

## Reflections on The Da Vinci Code - Quinn Strikwereda, Senior Student

(The following scenario came into my mind as I read a story on CNN about the phenomenal paperback success of the 'Da Vinci Code,' that little book of fiction whose influence never seems to wane. **\*\*Note\*\*** If you plan to read the book or see the movie, do not read further as the plot line may be spoiled).

Picture this pastoral encounter in your minds:

A man named Simon, perhaps in his late 30's or early 40's, has been fighting a protracted battle with cancer. He's now in hospital again after a lengthy remission, but this time it's different. This time he knows he will soon die. Late on a Tuesday afternoon his pastor, Reverend Jane, comes into his hospital room.

**Simon:** Reverend Jane, I'm glad you're here. I've been living with this disease for so long now and I know for sure the end is coming soon.

**Rev'd Jane:**  
(sitting at his bedside

and taking his hand):  
I'm here with you.

**Simon:** (after a long silence): I'm really, really scared Jane. I think I've led a good life. I've tried to do my best as a son and husband and father. I've worked hard and I've tried to love as best I can but...(tears well up in his eyes) but O God, there are so many regrets. I don't know if God can forgive me for some of the things I've done...I'm so scared. How can I be sure I won't be rejected by God?

Now picture Jane responding in one of these two ways:

**Option 1:** Dear Simon. Believe me, we're all scared. But trust me when I say, although we can't be sure because God really has nothing to do with this evil world, I'm sure there's a loving God somewhere who might accept you. I've been reading a lot of religious stuff lately and I came across this neat little book about Jesus. Now, let me tell you this straight. Jesus was a real man. He

walked around in Palestine about 2000 years ago. He was really cool and smart and ever so nice. Maybe a bit *too* smart and cool, because he got into some trouble with the Romans and so they crucified him. But you know what? His pregnant wife Mary fled to France and bought a little house and had a delightful child. Their descendants are still around to this day! They live in Scotland. It's amazing! They're known as the 'Holy Grail'. Of course, Jesus died ages ago so he can't help you. But I hear his progeny are really nice. I'm sure if they knew of your pain and guilt and sorrow they'd feel really bad about it...and they might just have some 'secret' information to help you feel connected to God. Anyway, gotta run!

**Option 2:** Dear Simon. Believe me when I say you're not alone. Every human heart from the beginning carries around the burden of all that stuff

(Continued on page 2)

*This Wednesday  
at Wycliffe*

**4:45**

*Holy Eucharist  
Preacher:  
Tony Samut*

*Celebrant:  
The Rev. Canon Dr.  
George Sumner  
(Founders' Chapel)*

**6:00**

*Community Dinner  
(Refectory)*



*Blessed  
Easter wishes  
to all the  
Wycliffe  
Community*

## Editorial (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

we're not proud of, that burden of shameful guilt. Did you know that God loved the world that he created, that God loved *you* so much that he gave his only Son so that when you believe in him you have eternal life and are freed from all that guilt and despair? Jesus was a real man. He walked around in Palestine about 2000 years ago. He healed people and ate and drank with all kinds of people, good people and bad people and everybody in between, because he loved them all. It's all in the Gospels. The Romans crucified him and he died. Because he died God forgives all the things carried around by those who turn to Jesus and are truly sorry. He forgives without any strings or anything else. He forgives you unconditionally. But that's not all. Jesus isn't dead. God raised him and he lives! Because he's God he reigns in

majesty over his beloved creation. Because he's also human he lives inside of us and he understands our pain and sorrow and fear. He lives inside of us and helps us carry our burdens. He's with you now and he will be with you forever, and because he is risen God will raise us when we die. We will meet Jesus and he will throw his loving arms around us and wipe away every tear from our eyes. He promises that. (The pastor proceeds with a bedside service of reconciliation and anointing with oil, and when Simon drifts off to sleep she quietly slips out the door).

Option 1 may not be exactly what Brown presents in the *Da Vinci Code* but it is representative of the fare available in much contemporary spiritual writing. I am not presenting these two scenarios as a cranky evangelical with angry fists raised against the Dan Browns of the world. In fact I'm grateful to Mr.

Brown. With the release of the *Da Vinci Code* in paperback, together with a host of other works promising to tell the 'real' story of Jesus, I believe those called to minister the gospel (i.e. Christians) are presented with a unique challenge. We can choose to get angry and defensive and freak out about 'heresy'. Or we can choose to prayerfully revisit what we believe about Jesus and the good news he brings to the world. Measuring the gospel of light and life against the gospel of doubt and denial, surely we can emerge from our prayer proclaiming the good news with renewed vigor, confident that the Word of God indeed endures. Because when truth and fiction meet, truth will prevail, without us having to get bent out of shape about it.

Wycliffe College  
**Bursaries**  
 for the Academic  
 year  
**2006-2007**

**The applications for the 2006/2007 academic year are available at the Front Desk.**

The deadline for first consideration for a bursary granted by Wycliffe College is **April 12, 2006**. Thereafter, applications will be considered but money available may be limited. Please turn in the completed application to Peter Patterson's mailbox.

**Direct any questions to Barbara Jenkins, Rm #107.**

You are cordially invited to attend the  
**Annual**  
**Wycliffe College Fellowship Luncheon**



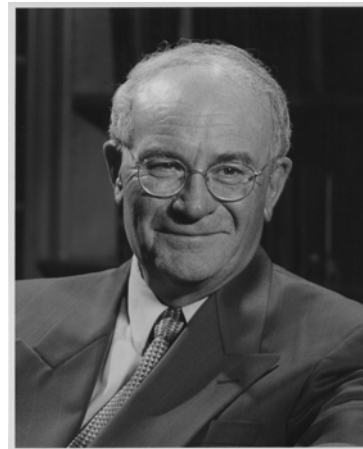
with  
 Guest Speakers  
**Ruth Grant**

Philanthropist &  
 Former Trustee 1995-2002

&

**Bob Haslam**

BA;MD.FAAP,FRCPC.  
 Former Chair of the Board of  
 Trustees 1997-2000



**“A Christian View of  
 Institutional Leadership”**



**On Monday, May 8, 2006  
 In the Wycliffe College Refectory  
 At 12 noon**



There is no charge for the lunch, however seating is limited.  
 Please confirm your attendance with Barbara Jenkins at 416-946-3546  
 or [barbara.jenkins@utoronto.ca](mailto:barbara.jenkins@utoronto.ca)



**WYCLIFFE  
 COLLEGE**

5 Hoskin Avenue, Toronto ON. M5S 1H7

[www.wycliffecollege.ca](http://www.wycliffecollege.ca)

Tel: 416-946-3535

Fax:416-946-3545

# Congratulations Class of 2006

## Schedule of Events—Convocation Day—May 8th, 2006

10:30 am	<i>Service of Thanksgiving—Founders' Chapel Pioneer Women in Ministry</i>
11:00 am	<i>Exhibition Opening—Cody Library</i>
12:00 noon	<i>Fellowship Luncheon &amp; Public Lecture with Dr. Bob Haslam &amp; Mrs. Ruth Grant</i>
2:00 pm	<i>Rehearsal—Convocation Hall</i>
3:15 pm	<i>Blessing &amp; Dedication of Ruth Scott Archives</i>
3:45 pm	<i>Eucharist—Preacher—The Rev. Canon Thora Wade Rowe</i>
5:00 pm	<i>Graduation Dinner</i>
6:30 pm	<i>Graduates Photo on the Front Steps</i>
6:50 pm	<i>Robing at Wycliffe College</i>
7:10 pm	<i>Procession to Convocation Hall leaving Wycliffe College</i>
7:30 pm	<i>Convocation Ceremony—Convocation Hall</i>
9:30 pm	<i>Reception—Sheraton Hall</i>

# Student Council News

*Greetings to all!*

*I would like to thank all those Wycliffe students and residents who took the time to participate in the Sports activities this past year for their enthusiasm and ongoing participation in these events. I think we all had a lot of fun. It was a pleasure for me organizing these activities.*

*It is time now to recognize those who excelled in tournament play over the past year, as well as those who were voted by their peers as the male and female athletes of the year.*

## Ping-pong

1st: Zoe Thiessen

2nd: Bruce Merz

3rd: Brian Peterson

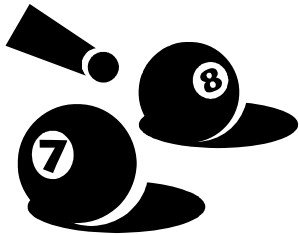


## 9-Ball

1st: Brian Peterson

2nd: James Langridge

3rd: Tristan Major



**Congratulations to our new Student Council members...**

Senior Student—**Colleen Sanderson**

VP Spirituality—**Matt Kydd**

VP Theology—**Wayne Lott**

Missions Chair—**Thomas Brauer**

Sports Chair—**James Langridge**

House Advocates—

**Hassen Karaa/Diane Yoder**

Social Chair—**Bruce Worthington**

2nd Year Rep—**Michael Caines**

## Foosball

1st: Bruce Merz

2nd: Ryan Matheson

3rd: Tristan Major

## Male Athlete of the Year

**DAVID BOEHMER**

## Female Athlete of the Year

**JASMINE SHANTZ**

*Congratulations to all the winners!*

*Wayne Lott, Sports Rep*



# This Week's Chapel Schedule



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
8:30—M.P.	7:30—WBB	8:30—M.P.
5:30—E.P.	8:45 - M.P.	4:45 - Eucharist
	5:30—E.P.	

Day	Morning Prayer/WBB	Evening Prayer/Eucharist
<b>Monday</b>	Julie Golding Page	Alan Bennett
<b>Tuesday</b>	WBB - Nola Crewe MP - Natalie Sampson	Preacher - Leader - Matt Kydd
<b>Wednesday</b>	Anglican Liturgics Class	Sub-Deacon - The Rev. Thomas Brauer Server - Michael Caines Intercessions - Janet Weller Cantor - Maddie Urion OT Reader - Basil McLeod NT Reader - Beverley Williams Greeter - Sue Channen Chancel - Rev. Travis Enright Co-Sacristans - The Rev. Travis Enright & Karen Hatch Warden - The Rev. Canon Linda Nicholls

## APRIL 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9	10	11	12 Last Day of Classes <i>Preacher— Tony Samut</i>	13	14 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	15
16	17 EXAMS →	18 →	19 →	20 →	21	22

What are you doing in the early part of May?  
Term will be over...exams, papers, course work  
will all be a distant memory!

Plan to Attend

## **Refresh! 2006**

Ministry in the Power of the Holy Spirit  
May 9 – 12 , 2006

Featuring

**Bishop NT Wright**  
speaking on Romans 8

And

**Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon**  
"Christianity, Islam and the Work of the Holy Spirit"

Worship, Prayer, Art, Music, Fellowship, Study

To register speak with Sarah Peake  
Room 233 or email [sarah.peake@utoronto.ca](mailto:sarah.peake@utoronto.ca)

**Volunteers Needed!**

All volunteers will receive a reduced rate  
for their assistance during Refresh!

5 Hoskin Avenue  
Toronto, ON M5S 1H7  
416-946-3535  
www.wycliffecollege.ca

Email: karen.baker.bigauskas@utoronto.ca

We're on the web  
www.wycliffecollege.ca



WYCLIFFE  
COLLEGE

A note of thanks...

"Thank you to  
Barbara Noble for  
finding and returning  
my missing notebook  
(containing my  
comprehensive exam  
study notes!) and  
Bible (of sentimental  
value) to the Lost &  
Found at the Porter's  
Lodge. - 2 Chr. 34.15"

Gordon L. Belyea,  
(ThD Cand.)

# Spring Ordinations

On Friday, April 28th, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.,  
The Rt. Rev. Ronald C. Ferris  
of the Diocese of Algoma  
will ordain

*Kellina Marie Cooper*

to the diaconate.

The ordination will be held at St. Paul's L'Amoreaux, 3333 Finch Ave. East (Finch & Warden). A reception will follow. This will be a true Wycliffe family celebration, including, among others, The Rev. Dr. Dean Mercer (Rector at St. Paul's), The Rev. Dr. Glen Taylor (preaching), and Michael and Anna Caines who will assist with music.

*Deo volante,*  
it is the intention of the Rt. Rev. Colin R. Johnson,  
Bishop of Toronto, to ordain

*Beverley Ann Williams*

a deacon in Christ's holy catholic Church

on

Sunday, May 7, 2006 at 4:30 p.m.

at

St. James Cathedral, King Street, Toronto