

## Graduation

The Annual Public Meeting and Graduation Service of the Highland Theological College was held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September in Dingwall. Five students graduated from the Access to Christian Theology course of which three are returning to study the BA in Theological Studies this session. Two students received the Certificate of Higher Education in Theological Studies and five students graduated with the BA in Theological Studies. All students received their awards in person from the Chairman of the Board of HTC, the Rev Alexander Murray.



*Sandra MacDonald receives her degree  
from the Rev Alexander Murray*

The sermon was delivered by the Rev Dr Liam Goligher, who is himself a graduate of HTC, having completed his Doctor of Ministry Degree in 2005. He is the minister of Duke Street Baptist Church in Richmond.

One of the graduates this year is a staff member of HTC. Miss Sandra MacDonald, the College Bursar, received her BA degree which she completed part time. Sandra served for 23 years as a missionary with OMF in Thailand, before returning home to her native Dingwall. She has been seconded to the college by OMF for the past four years. We congratulate Sandra and all the other students on receiving their awards.

## John Murray Lecture

The Rev Dr Sinclair B. Ferguson will deliver the third John Murray lecture, entitled "The Diameter of Assurance", on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30pm in Inverness East Church. It is to be hoped that as many people as possible will attend.

Dr Ferguson is a Scottish theologian well known to many for his teaching, preaching and writing. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Aberdeen and served as a minister of the Church of Scotland in the Parish of Unst in Shetland, before becoming editor of the Banner of Truth Trust. He was then appointed Professor of Systematic Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. More recently Dr Ferguson served as minister at St George's-Tron Church, Glasgow. He is now Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina, which is in the ARP denomination. Dr Ferguson is a long standing friend of HTC and has preached or lectured on several occasions. We look forward very much to his visit.



*Dr Sinclair B. Ferguson*

## First Church of Scotland Candidate

As friends of the College will probably know, the Church of Scotland voted at its 2006 General Assembly to recognise the Highland Theological College as a training college for candidates for the Ministry of the Church of Scotland. We are delighted that the first such candidate has started his studies with us this year.



Stuart Farnes, who is a member of the Barn Church in Culloden, has been enrolled in the first year of the BA in Theological Studies. Stuart has been a self-employed driving instructor for the past seven years, although in his earlier days he studied at Cliff College in England and worked as a youth & community worker. We are delighted to welcome Stuart to HTC in what we hope will be a long line of Church of Scotland candidates in training for the ministry and we hope that next year he may be joined by others in the same category.

## Large First Year Intake

Interest in the BA in Theological Studies Degree is high this year with our largest ever intake of new students. A total of thirty six new students have signed up to the course with fourteen of these opting to study full time. This has considerable benefits for the students who will have greater opportunity to interact and discuss with others in their class.

## LTIF funding of £22,000

The UHI Millennium Institute has made an award to HTC from its Learning & Teaching Infrastructure Fund. This grant of £22,000 has enabled us to improve our ICT resources. The money was spent on new computers for staff and students and data projectors and laptops for use in the classrooms. The data projectors are linked to interactive whiteboards allowing students on the video conference network to fully take part in classes. This grant allows HTC to provide modern learning environments and technologies in our classrooms and keep our computer resources in good condition.

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## Development Officer

In order to help strengthen and develop our staff team, we are seeking a Development Officer. The Development Officer will be responsible for student recruitment and for advertising and marketing our courses. The Development Officer will also assist the Principal with fund-raising and development work, and will take on some general administrative tasks, including maintaining our database. The Development Officer will also be the point of contact for our supporters, including speaking at meetings, visiting churches and so on. If interested, contact: Mrs Fiona Cameron, PA to the Principal, HTC, High Street, Dingwall IV15 9HA (e-mail her at: [Fiona.Cameron@htc.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:Fiona.Cameron@htc.uhi.ac.uk))

## Financial Position

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the Board of HTC has approved a budget for the present financial year (August 2006 – July 2007) which should produce a slight surplus. Despite the fact that HTC is in a better financial position than for many years, we still require significant donation funding each year. We hope that you will continue to support the work of the College with your generous giving. Send your gift to: HTC, High Street, Dingwall, IV15 9HA (01349-780000).



University-level study in the Highlands and Islands

The Highland Theological College is an Academic Partner of the UHI Millennium Institute.

Highland Theological Trust is a registered charity: SCO22838