

- **Honorary Professorship**
- **Moderator**
- **Board of Governors**
- **Student News**
- **Staff Changes**
- **Financial Support**

Scottish Executive supports UHI

The Highland Theological College is one of the fifteen Academic Partners of the UHI Millennium Institute (UHI). The UHI Millennium Institute (UHI) is a higher education institution providing university-level courses and research opportunities throughout the Highlands & Islands of Scotland. This is achieved through a partnership of fifteen colleges and research institutions including two associated institutions. Currently over 5500 students are studying on UHI courses or undertaking post-graduate research with UHI. The UHI mission is to create a University of the Highlands and Islands, and we have set ourselves the target of achieving this in the year 2007.

To become a university, it is first necessary to be designated by parliament as an institute of higher education. This happened to UHI in April 2001. The next stage is to be granted degree awarding powers, which we hope will happen in 2004. Finally, the Privy Council grants university title, which we hope to achieve in 2007.

UHI recently received tremendously encouraging support for these hopes, as Jack McConnell MSP, the First Minister of the Scottish Parliament, gave his support for UHI's accelerated progress towards full university status, calling it a 'Flagship Aspiration for Scotland'.

This backing for UHI's continued development beyond its present status as a higher education institution (HEI) was given by the First Minister and Iain Gray, MSP, Minister for Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning at the Convention of the Highlands and Islands, meeting in Oban.

Director and Chief Executive of UHI, Professor Bob Cormack, said: "The Scottish Executive has now made the strategic decision to prioritise the development of UHI, as outlined by the First Minister in his opening remarks to the Convention. We further welcome Iain Gray's paper which underpins this decision. Most of all, we welcome this clear presentation of the Scottish Executive's assertion that a University of the Highlands & Islands is a strategic economic development priority for the region. A university is a key driver of a successful and developing region. UHI provides a means to put a university at the heart of every part of the Highlands & Islands, from Argyll to Shetland. We now look forward to participating with all our partners in quickening progression towards university status."

A task group, including UHI and relevant partners such as Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and headed up by SHEFC is to report in six months on a timetable for accelerated progression to degree-awarding powers and university status.

Colin MacKay, CBE, Chair of the UHI Board of Governors, says: "The support of the Scottish Executive for the development of a University of the Highlands & Islands has been crucial to progress made to date. We have also enjoyed cross-party support from all levels of government. We therefore echo the Minister's call for recognition of what is already being achieved and welcome the Scottish Executive's emphatic support for our continued and accelerated development to university status."

Honorary Professorship

Andrew McGowan, Principal of HTC has been granted an Honorary Professorship in Reformed Doctrine by the University of Aberdeen.



This award was warmly welcomed not only by HTC but by the UHI Millennium Institute, of which HTC is an Academic Partner. Professor McGowan said: "This is indeed an honour which I'm delighted to accept. I hope that this will help to strengthen the developing collaboration between UHI and the University of Aberdeen."

Director and Chief Executive of UHI, Professor Bob Cormack, welcomed the award: "In UHI we are delighted that our colleague, the Rev Professor Andrew McGowan, has been recognised by the University of Aberdeen for his research and scholarship by the award of an honorary professorship. As UHI builds up its research profile it is vitally important that the contribution of UHI staff is recognised in this way by traditional and prestigious universities. It is an excellent indicator of quality in Highland Theological College and in UHI at large."

Moderator

Hector Morrison, Vice-Principal of HTC is currently serving as Moderator of the Church of Scotland Presbytery of Inverness. He previously served as Moderator of the Presbytery of Lewis, when he was minister of the parish of Barvas.



Board of Governors

The Board of Governors of HTC is the body responsible for the overall strategic vision and for the management of the College, particularly in relation to business, financial and corporate matters.

Over the past few years we have been adding new governors to strengthen the Board. Recently, five new members were appointed.

Several of the new governors have a business background: James Stewart is a solicitor who lives in Inverness and is a member of Dalneigh Church of Scotland. Kenny MacLean is a businessman who lives in Gairloch and is a member and general treasurer of the Associated Presbyterian Churches. Ian Brough is an accountant and elder in the West Church in Inverness. For some time now, Ian has administered the Gift Aid donations (formerly Deeds of Covenant) for HTC.

Two of the new governors are Ministers: The Rev Donald MacIver is Minister of the Free Church of Scotland in the parish of Fearn. The Rev Dr Ben Johnstone, having been Church of Scotland minister in Mallaig for many years, has just been called to serve as minister of Broadford Church on Skye. Dr Johnstone was the first Doctor of Ministry graduate from HTC.

Student News

In the last Newsletter we brought some news about various students. This time we focus on several of our postgraduate students:

John Ross, formerly General Secretary of Christian Witness to Israel, has recently been inducted as minister of Greyfriars Free Church in Inverness. John is working on a PhD in Scottish missions to the Jews. Professor McGowan spoke at the reception after the induction on behalf of HTC.

Malcolm Maclean, BA graduate and Doctor of Ministry student, will soon complete his training for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland and will be eligible for a call to a congregation in the summer. He spent the summer working on the Island of Lewis, an island which has known the reviving power of God's Spirit on many occasions.

Liam Goligher, Doctor of Ministry student, was a speaker at this year's Keswick Convention in the Lake District. Keswick is the oldest and most famous of the Bible teaching conventions in the UK and attracts many thousands each year. The other main speaker was the Rev Dominic Smart, successor to William Still as minister of Gilcomston Church of Scotland in Aberdeen. Dominic is one of HTC's part-time lecturers.

Graham Connor, Doctor of Ministry student, has been appointed as Chairman of the European section of the World Reformed Fellowship. He is a minister in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Staff Changes

The past six months has seen more staff changes than at any time since the College began

eight years ago. As well as some internal changes, the team has also been strengthened by new appointments.

Library Staff

Roberta Morrison, our librarian, retired this past summer, having been with the College almost since the beginning. We are deeply grateful to her for all the work she did during these eight years and we are delighted that she is continuing with us in a voluntary capacity. Staff and students gathered for a meal and a retiral presentation in November. During that presentation it was pointed out that the Morrison family has not only been involved with HTC from the earliest days but that each member of the family has taken an academic qualification, mirroring each stage of HTC's development. Roberta took the Cambridge Diploma in Religious Studies, her husband Neil took the Glamorgan University Certificate, their daughter Morven took her UHI BA degree and Neil has now completed his computer course (ECDL) in our Learning Centre! We are waiting for a PhD application...

Our new librarian is Martin Cameron, who was formerly our Development Director. We are delighted by this appointment for several reasons. First, because it means that Martin, with his wealth of experience and wisdom, is still on the staff at HTC; second, because his training as a librarian and also his work as manager of the Free Church of Scotland bookshop uniquely qualifies him for the position; and third, because the HTC library is actually named 'The Hector Cameron Library' after his late father. The Rev Hector Cameron was one of the original Steering Group which started HTC. Sadly he died just before HTC began but, thanks to the generosity of his family, our first library consisted of 1200 volumes from his library.

After high school in the Highlands, Martin graduated BA in Religious Studies with Philosophy and Languages from Edinburgh University in 1977. Following two years working in Aberdeen City Library in the Reference and Lending Departments he studied at Robert Gordon's University in Aberdeen from which he graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Librarianship in 1980.

He became a Chartered Librarian the following year while working with the North East of Scotland Library Service in Aberdeenshire. At NESLS, he was responsible for the day-to-day running of ten branch libraries located throughout Aberdeenshire, with a staff complement of about fifty.

In 1988, he was appointed manager of the Free Church Bookshop in Edinburgh. The Bookshop carried about 17,000 Christian titles, was well-used by Christians from many denominations, and operated a world-wide postal service. In 1996, Martin was appointed Fundraising Manager of Blythswood Care, a non-denominational Christian charity, based in the Highlands, which was one of the pioneer agencies taking aid and Christian literature to Eastern Europe. Then in 1998, Martin joined HTC as UHI Co-ordinator and Development Director, with the aim of raising the profile of the College, raising funds and recruiting students.

Our library team has been further strengthened by the appointment of Fraser Jackson as Library Cataloguer. Thanks to a generous donation from the Pilgrim Trust, matched by Highland Prospect, we were able to offer Fraser a two year appointment. His task is to put all of our library holdings on to the new UHI computerised library system. Given that we have around 40,000 volumes this is no mean task!

Fraser was born and brought up in Glasgow. He graduated with an LLB degree from the University of Glasgow in 1990, and then went on to do a Postgraduate Diploma in Librarianship at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen.

Since then, Fraser has worked locally in the highlands with Blythswood Care, both in Lochcarron and Evanton, and in Kenya with Wycliffe Bible Translators. While in Kenya, Fraser assisted an indigenous team to produce an alphabet for their previously un-written language, a necessary first step to translating the Bible into that language.

Biblical Studies

Until now, the Biblical Studies department in HTC has consisted of one scholar covering Hebrew & Old Testament, the Rev Hector Morrison (also Vice-Principal of the College) and one scholar covering Greek & New Testament, the Rev Dr Alistair Wilson. The appointment of another member of staff to this department was a condition of our newly-validated honours degree. This has now been achieved by the addition of another scholar, Dr Jamie Grant, as lecturer in Biblical Studies. Jamie teaches the biblical languages and a selection of other classes from across the spectrum of biblical theology.



After graduating with a law degree from the University of Dundee, Jamie went to work with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students movement in Poland, where he was responsible for staff and student training. He then went to Reformed Theological Seminary Jackson, Mississippi, USA, where he gained an MA. in Biblical Studies. Upon graduation from RTS in 1999, Jamie moved to Cheltenham, England, to undertake PhD studies in Old Testament theology under the supervision of Prof. Gordon McConville at the University of Gloucestershire. Jamie successfully defended his thesis on the shaping of the Book of Psalms in July of this year and graduated in November. Jamie is a member of St George's Tron Church of Scotland in Glasgow.

Business & Finance Staff

Another recent appointment is our new Bursar, Sandra MacDonald. Sandra is currently on secondment from the Overseas Missionary Fellowship for three years. Her background was as a bookkeeper before working for OMF in Thailand for 23 years. Sandra was born and brought up in Dingwall and is a member of the Free Church of Scotland. Sandra's primary responsibility is to support the College Secretary in his management role within the College, principally by maintaining the SAGE accounting system and handling the day to day financial administration.

Lewis Vernal, our former Bursar, is now College Secretary, becoming responsible for overall management of the day to day work of the College. The College is now a small business with a turnover of almost half a million pounds per year and the management of this business requires considerable effort. With Lewis taking on more of the business and financial aspects of the work, Andrew and Hector are able to focus more directly on the academic side.

Support Staff

James Campbell, our Estates Supervisor, has moved on to pastures new, but he has left his mark upon the College both personally and professionally. The bookcases in the staff studies, in particular, are an ongoing testimony to his skill, which is of the very highest quality. James received a presentation at the same time as Roberta. He has been replaced by John Walmsley, whose energy, skill and commitment have already become obvious.

Ruth Craigie, PA to the Principal, has moved to become our first Academic Officer. In that capacity she will provide administrative support for the Course Leader and for the academic committees. She will also be the first point of contact for all incoming students and will provide support for open learning students. This is a job which has been created to meet the growing need for integrated academic and student support and we are delighted

that Ruth has moved to this new responsibility.

Ruth's place as PA to the Principal has been taken by Fiona Smith. Fiona worked as PA to the senior management in Harper Collins in Glasgow before coming north to Cromarty, where her parents live. Fiona has already taken well to the difficult job of trying to bring order and structure to Andrew's life and to ensure that he is where he should be, at the right time and with all the right papers!

In all these changes and additions we have known the Lord's providential guidance and we are deeply grateful to him for bringing to us such a fine team of committed Christian men and women.

We Need your Financial Support

HTC is currently in considerable need of your support. Our donation income has dropped and we are in need of a quick injection of money to support our cash flow. In the medium term we are also keen to reduce our bank and development loan borrowings not least because of the level of interest payments.

The fall in donation income has been caused mainly by two factors. First, there has been a drop in donations from the USA, following the difficulties experienced by the stock market after September 11th. Second, some of HTC's supporters have mistakenly assumed that, because HTC is now in receipt of some Higher Education funding, we no longer need so much help from our friends. This is not so.

As part of the UHI Millennium Institute, HTC now receives some funding from the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council. Last year, this came to around £85,000 (\$127,500). We also receive some support from UHI for academic development. In addition, we take in some tuition fees from non-funded students and there is some income from the growing work of our Learning Centre.

HTC's total budget for the present year, however, is £500,000 (\$750,000). As you can see, this is far in excess of anything we bring in through these various means. HTC has to raise the greater part of its income from several sources:

- From charitable trusts and other grant-giving bodies;
- From churches and congregations;
- From individual Christians who support our work.

We are in continuous need of the support of our friends and would urge you to look upon HTC as a mission of the whole church, seeking not only to teach and train individual men and women for Christian service but also to help revitalise the Christian churches in Scotland, especially in the Highlands and Islands.

We have been very successful in raising money for specific projects, especially building projects. What has proved much more difficult, is raising the month by month operating costs. It is costing approximately £40,000 (\$60,000) per month to sustain HTC. At the moment we are considerably short of that total each month.

As well as needing regular, monthly donations, HTC has specific needs at this time. We have been granted a business development loan but we have to match fund the various items which are being supported. If you can help match-fund any of the following items we would be very grateful. The amounts we need to raise are:

New Prospectus - £3,864 (\$5,800)

Marketing & Advertising - £4,600 (\$6,900)
Signage for Building - £1,417 (\$2,125)
ICT, datacomms etc. - £8,836 (\$13,254)

Other ways you can support HTC financially:

- Provide seed capital for Development (Marketing, advertising, recruitment, fund-raising, literature & Travel). It has been estimated that it costs £1 in order to raise £5.
- Make an interest free term loan. Both bank loans and business development loans cost money to service.
- Provide (or purchase) books for the Library. We are particularly keen to increase the number of journals held by the Library. The average academic journal costs about £70 (\$105) per year.
- Remember HTC in Legacies or Wills.

Will you help us? If you are able to contribute to the running costs of HTC by making a regular monthly donation, this would be much appreciated.

UK Contributors

If you are in the UK, then please consider giving your monthly sum by Gift Aid (forms are available on request).

USA Contributors

If you are in the USA, then donations to HTC can be channelled through one of the following routes:

- Reformed Theological Seminary,
5422 Clinton Blvd., Jackson, MS, 39209-3099.
 - First Presbyterian Church,
1390 North State Street, Jackson, MS, 39202-2095
-