



### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

All theories about life presume a view of the world, of reality, beyond which we cannot imagine. At Augustine College we accept the Apostles' Creed as our description of who God is and what He does. Thus an expressed faith about life comes first and is recognized as the source of all other dependent knowledge.

That is not the way of the modern university, which is really a multi-versity because it has no unitary view of Truth. Universities today presume that they are rational elites above ordinary mortals. They seek to maintain an ideological conformity in the name of "intellectual diversity." They are curiously one-sided in the professors they hire and the speakers they bring to campus. Philosopher and novelist Iris Murdoch neatly punctured this hubristic bubble when she wrote that the modern liberal democracy discourages any discussion of the basis of liberal democracy, in that it avoids all questions of beginnings and uses dismissive caricatures of those who do engage with these questions. "This is a pale substitute for a genuine debate, but it is, on many campuses, what students have to settle for," notes William Irvine, professor of philosophy at Wright State University.

By introducing our students to the great thinkers of history in central areas of intellectual endeavour we provide them with an armamentarium with which to defend their faith in the secular world. That world has no adequate account of love, of justice, of mercy, and of happiness, and yet it cannot live without these things.

We speak about them out of what we know in the person of Christ, aware of how that knowledge has time and again provided the foundation to lives that have changed our world for the better. This is a service to a suffering world that our alumni are already providing.

We thank you for the way you pray for us, encourage us, and also give to us.

**John Patrick | President**

### The Class of 2011

The 14th Augustine College class is our largest ever at twenty-two students: 9 from Canada, 12 from the United States (including one married couple), and 1 from Africa.



By row, from bottom left:

**Elle Harrison**, Berrien Center, Michigan  
**Adam White**, Kenya  
**Alisha Ring**, Willow Street, Pennsylvania  
**Katie Hayman**, Johnstown, Ontario  
**Carolyn Siffring**, Kingsport, Tennessee  
**Maddie Edmonds**, Ottawa, Ontario  
**Nathan Gamble**, Toronto, Ontario  
**Kayla Wiebe**, Chilliwack, British Columbia  
**Daniel Harris**, Gruver, Texas  
**Laura Harris**, Gruver, Texas  
**James Horsley**, Nashua, New Hampshire  
**Shannon Lenstra**, Vineland Station, Ontario  
**Jenna Wilson**, Burlington, Ontario  
**Patrick Moynihan**, Vancouver, Washington  
**Sam Valaer**, Washougal, Washington  
**Jessie Breault**, Richmond, Ontario  
**Benjamin Holler**, Boerne, Texas  
**Jon Schwarz**, Chilliwack, British Columbia  
**Luke Tia**, Gainesville, Florida  
**Jonathan Madany**, Dillon, Montana  
**Stefan Koppert**, Monarch, Alberta  
**Adam Gsellman**, Stow, Ohio

Though full of challenges and uncertainties, the months since our last *Newsletter* have been filled with exciting changes at Augustine College. As the 2009-10 year closed we were eagerly anticipating what appeared to be an unusually large incoming class at the same time as we regretted the departure of several faculty members and prepared ourselves for a fairly sudden move from our location of the past twelve years at Blackburn Ave. Those who were anxious were reminded of God's providence – on which we are now pleased to report.

We are now enjoying considerably more spacious facilities leased from Ecclesias, a Free Methodist church in Ottawa's historic Glebe neighbourhood, with all our students (and our 'new' Professor-in-Residence) housed within a few blocks. All of these features of the present year seem regularly to occasion envy among our visiting alumni.

In addition to a much larger classroom (fully equipped with a grand piano), the new facilities include space for the College office, our library, and a student lounge with an adjacent kitchen/lunch room. The College also has access to worship space, a full kitchen, and a large and bright hall for our Community Dinners (which average about fifty people each week).

We thank the Lord for the blessing of this present year, in students, faculty, staff who have worked tirelessly to make what we report possible, new faculty, and the promise of other new developments. We give thanks as well for all of your prayers and support during this challenging time. The past year has renewed our sense of the privilege of being part of this project, just as it has convinced us, yet again, that it is a project truly not our own.

The fall term began with **Commencement** on **September 12**. The President, **Dr. John Patrick**, delivered the address, entitled "**Believing in Order to Understand.**"

Available online in the Media Centre

The **Corn Roast** took place **September 25** at the home of the **Hacketts**, parents of alumna **Leah Hackett Smith** (1998), thanks to their continued and faithful generosity.

Our fourteenth annual **Hymn Sing** took place **October 23** on the theme, "**O Give Thanks unto the LORD.**" In an evening of worship, faculty, staff, and students of the College reflected upon the General Thanksgiving prayer found in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. Available online in the Media Centre

This past fall the Augustine College **Visiting Artist** was **Prof. Wesley R. Warren**, who gave a lecture and recital of organ works by **Bach** on **December 3** at the Church of St. Barnabas. Available online in the Media Centre

This year the students have also enjoyed Ottawa Symphony Orchestra concerts, a junior-hockey game, and visits to the homes of faculty. As a lead-in to Reading Week, the annual **Restless Hearts' Cafe** took place on **February 16** with two hours of entertainment.

## STUDENT-FOR-A-DAY

Are you or is someone you know heading off to college next year? Our next Student-for-a-Day takes place **Tuesday, March 15** during March Break. Prospective students and their parents are welcome to come for the day, sit in on classes, stay for the book discussion and Community Dinner, and see what the College is like. Lunch and dinner will be provided. The atmosphere is relaxed and our students and faculty are friendly. Please contact us if you would like more information or to attend. Visitors are welcome at other times as well.

## WESTON LECTURE

Coming up shortly is the annual **Weston Lecture**, which will be held at 7:30 pm on **Friday, March 18** at the Saint Paul University Amphitheatre, 223 Main St. It is delivered this year by **Dr. Frank Johnson** speaking on **The Inspiration of Michael Faraday**, the scientist whose work in the mid 19th century inspired a generation of practical and theoretical development and set the stage for a sustained exploration of electromagnetism – the technical foundation for much of our way of life today.

What, in turn, inspired Faraday? In his lecture Dr. Johnson considers the way Faraday, the son of a blacksmith, regarded the natural world: in the words of biographer Geoffrey Cantor, as "an economy in the sense that all events are tightly organized by divine providence." Given that a similar paradigm could be used to describe Newton, how was Faraday able to step aside from the determinism of Newtonian mechanics into the very non-Newtonian discoveries of electrochemistry and electromagnetism? Faraday was an archetypical empiricist and in his lecture Dr. Johnson will emulate his example by attempting to replicate some of Faraday's key experiments.

Dr. Johnson was first trained as an electronics engineer and then worked in medical engineering. He initiated the History of Mathematics course at Augustine College and taught it for several years. He currently helps to run several companies that make instruments to measure the state of the oceans and freshwater. A poster for the event is available online.

## OTHER COMING EVENTS

You are invited to St. Alban's Anglican Church in Ottawa to hear **Edward Tingley**, who teaches our Art in Western Culture course, present an illustrated lecture on **Friday, April 15, at 7 pm: "Then Hear It with Eyes: Christian Art and the Gospel."** What role could art of the past play in the life of a Christian today? Some suggest that traditional art might feed a hunger felt by contemporary believers who find Christian life to be culturally impoverished. What is it that neglected art of the past might offer? Only the Gospel.

**Graduation** will take place **Saturday, April 30**. More information will be forthcoming.



## SUMMER CONFERENCES

In June of last year we began a new cycle in **The Roots of Modern Medicine** series, returning once again to the beginning of modern medicine in the **Culture of Ancient Greece**, Module I of the series.

Audio available online at Further Learning/CD-DVD orders

The series continues this summer with **Module II** on the history of ideas and the development of medicine in the **First Centuries of the Church**. Each session in the week of **June 5–11** will deal with an aspect of intellectual life in this early medieval period, with topics such as Galen and the fossilization of medicine, the impact of Christianity on politics and culture, the ethics of the New Testament, and early Christian art. The sessions on problems in medicine today include one entitled “**When Are We going to Get Evidence-based Management in Medicine?**”

Applications available online at News & Events/Summer Conference

Also scheduled for summer is our second **Alumni/Young-Adult Conference**, on the topic, “**Relationships, Sexuality, and the Christian Tradition**,” which will take place **Thursday evening to Saturday evening, July 14-16**. In a series of lectures and Biblical reflections, Augustine College faculty and guests will explore some of the mistakes we are prone to make today in our thinking about ‘relationships’ and will show how issues addressed by classical and Christian thinkers (the core of the AC curriculum) remain pivotal to the way we must think about sexuality, intimacy, marriage, and chastity. While offering intellectual stimulation and a forum for discussion and debate, the conference affords a good opportunity for alumni to reunite with old friends and professors and to draw new students to the College. Applications available online at News & Events/Latest News

In conjunction with the Alumni/Young Adults Conference, on **Saturday, July 16th**, Augustine College will host a **Banquet** in honour of past faculty members and supporters who have contributed to the work of this College over the past fourteen years.

## 2009/10 HIGHLIGHTS

The year closed with the **13th Graduation Ceremony and Dinner** on **April 24** at the Church of St. Barnabas. The Valedictory Address was delivered by **Lara Lavelle** and the Graduation Address, entitled “**Teaching as Though There Is Truth**,” by **Dr. John Patrick** (both available online). The 2010 recipient of the **Andrew J.B. Sterling Award**, for a student who made an exemplary contribution to the life of the College, both academically and socially, was **Nathan Tilley**.

On **September 16th** the scheduled debate between **John Patrick** and **Peter Singer**, Princeton University’s renowned bioethicist (famous in part for his stance on infanti-



cide and euthanasia) took place in Detroit at Wayne State University. The full day’s events, which included three debates, were filmed by AC alumni in collaboration with the Christian Medical Dental Association. The footage is now in the hands of the CMDA production team.

## FACULTY, STAFF, & PROGRAMME NEWS

Three faculty members moved on from the College at the end of 2009–10. In the arts, **Wesley R. Warren**, professor of music, and **Trevor Tucker**, professor of literature, both of whom brought very distinct contributions to the study of these arts that we will miss. In science we lost **George Metelski**, professor of physics, whose work for the federal government required his time. Prof. Metelski was able, however, to take this year’s students on a hiking trip in Gatineau Park.

The teaching of literature has now passed to **Emily Martin**, who has a Master’s in English from the University of Ottawa. The remaining gap in the programme was filled with a new course: the History of Christianity, taught by **Dr. Andrew Bennett**, who received a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Edinburgh and an M.A. in History from McGill University and who is currently completing a part-time degree in theology (Eastern Christian Studies) at the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute for Eastern Christian Studies, Saint Paul University. In planning for the current year the opportunity also arose to engage



**Dr. Andrew Bennett**

choirmaster **Uwe Lieflander**, a graduate of the Orchestral Training Program at the Royal Conservatory of Music (University of Toronto). As a result, students this year have encountered music by singing. In September we also welcomed **Michelle McKernan** as head Resident Advisor.

In February of 2011 **Dr. Bennett** took over as Dean. **Dr. Edward Tingley**, who has served the College as Dean since August 2005, now moves into the newly created role of Professor-in-Residence, with a mandate to write for publication as a way to exemplify the kind of thinking the AC programme serves to foster.

The Book of the Semester was diversified this year by adding two discussion sessions: *Responsa ad quaestiones*, in which students respond to an announced question, and *Quodlibetica*, in which Faculty strive to answer difficult questions, posed by students, that are related to Christian belief.

## RECRUITMENT NEWS

**Landon Coleman** (2008), our Recruitment Officer, has been busy in the past nine months promoting the College. On his eleven-week Fall Recruitment Tour he spoke at fifty high schools across Canada and met with dozens of church leaders, teachers, medical students, and families. Since then he has had several projects underway including planning of the Alumni/Young-Adult Conference, establishing a greater presence in Ottawa schools and churches, and a new tour.

The Spring Recruitment Tour will include stops around Ontario and the north-eastern US. Landon will visit several schools and churches, speaking about the College and “**What it Means To Be a Christian in a Secular University.**” One way to support the College is by contributing financially to this trip. We have seen Landon’s work bear fruit already in applications for next year and we are confident that this tour will benefit the College in both recruitment and promotion.

## MEDIA NEWS

Thanks to our Recruitment Officer we have also been working on new ways to stay connected with the wider AC community and with those learning about the College for the first time.

Friends on our mailing list for whom we have an e-mail address will receive a new monthly reflection and update on College events titled **To Weigh and Consider**. Each issue will contain a quotation or brief reflection by a faculty member and an update about goings-on at the College. Look for our first edition with a reflection by the President soon.

Efforts are also underway to make the most of popular social network services. Look for our new and renewed presence on Facebook, Twitter, iTunes, YouTube, and Vimeo.

## AFAC

**American Friends of Augustine College** continues to promote the College among US students and to raise funds for the support of staff and the College mission. It reports:

Progress was made on both fronts. In 2010 we raised over 41,000 USD (with 20,000 gratefully received from the Leptas Foundation), a twenty percent increase over the previous year. There is now an American Friends Schwab account that can take contributions of appreciated stock, offering our donors some tax advantages for supporting the College.

In 2010 we had a presence in homeschooling conferences from Long Island, NY, to Arizona. This year we will be making presentations to homeschoolers in Texas, Ohio, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. In July we will again sponsor the classical education conference of the CIRCE Institute in Dallas, Texas, with **Dr. John Patrick** representing the College. We look forward to working with **Landon Coleman** promoting the College directly to high schools.

Special thanks are due to **Dr. Mike Peil**, who works diligently as our treasurer, and to our accountant, **George Rock**, who works pro bono for our organization. For more on AFAC see its website at **amfriendsaugustine.org**.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**David** (2001) and **Erika Kidd** (2001). Erika is writing her dissertation while David works for Intercollegiate Studies Institute, an educational non-profit doing web-developing and faculty support. At present David is waiting for scheduling of major surgery to repair an aortic dissection, a very serious condition. Please keep David, Erika, their families, and the surgical team in your prayers.

**Joel Reinhardt** (2006) graduated from Trinity Western University (via the Laurentian Leadership Centre) in 2009 and worked in the Prime Minister’s office before beginning a law degree at the University of Ottawa.

**Ben Boyd** (2010) is as of writing somewhere in India, on a jaunt between Andhra Pradesh and New Delhi following a project done in conjunction with his Dominican College studies. He writes, “I’m consuming experiences and probably treating India as an It, but it’s still leaving its mark on me.”

## SUPPORT

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

### Some ways to help support the College:

Charitable donations can be made online through [canada.helps.org](http://canada.helps.org) (in Canada) and [justgive.org](http://justgive.org) (in the us), with planned-giving options available through both services. Please send US donations by cheque to AFAC. To thank you for donations, we invite you to choose complimentary selections from our media library. Listed online at [Further Learning/CD-DVD orders](#)

Promote and contribute to our on-line presence by interacting with us on social networking services (tweet, follow, ‘like’, subscribe, comment, rate, etc.). More details available online at [News and Events/Latest News](#)

## AUGUSTINE COLLEGE

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