

# Morning Star

Volume 22, Issue 1

Monday, September 11,  
2006

*Special points of  
interest:*

- Wednesday Events Highlights
- Meals at Wycliffe
- Spiritual Mentors at Wycliffe
- Registrar's Reminders
- Student Council Announcements
- Chapel Schedule
- And much more...

## The Real Enemy Within

Dear brothers and sisters,

Greetings in Christ. As this week with the excitement and stress of a new school year begins, I am in fact recovering from a similar experience on the homefront. A week ago Stephanie and I took our firstborn off to university, with all the attendant emotions. There had of course been a longer lead-up to the day itself, which involved, in good academic fashion, required reading. I assigned my daughter Allan Bloom's classic The Closing of the American Mind, though

you could substitute in "Canadian" perfectly well. The book was meant to prepare her for the nihilism that underlies most of higher education in the West. The opening sentence of the book is worth quoting: "There is one thing a professor can be absolutely certain of: almost every student entering the university believes, or says he believes, that truth is relative... the students' backgrounds are as various as America can provide. Some are religious, some atheists; some are to the Left, some

to the Right; some intend to be



scientists, some humanists or professionals or businessmen; some are rich, some poor. They are unified only in their relativism..." We at Wycliffe College are situated at the very heart of a great secular university, where that same sentence pertains. And it is not just the non-Christians around us who are relativists;

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## Parking at Wycliffe

**Parking at Wycliffe College is very limited.** It is strongly advised that students and visitors use public transit when traveling to and from the College whenever possible. UofT parking is available for \$14.00/day (\$5.00 after 6:00 p.m.) on Tower Road,

or try Trinity car park.

**To best serve the entire Wycliffe community, and to try to reduce the congestion in the car park, permits will not be issued to any student living within the GTA.**

If you live outside the GTA

and wish to apply, the application forms are available at the Front Desk and should be returned to Room 107 once completed. Having a permit does not guarantee a space which are strictly "first come first served" basis.

## Enemy Within (cont)

*(Continued from page 1)*

we too, who swim in the same cultural ocean, have met the enemy and it is us as well.

The best theological college course I took in (for which in later years Joe Mangina was a TA) was taught by a systematician named Robert Johnson, and its virtue was that it had one idea. Johnson hammered away at the observation that there are two kinds of theology, those that explain what we experience in light of who Christ is, and vice versa, and that you must choose one or the other. Johnson would ramify and complexify the idea, but he would eventually come back to home base. In that same spirit I want to offer you one big plot for theological education in the richly pluralistic scene that is the Toronto School of

*“There is one thing a professor can be absolutely certain of: almost every student entering the university believes... “*

Theology in the context of the University of Toronto. Do we, or do we not, succumb to relativism, historicism (the assumption that all is explained by its context)? And are we willing to admit that where relativism reigns, we are left with nihilism, the denial of ultimate truth, and constructivism, the notion that we really make values up ourselves (over both of which the face of the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche grins like the Cheshire cat)? That is the real question, the real battle, the real parting of the ways in modern theology. It is not a parting which people and movements and courses will readily admit to. It is a parting that will lead to surprising allies across old confessional lines.

Where are such

battlelines to be found? One place is historical criticism of the Bible. We are all agreed that it has a valid role of showing the meaning of texts about which we make our own cultural assumptions. It was, for example, historical criticism that restored the exchatological horizon against which the New Testament must be read. But it must be subordinated finally to theological assumptions and commitments, lest the acids of criticism eat away at the central claims of the text, and we end off as critics of the Word rather than the recipients of His critique of us. Likewise we need to drill down with our questions in theology until we lay bare the norms that truly are running the show in any particular theological approach. Where our own

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## A Message from Marion Taylor

This year Marion and Glen Taylor will be sharing Glen's office. (Glen is on sabbatical this term and Marion next.) The Ficus Bengamina tree



which was in Marion's office needs a new home for the year. It loves sun, so it needs a sunny exposure. It needs watering

once a week. If you want to check it out for size, it is in the courtyard at the moment. Please let Marion know if you are willing to enjoy her tree for this year. Home 416-944-2546; office 416-946-3542.

## Enemy Within (cont)

*(Continued from page 2)*

experience claims to be a norm, we are back on the historicism-relativism train, whose last stop is nihilism.

Wycliffe is a school with professors and students from a variety of perspectives, all of which share the desire to seek understanding in light of the Nicene faith. All of our starting point should share the willingness

to rend our garments when we hear anew the book of the Torah of God discovered, as if anew, in the Temple. All of us share the intention to offer a critique of the modern critics, not in the interest of some postmodern relativism, but in the interests of the great theological tradition of the Church. Even that tradition is not an end in itself: like Pascal, we are here to worship not the God of the

philosophers (though we mean to learn all we can from philosophy), but rather the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, for where He is, there is fire.

Peace,  
Principal George Sumner

## Wednesday Events

Our schedule for Wednesday Events is still somewhat fluid, so check each week to see which speaker is coming. All students are invited to the Principal's Lodge at 3:00 p.m. for tea, after which we have a presentation by our guest speaker and questions. We are done at 4:30 p.m. in time for our Eucharist. Here are the guests we anticipate:

Rob Szo, a Wycliffe grad and the head of Scripture Union Canada, along with Bob Johnston, will talk about a new program to engage youth through athletics.

Our own Alan Hayes will talk about the Six Principles, the Foundational document of the school—a don't miss session.

Bishop Gordon Scruton of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts will talk about the Spiritual Life of the Clergy Person, the area of his interest & expertise.

Shelly Tidy, a grad and retired hospital chaplain, is a member of the Diocesan Committee on Healing and will talk about this ministry—a topic we do not give enough attention to.

The "Wycliffe College Disputational Society will hold our debate for the

term: "Resolved, In Evangelism You Should Tell the Listener as Much of the Gospel as They are Ready For."

Dr. Colin Chapman is a leading theologian in the middle east serving in Beirut. He will give a Christian perspective on the region today. (Sheraton Hall)

Dr. David Augsburg will give a lecture on the interface between theology and psychology. He is a professor at Fuller, and a leading voice in Evangelical Pastoral Theology. (Sheraton Hall)

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*Here is a highlight of Wednesday Events for this term. Most Events are held in the Principal's Lodge beginning with tea @ 3:00 p.m.*

*Dare to Deepen...*  
**The Wycliffe Mentoring Program**

*The Wycliffe Mentoring Program* offers all Wycliffe students the opportunity to meet with a spiritual mentor/director once a month for a private hour-long session. This is a great opportunity for you to deepen Christian formation by further integrating your theological study and personal spirituality.

Come out to our Spiritual Mentor Introduction Evening, hear a bit about the background of our mentors, and chat with them afterwards.

**Spiritual Mentor Introduction Evening**  
**Tuesday, September 26, 2006**  
**The Reading Room**  
**7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

If you find someone who is a good fit for you, you can meet with that person once a month from September through April. Wycliffe College provides each mentor with an honorarium, so there is no monetary cost involved for the student.

There will be biographies of the mentors available in the Reading Room on Tuesday at 4:30 preceding the evening.

Please contact Mark Regis (Rm. 228 / [wycliffe.admissions@utoronto.ca](mailto:wycliffe.admissions@utoronto.ca)) if you have any questions about the program.

*The Wycliffe  
Mentoring  
Program is an  
opportunity to  
meet with someone  
once a month to  
help you along your  
spiritual journey.*

## Wednesday Events (cont.)

*(Continued from page 3)*

The Rev. Peter Walker of St. Peter's Cobourg, a highly accomplished musician, will talk about Anglican choral music and Anglican spirituality to our joint Wycliffe-Trinity group. (This event will start @ 2:00 p.m. and be in Sheraton Hall)

Ian Ritchie, a grad and a

former missionary in West Africa, will talk about the church and Islam in West Africa.

Next semester we hope to have the following guests: Bishop Anthony Burton of Saskatchewan, Bishop Claude Miller of Fredericton, Bishop Bill Anderson of Caledonia, Bishop Sadoki Makaya of

Western Tanzania. We will also travel out to St. Augustine's for an afternoon with our colleagues at that TST School and to hear David Novak of the Jewish Studies Department and one of the leading Jewish theologians in the world.

## FROM THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

### Important Dates to remember:

**September 22, 2006:** Last day to add a course for this semester

**September 24, 2006:** Last day to receive a 100% refund for courses dropped. Note: If you drop out of all courses on or after September 11, you will be charged a \$181.00 cancellation fee. Please see Student Account Information for details.

### Fee Payments

Once you receive an invoice from the University of Toronto, you should pay your fees as soon as possible, either at the bank or by direct

banking. If you are receiving a bursary from Wycliffe College, we will be sending in that amount in the middle of September, and it will be credited to your account.

### Email Addresses

If you have not already done so, please activate your Utoronto email address this week. Remember to update your ROSI record with this address.

### Registering for a Summative Exercise/ Thesis

Guidelines for registering for an MTS summative exercise, an M.Div. and M.Rel. thesis are on our website. Look

under your program and you will find the guidelines under "Related Documents".

Alternatively, you can pick up the guidelines from my office.

### Grades on ROSI

TST students now have access to their grades on ROSI. If you took a summer course and are wondering what grade you received, you can look it up yourself on ROSI. Wycliffe College will still be issuing student transcripts.

Marie Soderlund  
Registrar



*Cupid has been slinging his arrows around the College a great deal this past year. This summer was wedding-filled with more yet to come.*

*Congratulations to the following Newlyweds!  
Kelly Cooper & Paul Baetz  
Jasmine Shantz & Terence Chandra  
Donna Scovil & Lauren Matheson  
Nik Delic & Thea Pacis*

*Congratulations to these couples who have recently become engaged:  
Peter Tiessen to Erin Russell  
Andrew Rennie to Ericka Stephens  
Paul Patterson to Meg Farrell  
Mark Kim to Lauren Chae  
Mark Regis to Ruthia Pak  
Andrew Kaye to Cara Dyck*



## Greetings fellow students, faculty, staff and families,

*Welcome to Wycliffe College!* My name is Colleen Sanderson and I am the Senior Student and chair of Student Council. Student Council is open to your feed back and questions and comments about life at the College. Please feel comfortable to approach any member of student council with any questions, comments or concerns.

I see the role of Senior student as one of *advocate, servant leader, and team leader.*

As Senior student my vision for the upcoming year is to continue to *foster community, encourage balance in our lives, and to foster communication.*

I have *two* visions for developing community. First,

I envision a fellowship group for "*Spouses of Wycliffe Students.*" This group will meet once or twice a semester. The first "*Spouses of Wycliffe Students*" event will be a dessert and coffee / tea night. Please stay tuned to the "*Morning Star*" for more information.

Second, on Wednesday afternoons during the Eucharist the students have been hosting and planning a *children's ministry program.* I imagine expanding the *children's ministry program* on Wednesday afternoons to include a *nursery program.*

There will be a visioning and planning meeting *sometime in September.* I encourage you to come and participate as a leader. No children's ministry experience is

necessary to participate in this leadership opportunity. My hope is that we will have a schedule of volunteers that would lead the ministry program about once a month. Please stay tuned to the "*Morning Star*" for more details.

My third goal is to foster *communication.* Student council, faculty and staff communicate through our college newspaper the "*Morning Star*". It is published at the beginning of every week. It is available from our college website or hard copies are available from the front desk. As well, many *announcements* are made at the community suppers on Wednesday. Please come out and meet

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# Student Council News

## Welcome (cont)

*(Continued from page 5)*

your fellow students, their families and the residents of the college. As well, announcements are written on the *white boards in the lobby*. Please read them as you go by.

There will be many events planned through the year by

Student Council, including a Halloween Dance, a Christmas Dinner Party and Talent Night, and the "At Home" dinner and dance. Stay tuned to the "Morning Star" for more details on these and other events.

May God bless your studies here at Wycliffe! May He give you the strength and

wisdom you require and bring you joy in the adventure of theological studies.

In Christ's love,  
Colleen Sanderson  
Senior Student

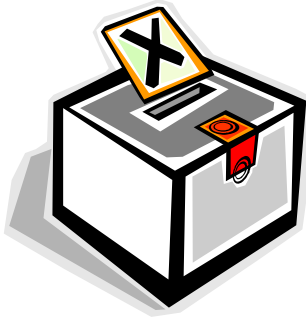
### Wycliffe Buddies

Are you a new Basic Degree Theological Student? Have you found the past week to be overwhelming at times? Would it be helpful to have a buddy in second or third year that knows the college and the Toronto, that you could ask questions of? We are starting a buddy system at the college for the first time this fall. *To sign up please add your name on the list at the front desk.*

Are you a second year or third year student and you would like to share your wisdom and knowledge with a new student? *Please sign up at the front desk to be a buddy.*

Someone will contact each person on the list and introduce you to your buddy sometime in September.

*Just to be clear, your buddy is not a tutor or a counselor, but a friend who is willing to answer questions and listen.*



### Student Council Elections

Student Council will be looking to fill the following positions this fall term:

1. VP of Spirituality
2. Missions Chair - for term two only
3. First Year Basic Degree Representative to Student Council

Stay tuned to the "Morning Star" for more details.

### Profiles in Ministry

A reminder... If you haven't returned your casebook and answer sheet PLEASE DO IT THIS WEEK.

The Stage 1 participants meeting is Thursday, September 14 @ 1:30 p.m. in the Reading Room. All Stage 1 Students and all Stage 2 Students should sign up for their taped interview on the sheets outside Room 107.

Thanks, Barbara Jenkins

### NEW THIS YEAR!!!!

Lunch will now be served Monday—Friday each week. As always, lunch, and all meal tickets, are available at the Front Desk. Lunch is still a TWOONIE! Breakfast tickets are #3.50, Dinner—\$8.00 and Saturday Brunch is \$5.00.

This Week's Chapel Schedule	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	8:30—M.P. Praise	7:30—WBB 8:30 - M.P.	8:30—M.P.	8:30—H.E.	8:30—M.P.
	5:30—E.P.	5:30—E.P.	4:45 - Eucharist	5:30—E.P.	5:30—E.P.

Day	Morning Prayer/WBB	Evening Prayer/Eucharist
Monday	Natalie Sampson	Sheila VanZandwyk
Tuesday	WBB - Laura Goodwin	The Rev. Cameron Burns
Wednesday	Christine Watt	Sub-Deacon - The Rev. Cameron Burns Server - Laura Goodwin Intercessions - Chelsy Stevens Cantor - Sheila VanZandwyk OT Reader - Dr. Robert Salter NT Reader - Mark Regis Greeter - Matt Adams Children's - Chancel - Nola Crewe Co-Sacristans - Laura Goodwin & Joan Locke
Thursday Holy Cross Day	Preacher/Celebrant - Mark Andrews	Dick Black
Friday	Alan Getty	Donna Willer

# Chapel News and Notes

**Music & Morning Prayer**  
 If you are leading Morning Prayer please remember that you have a musician available to play for you. During the first term it is expected that all leaders will sing the Venite/Jubilate. If you have any questions please speak with either Laura Goodwin or Joan Locke, our Sacristans. The Sacristans will also let you know which musician is available for your service.

**Front Desk Hours**  
 The Front Desk is open Monday—Friday from 8:00—8:00, opening at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays to accommodate Wine Before Breakfast, and will stay open later if classes require.  
 The desk is closed on Saturday and open Sunday 9:00—2:00 for the Toronto Chinese Bible Church.

# SEPTEMBER 2006

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Moving In	4 LABOUR DAY Moving In	5 ORIENTATION Meals Begin	6 ORIENTATION Opening Assembly & Chapel	7 ORIENTATION  BBQ	8 ORIENTATION	9 College Retreat
10 College Retreat	11 \$2.00 Lunches & Classes Begin	12 Fellowship of the Rings	13 WE—Rob Szo Bob Johnston Scripture Union	14 Field Ed Supervisors	15	16 Board/Faculty Retreat
17	18	19	20 WE - Alan Hayes—Six Principles	21	22	23 Diploma in Lay Ministry Open House
24	25	26 Spiritual Mentors Evening	27 WE - Bp. Scruton Spiritual Life of Clergy	28 SEAD Alumni AGM Lay Team Orientation	29 SEAD	30
1 October	2	3	4 WE—Healing Ministry Thanksgiving Dinner	5 AETE Conference	6 →	7 →

## **THIS WEEK'S WEDNESDAY EVENT**

Wycliffe grad & Scripture Union President, Rob Szo will give a quick overview of Scripture Union and how the guides helped him through seminary. Bob Johnston has a background in athletics, both as coach and player, who worked for Bell Canada for 21 years until called to full-time ministry with Athletes in Action, and now SU's Sportz Canada. Bob will talk about the effectiveness of churches using sports to connect with children and their families. There is more to hear, so come to the Principal's Lodge at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday to hear what they have to say.