

CONTACT

Volume 29, Number 2, Spring 2020



When St. Andrew's College, along with Grosvenor Park United Church, McClure United Church Saskatoon Unitarians, Emmanuel Anglican Church and the Refinery, and St. George's Anglican Church, were vandalized with homophobic graffiti in early May, the spray paint was quickly removed and members of the church communities, including MDiv student Aurora Coulthard, responded by sharing colourful chalk messages of love and caring. Read more on Page 14.

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Effecting change requires community

By Doug Neufeld
Board Chair

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. (1 Cor 12:12)

In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Paul uses the human body as a metaphor for the “body of Christ” which in turn is a metaphor for all followers of Christ. Paul is telling the faith community of Corinth to not to be fixated on what they perceive to be the most important people/roles of their ministry but to understand that every role, every person, is important and necessary to be a “complete body.”



In this process of developing our strategic plan and analyzing our institution in the market of theological education, we are discovering that to be sustainable and flourish in the future, we need to take a detailed look at every part of our body. In the simplest terms, the ratio between our operating budget and number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students is far too high. We are not sustainable in this situation, so we need to

either dramatically increase the number of students, dramatically decrease our operating budget or a combination of both. With the guidance of our consultant, Carol Marturano-Becker, we’re finding there is no “silver bullet,” no simple, one-action solution that propels us into the future. The change required will affect the whole body and the whole body will be required to effect change.

For an entity to effectively sell its product, it needs to understand its customer’s wants and needs. What is it that current potential students are looking for in a theological education institution? What are the deal breakers? In short, it varies student to student but if you want to attract the masses you have

to cater to the masses and that may require some compromise. This makes this process very challenging in the discernment, the planning, as well as in the commitment to execution because there is so much at stake. To help us with this we are looking to our entire community for both support and prayers.

I’d like to take a moment on behalf of the Board of Regents to congratulate this year’s graduates. You’ve reaped the reward of the mental, emotional and even physical energy you’ve invested in your program these years and this moment must be so gratifying for you. There is always so much excitement around convocation and it’s incredibly disappointing that we had to cancel this year’s festivities. We hope you’re able to participate in our joint 2020-21 convocation next May to complete the experience. We wish you all the best in the next chapter of your lives.

May the Spirit embolden us to be prophetic so our dreams and visions of a great new church come to fruition. Whether you have a voice or bounty to share in support of St. Andrew’s College, I pray that you are moved to share them.

God be with you always.



**A strategic planning retreat was held in February.
More information on Page 6**

College community comes together to respond to pandemic

By Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis
Principal, St. Andrew’s College

As we continue to live through these turbulent times of the COVID-19 pandemic, signs of hope are emerging.

Our faith teaches us to discern resurrection in the strength, wisdom, and courage we see in those on the front lines of the struggle during this pandemic, just as we witness resurrection hope in the renewal of the earth every spring.

Here at St. Andrew’s I am grateful for the resilience and creativity of staff and faculty. Our building remains closed to the public, but staff is working remotely

and on site to ensure the ongoing operations of the college.

Our faculty successfully and effectively switched all of their teaching to online formats with less than a week’s notice to complete the winter term. Meetings continued apace, we held chapel services, and we were even able to hold a graduation service on May 8 via Zoom. The Designated Lay Ministry program ran remotely during the second half of May.

We are all working hard to develop flexible plans for the future, ensuring the ongoing witness and work of the college on behalf of our students, our community, and the wider church.

Fundraisers Update

The Saskatoon fundraising dinner featuring Candy Palmater that was scheduled for mid-March, was cancelled just as the COVID-19 pandemic was reaching Saskatchewan. We have tentatively rescheduled for Sept. 29, 2020, depending on health guidelines. The Regina fundraising dinner set for May 26 has been postponed to the spring of 2021.

There are tentative plans to hold a virtual #NoGalaGala in late June or early July. Watch our website and Facebook page for information.

During trying times, we continue to reach out

Dear friends of the
St. Andrew's College Community,

I am writing as our journey into Easter's Holy Days begins. As I sit here, with the cursor waiting, the word paradox keeps repeating itself in my musings. If ever that tension, when two things exist and yet seem incompatible, was most apparent it is indeed in the place where death and resurrection continually meet.

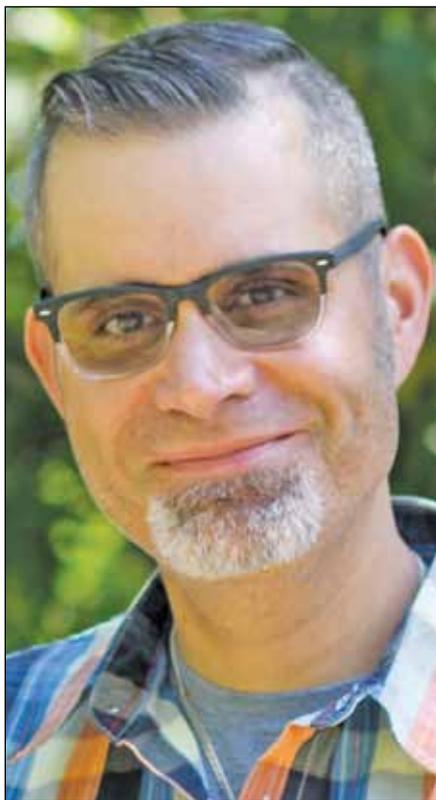
For three weeks now, I have been working from home. Away from the college's hallways and staircases, its proud stone and blessed sanctuary, the world has changed. It has changed for all of us. It seems to me that this Gospel thing, this Good News to which we are committed, speaks with clarity to a hurting world that I do not recall in my lifetime.

We have all been touched by the pandemic. Whether that is life disrupted, illness experienced, or — in too many cases — suffering and death, we are all affected, and the world is moving on. From leadership that advocates for basic universal income to those who would sow fear and distrust, the full range of that of which we are capable is on full display.

In these strange days, the college continues its work. In its unfolding mission to prepare people for leadership through the lens of justice, I would like to highlight two places in which I have seen hope that demonstrates most clearly the ongoing relevance of this unfolding experiment called St. Andrew's College.

While the pandemic arrived, as each day seemed to bring further confusion, data overload, and questions of how to ensure all might be safe, the staff and faculty responded in such a manner that illustrated the nimbleness of the college. While our partners at the University of Saskatchewan mandated moving to offering all courses remotely within a week, the faculty were able to be up and running in less than two days. Though not easy, the commitment to ensuring that learning continued was only balanced by the staff's care of our tenants and residents.

With over 60 per cent of our residents hailing from away, the staff have challenged me and held us all appropriately



“ We have all been touched by the pandemic. Whether that is life disrupted, illness experienced, or — in too many cases — suffering and death, we are all affected. ”

accountable to ensuring that the college role as a home away from home was not only maintained, but improved. From maintaining a cleaning regiment that ensures a safe environment, to working with the university, it has been clear that St. Andrew's is a community that takes all of its relationships — tenants, faculty, residents, students, and staff — as the embodiment of a body in which we are all connected.

The second highlight is connected with our denominational pastoral and

liturgical response to the reality that our worshipping communities have been shuttered and quickly reopened. In such places as my Facebook feed, Twitter page and on Instagram, the college's students and alum have responded in vibrant ways that, within a few short weeks, connected faith communities beyond traditional boundaries and offered pastoral care through such tools that range from the phone to instant and direct messaging. This emboldened ministry, literally being born in the midst of a pandemic, has many lessons for the college.

Let me just highlight one of those teachings in the short time we have left in our conversation in this Spring Edition of Contact. As students and alum begin to engage in the relational medium of the digital, the college has some thinking to do. We will need to begin to take seriously how we bring the best of our leadership training in the brick and mortar of life into this new space. How we offer pastoral care, nurture theological reflection, and critical thinking in these new places of ministry will require careful consideration. Where do learnings and assignments, practice and ministry meet in places like Instagram and TikTok? What does it mean to bring the Good News into these places that connect with worship, which may no longer be bound to just Sundays at 10 a.m. and where pews are replaced with YouTube chat boxes?

These are the very challenges in which this institution called St. Andrew's has been engaged since 1912. The world has changed, and it will again. With your ongoing trust and support, friends, I am indeed hopeful that the places where death and resurrection always meet, whether in the digital or in-person, St. Andrew's will continue to prepare people for Christian leadership who help the lost find safety, the hurting healing, and the mourning solace.

In Christ,

Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis
Principal
St. Andrew's College

(Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis regularly shares his musings on his blog at: adeaconsmusing.ca)

Celebrating our Graduates

St. Andrew's College is pleased to recognize students who graduated this spring



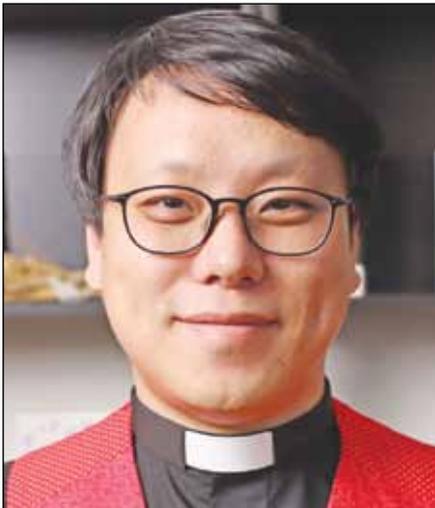
Ryan Sawchuk
Bachelor of Theology Degree

God has always had a presence in my life, giving me the strength to be my own individual growing up. My call was affirmed; I could no longer avoid God's message after taking my first class at St. Andrew's College during my second year of university. After a few more classes I enrolled in the Dual Degree Program.

I am excited to continue my journey with God to see where it leads me.

I would like to thank my parents and extended family for their unconditional love and encouragement, Rev. Andrew Appledore for being a patient mentor who continues to offer me guidance, and the Dundurn community of faith for allowing me to share and practice what I learn.

Thank you to the faculty and staff of St. Andrew's for always being there to answer my questions and offer guidance as I grow in God's light.



Hoeun Lee, BA, MDiv
Master of Theological Studies Degree

I, an ordained minister of Presbyterian Church of Korea, as well as a migrant, am pursuing admission to The Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada, and my intercultural journey has come along with the community of St. Andrew's College.

I am deeply appreciative of St. Andrew's College, which enabled me not only to experience the Canadian context but also to reflect on it as a marginalized but also privileged person. But for the whole process, I wouldn't have found my own mission and role in this postcolonial setting. I am thrilled to bring my gifts and skills that I have cultivated in my theological education and that came from my diverse ministerial experiences across Korea and Canada. Thank you, all the faculty and staff of St. Andrew's College. I also give thanks to significant others in my journey: to the congregations of the Coteau Hills Pastoral Charge and Grosvenor Park United Church, Nobuko & Doug, Marnie & Lorne, HyeRan & David, Jan, Julie & Jen and my partner Yoonjoo Shin who have embraced, encouraged, supported, and sometimes challenged me so I could keep journeying onward.

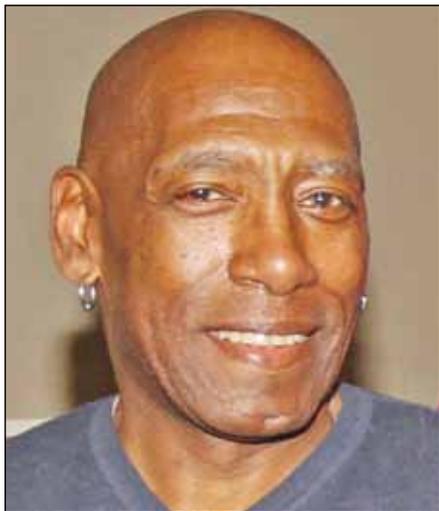


Catherine Holland, BTh, MDiv
Doctor of Ministry Degree

I am a rural priest. I discerned in my early teens big city living wasn't for me. My resolve to live in smaller communities began with a career establishing computer technology in small city businesses. The journey progressed to where I am now, married to a farmer, sharing farm responsibilities, living 40 kilometres from the nearest town, and immersed in a ministry that lives with the joys, challenges, and pain of parish, neighbour and community life. I was aware that being planted in one place could lead to staleness, and complacency . . . and it did. My prayers for renewal came when I answered a phone call inviting me to join the new Community Development and Rural Ministry program.

Along with Dennis, my parish, ministry team, and friends, I am very grateful for that call from the Rev. Dr. Cam Harder and for the gentle yet firm guidance from the Rev. Dr. Bill Richards guiding me through my project.

Although convocation celebrations were cancelled, the Academic Committee granted graduates their degrees May 6. A virtual worship service held May 8 to recognize the grads was attended by approximately 100 people. These graduating students will be invited to participate in the Saskatoon Theological Union joint convocation in May 2021.



Martin Clark-Ettinger
Designated Lay Ministry Diploma

I turn 65 this year. And I have been at my church since the beginning of the DLM program. I will be going on my fourth year there. And I still can't believe that I have my own church, and am actually graduating from a college to become a recognized designated lay minister.

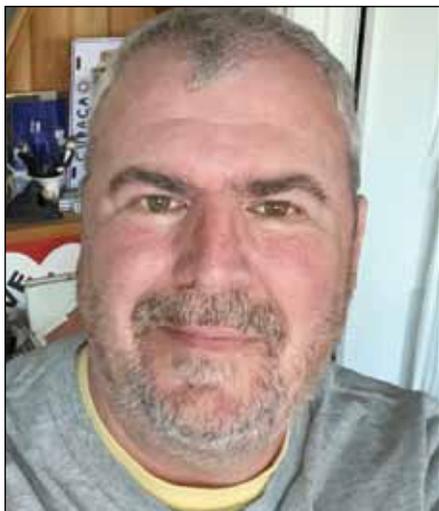
I never graduated from anything. I was addicted to drugs and alcohol for many, many years and put my mother through hell. I have become something I would never had thought I would become, and I am sure my mother is looking down on me and saying, 'finally you have become the person I raised you to be.' I tried running from this for years, but could not outrun what was destined to eventually catch me. Today I look at where I was and where I am at today, but never to forget where I come from. God bless and thanks to all the support from Jennifer Janzen-Ball and my husband who stood by me when I was ready at times to give up. I have been truly blessed. Thanks be to God.



Laura Hutchison
Designated Lay Ministry Diploma

It's been a long and winding road that led to this day, that has included being a wife, a widow, a mother of eight, and grandmother of many more, and always "a learner, a teacher, and a pilgrim on the way" [VU578, As a Fire].

Through the journey, the presence of the holy, and the ordinary, have sustained me. The words of A New Creed, that "we are not alone" has been constantly evident in the community created by staff and students of St. Andrew's and the DLM program team, beginning with my first team leader, Rob Reed, and carrying on through each member past and present. I have been blessed with two learning sites where God's people were engaged in learning with me, and supporting my growth. It is good to celebrate, and then to continue the love and the learning on this twisting, turning, often surprising path, where we are blessed so we may become a blessing.



Steven Loweth
Designated Lay Ministry Diploma

I was first made aware of my call to ministry as a late-aged teenager. I had been leading the youth group, when my minister took me aside and encouraged me to look at serving the church through ministry. A few years later I gave it a try by moving into diaconal training focusing on youth ministry and refugee work. The learning styles of being in circle accompanied by some extra-credit courses was what suited me. Unfortunately, I did not complete due to family obligations.

Fast-forward almost 30 years later where I once again began a discernment process that soon brought me to the DLM Program and St. Andrew's College. Three years of journeying with my peers in circle plus spending time in SME and extra courses was spirit filled. God led me to this wonderful college where I am now proud to be part of the alumni. Because of my positive learning experience at St. Andrew's I now highly recommend the college for anyone looking at their own call to follow the path of Jesus into ministry. Blessings to all students, faculty and staff for whom I say Thanks be to God.



The St. Andrew's College community, including faculty, staff, board and committee members, as well as the heads from the STU schools, came together to do some visioning in preparation for a new strategic plan

Strategic plan maps out our future together

By Carol Marturano-Becker
President, Impact Learning Inc.

Over the past several months, the St. Andrew's College community has been engaged in a strategic planning process. Our process has been founded on three principles: to be inclusive, to be comprehensive and also to be transparent. With the onset of COVID -19, one new principle has been added: to be adaptable. During the last few months, the world as we know it has changed and with that, it has been important to look at what this will mean for St Andrew's as we finalize the strategic priorities.

Fortunately, the strategic planning core team has considered the dynamic landscape of theological schools since embarking on our planning process. Early in 2020, Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis arranged a strategic-focused retreat for the entire St. Andrew's faculty, staff, board, and many other key stakeholders, including the heads of the other STU schools. He invited representatives from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and The In Trust Center to share data and perspectives associated with the current trends and realities for theological schools. Great insight was gained as comparisons were made between St. Andrew's and other schools. Throughout the retreat, opportunities were provided to discuss implications and ideas.

Since the retreat, meetings with faculty, staff, board members, committee members, STU heads, and others have been held to identify those priorities and initiatives that will be key to pursue as St. Andrew's prepares to address the challenges and opportunities the future presents. The experience of COVID-19 has magnified the importance of excellence, communication, collaboration, adaptability, and teamwork. These five attributes will be critical for future success.

A first draft of the strategic plan will be presented during the



May board meeting. During the summer, plans to accomplish the identified strategic priorities will be built out with time-lines and metrics. The final plan will be presented to the board this fall.

St. Andrew's College has a long legacy and is well recognized for providing justice-driven theological education in the Prairie region and beyond. The strategic plan will ensure this legacy by providing the roadmap to a vibrant future: a future that will attract talented students, leverage strong academic programming and delivery, and establish synergistic partnerships. All being achieved as the St. Andrew's students, community, and alumni proclaim and embody the message of Jesus Christ.

I would like to extend my personal and extreme gratitude to all of you who have contributed by providing insights, feedback, and dreams. I have been so impressed with the commitment of the leadership, faculty, and staff, as well as the board of trustees and the committee members who have dedicated time to share perspectives. As a result, I am confident the final strategic plan will be one that engages, inspires and will be executed.

Many opportunities to support your college

By Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis
Principal, St. Andrew's College

If COVID-19 has done anything, it quickly ushered our denomination into the 21st century!

I shared our capital campaign in the fall edition of Contact to help enhance Room 322. That work begins later this spring at a cost of \$55,000. We are so close to meeting that goal and I invite you to not only help us get past that goal, but begin to anticipate upgrading Room 326 next!

We're ready to fully embrace remote education that allows the college to embolden people around the world to connect their Christian faith with Creator's call to justice. Help us complete this project to ensure leaders are out in the streets shining light into the shadows that we as an Easter people are joyfully called to enter!

Another reality of COVID-19 is it has highlighted the need to ensure, as much as possible, that the college is able to fiscally make informed decisions. One of the ways we can do that is by being aware of what the college's support looks like from year to year. Pre-Authorised Remittance (PAR) or Canada-Helps.org (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/12902>) allow us to make those decisions based on your commit-



Your support is sustaining our mission during these difficult times

ment to regularly support St. Andrew's mission. Please consider this, whether as an individual or faith community, to help us move into the beckoning future into which we are called to equip disciples to share the Good News!

What's your legacy?

How do you plan to share the abun-

dance you have received with those yet to come?

Do you know about St. Andrew's Legacy Giving (<http://www.usask.ca/stu/standrews/donors-alumni/giving/>)?

Would you like to know more?

Please do let us know and we would be pleased to explore this with you further.

James-Cavan welcomed as new DLM program director

St. Andrew's College welcomed the Rev. Dr. Kathleen James-Cavan as the new director of the Designated Lay Ministry program of The United Church of Canada in January.

As an MDiv grad of the college and an educator at the University of Saskatchewan, we knew she would bring to our community and students a learning environment that is rich, challenging and fun.

When the announcement of her hiring was shared with the community, Kathleen had this to say:

"After prayerful consideration and conversations with friends and family, I am delighted to accept with a mixture of gratitude, excitement, and trepidation the offer of the position of Director of the Designated Lay Ministry Program. I

look forward to this new challenge and to serving our church in what will be for me a new expression of ministry."

"Knowing that I follow an outstanding predecessor in Jennifer Janzen-Ball, I welcome the opportunity to work with colleagues at St. Andrew's College and across the country as I learn and grow in a good way in faith and service. I look forward to covenanting with St. Andrew's College and The United Church of Canada."

Based at St. Andrew's College, the DLM program is a three-year, work-study program that trains lay people for paid, accountable ministry within The United Church of Canada. Students come from across the country and are engaged in ministry in a variety of contexts.



Rev. Dr. Kathleen James-Cavan

Church, college builds relationships in Korea

By John Egger

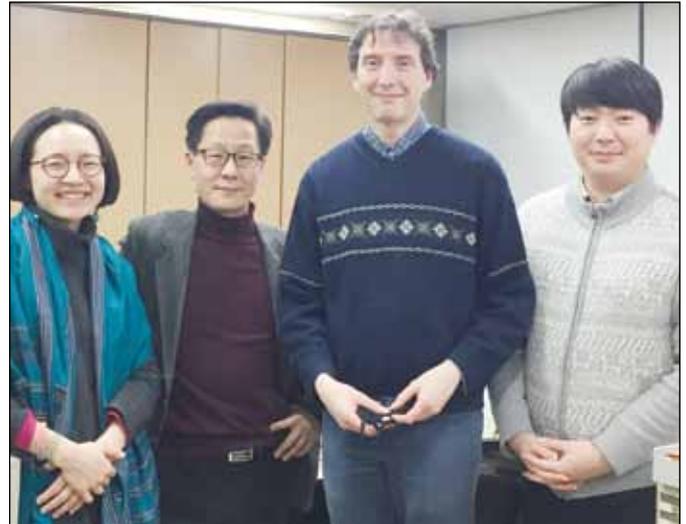
On March 31 I had the opportunity of participating in a Zoom videoconference hosted by St. Andrew's College to speak about my work as a mission co-worker from the United Church of Canada to the General Assembly Office of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK).

Unfortunately, we couldn't have the conversation in person at the college as planned, due to the public health restrictions on travel and gatherings. I was grounded in Calgary in the midst of my three-month home assignment, unable to visit the congregations and groups I had hoped. Thanks to Zoom, however, the meeting with St. Andrew's was able to go ahead and we were able to meet through the medium of internet.

The ties between the PROK and the United Church are deep and close, and go back many years. The first mission co-workers from what was then the Presbyterian Church in Canada arrived in Korea in 1898, and the relationship has grown since then. The United Church remains in solidarity with the people of Korea, supporting them in their struggles and learning from them how to be faithful in the face of difficulties. Making connections, deepening ties, learning from each other remains a priority for both churches.

My role in the PROK office is officially to help with English language communications. The PROK is a very ecumenically minded church in that it maintains partnerships with churches all over the world and works closely with groups in Korea and elsewhere on issues of human rights and peace. So helping with English language communications is an important role, but as I have discovered, in Korea they are more interested in relationships than they are in job descriptions, and accordingly my role has evolved over time. At the heart of my role is building relationships.

The videoconference with St. Andrew's College allowed me to share my experiences and perspectives of the relationship between the PROK and the United Church. It allowed a wonderfully stimulating exchange of ideas and perspectives about that relationship and conversation with faculty, students, alumni, and others on the particular role of St. Andrew's College. I received an opportunity to establish relationships with many folks from Korea who are now living and working in Canada. And at the same time I received insights and heard the perspectives of others.



St. Andrew's alumni John Egger and colleagues with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

Some of the things I heard were: two of the strengths of the Korean church are spiritual passion, and well-trained ministry; on issues of peace and reconciliation and gender-justice the Korean church needs world support; the importance of mutual ministry recognition; the benefit there would be from more mutual programs between the PROK and United Church; the importance of also connecting with other denominations; there would be interest among Koreans in studying abroad if they knew how to apply; how to make progress on LGBTQ+ inclusion; putting organizational effort into Korean minister's network; and the usefulness for interested international students, of the St. Andrew's YouTube videos recently produced by current student Hoeun Lee, with the participation of alumni in the Korean ministry network.

I look forward to expanding these relationships and continuing these conversations as I return to Korea in the coming months.

John Egger is an alumni of St. Andrew's College, completing an MTS in 1995. He also earned a PhD in New Testament at Emmanuel College in the Toronto School of Theology in 2015. He has worked in many congregations/denominations in educational ministries. He has served in the Department of Partnership and Ecumenical Relations in the General Assembly Office of the PROK since September 2018.

Language no barrier in leading worship at Edmonton Korean United Church

On Feb. 9, Edmonton Korean United Church was in need of pulpit supply due to their minister going on restorative care.

As it is a Korean-speaking congregation people who could do pulpit supply were few in number. Who can speak Korean, lead worship and preach, and has flexibility on a Sunday? Taylor Croissant — a recent St. Andrew's graduate who served a congregation in Korea and is

married to MiYeon Kim — answered the call.

The sermon was preached in English with a Korean translation simultaneously projected on a screen. Everything else was in Korean. The sermon was on Genesis 45: Joseph revealing himself to his brothers in Egypt. This was related to the division between



Croissant

North and South Korea.

After the service, a middle-aged man came up to Taylor and exclaimed, "Who are you?" He was surprised at a white person coming and leading worship in Korean with them. As is the custom at all Korean churches, everyone enjoyed a meal together downstairs following worship.

You never know where St. Andrew's graduates will end up serving.

Pandemic provides unique experience for pilgrims

By Lea Pennock
Board of Regents member

Those of you who know me and my husband Dan, know we often feel a tug in our hearts to set out on pilgrim paths. We've been blessed in recent years with the opportunity to walk several pilgrimage routes across Spain, Portugal, and France, and we've loved every kilometre. And so it was that in late February we set out again for Spain, intending to walk the Camino Mozarabe from the ancient Mediterranean port of Almería to the Roman-Spanish city of Mérida, a distance of about 750 km.

The stretch of this pilgrimage route between Almería and Granada is only about five years old, although it harks back to an ancient tradition that this is the route walked by the disciples of St. James who survived to carry on his work in Andalucía. The pilgrims' association there, the Asociación Jacobea de Almería-Granada, has a small but fiercely dedicated core of volunteers — Mercedes, Veronica, Juana, Paco, Nély, Juan, Fran — who have painted the arrows, erected the milestones, negotiated with landowners and businesses, and equipped the dormitory-style albergues where pilgrims find shelter. They know the name of every pilgrim on their watch, and the pilgrims stay in touch with them—we have to, because



Lea Pennock, a Board of Regents member, had to abandon her walk of the Camino Mozarabe due to COVID-19

they are the keepers of the door codes to the albergues. You have a sense that these warm, gracious volunteers are the angels of this route: since they live in different towns along the camino, every few days you get a chance to meet one of them, practise your Spanish comprehension, and experience their enthusiasm and hospitality over *una copa de vino tinto*.

The Camino Mozárabe was beautiful. We walked for two weeks in relative solitude, through flowering almond and orange orchards and olive groves. The snow-capped Sierra Nevada was breathtaking, and stayed in sight until we reached Granada. The warm Andalucían sun turned our calves brown above our hiking socks.

But news reports on Spanish television stations were sobering, then alarming. The reports began to hit closer to home: Italy, the Canary Islands, and then Madrid, Basque Country, Barcelona. It became clear to us that it was time to stop walking and come home. On March 14, the day we caught a local bus to Córdoba to begin the homeward journey, Spain declared a state of alarm. On the same day, Canadian officials urged Canadians to come home “while you still can” and began advising against travel outside the country.

In Spain and on the Camino, overnight, everything changed. The lively streets and squares of Spanish towns were suddenly deserted. The bars and cafés were closed. Police, and ultimately

the army, began to patrol the streets, ordering stragglers to get inside and stay there. We briefly considered hunkering down in Córdoba till our early April flight from Madrid, but then that flight was cancelled and we decided to get to Sevilla and try flying from there. More bookings and cancellations followed; eventually we were fortunate to get seats on the last Lufthansa flight out of Sevilla to Munich, from there to Frankfurt (where we spent the night in the airport and were grateful for our Camino sleeping bags), and then the last Air Canada flight from Frankfurt to Calgary.

Dan and I are two of the lucky ones, pilgrims who actually walked a camino, or at least part of one, in 2020. All the European pilgrimage routes are closed, and the Camino de Santiago is wrapped in stillness, as it will be for some time. I imagine it healing, grateful for an unexpected sabbath from constant human use. I imagine it waiting in expectation of us, the pilgrims who will choose to return, to once again leave our footprints on the earth's sacred paths and liminal spaces. And I pray that when we do, it will be with a renewed sense of the sacredness of the route, and a better appreciation and understanding both of what the path gives to us, and of what it requires of us.

Portions of this text appeared previously in the newsletters of the Canadian Company of Pilgrims and of the University of Saskatchewan Retirees' Association.



The Camino Mozarabe runs from the ancient Mediterranean port of Almería to the city of Mérida

Updates from St. Andrew's College faculty

Don Schweitzer

Last October was the fourth An Intercultural Adventure seminar, held at Vancouver Korean United Church in Burnaby. This location was a bonus for me, as I stayed with son Simon and favourite daughter-in-law Cassandra and so had a visit with them as well as enjoying the seminar.

The theme was Jesus Christ and evangelism. Due to Rev. Dr. HyeRan



Kim-Cragg moving to Emmanuel College, she is no longer able to offer leadership in An Intercultural Adventure but she spent a lot of time preparing St. Andrew's student Minhyuk Hwang to take over much of what she did

and he has been great to work with. I found a new writing collaborator for the seminar in Rev. Dr. Ohwang Kwon, who is the paid accountable minister in the United Church at Consort, Alta.

About 30 people attended the seminar, coming from locations scattered across Canada, from Ontario to British Columbia. I presented on Jesus Christ for Koreans in the United Church of Canada. Moderator Richard Bott was part of an evening panel on who is Jesus Christ for us today. The event was a great success. A planning committee is now organizing the next seminar, which will be on the Holy Spirit. It will be held Oct. 18-20, 2021, at Edmonton Korean United Church. The materials from this past seminar have been worked up into a small book. This is now in the process of being translated into Korean and then will be published in both Korean and English versions. We are grateful to the United Church and the Jackman Foundation, which provide grants which fund An Intercultural Adventure.

On Jan. 20, I was part of a panel on the book *Mission and Migration: The Changing Mission Goals of The United Church of Canada and the Mission of Koreans Within It*. This came out of the An Intercultural Adventure III, which met in Montreal in October 2017. The panel was organized by Dr. HyeRan

Kim-Cragg and held at St. Paul's United Church in Scarborough, Ont. St. Paul's is a fascinating intercultural congregation. Michael Blair of the national United Church was on the panel along with myself and two others. It was a good event. About 40 people attended and among them was Yeehan Han, a HanShin exchange student who was at St. Andrew's College in the fall of 2019. It was nice to see her again. We miss Yeehan, Alex and Hoo here at the college. Unfortunately we have no exchange students this term, but some are expected for next fall.

Lynn Caldwell

In response to a request, I have written a short essay about the concept of "whiteness" in the context of efforts toward racial justice. While it is in part an introduction, my

approach is more so an argument to resist a tendency to treat whiteness as if it is an unknown or newly identified social reality rather than as a problem that has long been named as urgent to address. My perspective on this is shaped by current scholarship, active social movements, reconciliation efforts, and community experiences that make the same case (as one example, an extended plenary discussion at The United Church of Canada's 40th General Council in 2018). The work on this article also draws from and complements current efforts at St. Andrew's College to more directly name and address the impacts of whiteness in our culture and community. As a college, we have recognized that the work of defining and understanding whiteness is something that necessarily emerges, and results, from and within efforts to stop racism. One recent contribution to our work on this was to invite anti-racist educator, scholar and community organizer Dr. Sheelah McLean to address our Academic Committee on the subject.

On a related note, I am continuing to collaborate with HyeRan Kim-Cragg on

the teaching partnership we established through a course offering in recent years focused on anti-racism, postcolonialism, and intercultural ministry. We offered the course as part of the St. Andrew's College curriculum when she was here on faculty and are now working to teach a revised version of the course to be listed for credit both at Emmanuel College in Toronto where she now teaches, and at St. Andrew's College. It would also be available to a limited number of students to take for continuing education units. We intend it to be delivered as an online course, to include both video conferencing and posting to discussions.

I was recently nominated to serve on a committee of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), and while it is not yet confirmed I am pleased to learn of the opportunity to serve on their Research Advisory Committee.

I continue to value my ongoing involvements with the University of Saskatchewan in particular through the work of an anti-racism and anti-oppression advisory committee, the Engaged Scholar journal, community engaged education networks at Station 20 West, and through informal connections and graduate student supervision with St. Thomas More College. Recently I was very pleased to also be named an adjunct faculty member with the Department of Educational Foundations, which formalizes my long connection with that department as a former sessional lecturer.

It was a pleasure to collaborate with a former classmate of mine from St. Andrew's College, Dr. John Egger, who is currently serving as United Church of Canada ministry personnel with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK). John is in Canada for several months to speak of his work and to develop his networks in Canada. Elsewhere in this issue of Contact John describes the opportunity we had to host a conversation with him and the college community in late March. I look forward to continuing this renewed connection with John, and to the college strengthening our connections with the network of Korean ministry that includes many of our recent alumni/ae, many of whom participated in the conversation in March.



Updates from St. Andrew's College faculty

Sandra Beardsall

Faculty work has continued apace at St. Andrew's both despite and due to the constraints pandemic has imposed.



Online courses carried on, and on-campus classes became Zoom meetings, as did faculty meetings and chapel worship. I appreciate the fortitude of my faculty colleagues and our students in adjusting and

working together as we pray for the healing of the world.

In January, before the restrictions—and that now seems like a long time ago—I travelled to Geneva, Switzerland, for a meeting of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. We completed two documents: one on “Justice for Creation” and one on “Proclaiming the Peace of Jesus Christ in a Religiously Plural World.” These topics are not new, but it is rare for Christians from across the faith spectrum — Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, and Evangelical — to do theology and speak with one voice.

In February, I went to Toronto to co-chair the final meeting of this “round” of Anglican-United Church dialogue. Its final report, which will go to our churches in the fall, will feature vignettes and tips from UCC/ACC shared ministries across Canada and of many kinds, from an Indigenous/non-Indigenous monthly “Grandmothers’ Tea” to shared congregations to shared urban outreach ministries. The report will also reflect on “episkopé, or “oversight,” how it is exercised in our two denominations, and what might be ways forward toward “mutual recognition” of each other’s ministries.

Finally, it was regretfully necessary that we cancel this year’s ReJUNE-ation conference. However, we are pleased that our theme speaker, the Rev. Dr. Scott Sharman, can join us next year, so I hope we can be together June 16-18, 2021, to engage with Scott and each other in “Looking for Ecumenical Movement with Fresh Eyes.”

Christine Mitchell

Christine Mitchell enjoyed a productive sabbatical from July to December, 2019. She made significant progress on her book manuscript and gave papers at conferences in Scotland and Poland in August, and gave a paper in a seminar in Switzerland in November. She also attended the ATS Women in Leadership development conference in Pittsburgh in October.



Since returning from sabbatical in January, she has been teaching the Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures course online, and contributing to the DMin program. A substantial piece of work has been her participation in the activities of the ATS Commission on Accrediting, both as a member of the board of commissioners and as an evaluation committee member. The work has also included contributing to the work of the redevelopment of the accrediting standards, which involved a special meeting of the board of commissioners in April.

Becca Whitla

I continue to enjoy getting to know the St. Andrew's community since joining the faculty last August as the professor of pastoral studies and look forward to coming back next year.



During the winter semester I taught preaching and Christian Education (online). Our preaching class had six guest preachers—two in person and four via Zoom. We enjoyed learning from Lorne Calvert

and Jordan Cantwell, who many of you know well. I was grateful to my predecessor HyeRan Kim-Cragg for joining us, as well as her colleague Néstor Medina, professor of ethics and culture at Emmanuel. We also welcomed Tom

Baynham from St. Louis, Mo., and Jennifer Henry, executive director of Kairos. This term I was glad to contribute to Learning Circle 2 and to the Integration Seminar and taught Learning Circle 5. I'm grateful to students for adjusting to the online format in both the preaching class and for Learning Circle 5. I look forward to contributing to the Designated Lay Ministry program, also via Zoom, later in May.

I must say that one of the highlights of this term was the service we celebrated for the week of prayer for Christian Unity. We worked with a team representing St. Andrew's, the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad, the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Horizon College & Seminary, and St. Thomas More College. Over 60 people came and we all enjoyed a meal together afterwards. This spirit of ecumenical cooperation is also alive and well in our planning for shared chapel as the colleges of the Saskatoon Theological Union come into one building. We were even able to host a service together and have a community consultation via Zoom.

On the academic side, I am pleased to say I have submitted the manuscript for my first book to the publisher (Palgrave Macmillan). It will come out in the late fall and is titled: *Liberation, (De) Coloniality, and Liturgical Practices: Flipping the Song Bird*. Also, I traveled to Toronto in February to work with colleagues on an article for *International Journal of Practical Theology*. In June and July, I'll also be working on a chapter for an upcoming book; my chapter is on multi-faith worship and is based on a paper I presented at the AAR in San Diego in November.

These have been deeply challenging times. The Canadian Theological Society meeting at which I was to present in June has been postponed to next year and the annual conference for the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada (for which I'm secretary) will be entirely online this year. Our March event with two workshop leaders from the Hymn Society was postponed as well. But we still plan to do it at some point. Though it is hard not to be together, we are all learning new ways to be community and to live our faith through teaching, learning, and worship.

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(Received Nov. 5, 2019
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"The College and its staff and faculty are supported by my prayers as we all find our way through these interesting times with its mixture of blessings and challenges."

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Nominations are invited for the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, in preparation for St. Andrew's Convocation 2021.

The degree is conferred upon persons for distinguished service in ministry, especially pastoral or missionary services, theological scholarship, church leadership, and community responsibility and concern.

Nomination forms are available by emailing standrews.college@usask.ca or calling 306-966-8970.

Nomination deadline is September 15, 2020.

ReJUNEvation will make its return in 2021

Regretfully, due to COVID-19, it was decided to cancel this year's ReJUNEvation conference.

Fortunately, our speaker, the Rev. Dr. Scott Sharman, is able to join us in 2021, so we will keep our theme "Now it Springs Forth: Looking for Ecumenical Movement with Fresh Eyes" for the rescheduled event June 16-18, 2021.



Sharman

Of course, we really hope you can join us then, and we promise it will indeed be an opportunity to look afresh at life together in the gospel.

We have also rescheduled our ReJUNEvation course: HA 391 – Interchurch and Interfaith Relations in Canada, which will take place June 14-18, 2021. It will be an excellent opportunity to explore our topic more deeply, for credit or for audit (and continuing education credits).

Friends We Shall Miss

Ronald Sutton (Grad 1959) passed away on December 9, 2019, in Regina, SK. He served as a Minister in the United Church for 41 years.

Malcolm Spencer (BD 1967) passed away on January 25, 2020, in Toronto. He was ordained in 1968 and worked as chaplain and minister in Manitoba, and later in Toronto and Pickering, ON.

Doreen Ashwin, late of Saskatoon, SK, passed away on December 20, 2019. Doreen shared her ministry with her late husband Wes in communities in Saskatchewan.

Brian Ast (BTh 2002) passed away on February 25, 2020, in Saskatoon, SK. He served in Stoughton, Delisle/Vanscoy and Saskatoon during his ministry career.

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Be part of the **journey**

Support, caring springs from hateful vandalism

During the early morning of Sunday, May 10, St. Andrew's College along with Grosvenor Park United Church and McClure United Church were vandalized with homophobic graffiti. All three are Affirming ministries of The United Church of Canada. In response, Saskatoon Affirming Ministries of The United Church reiterated their public, intentional, and explicit welcome to LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit friends and relations.



Messages of love and caring on the steps of the college chapel

On behalf of Saskatoon Affirming Ministries of The United Church, we wish to express our deepest concern, love and solidarity for all who have been hurt by the hate-filled vandalism of this past week. As ministries that seek to be public, intentional and explicit in our support for LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit people, we are outraged at the condemnation and harm directed towards our friends and relations. We want you to know that we stand with you in opposition to the kind of hatred and religious bigotry expressed in these acts of vandalism. We stand with you in resisting such attitudes in society and within religions, including our own Christian faith tradition. We stand with you in love.

Whenever hate and prejudice are given voice, it has an impact. You or someone you know may be experiencing heightened feelings of fear and anxiety

in the wake of these incidents. This may have re-opened old wounds caused by past experiences of bullying or other violence. Some may feel consumed by anger, sadness or despair. Some may simply feel numb. Whatever you may be feeling, however you have been impacted by these terrible events, we want you to know that you are not alone. If you need someone to talk to, someone to pray with you, or just someone who will listen, we are here for you.

While these attacks have highlighted the homophobia, biphobia and transphobia that are very much alive in our society, the response from people in this city and across Canada has shown just how much love and care and strength we share in community. The outpouring of solidarity etched in chalk on sidewalks,

walks, painted in windows, splashed across social media makes it clear that love is stronger than fear and hate. We hope that you feel our love and the love from so many others that surrounds you and holds you during this difficult and painful time.

In peace and solidarity,
*Saskatoon Affirming Ministries
of The United Church of Canada*

On May 13, four more churches were targeted: St. Thomas Wesley United Church, Saskatoon Unitarians, Emmanuel Anglican Church and the Refinery, St. George's Anglican Church. All seven communities came together ecumenically to produce a Message of Hope and Compassion video, which can be found on the college's YouTube channel.

St. Andrew's College gearing up for an exciting fall

St. Andrew's College will continue to offer courses during the 2020-21 academic year.

The college will offer a variety of online courses as either full-semester courses, intensive courses or split intensive courses, with synchronous and asynchronous components. This year, there may be an option to take a few courses at-a-distance that normally would only be offered as on-site courses in Saskatoon.

Details about course options and delivery methods will continue to be regularly updated as needed on the College

website. Please browse the website for our current 2020-21 academic offerings and be in touch with the registrar for the latest information about the offerings and to register for a course.

Course registration begins July 2, 2020, and the first week of classes is Sept. 14, 2020.

For more information and to view offering visit the website: <https://stu.usask.ca/standrews/students/course-listings/current-courses.php> or email registrar Greg Torwalt at: standrews.registrar@usask.ca.



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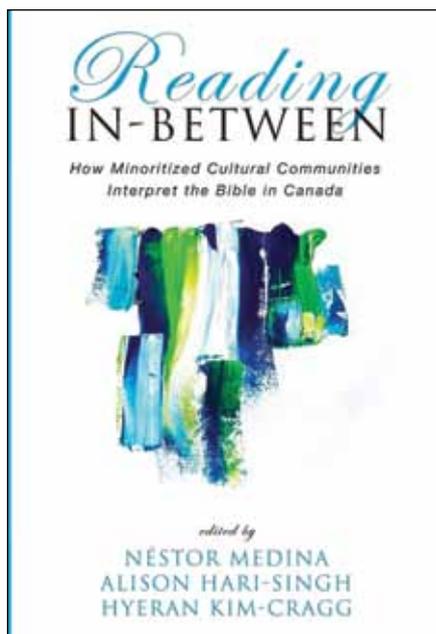
Much-needed perspectives on reading the Bible

Reading In-Between: How Minoritized Cultural Communities Interpret the Bible in Canada, Néstor Medina, Alison Hari-Singh, HyeRan Kim-Cragg, eds. Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2019.

By Becca Whitla
Professor of Pastoral Theology

This is an exciting and groundbreaking contribution to the field of biblical hermeneutics in Canada, as well as to Christian scholarship generally in this country. In their introduction, the authors point out how challenging it is to pull together a collection of biblical interpretation from the perspective of minoritized Canadian communities and they are to be congratulated for their persistence.

Despite the challenges, they managed to “step away consciously from standard Euro-North American methodologies for reading the Bible, and to draw, instead, from our own communities to present ways of reading the biblical text that are equally legitimate to the normative approaches taught in seminaries and schools of theology in Canada.” As Wenh-In Ng writes, in her critical engagement with the volume at the end, these writers are all writing from a colonized context in Canada, as racialized academics, from the experience of their churches and communities and in conversation with each other across ethno-cultural lines.



A few highlights: Ray Aldred and Catherine Aldred-Shull offer a crucial contribution to the task of reading the Bible from their Cree perspective. Questions of power and translation, orality, and vitality in faith experiences rise to the fore. Néstor Medina’s chapter on the Latina/o community in Canada also addresses orality. In it, he proposes “lived hermeneutics” an approach to reading the bible through which Latina/os dialogue with the biblical narrative and find themselves inside it. Along similar lines, Alison Hari-Singh, who hails originally from St. Walburg, Sask., shows how the Hindu concept of bhakti can be used as an interpretive lens in

Indo-Canadian contexts through the cultivation of a life of prayer, a repetitive meditation on the biblical text, and by fostering a faith-filled experience based on lived experience.

Of course, I appreciated HyeRan Kim-Cragg’s chapter, which focuses on the story of Jephthah’s daughter (Judges 11) about inter-positioning as a way to reflect on scripture from different perspectives, particularly as a Korean-Canadian woman. She describes sitting cross-legged on the chair in her office. Since we “share” that space, I could really actually imagine her writing and reflecting for her chapter in this book.

There are also two chapters that reflect on biblical interpretation from a Chinese-Canadian perspective by Alan Ka Lun Lai and Barbara Leung Lai. Along with Wenh-In Ng, Gosnell L. Yorke provides a critical reflection on the offerings of the book. Ng and Yorke, from their own minoritized perspectives as Chinese-Canadian and Jamaican-Canadian ask important questions about future scholarship in church and theological contexts from minoritized communities in Canada.

I highly recommend the collection and want to encourage the editors (and others!) to continue to foster scholarship from minoritized Canadian perspectives. I close with words from Ray Aldred and Catherine Aldred-Shull: “Stories are alive. The Bible must be heard! It must be interpreted! It must be lived!”

College library in midst of major transformation

By Katelyn Haskell
Library Technician

Hello everyone! We are now in the midst of our big library transformation that began May 9.

The Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) Library collection is being moved and interfiled to the St. Andrew’s College Library and the collections of the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad, St. Andrew’s College, and Lutheran Theological Seminary will be re-arranged and shelved together. This project will hopefully take us the length of the summer months, but considering that

every day seems to be different than the next, we need to remain realistic about the possible impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our project.

This spring, we made the difficult decision to close the STU Libraries to the public until the fall of 2020 as an effort to reduce risk of contamination and transmission of COVID-19 to our patrons and staff. Along with Leif at the LTS Library I have been working diligently to prepare for the upcoming move and to maintain our regular services and supports to our STU students, faculty, and communities. We will be answering calls and emails over the

summer months, but book and reference requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis as we try to focus our attention and time on the library collection move and interfiling.

If you have any STU library books sitting around and are wondering what to do with them, please keep them at home with you until we re-open in the fall. We will be in touch with you in August or September to arrange book returns. In the meantime, don’t stress if your library books are overdue! We do not charge overdue fines.

Stay safe out there and we look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Contact

This publication is free of charge. To add your name to the mailing list or to receive Contact by email contact melanie.schwanbeck@usask.ca

Contact is also available for reading and download at www.standrews.ca.

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Printed & mailed by
Houghton-Boston,
Saskatoon, Sask.

Publications Mailing
Agreement # 40022272

Return undeliverable
Canadian addresses to:

St. Andrew's College
1121 College Drive
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A video series on the St. Andrew's College YouTube channel explores the learning and ministerial experience of international students

Video series shares stories of Korean students, ministers

Hoeun Lee is telling the story of ministry in The United Church of Canada and the role of St. Andrew's College in supporting Korean theological students.

Hoeun, who received his Master of Theological Studies Degree this year, has created a series of videos with the participation of alumni in the Korean ministry network that look at the experiences and lives of Korean ministers serving the church.

In the six videos posted to the St. Andrew's College #UCCan YouTube channel, Korean ministers in The United Church of Canada share their stories and offer guidance. It's one way to inform others who may be considering studying at St. Andrew's or pursuing admission to order of ministry, and it also provides insight that allows Canadians to deepen their understanding of intercultural adventures.

In the fourth video of the series, "Things I wish I had known before I came to Canada," four Korean alumni of St. Andrew's College shared advice about their experi-

ence, ranging from Rev. MiYeon Kim's "I wish I had developed stronger English skills before I came to St. Andrew's College," to Rev. Hyun Heo's "I wish I had known how to cook Korean cuisine."

The series launched with a video that examined a day in the life of the four ministers as they live, work, and worship on the Prairies. The videos also tackle subjects including preaching in English as a foreign language, culture shock and tips for the student's intercultural journey at the college.

A video also examines the benefits of studying at St. Andrew's College as seen through the eyes of alumni and international students, including such things as the quality of the college's faculty; support from fellow students and staff in learning about Canadian life; and the way in which the college supports students academically, financially, and spiritually.

The videos can be found by searching YouTube for St. Andrew's College #UCCan.