

AST Happenings December 11, 2008

CCEPA Trust in Education Presentation Postponed

The Trust in Education presentation scheduled for this evening (**Thursday, December 11**) at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Mary's University has been postponed until the new year due to the illness of guest speaker Dr. Paul Cappon.

Celebrate our students

Congratulations to AST M.Div. student Rosemary Godin, who recently won the 2008 "Preaching the Word" Maritime Prize for Excellence in Preaching. Rosemary is in the final year of her studies and is the first AST student to win this prestigious award. The prize is awarded annually by the Wesley Memorial United Church in Moncton, NB, as part of its Spirit-Talk program, and submissions are accepted from all over the Maritime provinces. Rosemary delivered her sermon, "Journeying into God's Future" and received her award at Wesley Memorial's 117th Anniversary Service on November 9. She will also deliver her award-winning sermon at the regular chapel service in AST's St. Columba Chapel on Thursday, January 8, 2009. *Well done Rosemary!*

An Evening with C.S. Lewis

AST student Mel Malton will present a public talk/presentation/one-person show about British theologian C.S. Lewis. Billed as a "vintage lecture about God," Mel's performance will take place on Monday, January 19, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the AST St. Columba chapel. Lewis was a gifted writer who reluctantly accepted Christianity after many years as an atheist. He is probably best known for his series of children's books, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, some of which have been brought to life in recent blockbuster movies, and *The screwtape Letters*, a correspondence between two hard-working demons trying to win souls for the dark side. View the promotional poster on the AST web site at <http://asttheology.ns.ca/UpcomingEvents.html> (scroll down).

Faculty Spotlight – What's up with Jody Clarke?

It has been a busy fall for Jody on several fronts, and we were able to catch up with him recently...

- His article, "Pastoral Diagnosis: Accessing the Psychotheological Themes of Freedom and Meaning" appeared in *The Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling*.
- In September, Jody paddled in the Quebec Cup Regatta. The event brings together almost one hundred dragon boat crews from Eastern Canada. While the crew did well, finishing thirteenth overall, the highlight was that Jody had an opportunity to paddle with his two daughters Maria and Emily—both of whom are strong flat water paddlers.
- Toward the end of October, Jody was one of the keynote speakers at a one-day grief event, co-sponsored by VON, Capital Health, and AST, entitled *Grief: A Journey of Discovery* . . .
- In November, Jody was in New Minas to do a workshop on *Theological Worlds*.
- His paper "The Meta-psychology of Character Change: A Case Study of Ebenezer Scrooge," which will be featured in an upcoming edition of *Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health*, is being presented at a one-night conference for psychotherapists in Los Angeles on December 14. Jody's friend, Dr. Tom Brod, will be delivering the paper, while an actor will be acting out pivotal scenes from *A Christmas Carol*.

We told you in the last issue that...

AST is one of only three truly ecumenical theological universities in the world. It seems that some of you are wondering just where in the world these other educational institutions are located.

Well, you'll find one of them in Vancouver at the **Vancouver School of Theology** (VST), which was founded in 1971 by the Anglican Theological College (ATC) and the Union College of British Columbia (from the United Church). The Presbyterian Church in Canada soon followed, as did the Presbyterian Church (U.S.) and the United Methodist Church (U.S.), both of which recognize VST as a seminary for the training of their clergy.

The other truly ecumenical university is located in Australia, and because our chief source of information is currently out of the country, we'll have to keep you in suspense until we can confirm the name.

There are, of course, many theological schools around the world that promote ecumenism. But the denominations that are represented at these theological schools are usually separated into departments or colleges, etc. Altogether, they are considered ecumenical in the sense that different faiths are represented. However, students attend classes and are taught by faculty appointed to their own particular denominational areas (i.e., Anglican students attend classes intended for Anglicans, taught by faculty of the Anglican tradition, and so on).

Atlantic School of Theology, the Vancouver School of Theology, and the Australian theological school that cannot yet be named, have a distinctly different approach, where students attend classes with students of other faiths, and where faculty members are not separated into departments or colleges based on denomination. Yes, there are programs to ensure that the training for each denomination covers the fundamental teachings of a particular church, such as our foundation program at AST, but the educational programming is combined, rather than completely separated.

Are you on the cutting edge of theology?

Share your fascinating tidbits in an upcoming issue and amaze your colleagues with your vast knowledge of all things theologically derived. Please send your submissions to devoffice@astheology.ns.ca.

AST Happenings is an ad hoc e-news publication of the AST Communications Office. If you have information you'd like to share with the AST Community, or questions that you'd like answered, please let us know. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions via email devoffice@astheology.ns.ca or via telephone (902) 496-7943.