.

There were eight members of the group which came from the Church of Scotland, chaired by the Rev Douglas Cranston, Convener of the Council of Ministries. The HTC team consisted of Andrew McGowan, HTC Principal, Hector Morrison, the Vice Principal, Professor Bob Cormack, Principal of UHI and John Farquhar Munro, our MSP.

It is anticipated that, before the end of the year, HTC will be told what recommendation is going to the General Assembly of 2006.

Have you ever thought you would like to know more about the Bible or the Christian faith?

The Access to Theology course offers you the chance to explore key areas such as the Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, Systematic Theology and Pastoral Theology.

Does the thought of study put you off? The course includes a module on study skills, designed to help you with issues such as planning, reading, writing and even preparing for exams!

You can study this course as a free standing opportunity on its own or even use it to start your Theological Studies at degree level.

To find out more about how you can study the access course either full time or by part time open learning call the College on 01349 780000.

Your Support Needed

It is a simple fact that we are able to do all that is described in this Newsletter only as long we have your ongoing help and support. Income from student fees certainly plays a big part but, as we explained in the last Newsletter, we do need the sustained and sustaining help of our Christian friends and supporters if we are to cover all our costs and commitments.

Please consider making a donation to the work of the college right now. You can also increase your giving even further by completing a Gift Aid Declaration, if you are a tax payer. During the last few years, the College has benefited greatly from donations made under the Gift Aid scheme. In the Academic Session 2004/05, about **£23,600** was given under Gift Aid/Deed of Covenant. This allowed the College to reclaim over **£6,600** From Inland Revenue. Since the start of April of this year, thanks to continuing support and a number of new donors, gifts have been received totalling over **£12,000** making possible a recovery of nearly **£3,500** to date.

Giving through our Gift Aid scheme brings two great benefits to the college itself. First, periodic giving (normally by standing order) provides the College with the knowledge and assurance of income and support on a regular basis. It may be monthly, quarterly or at some other frequency. The significant thing is that it is predictable, known in advance. This brings us much greater certainty in our cashflow and expenditure planning. Second, where you, as a donor, pay income tax and have provided a Gift Aid Declaration to the college, it permits the College

to recover tax on all direct gifts you make (other than gifts previously made by Deed of Covenant), including those you may have made some time ago, right back to 6th April 2000!

We are most thankful for all your support, both past and present, and we actively encourage you to increase your giving by returning a Gift Aid Declaration form to us, if you have not already done so. If you do not find one with this newsletter, please contact us and we will send one to you.

For all those who so faithfully support us on a regular basis or from time to time, please do review the support you provide, with a view to increasing it for the year ahead.

Would you consider giving to HTC through your will? Last year we received a wonderful legacy which made a very significant difference to our ability to deliver our courses and to fulfil our mission.

For any further information you require on supporting the college, please contact Lewis Vernal, the College Secretary.

Enquiries and Donations to:
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