



Farewell to Ernie

On October 6, 2014 Thorneloe University lost one of its greatest supporters and a man who had spent a lifetime dedicated to advancing and improving education at all levels.

Ernest James Checkeris - known to all of us at Thorneloe as "Ernie" - passed away in his 90th year, ending an era of more than six decades of service to education, to the Sudbury community, and the Province of Ontario.

To celebrate his many achievements in education and the arts, Thorneloe had awarded him our highest honour in 1991, an Honourary Doctorate in Canon Law. Similarly, our Theatre was recently named after him and it was there that a service of remembrance and a celebration of his life was held in November, led by President Bob Derrenbacher.

A dedicated family man, Ernie had many passions, of which Thorneloe University may well have been his greatest. As a founder of the Laurentian University Federation, a Thorneloe board member since 1969, former board chair (1987-1992), recent Chancellor (2001-2010) and honorary degree recipient, Ernie dedicated 45 years of service to our university.

Ernie's parents came to Canada as Greek refugees displaced by the Turkish conflict



Ernest James Checkeris - known to all of us at Thorneloe as "Ernie" - passed away in his 90th year. Photo: Stephen Andrews

in Asia Minor. He grew up in Toronto, completed his schooling there, and served in the Royal Canadian Navy in World War II. Moving to Sudbury in 1945, he owned and operated a successful lumbering and logging business - Wahnapiatae Lumber - just east of Sudbury, retiring in 1980.

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In 2010, Dr. Checkeris handed over the responsibilities of Chancellor to Mrs. Barb Bolton at Convocation.

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Mission Statement

Situated on the Laurentian University campus, Thorneloe University is an interdisciplinary centre of teaching, learning and research in the Humanities, the Arts and Theology.

A founding member of the Laurentian University federation and affiliated with the Anglican Church of Canada, Thorneloe provides an accessible education fostering critical inquiry in a student-focused environment.

President's Report

As President, it is always a privilege to reflect on the past year and comment on what lies ahead for our University. It certainly has been a time of transition for Thorneloe.

In October, we rolled out our new visual identity - a fresh logo and wordmark - as well as related items such as a redesigned website, new stationery and business cards, and new exterior signage. This has been met quite positively by students, faculty, staff, board members and our external partners, and I am confident that this new way of identifying Thorneloe will serve us well in the years to come.

That same month, we also said a sad goodbye to Ernie Checkeris, one of Thorneloe's founders, a long-time board member, and former Chancellor of the University.

I had the privilege of officiating at Ernie's memorial service in November in the space we had named in his honour - the Ernie Checkeris Theatre.

In addition, we saw the retirement of Dr. Bruce Ward, Professor of Religious Studies at Thorneloe since 1981. In June, the staff and faculty had the opportunity to wish Bruce well in his retirement (see interview on page 5) and we welcomed

Dr. Mark Scott as his successor in Religious Studies.

Strong program support

Our student numbers have been very good in the past year and we experienced steady and strong enrolments in all programs. There were particularly robust numbers in Classical (now Ancient) Studies and Women's Studies. Our course enrolments reflect about five percent of Laurentian's overall undergraduate enrolment - as they have for at least a decade - once again making them the highest among the federated universities at Laurentian.

At our October Convocation, we awarded the Thorneloe Mitre to Dr. David Gould of Sault Ste. Marie, a long-time board member and friend of Thorneloe. We also conferred the Thorneloe Fellowship on Ken Salah of Cambrian College, and an honorary doctorate on the Rt. Rev. Tom Corston, retired Bishop from the Diocese of Moosonee.

This year, we will be awarding the Thorneloe Mitre to retired Laurentian professor Dr. Gary Kinsman and the Thorneloe Fellowship to Muiriel Checkeris, widow of Ernie Checkeris. In addition, we will be conferring an honorary doctorate on



*(The Rev.) Robert Derrenbacher, Ph.D.
President, Provost and Vice-Chancellor*

noted activist and writer Dr. Dionne Brand of the University of Guelph, who will also address Convocation.

Looking forward

As we embark on a new academic year, one of our most important projects will be our work in strategic planning. A Strategic Planning Committee - chaired by Dan Lessard of the Board and comprised of two faculty, two board members and the President - has been busy assembling data that will lead to the articulation of new strategic objectives and goals for our University.

These objectives and goals for the next five years will focus on our physical spaces, our academic programs, our staff and faculty components, and our relationships with external partners, including Laurentian University.

Our student numbers have been very good.

The Strategic Planning Committee needs your feedback and input. Please consider taking a few minutes to complete an online survey - www.surveymonkey.com/r/thorneloestratplan

We want to hear from a wide-range of people - current and former students, current and former residents, faculty, staff, board members, community partners and friends of Thorneloe University.

So with this important planning in view, I look forward to what the year has in store for our University.



At the recent Convocation, previous presidents Bishop Stephen Andrews (left), Dr. John Sandys-Wunsch (right), and Dr. Robert Derrenbacher were able to meet for the first time.

'Edutainment' blends new media and public education



Two faculty members have been exploring the use of new media to help people better understand Humanities. For more than a year, Mark Sundaram and Aven McMaster have been making fun and educational videos about language, history, literature and science.

Both teach in Ancient Studies - although Mark has a cross-appointment with the English Department - and the project came about because of his interest in the history of the English language and background in medieval studies. Lately, the project has been broadened to cover a range of topics.

Full of fascinating trivia, amusing images, and confounding connections, the videos focus on etymology - the origin and history of English words - but then branch off to follow often surprising paths to include literature, science, history, and culture. The series is called "The Endless Knot", a name drawn from medieval literature, and symbolizing the interconnected nature of the world.

Both Mark and Aven are part of the growing group of 'edutainment' creators on the web, men and women who want to harness the potential of new media platforms and social

networks to spread education beyond the traditional confines of schools and universities, and entertain people in the process.

Concentrating on the Humanities - and demonstrating the importance of interdisciplinary thinking within our education and our lives - these videos exemplify the Thorneloe motto of "Learning for Life."

In the process, both Mark and Aven have also had to learn many new skills, such as filming, video and audio editing, animation, and graphic design. They say it has been very rewarding to find new ways of sharing the knowledge they have acquired over their years of school, research, and teaching.

Mark Sundaram and Aven McMaster have been making fun and educational videos about language, history, literature and science.

Recent videos have explored unusual relationships, such as the mythological roots of the word "Clue" and the history of the science of fingerprints; the cocktail name "Gimlet" and its connections between imperialism, colonialism, and early medicine; and the origin of the term "Coach" in Renaissance Hungary.

These three videos were featured at Laurentian's "Celebration of the Arts" evening in April.

All the videos are available for free on YouTube at www.youtube.com/alliterative -- please check them out!

Please note:

If you wish to receive the Thorneloe University newsletter by email, please sign up at http://eepurl.com/YZn_9

Ernie Checkeris

Continued from page 1

It was here that he began his contributions to education, becoming a public school trustee in 1945 in the Township of Dryden, where Wahnapiatae was located. Thus began a record 55 years of service to the Sudbury School Board.

His retirement allowed him to pursue a growing passion for crafts, and while studying pottery at Cambrian College he met and later married Muiriel MacLeod. Together they operated a studio in the south end of the City. His clay work includes unique masks and wall murals and at least five of his murals can be found in various educational institutions in the City, including Thorneloe University.

Ernie was a man of many passions - his volunteer work, the outdoors, Canadian stamps, gardening, writing, lively discussion, reading, and of course family - but he dedicated most of his work to the advancement and betterment of education.

Not surprisingly, he was a member or chair of many organizations over the years, including the Northern Ontario Public School Trustees' Association, Ontario Public School Board's Association, Canadian School Board's Association, Ontario Crafts Council, Ontario College of Teachers, Ontario Junior Chamber of Commerce, Ontario School Trustee's Council, Ontario Bi-Centennial Commission, to name just a few.

Locally, he was an active member of a variety of groups and organizations dealing with community issues as diverse as seniors, arts and crafts, or community planning; and he has been the recipient of a myriad of awards and honours from grateful organizations, including the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

We join with Muiriel and his children to mourn his loss and to celebrate his immense contributions to this community.



Farewell Ernie! Thank you!

The Flag at Thorneloe

Recently, Thorneloe introduced the results of a new visual identity project which has been implemented on our website, our signage, and our stationery. It was instituted as a means of establishing our unique personality as a post-secondary institution.

However, one thing that has not changed since then is the flag that you see over the University's buildings, because the flag is the official emblem of the Anglican Church of Canada. Created in the mid-1950s, its visibility signifies our commitment to the principles of the Anglican Church regarding an open and welcoming university environment.

The flag displays a prominent red St. George's cross over a white background, a symbol often associated with the Church of England and more recently with England as a separate country within the United Kingdom. In addition, there is a green maple leaf in each of the four corners of the flag, and each represents the four ecclesiastical provinces or geographic areas of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Thorneloe University flies this flag to mark its historic and on-going connections with the Anglican Church. For more information on the flag, please visit: www.anglican.ca/help/faq/acc-flag/



2015 - 2016 Theatre Productions

Workshop Production

“Drag Queens on Trial”
Written by Sky Gilbert
Directed by Ian MacLennan
September 18-20, 25-26, 2015

Fall Mainstage

“The Dead Mess”
Written and Directed by
Jenny Hazelton
November 19-22, 26-28, 2015

Winter Mainstage

“Blood Relations”
By Sharon Pollock
Directed by Adam Bergquist
March 3-6, 10-12, 2016

www.thorneloe.ca/theatre

Religious Studies: End of An Era

Religious Studies at Thorneloe has reached the end of an era with the retirement of its most senior member, Dr. Bruce Ward.

Bruce was hired at Thorneloe in 1981, after completing his doctorate in Religious Studies at McMaster University. His reputation within the scholarly community grew rapidly, beginning with his being selected for Laurentian University's Research Excellence Award (1987-88) which was granted for his first publication, *Dostoyevsky's Critique of the West* (Wilfred Laurier Press, 1982).

Since then, he has delivered numerous papers, published many articles, and also published a further two books: *Remembering the End: Dostoyevsky as Prophet to Modernity* (Westview Press, 2001, with Travis Kroeker); and *Redeeming*

the Enlightenment (Eerdmans, 2010). Dr. Ward was instrumental in providing the Religious Studies Department with a very contemporary focus through his work. Many of the innovative and groundbreaking courses we offer - such as Ideas of Love, Issues in Religion and Science, and Religion and Violence, and many more - were created by him and continue to enjoy significant student support.

A challenge to replace

He frequently acted as Chair and guiding light of the Joint Department of Religion, has been Chair of Religious Studies at Thorneloe, served a term as the Director of the Laurentian M.A. in Humanities programme, and has been a visiting professor at Concordia University.

Bruce will be remembered affectionately by his students as a dedicated and inspiring teacher who introduced them to the central texts and thoughts of the western religious tradition. His wise and judicious contributions to governance, his outstanding discipline as a scholar, and his easy-going humour will be sorely missed by his colleagues.

With Bruce's retirement, Thorneloe embarked on a search for a new full-time faculty member in the Department. Dr. Mark Scott was selected from a large number of applicants for the position. (See Scott on page 12).

Mark has completed graduate work at both Yale and Harvard Universities, and has won teaching awards at Harvard, Concordia, *Continued on page 12...*

An Interview with Dr. Bruce Ward

With more than 30 years of service to his credit, Dr. Bruce Ward has retired from teaching. We took the opportunity to speak with him recently and obtain his perspective of Thorneloe.

What was Thorneloe like in 1981 when you first began teaching here?

The word small comes to mind immediately, and also somewhat precarious. Other than Acting Provost/President Frank Peake, and the Dean of Residence and Registrar, Alex McGregor, I was the only full-time faculty member. Like them, I combined teaching with administrative duties and was Chair of Laurentian's Joint Department of Religious Studies by my second year here. Religious Studies was our only B.A. programme then, although we were beginning to offer some courses in Classics, in Women's Studies, and also Theatre Arts and Theology, the last mainly as a distance offering. Our physical space was small too, with offices in what is now the residence and a portable at the back. There was hardly any classroom space and I did most of my teaching down at Laurentian. Having more students in our classes was a pressing necessity, so our focus was on teaching - effectively and frequently - and on the development of what were then called "correspondence" courses.

How has Thorneloe changed since then?

I've seen significant growth in many ways: in the number of students being taught, in the number of faculty - both full-time and sessional - and the administrative and building staff. The physical space too is more plentiful and much better, and the change in technology has brought us 'smart' classrooms with wi-fi, etc. It's a far cry from borrowing a 35 mm projector from



With an extensive list of publications, Bruce has frequently conducted book signing on campus.

"down the hill" to show a film in a class. The faculty/staff lounge has also been a bonus and, of course, the Ernie Checkers Theatre space, the refurbished chapel, and much more.

What was your major focus in the early years?

One reason I was hired was to develop a contemporary Religious Studies curriculum that was in line with what more established universities were offering. Former President, Ted Heaven, who left just before I arrived, had the foresight to realize that Thorneloe's future depended on academic diversification, not just in Religious Studies but also through the development of additional full-degree programmes in Classics, Women's Studies, and Theatre Arts. Our goal was to develop a comprehensive undergraduate curriculum that combined high academic quality with flexibility and appeal to students.

You're well known for adding a variety of interesting courses over the years, such as Ideas of Love. Where do the ideas come from?

Actually, 'Ideas' was very similar to a course I had taught during my doctoral studies at McMaster and it seemed a fitting introduction for students to our curriculum.

Another course that has been important for me and I think for students is Faith and Atheism. This concept came out of my doctoral dissertation on Dostoyevsky, which was all about the dialogue between belief and unbelief. I've found the course to be a helpful setting for students coming to the issue with different backgrounds and assumptions.

I'm also pleased with the student reception to my course Religion and Violence. That idea came out of the trauma of "9/11" - and the confusion and over-heated rhetoric about religious terrorism in the aftermath of that event. I thought it important to develop a course that examined in a balanced way the relationship between various religions and the violence that is often associated with them.

Another course that has always been satisfying to teach is Evil and Good. It's not something that I developed - as that credit should go to former President Don Thompson - but it is in line with much of my research work.

My favourite teaching experiences, in various courses, have revolved



As our senior academic, Bruce has often spoken on behalf of the University.

around closely studying a great text with the students. Highlights would be Plato's *Republic*, Dante's *Inferno*, and Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment*.

I must emphasize that David Humbert has worked closely with me on curriculum development at Thorneloe. It has been very much a team effort. I should also mention that our very capable sessional professors have added their own interesting wrinkles to these courses.

Are there other areas in which you have seen significant change of an academic nature?

Absolutely. As a long-time faculty member, I've certainly noticed a shift from an almost exclusive focus on teaching to a more balanced focus on teaching and research. I think it's partly a result of the Collective Agreement that came into being in the early 90's, which contributed greatly to the 'professionalization' (in the good sense of the word) of the academic dimension of Thorneloe, as did the CA that came later for sessional faculty.

I should also mention the involvement of our faculty with graduate-level programmes at Laurentian, especially the Interdisciplinary M.A. in Humanities.

Compared with those early years, how would you say Thorneloe has possibly remained the same?

Well, despite its growth, Thorneloe is still far from a large institution, and that makes for a sense of community among everyone here. I think that is very rare, but I've noticed it from the beginning; we don't, probably can't, work in isolation from each other. For such close interaction to be

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International Collaboration in Theatre Arts

Recent efforts by Thorneloe faculty to bring Shakespeare to a wider audience in China have resulted in the travel opportunity of a lifetime for 12 of our Theatre students.

This past April, the students, with Dr. Ian MacLennan and Prof. Jenny Hazelton, gathered at Pearson Airport in Toronto for the long trip to Taipei, Taiwan. Twenty-eight hours later they were met at Taipei by Prof. Patricia Tedford who joined them from Hong Kong.

The purpose of this venture was to collaborate with Taiwanese students at Providence University in Taichung City, Taiwan's third largest city. It was a joint project for the finale of their English Department's annual English Festival.

For the past two Decembers, Ian and Jenny had traveled to Taiwan to direct Providence University's entry to the annual Chinese Universities Shakespeare Festival in Hong Kong. It was during these visits that discussions began about bringing a group of Thorneloe students to work with

Providence students on a play for the English Festival.

Positive student response

It was expected that only four to six of our students would be interested, but when the idea was announced at a student meeting last September, there was significant interest and by November, 12 students had paid their airfare and were committed to going.

With this much student interest, discussions began with Providence about doing two plays instead of one and the suggestion was quickly approved. Also decided was that one of our students would be the stage manager and another would be a videographer who would create a documentary about the project.

Each cast consisted of Canadian and Taiwanese students. Two plays were chosen: *The Conference Of The Birds*, an adaptation of a Persian poem by the English director Peter Brook, which was directed by Patricia and choreographed by Jenny; and *The Pretentious Laddies*, an adaptation of Molière's *The Pretentious Ladies* created and directed by Ian.



Collaboration in planning the stage productions also provided a unique opportunity for students from both universities to work closely together. The casts and crews of both productions.



The cast of "The Conference Of The Birds"

Cultural immersion

As part of the group's time at Providence, ten hours were spent on basic Mandarin lessons - barely enough to learn to say hello (ni hao) or thank you (xiexie) - but they painted fans and lanterns, made stamps and even learned how to sing happy birthday as some students had birthdays while in Taiwan.

Excursions were an important part of the experience, with visits to Sun Moon Lake with its amazing temples and aboriginal village, the old city of Lukang (with many more temples), and a two-day stint in Taipei, the capital. There they visited an



(L – R) Linus Cunningham-Closs, Michael Sheldon, Charlotte vanWalraven in “The Pretentious Laddies”

old village, the local Zoo (during a torrential downpour), and toured the National Palace Museum with Chinese artifacts from the dawn of civilization to today.

The group also enjoyed what had been billed as the best dumplings in Taiwan, saw a Chinese opera, and went to the top of Taipei 101, at one time the tallest building in the world.

For five weeks, the students shared rooms in a guest house, the Rhine Hone. Half a block away was a Carrefour (a large store like Walmart or Real Canadian Superstore)

which had a McDonald’s; also nearby was a Seven Eleven with tasty tea eggs, which became a staple of many a diet while they were there.

The Providence officials treated the group royally and everyone spoke highly of their warm reception as the hosts went out of their way to make our students feel comfortable. They were invited to receptions and meals and local students were constantly taking the Canadian students on excursions into the city for the night markets or meals.

Our students were nothing short of exemplary as ambassadors for Thorneloe and we can be very proud of how they behaved and presented themselves. They made a lasting and positive impression on Providence University.

The play’s the thing

But what about the performances? After more than four weeks of shared rehearsal, it all came down to one performance of each play on the afternoon of May 19. Our actors were playing to a house that was triple the size of anything we might see at Thorneloe - about 500 seats which were filled and with people sitting in the aisles - and they were good performances that day.

The two very different plays were received rapturously, and the next day the Providence officials invited us to come back next year. The Taiwan experience was one which will remain a milestone for everyone who participated. Students say they learned much about another culture, but even more about themselves and their abilities to adapt and learn.

The project was an outstanding success and we will return with new students to Providence in the future. Inter-cultural collaboration is becoming a highlight of the Theatre program at Thorneloe.



The cast and crew of “The Pretentious Laddies”

Thorneloe would like to thank the following students for joining us in this Taiwan adventure and helping us establish positive academic relations with Providence University.

- Liz Kenny
- Charlotte vanWalraven
- Vanessa diFeo
- Mel Durette
- Jananee Bonello-Stauch
- Karen Jackson
- Zoe Laverdure
- Michael Sheldon
- Linus Cunningham-Closs
- Devin Reid
- Marcus Dias
- Kyle Kelley

Ancient Studies: A good year for new publications and curriculum development

Faculty within the department have been very active in recent years with respect to research and publishing. For example, Dr. Louis L'Allier's third novel entitled *Le jardin des espoirs déçus* was published last fall. Subsequently, he was interviewed on Radio-Canada and was invited to the Toronto book fair. In March, he was a guest author at the "Salon du livre de Montagu" in France and was interviewed on local French radio and television. Louis also presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Canadian Classical Association in Toronto last May, and is currently revising the text to publish it as an article entitled "Xénophon et la voie moyenne d'Aristippe dans les Mémoires II, 1, 11".

Similarly, Dr. Aven McMaster presented a paper at the same conference on the Bechtel Test and the teaching of classical literature, and wrote a review for the Canadian journal *Museion*. Aven also co-wrote the chapter "It Is Good to Be the King: Monarchs in Middle-earth and the Middle Ages" for a book entitled *The Hobbit and History* which came out this past year.

She continues to focus on maintaining and developing ties to other scholars and departments in various ways. For example, she has initiated conversations with the English and History departments at Laurentian, has a variety of contacts with other classicists, and has hosted the rotation-curation account "We the Humanities" on Twitter. This has allowed her to reach and talk to a wide range of scholars and enthusiasts in many fields of the Humanities.

Aven has been working with Women's Studies to develop... Sex and the Body in the Ancient World.

Similarly, Aven has been working with Women's Studies to develop the new second-year course Sex and the Body in the Ancient World. It will cover a range of topics including the ideal body (as seen in sculpture and art, for instance),

medical theories of sex, attitudes to sexuality, transitions (adolescence, aging, menopause), the slave's body, the body on display (dance, drama, sport, gladiators, oratory), and funeral practices.

Dr. Guy Chamberland continues his work as Secretary of the Classical Association of Canada and as Editor of its newsletter, the *Canadian Classical Bulletin*. In the past year, he has pursued his collaborative work on the inscriptions of the Greek city of Xanthos (in southern Turkey) and published a book review in the International Journal of the History of Sport.

Making ancient studies relevant

Dr. Sally Katary gave a talk at Dynamic Earth for the travelling Tutankhamun exhibit in August: "In Search of Riches: Tomb Robbery in the Valley of the Kings". She also published two detailed book reviews for the *Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities*.

Prof. Allan Daoust has been teaching both Classical Mythology and Magic in the Ancient World. His focus is on making Ancient Studies relevant to students by exploring the relationships between these topics and popular culture. Both courses are very popular and present many students with an opportunity and an entry point to other offerings within Ancient Studies.

The topics he selects also aim to provide some thematic connections between Ancient Studies and other Thorneloe departments, particularly Religious Studies and Women's Studies. Allan has also been working on a lengthy study of the Roman blacksmith, and the use of iron within the Roman world. This has led to several papers being presented at the Classical Association of Canada's annual conferences.

The first major portion of this project is being prepared for publication, with several related works on the funerary iconography of the Roman blacksmith to follow.

Bruce Ward

Continued from page 5

positive, much depends on the people involved - and Thorneloe is very fortunate in this regard. With smallness comes flexibility and therefore the ability to grasp interesting opportunities when they arise; however, it also entails some vulnerability to external forces.

I've noted throughout my time a marked sensitivity to the quality of our relations with our own constituents - especially students - and with the other federated universities and above all, with Laurentian itself. It's a bit like being a mouse being in bed with an elephant, to borrow an analogy from Pierre Trudeau about the Canada-U.S. relationship.

Are you optimistic about the future of Thorneloe?

The answer is "yes," but I hope not a naïve yes. Thorneloe exists in a world whose power structures are not very friendly to teaching and research in the Humanities, which it is our mandate to foster and promote. There will be the continual challenge of explaining, defending, justifying what we do, and finding ways to do it more effectively, without compromising standards or losing sight of the essentials. And there is the continual, closely-related challenge of adequate funding, but I remain optimistic we can meet these challenges because of the commitment and awareness of the people here: the faculty, administrative staff, and board, and also the students in our residence and in our programmes.

This brings me to the other reason for my optimism: human nature itself, which will always be attracted to the questions about philosophical and religious truth, social justice, the ancient human past, and dramatic art that are inherent to Thorneloe's disciplines.

Any specific plans in retirement?

I expect to be spending more time at my place on Manitoulin Island; and there are many books waiting to be read or re-read; places I want to visit; waters to be explored by canoe or kayak. I also have a few writing projects, which are new departures for me, including a translation and an historical novel. Finally, I anticipate more time for some meditative practices, including tai chi and (dare I say?) golf, both of which, in different ways, offer scope for endless improvement.

Women's Studies: Graduates describe career options

Employing a concept that has been warmly received by previous classes, Women's Studies again invited alumni to highlight a few of the career options open to our current students.

Led by recent graduate Taynia Rainville, the Women's Studies Association hosted a Career Paths event in January for a packed lecture hall of undergrads. It was one of a variety of faculty/student events that the Department regularly uses to enrich the everyday student experience.

Ms. Rainville has just begun employment at a local HIV/AIDS organization as a youth outreach coordinator. She and three other graduates offered valuable advice on how to translate the academic skills of a degree to the practical requirements of the workplace.

...guests spoke about their early career experiences and offered lots of concrete advice

The guests spoke about their early career experiences and offered lots of concrete advice. Karen Thistle, Communications Director for the Art Gallery of Sudbury, was one of those speakers. She detailed how her education in Women's Studies and a

Master's degree in Journalism brought her to a career in public relations.

Another graduate, Amanda McConnell, is the Director of Camp Ehrlo in Saskatchewan, a camp for youth with special needs that provides accessible outdoor and therapeutic experiences. She highlighted how a knowledge of social justice helped shape her transition to this field.

Community involvement

There have been many events and campus visitors with a community focus this year in Women's Studies; for example, in cooperation with the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program of Health Sciences North, the Department held an annual movie night and discussion highlighting the issue of sexual assault in the military. Students and sexual assault counsellors/nurses discussed recent U.S. and Canadian reports on sexual assault within the armed forces.

In another event with a very different focus Dr. Florence Pasche-Guignard, from the University of Toronto, gave a public lecture titled "Ritualizing Reproduction in the Digital Age: Technology, Maternity, and Materiality."

Prof. OmiSoore Dryden founded the Black History Month Ad-Hoc Committee and co-organized a community event for Black History Month with a showing of the film

Pariah, directed by Dee Rees. The event attracted community members from both Thorneloe and the greater Sudbury area.

Film director, Jules Koostachin, was invited by Dr. Jennifer Johnson to be a guest lecturer and spoke about the role of Indigenous women in film and television, with an emphasis on how images relate to nation-building.

In addition, Prof. Shana Calixte hosted Dr. Rachel Epstein from the LGBTQ Parenting Network in her course *Reproduction and Mothering*. Epstein gave students an in-depth historical look at Canadian legislation affecting lesbian and queer parents.

New Research in Women's Studies

Research activities continue in the department; for example, Prof. Dryden co-edited the book *Disrupting Queer Inclusion: Canadian Homonationalisms and the Politics of Belonging*, which has just been released by UBC Press.

Jennifer's research includes a new book chapter entitled "Mothering and Food Work in Nuclear Family Home Design: A Spatial Analysis of Feeding Children" which will be published in a collection on mothering and food this year with Demeter Press. She was also promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

'Classics' name change to 'Ancient Studies' clarifies new priorities

It's now final. Ancient Studies is the new name for the department formerly known as Classical Studies; however, it is much more than just a change of name, for it also corresponds to a significant change in our approach to the study of the Ancient World.

Indicative of this new focus is a fresh offering entitled *Approaches to the Ancient World*, which we believe will be one of the most significant additions to the programme. Its focus is to teach students why we study the Ancient World, and how we use Greek and Latin texts,

archaeological artifacts, and other evidence - even coins - to learn about ancient peoples.

Similar courses already exist in several disciplines, notably History, but they have not been part of the curriculum in Classical Studies.

Interestingly, one of the reasons for the name change has been the growing realization that few students - or the public, for that matter - actually know what is meant by "Classics" and "Classical

Studies." The new name is much more descriptive and is seen as being attractive to an even greater number of students in what is already seen as a popular programme.

Despite the name change, the Department still offers two programmes: Ancient Studies and Classical Studies; the latter requires at least two years of ancient Greek and two years of Latin. Ancient Studies majors are not required to take any of the language courses, although they are encouraged to do so.

2014 Convocation



Ken Salah, recipient of an Honourary Fellowship at Thorneloe.



Bishop Tom Corston, recipient of an Honorary Doctorate in Canon Law, and Convocation speaker.



**THORNELOE
UNIVERSITY**

AT LAURENTIAN

cordially invites you to attend

The Thirty-fourth Meeting of the University Convocation

to be held at the

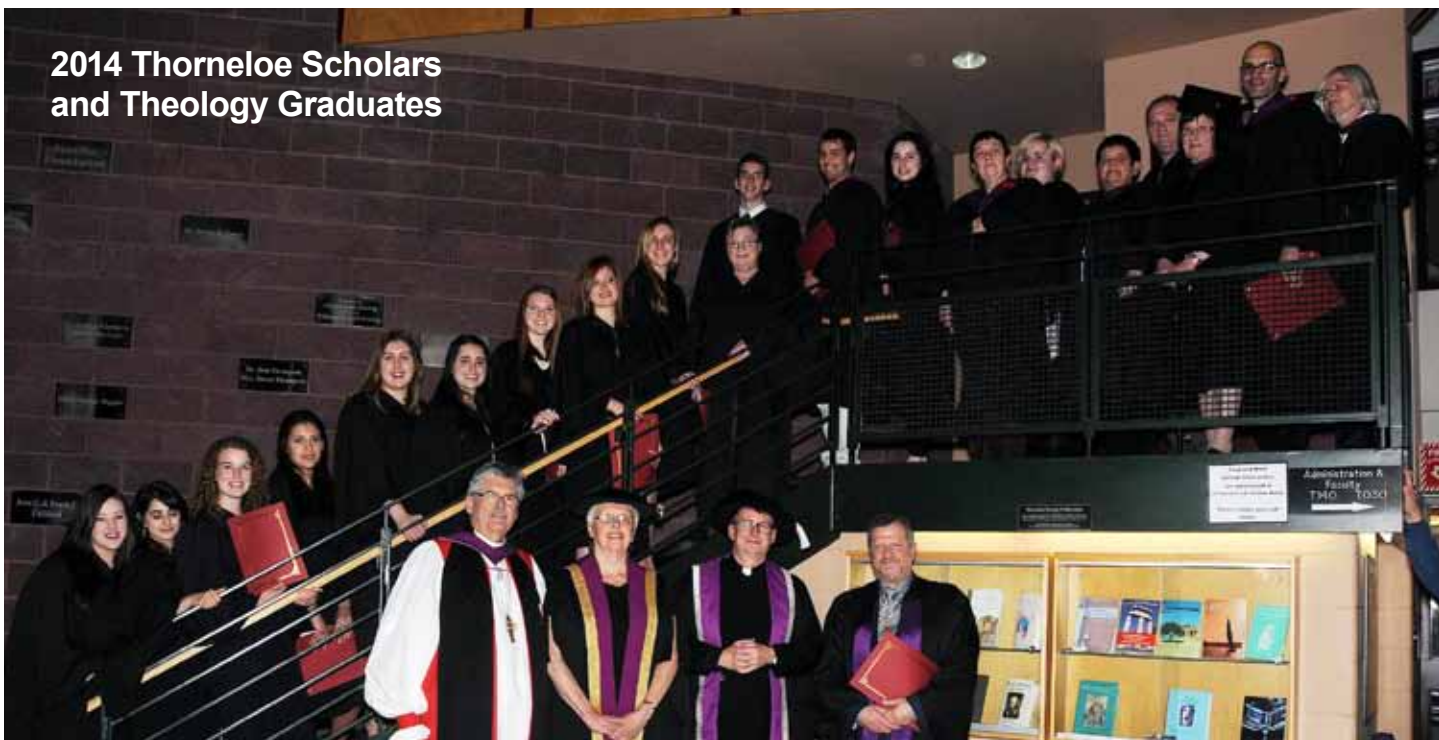
Ernie Checkeris Theatre
on the Laurentian campus
Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 7:30 pm

For the conferring of an Honorary Doctorate
on Prof. Dionne Brand;
and a Thorneloe Mitre Award on Dr. Gary Kinsman;
and a Thorneloe Honourary Fellowship
on Mrs. Muiriel Checkeris.

RSVP Susan Moores (705) 673-1730, ext. 100
or at smoores@laurentian.ca

A reception will follow

2014 Thorneloe Scholars and Theology Graduates



Theatre Arts: International collaboration becoming a regular feature

A trip to foreign climes and a three-play season highlight this past year in Theatre Arts as we dared to go where we have never gone before and took students to perform in a different culture and on a different continent. It was an exciting opportunity to be involved in a joint theatre project in Taiwan.

Closer to home, we presented two mainstage productions and a workshop. The autumn offering was *Memory Of Water* by Shelagh Stephenson, directed by Patricia Tedford. Patricia double-cast this production primarily so that more

This coming season we are again doing two mainstage productions and a workshop. In late September, we begin with a workshop about Sky Gilbert's *Drag Queens On Trial* for the last two weekends in September. Jenny, one of our graduates and our acting and mime instructor, has written and will direct the fall mainstage of *The Dead Mess* in late November; and Adam Bergquist, Patricia Tedford's sabbatical replacement, will direct *Blood Relations*, written by Sharon Pollock, in early March, 2016.

Apart from teaching and directing, faculty continue research and creative work;

Patricia was cast to play Diana in the Bluewater Summer Playhouse production of *Henry And Alice: Into The Wild*. She played Judith Bliss in the winter Mainstage production of *Hay Fever*; was involved in more voice work with the Fourth Chapter in Perspective; and directed *The Conference Of The Birds*, an adaptation of a Persian poem, at Providence University in Taiwan.

Jenny, our acting and mime instructor, assisted with Ian's movement workshops for the Shakespeare project in Taiwan in December; and directed Encore Theatre's production of *Abraham Lincoln Goes To*

The Theatre, by Larry Tremblay, in April. This production received rave reviews. Jenny also continues to work with John Turner as an instructor in clown. As well, she was the choreographer for *The Conference Of The Birds* in Taiwan.

We continue to explore our local, national and international connections and have been invited back to Taiwan to continue our collaboration with Providence University. We have also, as a result of international contacts at conferences, been invited

to participate with our students in events in Denmark (marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death) and in India for a local Shakespeare festival. We hope that we will be able to accept these invitations and participate.

We continue to explore our local, national and international connections...

The support that is given to the students, the faculty and the department by Thorneloe University is tremendous and we are grateful to be able to create in such a supportive atmosphere.



This is part of the dress rehearsal for *The Conference Of The Birds* which was one of two entries by the group for the English Festival at Providence University.

students would have the possibility to perform; however, it also allowed the audience to see the same play performed by different casts to demonstrate the ways in which characters and situations can be interpreted.

Our winter production, which was also well-received, was Noël Coward's *Hay Fever*, directed by Ian MacLennan, and featuring professionals Patricia Tedford and Ron Tough. Students seemed to enjoy the challenge of working with professionals in a production situation.

With workshops we try to focus more on the acting and not the technical side of productions and in January we presented Jean Genet's *The Maids*. Directed by Ian, it was a weekend event that highlighted the acting talents of three of our young female students.

for example, Ian presented papers and various workshops on Shakespearean performance practices in Australia, Taiwan and India. As well, he was in Taiwan in December with Jenny Hazelton, directing the Providence University entry for the Chinese Universities' Shakespeare Festival in Hong Kong.

Creative work continues

While there, he created and recorded a lecture series for an open online course on Shakespeare which is now being utilized at Providence and other universities and, as you will read elsewhere, led the tour to Taiwan to perform two plays in collaboration with students at Providence University in Taichung City.

Meet Dr. Mark Scott

With the recent retirement of Bruce Ward, Thorneloe has appointed Dr. Mark Scott to the position of Assistant Professor in Religious Studies. Because Mark is new to the area and the University, we asked him to join us for an interview.

Tell our readers a bit about yourself and your family.

I'm from the Barrie-area, the youngest of three boys, and Esther and I married in 1999. We have four wonderful children: James (8), Hannah (6), David (4), and Rebekah (6 months) and I like to say that we're in the "joyful chaos" phase of family life. Marilynne Robinson calls it "blindingly beautiful" (*Gilead*, 65), but I would add that it's also completely exhausting! Our children love sports, music, reading, and playing with their cousins.



Dr. Mark Scott, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

What drew you to academic work in Religious Studies?

From an early age, I just knew I wanted to write and teach in Religious Studies. That desire led to a B. A. (Honours) in Religious Studies at McMaster University and my M.A.R. (Theology) from Yale Divinity School, where I studied under Miroslav Volf. Doctoral studies resulted in my A. M. and Ph.D. (Theology/Early Christianity) from Harvard University through the Committee for the Study of Religion, where I studied under Sarah Coakley and taught for Helmut Koester, David Carrasco, Peter Gomes, and many others.

You have published two books on the concept of "theodicy"? What is

"theodicy" and where has your research taken you on that idea?

The two books you're referring to were *Journey Back to God: Origen on the Problem of Evil* (NY: Oxford University Press, 2012, pbk, 2015) and *Pathways in Theodicy: An Introduction to the Problem of Evil* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015).

Generally speaking, in the first book I undertake an extensive study of the theodicy of Origen of Alexandria (185-254 CE), a complex and influential early Christian thinker, but in the second book, I analyze the major models and motifs in Christian treatments of the problem of evil.

Put simply, theodicy is the attempt to explain or make sense of suffering, that is, to restore cosmic coherence in the face of evil. While my first book examines a single figure's attempt to preserve "the intelligibility of the cosmos" (Rowan Williams, "Origen: Between Orthodoxy and Heresy," 12), my second book broadens that focus to explore the plurality of ways Christian thinkers have wrestled with the question of God's permission of evil.

What attracted you to the position in Religious Studies?

For several years, I've had the privilege of teaching, in various capacities, at Harvard, Concordia, the University of Missouri, and Villanova University. These are very diverse intellectual environments and they have enriched me as a scholar, teacher, and person.

I'm delighted to be able to return to Canada and teach in Northern Ontario after many years abroad, and it is somewhat of a homecoming for me. I value community and collegiality, and Thorneloe seems to excel at both. I'm excited to join a faculty committed to the Humanities and to teaching excellence.

What courses will you be teaching this academic year?

In the Fall, I am teaching RLST 4345: Religion and Modernity, where we will explore the recent ground-breaking scholarship of Sarah Coakley. Her work engages the major themes and questions of religion and modernity. I'll also teach RLST 1116: Ideas of Love. In the following term I'm scheduled for RLST 2136: Christian Thought and Culture, RLST 3386: Faith and Atheism, and RLST 2166: Sin and Evil.

End of an Era

Continued from page 4

and the University of Missouri. He has just completed a prestigious three-year post-doctoral fellowship at Villanova University in Pennsylvania.

He has published two books, one on the theologian Origen and another on the problem of evil and theodicy. Originally from Barrie, Ontario, Dr. Scott is married with four children and has enjoyed returning with them to Canada.

Faculty news

In other news, Dr. David Humbert will be on sabbatical for six months, beginning in January 2016. He will be participating in a panel discussion of a recent book by Karen Armstrong, *Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence*, at the American Academy of Religion conference in Atlanta in November.

Dr. Adrian Langdon will be teaching two of the department's more popular courses in the coming year: Dimensions of the Paranormal and Cults, and New Religious Movements. He continues to research in the areas of religion and economics as well as religion and ecology. His article on Barth and ecology is forthcoming in *The Scottish Journal of Theology*.

The Reverend Dr. Tim Perry is returning to teach Ideas of Love this year.

Have a story you want to share in our next edition of the Thorneloe News?

We are always interested to hear of student achievements and alumni adventures.

Please send articles and photo submissions to smoores@laurentian.ca