



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

FALL 2009

If Christianity were what it claimed to be, you would expect joy out of Christians even in these tough economic times. Perhaps especially in such times, when the dirge from the airwaves never lets up about pain and loss. Pain happens when you are touched, and loss is felt when something seriously important is gone, and Christians are not touched by the economy, which is not that important: it is vanity. They have been universally liberated from the economy.

Christianity is indeed what it claims to be, but are we hearing such talk; are we talking that talk, enjoying that joy? And what's the implication, if we are not?

Maybe we should start at the start: *are we liberated from the economy?* Well, Christ said that **“the truth will make you free”** (John 8:32) – which is to say, there is **something you have to know** to be set free. You may indeed *be set free* – the walls around you may have come down completely, altogether vanished – but what if you don't know it?

On the one hand you want to say, surely *Christians know how good things are under the wing of the Lord*, but, on the other, it doesn't seem wrong to suggest that perhaps we don't know it well enough. **Perhaps there are things we could learn** about what *the joy of the Lord actually involves, at an entirely practical level.*

And what I have noticed is that when you want to think hard about the practical – the earthy, down-and-dirty level of things – what you wind up at is *ideas, concepts*, some question about *the meaning or the nature* of things.

Are we liberated from the economy? Well, what is freedom? What is money? If we want to ask questions like these we should take hold of the impulse to give our opinion and sit on it. Make a cushion of that impulse, set it at the feet of Christians who have thought long and hard about freedom and money, and sit on it. And who will we be listening to?

The people students listen to at Augustine College.

We do not have geniuses at Augustine College. We have the wisdom of the ages. I am tempted to say that we

have *all the geniuses* but I am far too aware how small a window our eight-month year affords us on all the geniuses (literally, the spirit-infused), whom we merely begin the habit of listening to. We have all the geniuses we can handle, that's for sure – ask any alumnus.

Christians today appear not to take this path. At this time of year I seem to hear all the conversations well-meaning parents have had, since spring, urging their children on to a degree that affords secure job prospects. This year I hear it louder than ever: ‘These are lean years, dear. This is *not the time* to hurt your prospects of steady employment by failing to pick up

a degree in an area where there is going to be genuine need.’

Genuine need? If these parents knew a little better how to care for their children as Christians they would not be cheering them down the economic highway but sending them where they can **learn what money was**, so that they would know for the rest of their lives what to think of it.



... the things that are Caesar's. Denarius of Tiberius, the coin of MARK 12:15–17

If you tell a Christian today that he or she is invulnerable to the market – impervious to catastrophe, because you can lose only what you possess and your money is not your own – that person is likely to tag you as some kind of radical.

But if you embrace the thinking of the Christian tradition, steeped in the Bible, that conclusion is obvious. Most Christians are aware that their body is not their own. Well, then, what about their money? **“If you cannot call your body your own, then you certainly cannot call your money your own.”** Is that radical craziness? No. That is St. John Chrysostom.

That message is actually implicit in Christ's words, given in all the synoptic Gospels, **“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's.”** To all the ways we have of reading this we should add one more: money is not ours, and it is certainly not God's, who has no need of earthly loot.

We are free of the economy and we should be joyously free. Surely that is a joyful thing to do, to pass on to your children the freedom that comes of knowing what money is.

Edward Tingley | Dean

The Class of 2010

This year we welcome eight students from Canada and the United States. *The 13th Augustine College class is:*

Ben Boyd, Scottsdale, Arizona
Beth Joosse, Woodstock, Ontario
Lara Lavelle, Calgary, Alberta
Korey Mauer, Byron Center, Michigan
Tom Scott, Foxboro, Massachusetts
Sam Smith, Brampton, Ontario
Matt Staples, Ottawa, Ontario
Nathan Tilley, Greensboro, North Carolina



The Class of 2010 – Korey Mauer, Nathan Tilley, Sam Smith, Ben Boyd, Tom Scott, Matt Staples, Lara Lavelle, and (bottom right) Beth Joosse – with part-time student Sharon Johnson (bottom centre)

The fall term began with **Commencement** on Sunday, September 6th, at All Saints' Anglican Church. The Dean, **Edward Tingley**, delivered the address, entitled "Obligated to Love (On Some Words of Augustine)" (available online).

The **Corn Roast**, a country get-together for students, faculty, and friends of Augustine College, took place Saturday, September 12 at the home of the **Hacketts**, parents of alumnus **Leah Hackett Smith** (1998). We are again beholden to the Hackett family for their generosity.

COMING EVENTS

Our thirteenth annual **Hymn Sing** is planned for Saturday, October 24, 7:30 pm, in the contemplative and beautiful setting of the Church of St. Barnabas (Kent and James). This year's hymns and meditations follow the theme, "Thus saith the LORD." In an evening of worship, faculty, staff, and students of the College will reflect upon the "**word of God... quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword**" (Hebrews 4:12).

Are you or is someone you know heading off to college next year? Our next **Student-for-a-Day** takes place Saturday,

November 21. Prospective students and their parents are welcome to come for the day, sit in on classes, stay for the Community Dinner and book discussion, and see what the College is like. Lunch will be provided. The atmosphere is relaxed and our students and faculty are friendly. See the website for further details.

2008/09 HIGHLIGHTS

The year closed with the **12th Graduation Ceremony and Dinner** on April 25, held at the Church of St. Bar-nabas. The Valedictory Address was delivered by **Sarah**

Harrison and the Graduation Address, entitled "Christ, the Clue to the Meaning of the University," by invited speaker **Dr. Craig Bartholomew**, Professor of Religion at Redeemer University College. You can hear both on the College website. The 2009 recipient of the **Andrew J.B. Sterling Award**, for a student who has made an exemplary contribution to the College, both academically and socially, was **Samantha Kiser**.

This summer we launched the first Augustine College **Alumni/Young-Adult Conference**, which took place July 9–12 on the topic, **The Abortion Debate and the Christian Tradition**. In a series of nine lectures and Biblical reflections, Augustine College faculty explored the relation

between this culturally divisive issue and the history of Western thought, showing how issues addressed by classical and Christian thinkers (the core of the Augustine College curriculum) remain pivotal to this debate and to the hope of progress in our own time.

The Conference was well attended and we hope to offer another such event in the future. While being intellectually stimulating and providing a forum for discussion and debate, the conference opened up an opportunity for alumni to reunite with old friends and to engage with alumni they may not have met before. A broad range of classes was represented with alumni from many years, from the founding year to the year just completed. The 2001 and 2007 graduates saw the conference as an opportunity for a class reunion and formed the major alumni contingent.

This year's Augustine College **Summer Conference** – the eighth and concluding module in our **Roots of Modern Medicine** series – took place May 31–June 6 on the topic of Science, Medicine, and Culture in an Age without Moral Consensus. This conclusion to the first conference cycle was the best attended yet.

Participants looked at the thought of Alasdair MacIntyre and the managerial loss of vision that has overtaken medicine in North America, at the implications of recent molecular biology for a new understanding of science, and at the often overlooked shift in recent thought from Enlightenment modernism to postmodernism. Many participants left, they said, with new clarity about the times in which we are living and a keener sense of the responsibility for change that believers seem best prepared to face.



Participants in the 2009 Augustine College Summer Conference



In 2010 we will begin a new **Summer Conference**

cycle (intended for doctors, medical students, and others interested in the history of thought). Returning once again to the beginning of modern medicine in **the culture of ancient Greece**, Module I of the series will answer such questions as:

- *With what principles and moral commitments did Western medicine begin, as it emerged in Greece with Hippocrates?*
- *What shape did medicine take in the traditional cultures of Jews, Christians, and Muslims and what ends did it serve in these societies?*
- *How was that understanding of medicine protected by the flowering of a profoundly Christian civilization?*
- *As medicine has advanced, vastly increasing its technical powers, what also has it lost? Have the ends of medicine changed – has the very idea of medicine?*
- *How well equipped is medicine, in its 21st-century form, to serve the end it once accepted at its origins: caring for the full human being who is ill?*

Speakers and topics have changed somewhat since the previous offering of this Module but the **format of the conference** continues unchanged. In the first full week of June (next year this is **June 6–12**) participants arrive at Augustine College to hear organized lectures and conduct group discussion on themes linked with science, medicine, ethics, and faith. The lectures are delivered by professors and professionals in the various disciplines under discussion. Speakers may roam through philosophy, politics, theology, literature, music, and art.

The week begins with prayer and worship Sunday evening. Then for five days (Monday to Friday) we begin each day with a Biblical reflection conducted by the Chaplain of Augustine College, followed by one lecture/discussion session in the morning and another in the evening. Afternoons are free so that visitors to Ottawa can enjoy the many museums

and sites our nation's capital has to offer. The conference winds up with a country get-together on Saturday.

MEDIA NEWS

In this first year in our 'media-expansion plan' we have produced and distributed nearly 1,500 CDs and significantly increased the number of titles we make available (see the CD/DVD Orders page of the website). In the coming year we will produce a DVD set of the 2009 Alumni Conference material.

Visit our website and explore the new **Media Centre** (evolved from of the Livingroom), an online space where members of the Augustine College community can listen to audio lectures and watch video and slideshows from our growing archives and other worthy online sources. Be sure to share this resource with friends and keep watching as this library grows.

To assist those in search of worthy books, articles, and other on-line resources we have expanded our site with new **Good Books** and **On the Web** pages as well.

FACULTY & PROGRAMME NEWS

With the departure of **Clement Ng**, who read Augustine's *Confessions* with our students for two years in the fall Book of the Semester, we welcome **Michael Trolly**, who bravely takes his place. Michael is a graduate student in theology at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg.

AFAC

The **American Friends of Augustine College**, now a registered charity in the United States, held its second meeting in Ottawa on June 1, in conjunction with the Summer Conference, and continues with a full slate of projects. For more on AFAC, founded to assist in the enrolment of US students and to provide material support for Augustine College, consult its website at **amfriendsaugustine.org**.

ALUMNI NEWS *Owned this issue by the Class of 2008!*

Landon Coleman (2008) writes, “I am now back in Antigonish. After a busy year at St. Francis Xavier University of writing, reading, and playing bluegrass I came back to St. Albert for the summer. I lived with my brother, let my mom cut my hair, prepared myself for a major drop in testosterone levels, and started working in a greenhouse helping 30–70 year old women decide which shade of petunia best matched their lipstick (‘the salmon is nice but I’d go with the fuschia’). Notable summertime activities included: mooching supper at other people’s houses, getting my brother married, going to Ottawa for Canada Day and a conference on Eastern Christianity (many many beards on many many men), touring the prairies with my pal Simon, hanging out with my friend’s babies, and an epic journey across the country. I am now living at a great house just outside Antigonish, right on the water.”

Stephanie Hough (2008) “I think about Augustine a lot; my year there was SO amazing! It’s great to go to a secular college and know how to think about the information I’m being given, and also defend my views without feeling like a moron.”

Susan Lamb (2008) is now a doctor. “How insane is that? I graduated from medical school and I received all these cards addressed to Dr. Susan Lamb and was totally freaked out. I am now waiting to start my residency (= hell on earth) at a hospital about thirty miles from my parents. Other recent events: Travelled Europe with my little sis for 17 days! So awesome. I got to see all of the art and architecture that we learned about. My sister was threatening to leave me if I made her go into one more church, but I couldn’t help myself. Two months working in a clinic in Cambodia! I got to see what it is like being a doctor in another country. For full details see my blog ... karingforkids.blogspot.com. A week-long cruise through the Caribbean: swimming with stingrays, snorkelling on the reef.”

Jasmine Stairs (2008) writes to say “thank you for all your prayers and concern over the past two years,” since the day her then 3-year-old brother Gideon was diagnosed with cancer. She includes news of her father’s wish to share with “others who might be in similar circumstances.” Dean Stairs writes, “Life’s journey is seldom simple, but there is great depth in this simple truth, ‘The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh, blessed be the name of the Lord.’ Gideon battled cancer for most of the two years since his diagnosis. He lost his battle on the 20th of December, 2008. We miss him and look forward to seeing him again at a time when he is pain free and able to play as he always wanted to. Throughout his treatment I wrote music and Gideon had favorite songs he would ask to hear.” For more on this book and cd project, go to www.deanstairs.com/Deans_Site/Store.html.

Kendra Swallow (2008) reports, “I went to L’Abri in England for a three-month semester and had a great time. It was a great opportunity to meet people from all over the world and get to know what their beliefs and cultures were like.

I definitely broadened my horizons quite a bit. L’Abri reminded me of Augustine, no joke. They were all about community and finding the truth. They told us not to be afraid to ask hard questions and not to be afraid of the answer. It reminded me how much I missed the College.”

PRAYER CIRCLE

In recognition that the true work of this college is that of the spirit, we would like to give thanks for all of those who keep us in their hearts and prayers. To build the community of those praying and to keep you more directly informed of the blessings for which we are grateful and the new concerns over which we are praying, we will gladly send a regular e-mail message to guide and focus your prayers. A mailing-list invitation will be sent out shortly or you may request to be added by contacting prayer@augustinecollege.org.

SUPPORT

We express our ongoing gratitude to the Spaenaur corporation, to the Weston Foundation, and to all our individual supporters for their generous gifts, helping us meet the annual target we must hit to continue running.

Some new ways to help support the College financially:

- We can now receive both us and Canadian charitable donations online – see the Support page.
- Planned-giving options are available for online donations.
- Buying books from our new ‘Good Books’ web page entitles us to a 4–7% commission.
- To thank you for donations, we invite you to choose complimentary selections from our media library listed on the CD/DVD Orders webpage.

Call for expertise

As part of our plan to use new media to reach a broader audience, we are interested to know whether any of our supporters have Flash animation, website coding, or online promotional skills they would be willing to share, even at a distance. If so we would love to hear from you. Please write to media@augustinecollege.org.

AUGUSTINE COLLEGE

18 Blackburn Avenue, Ottawa, Canada K1N 8A3
(613) 237 9870 | fax (613) 237 3934

A non-profit charitable organization registered with Revenue Canada | no. 89037 7484 RR0001

www.augustinecollege.org

info@augustinecollege.org

American Friends of Augustine College | A 501(c)(3) organization

www.amfriendsaugustine.org