

Staff News

New Development Officer

The College is delighted to welcome a new member to the staff, Miss Marina MacKenzie from Invergordon. Marina joins us as our new Development Officer and her main areas of responsibility will be student recruitment, advertising and marketing and fund-raising. Marina has two degrees from Aberdeen University, an MA in Accountancy and Economics and a first class BSc in Genetics. She has worked as a research scientist in Edinburgh and was Manager of the University of Edinburgh Cancer Research UK Laboratories. Her experience in Higher Education and in management will be tremendous assets to the College. Marina is an active member of Invergordon Church of Scotland and has known of the work of HTC for some time.

Farewell to Glenda

Mrs Glenda Medhurst, our Administrative Assistant, is leaving shortly to take a job with the Ministry of Defence at Cameron Barracks in Inverness. Glenda originally came to us on a temporary contract but then the position was made permanent because of the significant increase in workload in the academic office. We thank Glenda for her contribution to the work of HTC over the past couple of years and wish her every blessing in her new position.

New Registrar

We are delighted to announce that Miss Ruth Craigie has been promoted to the post of Registrar. Some time ago, the Management Group intimated to the Board its intention to change the structure of the academic office. At the moment, the office is served by two staff members: an Academic Officer (Ruth Craigie) and an Administrative Assistant (Glenda Medhurst). The new structure will require three people: a Registrar, an Academic Officer and an Administrative Assistant. There are two main reasons for this change. First, the work of the academic office has increased significantly and will continue to do so as student numbers increase and courses develop. Second, we have not had a Registrar in place since the previous incumbent, Dr Alistair Wilson, went to South Africa. With Glenda's impending departure, it has been agreed that the first stage of this transition will be put into place, namely the appointment of a Registrar and an Academic Officer. A replacement Administrative Assistant will be appointed during the next academic year. Ruth Craigie has effectively been acting Registrar since Alistair left, in addition to her duties as Academic Officer, and so we are delighted to recognise her work by this appointment.

Job Vacancy: Academic Officer

All of this means that we are now seeking an Academic Officer to work with our new Registrar. The role will include general administration, handling course inquiries, processing applications, managing student databases, tracking student assignments, servicing committees (including taking minutes etc), making exam arrangements and such other duties as may be required by the Registrar. The successful candidate will be required to have a good standard of education and be familiar with Microsoft Office.

If you are interested in this position, or know of anyone who might be, please send a letter of application and a full CV to: Mrs Fiona Cameron, PA to the Principal, Highland Theological College, High Street, Dingwall IV15 9HA or e-mail her at: fiona.cameron@htc.uhi.ac.uk

American Businessman offers a \$10,000 challenge fund. Can you match it?

A generous American friend of the College has offered to donate \$10,000 to HTC, so long as we can match the gift. At current exchange rates, this means that we have to raise around £6,000 in matched funding. Can you help by making a donation at this time? If so, please send your donation to our Bursar, Miss Sandra MacDonald, noting that it is for the 'Challenge Fund'. Our American friend has donated about \$300,000 to Christian work over the years by setting these matching challenges. We are delighted that he has chosen to help HTC in this way.

Jamie Grant goes to China



Dr Jamie Grant has been invited to teach an Introduction to the Old Testament at the University of Peking, China. As part of PKU's Masters programme in Christian Theology, Jamie will be teaching a 30-hour introduction to the themes and theology of the Old Testament from 30th January until 3rd February, 2007. This is a tremendous opportunity and we congratulate Jamie on having been appointed to teach this course. Jamie will report on his visit in the next Newsletter.

Principal Travels to North and South America

The College Principal, Professor A.T.B. McGowan has had a busy start to the year, having just returned from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi where he taught a course in Applied Theology for RTS and HTC Doctor of Ministry students as part of our joint programme. In February, he will preach at several churches in Florida, including a Missions Conference in Lakeland where our PhD graduate, Dr David McWilliams, is Minister. This visit has been arranged by HTC's 'ambassador' in Florida, Mrs Susan Granger. In March, he will preach at the Missions Conference in Fourth Presbyterian Church in Washington DC, where Dr Robert Norris is Minister and one of our PhD students, the Rev Todd Smedley, is Assistant Minister. Also in March he will be in Brazil, as Vice Chairman of the World Reformed Fellowship. Finally in April he will speak about HTC at a Ministers' conference in Jackson, before making development visits to Alabama and Georgia. During these trips he will speak about HTC to current and potential donor churches and individuals and will preach in various churches. In Atlanta, he will meet with Mr Kirk Susong, a lawyer who has set up a foundation called 'Friends of HTC' which will now seek tax-exempt status so that American donors to HTC can get the same tax benefits as UK donors.

Revalidation

In March, the Open University Validation Service and the UHI Millennium Institute will send a joint team to HTC to carry out the five year review of the BA (hons) degree. This will also include the Subject Review of Theology, for which UHI is answerable to the Quality Assurance Agency for Scotland. Finally, it will include an 'Academic Partner Institutional Review' by UHI. In one way it is good that all of these are being combined into one event but there is an enormous amount of preparation involved and the amount of paperwork required is huge. Pray for the Vice Principal, Hector Morrison, who is leading our team and for Dr Michael Bird, Programme Leader for the BA.

Advance Notice

A date for your diaries: The Annual Meeting and Graduation Service at Highland Theological College will be held on Friday 26th October. The preacher will be the Rev Professor Ted Donnelly from the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Northern Ireland. Earlier in the day, Professor Donnelly will give the fourth F.F. Bruce Lecture.