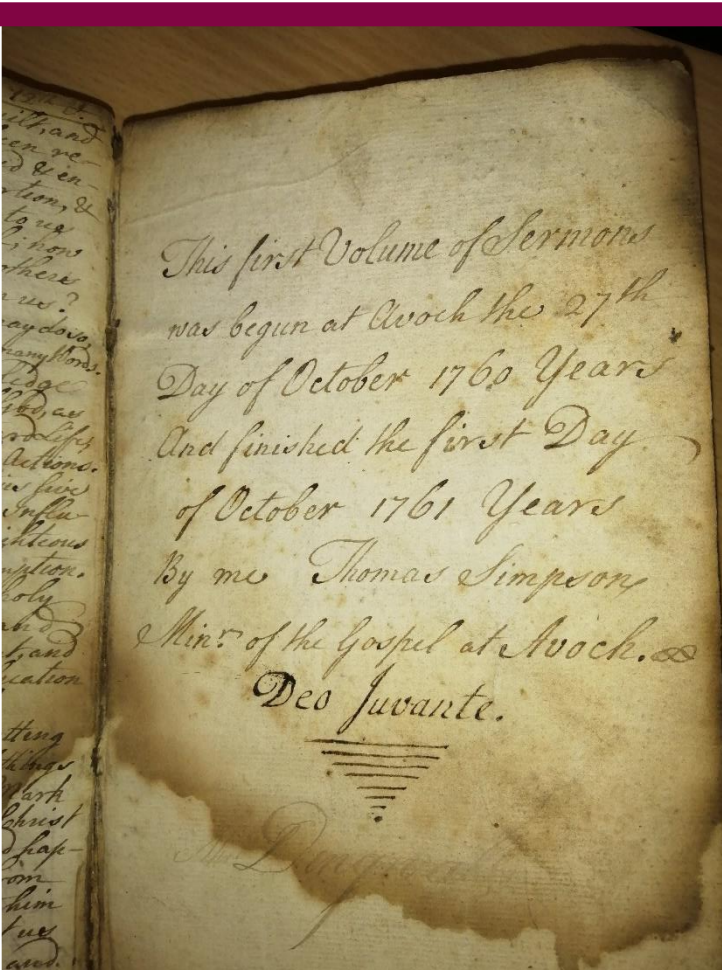


Newsletter



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Highland Theological
College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean
Colaiste Dhiadhachd
na Gàidhealtachd



**Winter
2020/21**

**Graduate
news**

**Graduation
and Awards
2020**

**100%
student
satisfaction**

UHI news

**And much
more...**

A Community of Faith and Scholarship

Recent ordinations, inductions and appointments

Fiona Anderson [DipHE 2019] has been ordained by Hamilton Presbytery of the Church of Scotland to Strathaven Trinity Parish Church as an Ordained Local Minister (OLM).

Barbara Black has been appointed as a Parish Assistant to the congregations of Tomintoul, Glenlivet and Inveravon in Abernethy Presbytery of the Church of Scotland.

Andrew Brown [BA 2020] has been licensed for ministry with the United Free Church of Scotland.

Andrew Ellison [BA 2020] has been chosen as the new minister of Northfield United Free Church of Scotland in Aberdeen.

Fraser Edwards [BA 2019] is minister elect of Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn Parish Church, with an ordination and induction date likely to be early in the new year.

John Gow [BA 2019] has been chosen as the new minister of Portsoy Church of Scotland, in Buchan Presbytery.

Phil Gunn [BA 2019] was ordained and inducted to the charge of Rosskeen Parish Church in Alness.

David Hume [CertHE 2019] has been ordained as an Ordained Local Minister (OLM) in Ayr Presbytery of the Church of Scotland, based at Alloway Parish Church.

Elsie Macrae [BA 2019] was ordained and inducted to the joint charges of St Andrew's Parish Church, Moffat, with Kirkpatrick Juxta and Wamphray.

Andrew Quinn [BA (Hons) 2020] was ordained and inducted as pastor of Ballycraigy Congregational Church near Belfast.

Matthew Ritchie [BA 2019] was ordained and inducted as minister of Neilston Parish Church in Glasgow.

We don't always hear about where our graduates are so if you've got news to share please let us know!



Wishing Geraldine a happy retirement

Geraldine MacLennan has been a volunteer with HTC for almost as long as the college has been based in Dingwall. Her experience as a teacher in business and administration at Dingwall Academy was put to good use as she helped out with reception and a variety of admin tasks in the college, latterly being heavily involved in administration for the Access Course. As she hits a significant birthday (21 again, Geraldine? 😊) she's deciding to close down her HTC laptop and take life a bit easier. Geraldine, thank you so much for your input over the years! We are very grateful to you and wish you God's richest blessing in your retirement.

Another Psalms article by Dr Jamie Grant

COVID restrictions meant that the Scripture and Theology Colloquium had to be held online this year. The topic was 'The Future of Old Testament Canonical Interpretation'. Dr Jamie Grant, vice principal, contributed an article entitled 'Psalms, Worship and Worldview' to the volume 'The Identity of Israel's God is Christian Scripture' which was presented as a festschrift to Old Testament scholar and theologian Professor Chris Seitz.

PhD recruitment continues despite pandemic

Enquiries regarding PhD study are still being processed. If you are interested in PhD studies please do get in touch with htcadmissions@uhi.ac.uk in the first instance and you will be put in touch with appropriate academic staff to discuss your proposed topic and take your application further.

Congratulations to all of our 2020 Graduates

Graduation and Awards 2020 Highland Theological College UHI

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Kurt Jaros

BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH HONOURS

Theological Studies

Rhoda McDonald - First 1st

Andrew Quinn – Upper 2nd

Cate Otnes – Lower 2nd

Alister King – Lower 2nd

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Theological Studies

Matthew Alexander (Distinction)

Alister Murray (Distinction)

Gwendoline Barlow

Mark Boateng

Andrew Brown

Donat Heissler

Chris Kelsey

Abigail Rankin

Andrew Ritchie

Gillian Rooney

DIPLOMA IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Theological Studies

David Whillis (Distinction)

Kenneth Martin

Keith Redwood

CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Theological Studies

Grant Cumming (Distinction)

Claire Brodie

Roderick MacKay

Peter Reilley

Tom Sibbald

ACCESS CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

Louise Anderson

Thomas Sutherland

Anthony Eyre

HTC STUDENT OF THE YEAR: **Laura Symon**

Laura is a very worthy winner of the HTC Student of the Year award 2020! She's been involved in numerous activities and committees in HTC and the wider university, contributing enthusiastically and wholeheartedly. Her bright, encouraging nature also made her an obvious candidate for HTC's HISA depute president, a role which she carried out excellently for two years. Laura devotes a lot of time and attention to keeping in touch with students, in person when she can or by phone, zoom, etc since Covid came along. She goes out of her way to ensure no one gets missed out. She's also a superb student – attentive, interacts well in class and produces quality work. She's a great ambassador for HTC and part of our Community of Faith and Scholarship and we're thrilled to award her the HTC Student of the Year 2020 title!



HTC ENDEAVOUR AWARD WINNER: **Gillian Rooney**

Gillian was nominated for this award for lots of reasons, including having worked really hard throughout her studies and done well academically. She's faced many challenges and coped well and has just generally been a really good student to have around! Choosing a winner for the Endeavour Award is difficult – so many of our students would have been worthy winners – but I'm sure everyone will agree that Gillian is very deserving of the title! Gillian was based at HTC-Paisley for most of her studies. Congratulations and well done, Gillian!



HOPE TRUST

Awards are made to candidates for ministry for Reformed churches. The winners of the awards this year are **Alister Murray** (Church of Scotland ministry candidate) and **Andrew Brown** and **Andrew Ellison** (both ministry candidates with the United Free Church of Scotland).

HISA AWARDS

Across all of UHI, HTC's student **Pamela Kennedy** was voted as Best Class Representative. Well done, Pamela!

Well done, 2020 HTC graduates and award winners, we're proud of you! We're looking forward to being able to celebrate with you in person at a special local event when it's safe to do so!

Changes in senior management positions

Professor **Crichton Lang**, Interim Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Highlands and Islands, retires at the end of the year having served with UHI (and UHI Millennium Institute) for more than 14 years. We thank Crichton for his service to UHI and wish him well in his retirement.

The new Principal and Vice-Chancellor of UHI will be Professor **Todd Walker**. Professor Walker joins UHI from the University of New England, which has multiple campuses in the state of New South Wales, Australia. He will take up his appointment on 1 February 2021 which will be ten years to the day since UHI officially gained university status.

In the intervening period, Professor **Neil Simco** will take on the role of Acting Principal and Vice-Chancellor following Professor Lang's retirement until Professor Walker takes up his new appointment.

Fiona Larg MBE, Chief Operating Officer and Secretary of UHI, has also intimated her intention to retire at the end of April.

UHI News

UHI's 10th birthday

Can you believe it'll be 10 years in February since UHI was officially awarded university status?!

Follow the UHI website or social media for news of the events planned to celebrate this amazing milestone.

Most events are likely to take place online due to COVID restrictions but will involve students, staff, graduates and other stakeholders across the partnership.



100% student satisfaction score

At HTC we strive to do our best for our students, not just in teaching but in all aspects of their college experience including the enquiry and application process, library resources and IT assistance, fees/finance advice and pastoral support. We love getting

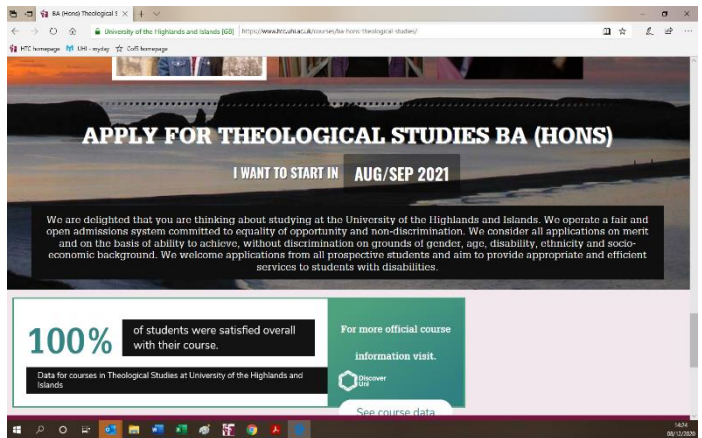
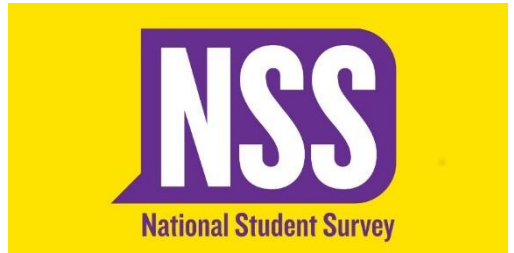
positive feedback from students who appreciate the extra time and work that goes on behind the scenes, often late into the evenings. What an endorsement it is when, in a national survey, students on HTC's BA (Hons) Theological Studies programme give a

score of 100% for student satisfaction!

You don't get much better than that!

Theological Studies is one of only seven programmes in UHI to receive a score of 100% for student satisfaction and one of only three in UHI to receive a

100% score for two consecutive years! The hard work by every member of staff, and the team of volunteers too, is thoroughly appreciated. **Well done HTC!**



'exceptional job'

'available when i

need help'

'great support to me'

'thank you

for your help'

'enthusiastic and

encouraging'

'grateful for the weekly

worship sessions'

'listens to my concerns'

Blended learning

HTC has years of experience delivering lectures online (and we're really good at it 🙌😊) so despite all the restrictions brought about by coronavirus we've made maximum use of the amazing technology we have available to continue educating and training students to serve in a wide variety of ministries. There's been the odd hiccup but we've tried to keep disruption to a minimum and I'm sure the students will agree that, under the circumstances, classes have gone very smoothly. Obviously meeting 'virtually' by video-conferencing isn't the same as being together on-campus but the opportunities to chat to one another online during and after classes, joining for 'virtual' coffee breaks, having regular online worship and prayer meetings, and various social events organised by the students themselves, have all helped bind the Community of Faith and Scholarship together.

Across the university sector, UHI has led the way in 'blended learning' with a huge technology network shared across the whole university partnership. The UHI 'virtual learning environment' has always been heavily used but with more online classes across the partnership there has been a huge increase in the number of student log-ins, keeping the IT team on their toes. Well done and thank you to all our techy people for keeping things running smoothly and to our students for having to cope with so much screen-time.



What does 'blended learning' mean for our students?

- Video-conference classes are 'live'
- Students can engage with the lecturers and fellow students as part of the class
- Recordings, which include the discussions taking place in class, are available for students who cannot attend classes at the 'live' time (for example those who work during the week and study in the evenings or weekends)
- 'Discussion boards' in the VLE (virtual learning environment) enable students to engage with one another outside of 'class time', for example for seminar preparation
- Lecturers organise occasional live evening tutorial sessions for students who are unable to access live classes during the day

This blended learning approach far surpasses the old methods used by some universities, where students watch videos of recorded lectures and cannot engage in dialogue with lecturers or classmates!

Historical handwritten book donated to library

HTC library has a wealth of special collections material. One exciting primary source is this handwritten book of some 28 sermons dating from the 18th century.

A fascinating piece of Scottish church history, the book was penned by Rev Thomas Simpson of Avoch, an ancestor of a gentleman whose wife generously donated the book to the college. The donor lives overseas; she and her family thought it best that it be returned to Scotland where it originated. We are honoured to be custodians of it in the HTC library.

The postscript reads: 'This first volume of sermons was begun at Avoch the 27th day of October 1760 years and finished the first day of October 1761 years by me Thomas Simpson minister of the Gospel at Avoch. Deo Juvante.'



Bankers Order

You can use this form to make donations to HTC by Standing Order. Please return the completed form to **Highland Theological College UHI ~ High Street ~ Dingwall ~ Ross-shire ~ IV15 9HA**

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Name of Branch _____

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Pay Unity Trust Bank (Sort Code 60-83-01) for credit of Highland Theological College Donations Account 20229489

I wish to make a regular gift of £ _____ monthly / quarterly / annually (delete as appropriate) starting on _____ (date) and continuing until I give notice in writing.

The instruction supersedes any existing Standing Order in favour of Highland Theological College.

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Account Number

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Gift Aid

You can use this form to increase the value of your gift to HTC by about a third. Please return the completed form to **Highland Theological College UHI, High Street, Dingwall, Ross-shire IV15 9HA.**

I wish all my donations to Highland Theological College (unless I specify in writing) to be treated as Gift Aid donations. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that HTC reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

*giftaid it
will*

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

You can cancel this declaration any time by notifying HTC. Please notify HTC if you change your name or address. If your circumstances change you can cancel your declaration.



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Friends of HTC Inc., P.O. Box 19614, Atlanta, GA 30325

Thank you.

- If your mailing details are incorrect please let us know.
- It is cheaper to send communications by email. If you are happy to receive communications by email instead of by post please let us know.
- If you know of anyone else who would like to be kept informed of HTC's work please encourage them to send us their details so that we can mail or email them too.

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A Community of Faith and Scholarship



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