

TANGENTS

FALL 2015 | VOL. 6 | ISSUE 1

**“I heard
Redeemer is
in trouble”**

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Confidently Moving Forward

Strategic plan renews university's mission

p. 8



Dear Friends of Redeemer,

As you can read in this issue of *Tangents*, Redeemer is adapting to a new environment, one that has both challenges and opportunities. We have felt the impact of these challenges, especially during this past year, particularly in reduced enrolment and necessary budget and staffing reductions.

Despite these significant difficulties, we – our faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters remain absolutely committed, with God's help, to Redeemer's mission of Christ-centred university education in the liberal arts and sciences in this new environment. In fact, the need for Christian university education is as urgent as ever. As historian Marshall Poe wrote in a recent article in *The Atlantic*, most universities and colleges today are failing to help students address the big issues of life, to develop a sense of meaning and purpose, and to find a way to live. Poe's article speaks to the despair and spiritual hunger that arises from the empty core of today's secular university.

By contrast, Redeemer's mission and our Biblical vision of Christ's lordship over all of the interwoven parts of life has much to offer our students and to the challenges of our times.

We believe that God calls us to learning that is transformational – learning that disciplines our students and deepens their roots in Christ, that helps them to understand

their lives and purpose within the story of God's creation and redemptive re-creation. It is an education that provides them with knowledge and deep wisdom of their major within a broad context, and prepares them to use their gifts to meet the needs of the world in ways that witness to God's transforming kingdom.

Christian university education remains a vital need, and Redeemer will continue to pursue this mission vigorously, including through the Redeemer 2020 Strategic Plan. We believe that implementing this plan will increase student enrolment and strengthen Redeemer's financial position. But more importantly, we believe that the initiatives of the plan will meet our students' most pressing needs and concerns, and help Redeemer to continue preparing students for participating in God's work of changing the world.

We are one year into this plan, and our efforts have involved nearly everyone on campus and many of our faithful supporters. We are working together with tireless determination to move forward. Although it is too early yet to see the full impact of our efforts, there are some very promising signs that they are making a difference in helping Redeemer accomplish its mission, both today and tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued support of Redeemer and its mission. Working together, clearly focused on God's leading and His grace, we are confidently moving forward as His servants, just as we have for the past 33 years and, God willing, for the next 30+ years.

Dr. Hubert Krygsman

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Is Redeemer in trouble?

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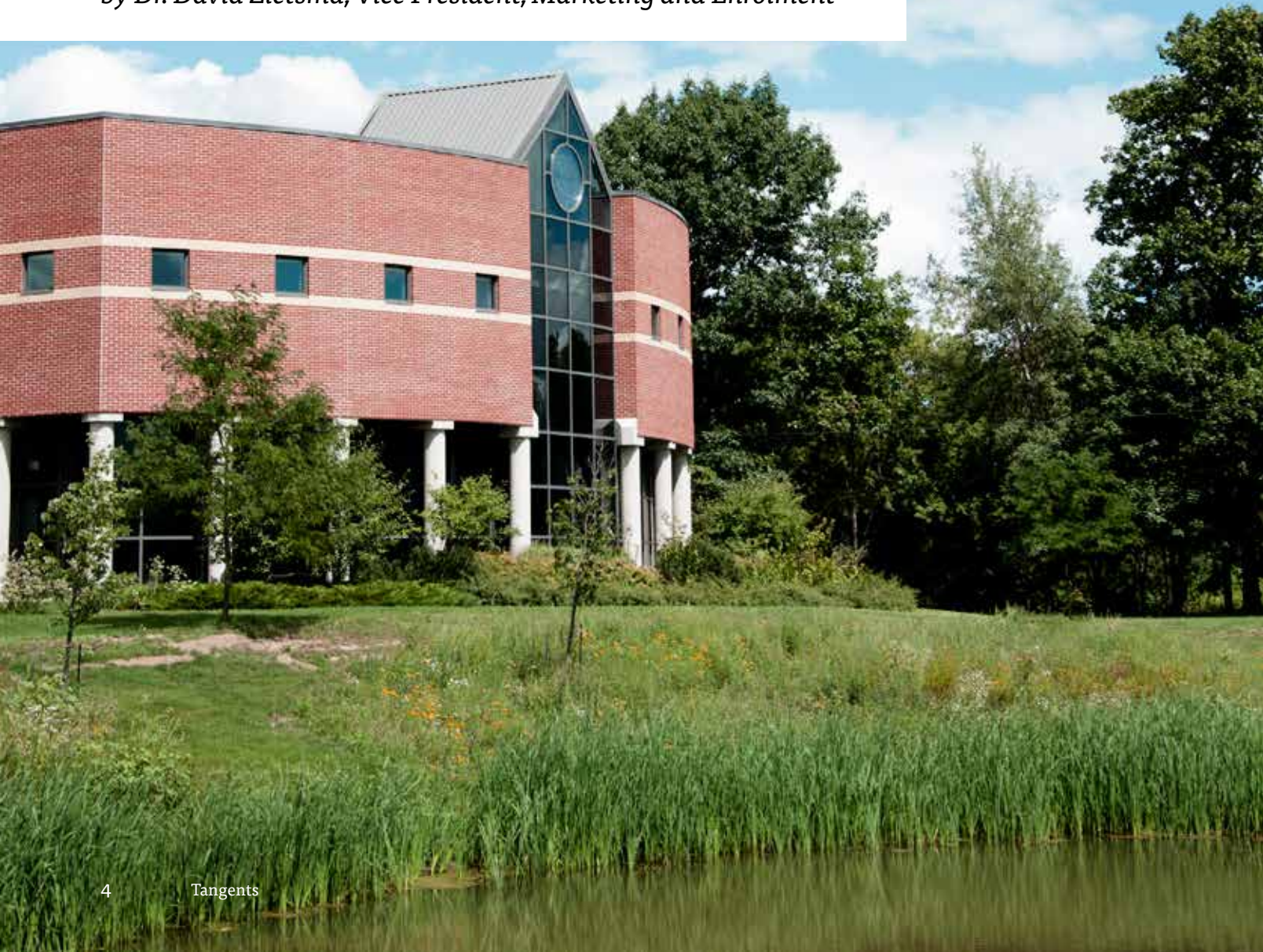
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“I Heard Redeemer is in Trouble”

Redeemer faces current challenges with optimism for the future

by Dr. David Zietsma, Vice President, Marketing and Enrolment



A troubled industry

At a time of rapid secularization and declining church attendance—especially among youth—Redeemer's Christian university education is urgently needed. In fact, its vital for preparing the next generation of these leaders, who are committed to their churches and who will reflect Christ in their communities and in the wider culture. Redeemer grads in all walks of life demonstrate the success of this mission as they make an impact for God's Kingdom.

But these are challenging times for higher education. Across North America many private and publicly funded universities are struggling to meet enrolment targets, raise funds and balance operating budgets. Some schools have resorted to steep tuition discounting, just to keep students coming in the door. Other schools have been forced to merge with larger institutions in order to stay afloat. Still other schools have simply closed. One of the most recent to do so was Florida's Clearwater Christian College, a 4-year liberal arts college that had been granting degrees since 1966.

Redeemer is not immune to the stresses facing higher education. After enrolling 949 full-time and part-time students in 2012, enrolment this Fall at Redeemer will be just over 700 full time and part-time students. Since Redeemer depends heavily on tuition revenue, enrolment declines such as these have put the University in a difficult financial position.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, difficult choices had to be made. In direct response to shrinking tuition revenue, nine staff and faculty were released. Such decisions, although they help bring greater financial stability, always come at an unwanted price: individuals suffer personal loss, hurt and grief, and our community

as a whole grieves their loss and feels uncertain about the future.

After 20 years of stable and growing enrolment, the accreditation of degree programs and the graduation of thousands of students who are impacting their communities, navigating these choppy waters is a relatively unfamiliar challenge for Redeemer. Our communication hasn't been as timely or informative as needed, and mistakes were made in not sharing these challenges more fully. As a result, students, alumni, supporters, community members and others have heard only that "Redeemer is in trouble," but they aren't sure why or what the future holds.

"Redeemer remains a vibrant, dynamic institution that is confidently moving forward"

We want to take this opportunity to address those questions, rumours and concerns. You share in our mission and calling. It is important that we share what is happening with you. We also want you to know that Redeemer remains a vibrant, dynamic institution that is confidently moving forward to carry out our Reformed Christian mission in the changing world of higher education.

Redeemer in the higher education context

Four primary challenges face Redeemer in the current context of higher education in Ontario. The first is a significant decline in the population of university-aged people. According to Ontario government projections, between 2013 and 2021 the number of 18-20 year-olds in the province is expected to shrink by 13%. This group is the primary pool of potential new Redeemer students.

The second major challenge is broader, namely the public perception that liberal arts and science are no longer useful and simply aren't a good

investment. This widespread misunderstanding affects decision-making for high school students and often impacts the advice provided by parents and other key influencers. This perception persists even as a rash of studies and editorials in recent months—in everything from the *Wall Street Journal* to *Forbes Magazine* to the *New York Times*—rebutted this widely accepted myth. The evidence demonstrates that liberal arts and science grads not only have higher average incomes, they also have more fulfilling careers than the general population.

The third challenge is closely related to public perceptions about the liberal arts. Over the last few years, several community and technical colleges in Ontario have been given the authority to grant degrees in addition to diplomas. Schools like Sheridan College in Oakville have received bachelor's level degree granting authority in a host of applied areas. Students who desire a more applied focus but also want a degree can now choose a community college rather than a university. This removes even more potential university students from an already declining demographic.

A fourth challenge is the changing nature of Redeemer's traditional "feeder" community. Among many families raised in traditions that emphasized Christian education, there is now less conviction about the need for Christian educational institutions or Christian homeschooling. Redeemer's challenge and commitment is to convict the next generation of the vital necessity of Christian education, especially at the post-secondary level.

A University You Can Believe In

Despite the troubled waters of higher education, Redeemer is in good position to weather the storm. Two years ago, Redeemer's president, Dr. Hubert Krygsman, began a process that resulted in the Redeemer 2020 strategic plan. One of the main objectives of this plan is to revitalize our Reformed Christian mission to engage in teaching and research that impacts all areas of life for Christ the King.

Through new initiatives in academic programming, experiential learning and research support, faculty and students will be positioned to live at the crossroads of our culture. They will generate the ideas and provide the service and leadership needed to answer the pressing questions facing our churches, our communities and our world. What does sustainable agriculture look like? What does it mean to be relational in the age of mass digital communication? What impact does the breakdown of traditional family structures have on society? What new pedagogies are required by our modern educational institutions to shape effective learning in the twenty-first century? How can a Christian perspective on social and economic issues be heard in the public square?

Liberal arts and sciences degrees are worth it...

1 Million +

New Jobs created since June 2008
for university graduates, more than
double the number created for college
and trades graduates combined

Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2008-2015

150%

Amount of income university
graduates will earn over their careers
compared to full-time workers
without a university degree

*Universities Canada, adapted from Statistics Canada,
National Household Survey, 2011*

\$65,000+

Social science and humanities grads
share of the income premium for
university graduates. For example,
full-time workers with degrees in
history earn, on average, above
\$65,000 annually

Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011

Redeemer's mission is centered on teaching and scholarship that engages these kinds of questions and many others.

Our alumni demonstrate the vitality of this mission and Redeemer's ability to carry it out. Whether finding a role in not-for-profit organizations like for World Vision, EduDeo or International Justice Mission, or working as lawyers, accountants or doctors, or leading and serving in homes, churches or Christian schools, wherever they end up Redeemer grads are a voice of hope that points to Christ and his Kingdom in this broken and hurting world.

Millennials, who make up the largest pool of potential students, are seeking more than just job training; they are looking to develop their God-given gifts and find life-giving callings. They want an education that engages them in the questions of today and prepares them to offer knowledge and insight for the questions of tomorrow. They want to have the same kind of impact that our alumni are having. The educational experience at Redeemer prepares students to make that type of impact. More than just a BA, B.Sc. or B.Ed., it is a degree supporters, parents, and prospective students can believe in.

Redeemer's compelling, transforming mission is unique in our market context: Redeemer is Ontario's only liberal arts and sciences university that delivers BA, B.Sc. and B.Ed. programming from an integrated Christian perspective.

There is room to grow this mission even during a decline in the key demographic. Estimates indicate that only 5% of Christian students who attend a university in Ontario attend Redeemer. Why? One major reason is that brand awareness about Redeemer's existence is generally low, even among Christians. Part of the Redeemer 2020 plan focuses on increasing that awareness. New efforts in marketing, communications infrastructure, and profile-building will share Redeemer's story of impactful scholarship and difference-making graduates more effectively and will engage a wider audience than ever before.

Yes, times are challenging for higher education. But Redeemer is ready for the challenge. We are poised to weather the storm, and even grow in the midst of it. Our mission is too vital, and too important to stop now. With nearly 5000 alumni leading the way, and with the continued generous support of the wider Christian community, young Christians will continue to be transformed and find their callings at Redeemer.



...and so is Experiential Learning

496

Redeemer students who participated in experiential learning opportunities in 2014-15

83%

Percentage of Redeemer's academic programs that offer opportunities for experiential learning

80%

Employers who say co-ops and internships add value and provide a source for future talent

Leger Marketing employer survey for Universities Canada, 2014

A photograph of two women in a classroom setting. They are both looking through a large, black telescope mounted on a tripod. The woman on the left is wearing a dark shirt and has her hair pulled back. The woman on the right is wearing a dark shirt and has her hair down. In the background, a whiteboard is visible with some handwritten notes. The overall image has a teal tint.

Confidently Moving Forward

Redeemer 2020 Strategic Plan Renews University's Mission

“At Redeemer, I was able to experience the world of science through the lens of a Christian worldview and to appreciate the innate details of God’s creation. More than that, through my classes I was given the opportunity to apply my passion for optometry and prepare me for graduate studies.”

Emily Kendall ‘14

Graduate student at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University

What is a mission?

Why does it matter, especially for a university? Isn’t its purpose just to provide an education and provide a place for research?

Redeemer’s mission is to deliver university-level learning that helps students understand the world in the light of God’s Word and His redemptive claims on every part of life so that they are prepared to use their gifts in the callings God has for them. This is the core objective at the heart of why Redeemer does what it does.

But the landscape in which Redeemer operates is dynamic -- the world of higher education, the expectations of students and the communities in which students and faculty are called to serve have

all changed dramatically this past decade (see pages 4-7). “As a relatively small university, we need to and can be, responsive to our environment,” notes Redeemer President, Dr. Hubert Krygsman. “We need to adapt—without changing the heart of who we are—to the needs and interests of students who are seeking a holistic, transformative, Christian university education that equips them to serve at the front lines of today’s culture.”

In response to this ever-changing landscape – and to continue to meet the needs of students, faculty, the workplace, schools and families—Redeemer has developed a new strategic plan—Redeemer 2020—to guide the University through the next 5 years.

At the heart of Redeemer 2020 is a commitment to the goals and principles upon which Redeemer



was founded. “What we are doing with Redeemer 2020 is looking anew at how we can best work out the mission and vision of Redeemer in a new context,” says President Hubert Krygsman. “Much has changed since we opened our doors to 97 students in 1982; through this planning process, we carefully re-examined all aspects of the university so that Redeemer can still honour its calling—to serve its students, support community and society.”

Redeemer 2020 will enhance Redeemer across three broad, interconnected areas:

Student Experience—Continuing to define, in this new environment, the best way to equip students for lives of leadership and service under the Lordship of Christ.

Strategic Connections—Determining how Redeemer can best serve and partner with others, to engage our faculty and students at the front lines of our culture.

Stewardship of Resources—Ensuring that Redeemer continues to wisely utilize the resources provided by supporters, faculty, staff and students.

As the plan is implemented over the next five years, Redeemer will launch a series of initiatives to help translate its mission to this new current context.

Re-Invigorate Redeemer’s academic program:

- In September 2016, Redeemer will introduce a renewed **Core Curriculum**. This comprehensive initiative will foster in students a desire to learn from a Christian perspective across all disciplines, and help them discover their passion and find their callings. The new core will include a series of interdisciplinary courses designed to prepare students for the realities and challenges of living and serving in digitally connected, global. The new core, consisting of ten courses that all build on each other, was developed after nearly two years of research and planning.
- New programs will be added that further engage students at the crossroads of today’s culture.
 - The new **Media and Communication Studies** program, launched in September 2015, equips students to interpret, assess and engage in culture-making through the interconnected world of digital media.
 - Planning is also underway for revitalizing Redeemer’s existing **Ministry program**.



Updates to the program will ensure that our graduates continue to be prepared to meet the needs of the various ministries and para-church ministries that bring hope and light to our churches and our communities.

- This Fall, the new **Centre for Experiential Learning and Career Development** opened. The Centre's mandate is to expand experiential and service-learning opportunities through internships and co-op work-terms. The Centre also assists students as they explore career and/or graduate school options and possibilities. In short, it helps students seek to define their callings.
- The **Centre for Christian Scholarship** was established to emphasize the relevance and role of our Reformed Christian vision for the issues of our day through support for faculty research and ideas. Read more about the Centre and its work on page 29.

Enhance Redeemer's visibility and profile:

Earlier this year, Redeemer **restructured** several areas of responsibility. Through a more dedicated approach to

marketing and enrolment, Redeemer is becoming more pro-active, strategic and intentional in its recruitment, financial aid and retention activities.

Redeemer is enhancing its in-house expertise in **branding, marketing and communications**. This includes increasingly utilizing digital communications platforms to tell Redeemer's story.

A **designed and updated website** was launched on September 1. The new redeemer.ca features increased functionality, greater integration with social media and more robust navigation.

A **greater focus on strategic partnerships** with churches, schools and other organizations which share or support Redeemer's mission. These institutions will see benefits of supporting Redeemer as the University prepares graduates that are equipped to support them. By working together, these institutions further advance the Lordship of Christ and the Kingdom of God.

Improve Redeemer's infrastructure:

Redeemer's information technology systems have been dramatically updated. This project – known as **Telling Our Story** – provides a better

experience for students and others who interact with Redeemer, with and through technology. The most visible component is a new website, but it also includes:

- **Dash**, a new portal or intranet to serve faculty, staff and students
- **Informer**, a new administrative data storage and reporting service for staff
- A new **Library Information System** that provides students, faculty and other borrowers better access to print and digital resources
- A new **Financial Aid application** that gives current and prospective students a single place to access and apply for their scholarships and bursaries.

These upgrades also allow students to use the gifts of technology to better interact with and serve society and its increasingly complex structures and relationships.

Plans are being developed to **update labs, offices and student spaces**. These will better serve faculty and students and prepare the campus for subsequent development projects.

Steward Redeemer's resources:

The University's long-term debt is being reduced. Paying down this debt, all of which is held by Redeemer's supporters, frees resources to fund other ongoing program and facility needs, as well as student financial aid. With the generous help of supporters, we have already been able to reduce Redeemer's debt by more than \$2 million this year.

The Redeemer 2020 strategic plan seeks to revitalize Redeemer's mission so that it can continue to

On September 1st, 2015 Redeemer launched a fully redesigned website as part of the Telling Our Story initiative.



train students and develop graduates who will impact society for Christ and his Kingdom. "God has blessed Redeemer in amazing ways for its first 33 years, and we believe Redeemer has been uniquely positioned to provide urgently needed Christian post-secondary education for today's youth," notes Krygsman. "Relying on God and all those who share Redeemer's mission, we look forward to continuing to prepare the next generation of students to for lives of discipleship, leadership and service in today's and tomorrow's world."

The experience of Emily Kendall, quoted at the beginning of this article, demonstrates the vital role of Redeemer's mission today. Emily is in the optometry program at Salus University in Pennsylvania. As a biology major who earned her B.Sc. in the context of Redeemer's liberal arts and sciences core program, not only was she well prepared for graduates studies, she came to understand the deeper purpose of her education, one that is reflected by Redeemer's mission. She recognized that while science is certainly the study of cells, formulas, wave lengths and algorithms, it is also a way to see, explore and impact a world she proclaims as God's own.

Our creation is full of wonder and beauty, but which we only "see...imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror." The teaching, research and learning that takes place at Redeemer helps students see those reflections more clearly, especially when the ripples caused by our dynamic, rapidly changing world further dim our vision. Through that study, they become equipped for lives of leadership and service under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.





The “faces” of Redeemer 2020

Redeemer is pleased to introduce several new faculty and staff who will be part of implementing Redeemer 2020

Paula MacKay will be the new Director of the new Centre for Experiential Learning and Career Development. Paula's education and specialization is in Leadership and Learning, with a focus on experiential learning and student engagement. Her most recent appointment was at the University of Prince Edward Island.

Cathy Penelton has been appointed Senior Admissions Manager. She will be helping to drive many of Redeemer's new enrolment initiatives. Cathy has many years of experience leading teams and institutional relations in both the for profit and not-for-profit sector, most recently at International Justice Mission Canada.

Josh Sieders has been hired to lead Redeemer's marketing efforts. A graduate of Sheridan College, Josh brings a wealth of experience – strategic and tactical – to Redeemer.

Dr. Naaman Wood is the first faculty member of the new Media and Communication Studies program. Before coming to Redeemer, he taught undergraduate courses in communication at Tidewater Community College, theology and culture at Northwest University, and media and communication ethics at Spring Arbor University.

Although not new to Redeemer, **Dr. David Zietsma** has been appointed to a new role as Vice President, Marketing and Enrolment, which includes responsibility for recruitment, communications, financial aid, and marketing. David has taught and served various academic administration roles in his 8 years at Redeemer. Besides having a PhD in history, David has also completed a Diploma in Business Marketing.



Worldview and the Academy

Kuyper's influence on Christian scholarship

It is an exciting time for Christian scholarship at Redeemer University College. Last summer, Redeemer hosted a conference entitled Academy Regained. Scholars representing 12 academic disciplines and 8 universities explored the power and usefulness of a reformational worldview to engage the mainstream university. Our new Centre for Christian Scholarship (see page 29) will be hosting another, larger, conference in October this year. Several Redeemer professors have become editors of journals dedicated to the cultivation of Christian scholarship, and, beyond their work in the classroom, our faculty continue to produce Christian scholarship-- articles, books, and artistic productions and other activities.

In all of these things, we see the influence of the great Dutch polymath Abraham Kuyper (1837 – 1920). Academy Regained—currently a book project—is an intentionally “big tent” Kuyperian approach to scholarship; the Centre continues Kuyper's tradition of penetrating and engaged

Christian public scholarship and journalism. Indeed, the very idea of “Christian scholarship,” i.e., scholarship that reflects a Christian rather than, say, a naturalistic worldview, is a very Kuyperian idea. For all these reasons, it makes sense to reflect briefly on Kuyper's influence at Redeemer and beyond.

Kuyper's influence has been profound.

Kuyper's influence has been pervasive and positive. On the most basic level, Christian scholars now take for granted Kuyper's insight that individuals, cultures, and cultural products like scholarship, are shaped by worldviews, i.e., beliefs about ultimate reality.

Many today are also convinced of what has come to be called “principled pluralism.” Given the ubiquity and diversity of worldviews and the pluralism that it implies, Christians ought to advocate a society that allows all cultures and worldviews freedom to express and develop themselves, privately and publicly. Christian universities are an example of this idea.

There is also wide buy-in on what we might call “the Kuyperian paradox”—the affirmation of both common grace and antithesis—Kuyper's unique approach to non-Christian insight, science and thought. Common grace teaches that non-Christian research can provide magnificent insight which Christians are free to embrace with

enthusiastic gratitude. Yet Christian scholars also recognize much of this research suppresses God's revelation and glory (Romans 1:18-23), and is therefore simultaneously fundamentally distorted. Understanding this paradox helps us to avoid the pitfalls of a disengaged pietism on the one hand, and uncritical appropriation on the other.

Finally, there is a remarkable Kuyperian ecumenism at Redeemer and other Christian universities—faculty from different denominational backgrounds all still identify themselves as Kuyperians.

Kuyper has not influenced us enough.

Still, we might make the case that we've fallen short of Kuyper's vision for Christian scholarship. To illustrate the role of worldview on scholarship, Kuyper used the metaphor of a tree. The trunk of the tree represents those areas of scholarship where worldview plays a less significant role—here Christians and non-Christians can work side-by-side, measuring, observing, increasing knowledge, learning from one another. But at some point worldview differences cause the tree to divide into different branches. When Christian scholarship flourishes, the Christian “branch” will be strong, rivalling all other branches.

Instead of growing Kuyper's branch, many Christian scholars have focused on the trunk. For decades, Christian scholars continue to rediscover the truth that scholarship does not necessarily need to be distinctive to be faithful. They're right—it is essential that Christians contribute to mainstream research, and more and more Christians are making such contributions. However, this type of scholarship downplays the antithesis, tending not to challenge what Alvin Plantinga calls “the orthodoxy of the academy,” i.e., the naturalistic worldview that dominates the mainstream university.

But Kuyper believed that the existence of this very orthodoxy and the antithesis that it expresses “must be felt by every Christian scholar as a sharp incentive... to go back his own

principles in his thinking, to renew all scientific investigation on lines of these principles, and to glut the press with the burden of his cogent studies.” Kuyper's vision was not to teach the academic disciplines the same way as the mainstream with a little “Christian perspective” added on. Instead he believed that Christian universities exist to “renew all... investigations” along the lines of the Christian worldview. In other words, he envisioned a significant, unified, distinctively Christian intellectual alternative

“Kuyper's vision was not to teach the academic disciplines the same way as the mainstream with a little ‘Christian perspective’ added on”

encompassing “every single science.” Not the work of a few Christian scholar celebrities, but a common intellectual effort in which communities of Christian scholars have learned to work and think and write in an integrally Christian way, one generation of Christian scholarly community building upon the next, until the Christian branch is recognized as an indisputable rival to the naturalistic branch.

It has been more than a century since Kuyper painted this breathtaking picture of what a Christian university should be. Yet, if we're honest, in most academic disciplines, the “branch” of Christian scholarship is markedly underdeveloped, particularly when compared to the massive naturalistic alternative. This is why we need places like Redeemer to flourish. As Kuyper prayed, may we find “the courage, the perseverance, [and] the energy” to “unroll the colors” of our own Christian banner, to the glory of God.

Dr. Russell Kosits is Associate Professor and Chair of the Psychology Department.

Students LAUNCH into Year

Orientation activities welcome students to Redeemer

Although students moved in on Labour Day, the planning for the start of the year had been ongoing for months. Redeemer's staff and student orientation leaders planned many events to ensure that the start of the academic year helps students with the transition to this new stage of life.

At Redeemer, orientation week activities are called LAUNCH. At its core, the LAUNCH program seeks to build a sense of belonging among incoming students and to provide them opportunities to participate in the new community of which they are now a part. LAUNCH activities include orientation sessions, service projects, an opening chapel and lots of fun and games. One part of LAUNCH, Redeemer's food drive raised more than 9000 lbs of food for the Neighbour to Neighbour food bank.

"There is a reason why Redeemer puts so much effort into planning these events," says Micah van Dijk, Redeemer's activities & orientation coordinator. "One's sense of belonging affects their overall success at university, including academic success. We want students to feel at home, make friends and get involved."

Once students are checked in, it's time for the parents to leave. But before they went, however, Redeemer hosted a BBQ in the Quad for new students and their families. It was a time to celebrate together this new stage in life for students and their families before their final (for now anyways) goodbyes.

Co-Op Program strengthened

Redeemer's Business Co-Op program achieved a significant milestone this year, gaining initial accreditation from the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education (CAFCE). This recognition will strengthen the program, which is also accredited by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario. "CAFCE accreditation gives employers confidence that Redeemer's program meets a high standard of quality," notes Dr. Doug Needham, provost and vice president, academic. "This will open doors for our business students seeking work terms. But as we look to expand experiential learning opportunities across the curriculum, they too will benefit from the research and advocacy work of the association."

Employers interested in learning how they can benefit from the program are encouraged to contact Paula MacKay by email (pmackay@redeemer.ca) or phone (905.648.2139 x4419).

Redeemer partners in Job Fair

In March, Redeemer partnered with McMaster, Mohawk and the City of Hamilton to organize Connect to Careers, Hamilton's largest job fair. More than 130 organizations from all over Hamilton and the Greater Toronto Area participated, looking to fill full-time, part-time and summer jobs. The event attracted thousands of job seekers, including scores of Redeemer students.



Better access to mental health services

University life can be very positive and rewarding, but it can also present challenges. Recognizing that, Redeemer has introduced a new initiative to help students maintain a healthy emotional balance.

The new Mobile Mental Health Team will give Redeemer students access to mental health professional services on campus one half-day per week. The unit includes a youth specialist, a registered nurse, an addictions specialist, a family educator and a clinical therapist.

"Shalem Mental Health Network, Redeemer's Chaplaincy Office and Student Life staff already provide support for students in a number of different areas," notes Dr. Karen Cornies, dean of students. "This new initiative allows us to provide students with access to a broader range of mental health services on campus." The team, which also serves students from McMaster and Mohawk, is a program of St. Joe's Healthcare Hamilton.

"I'm thrilled that Redeemer has been included in this initiative and look forward to the good fruit that it will bear," says Dr. Cornies.



Campus Welcomes Academics, Artists and Ambassadors

Dr. Andrew Bennett

“As Canadians, but also as Christians, we must speak out for all those in the world that are persecuted for their faith.”

Canada's Ambassador for Religious Freedom led chapel and met with students during a visit to Redeemer in November.

Dr. Jean Chamberlain-Froese

This year's graduation speaker was Dr. Chamberlain-Froese. She is founder of Save the Mothers, an international organization that equips professionals in developing countries to improve the health of mothers and babies. She addressed the Class of 2015 with words of encouragement based on God's promise to his people in Ephesians 3.

Keanin Loomis

The President and CEO of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce gave the keynote address at the Business Partnership Open House. He spoke about the essential partnerships are developed between post-secondary institutions and local businesses. He also called Redeemer “one of Hamilton's success stories,” key to producing the talent needed to continue revitalizing Hamilton's businesses.

Dr. Craig Mattson

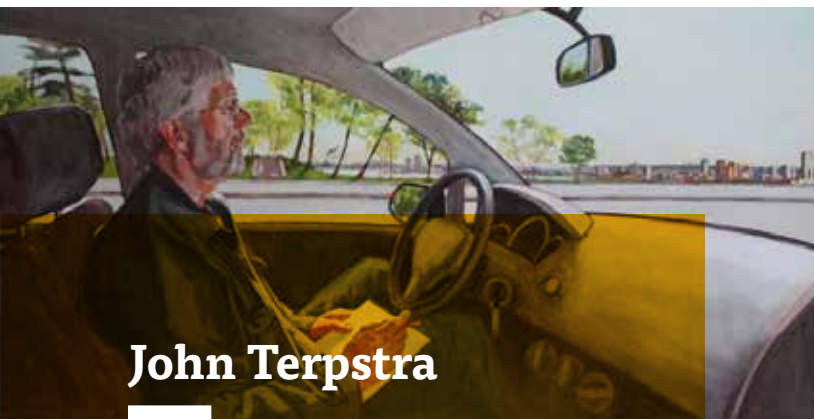
“What would God have us do in a digital world that is constantly grappling for our attention?”

That was the question at the centre of Dr. Craig Mattson's presentations. Mattson, a professor of communication arts at Trinity Christian College, was the keynote speaker the 2015 Association of Reformed Colleges and Universities (ARCU) lectures.



Dr. Reginald Bibby

Renowned for his work on the state of the church in Canada, Dr. Bibby addressed audiences at Be Inspired, Redeemer's annual minister's conference, and at the World and our Calling lecture series. “We don't have to fear for the future of religion,” he pointed out. “It's not going away. But the dominant players are changing. What remains to be seen is the way in which the country's religious groups will respond.”



John Terpstra

The cabinet maker and award-winning author launched his book, *The House with the Parapet Wall* at Redeemer. It is the story of a house and how it collides with the story of the life and death of his mother. His mother's diminishing health caused her to lose abilities at the same rate she'd gained them as a child; it's growing in reverse. “It's not about the dying but the losing,” he said. “Nobody wants to leave and miss out on what follows.”

Otto de Bruijne

The Dutch artist brought his installation, *Canvas Chapel*, to campus this fall. The Canvas Chapel is an art-object in the form of a chapel. Measuring 70' x 65', it consists of 54 printed paintings mounted on aluminum frames, each representing images of inspiration related to faith and culture.

John McKay

The Liberal party's environment critic spoke to Professor Edward Berkelaar's environmental science students on faith, politics and the environment. “Among evangelical youth in particular, care for and stewardship of the environment has become a big deal,” McKay said. “You shouldn't avoid these issues. As Christian youth you are called to be stewards of the world around you.”

Redeemer students urge Canadians to “Chew On This!”

Students in Dr. Jim Vanderwoerd's social welfare policy class joined more than 500 volunteers in nearly 40 cities across Canada last October to urge the federal government to develop a national poverty reduction plan.

The students participated in a campaign—called Chew On This!—by handing out lunch bags filled with an apple, a postcard and a magnet. The campaign was organized by the anti-poverty organization Dignity for All to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Most of the students had never done anything like this before. “It’s a great opportunity to be challenged to try something new,” said Vanderwoerd. “It’s one thing to discuss poverty in the safe comfort of the classroom, but it’s entirely different to have that conversation with a stranger in a parking lot.”

Many of the students agreed. “It was hard at first to just go up to a stranger and start talking to them

about poverty,” commented Kayla Nielsen. “But it helped to have something to give them,” added Epiphany Spielman. “We just said, ‘We’re not selling anything, we just want to give you a free apple.’ Most people were really friendly.”

Students in the course study federal and provincial policies that deal with the social problems facing many Canadians. But studying policy is about more than just laws and regulations. According to Vanderwoerd, “Social policy might seem

**“It’s a great opportunity
to be challenged to try
something new”**

dry and boring but it touches all of us. We’re talking about real people with real problems who depend on the policies that Canada has created to care for one another.”

Hands-on experiences such as these often have the greatest impact on a student’s learning. Redeemer is continuing to expand its experiential learning opportunities, activities that provide tangible ways to connect what they’re learning in the classroom to real-world experiences. This campaign is just one of the many experiential learning activities for students in sociology and social work.





Above and Beyond

2015 Student Life Award winners announced

The mission of Redeemer University College is worked out in the classroom, on campus and in all the communities where students and alumni are making a difference. At the final chapel service of the academic year, the Redeemer community celebrated its mission by awarding Tahlia Knight and John Schuurman the Student Life Award.

The award is presented annually to one female and one male student who “exemplify a Christian commitment expressed in all areas of University

life.” Although only two students are recognized, their work is representative of the service students provide to both on-campus and off-campus communities.

Tahlia, a fourth-year physical education student from Minesing, ON, is a reliable, dedicated and enthusiastic student leader who “has been a huge blessing to the community,” notes Dr. Karen Cornies, dean of students. “Respected by students and faculty alike, she is very encouraging and has been a great resource for student leaders and others.”

John, a fourth-year political science student from Hamilton, ON, was recognized for his commitment to service in Hamilton that “has inspired and challenged others to reach out beyond the Redeemer community,” said Dr. Cornies. “I have been deeply impressed by his selflessness, openness and intentionality. His positive outlook, passion for community and genuine interest in others has positively influenced the Redeemer community.”

Students reflect on the theme of Temple

Redeemer's art department is committed to nurturing its students as both artists and people, in the classroom and in the community. This past June, several art students were invited to share their talents by using their art as a part of worship.

The Art as Worship ministry at New Life CRC in Guelph, ON invited the students to reflect on the meaning of "temple" and develop the theme in several different directions. Some of the work considered temple in the context of world religions, while others looked at the experience of women in worship and how the body and nature can be understood as temples.

"The opportunity to show art is second only to the opportunity to glorify God," said Tristan Kaarid '17 of Owen Sound, ON. "The capacity of art to represent the godly in creation is uncanny. To me, the calling to create art is of utmost importance."

Students and alumni awarded for writing

The Word Guild, Canada's largest Christian writers association, recognized the writing of several from the Redeemer community.

Fourth-year English student **Katie Witten**, from Ottawa, ON received the national Christian writer's Fresh Ink award for her poem *Suspension*

Angela Reitsma Bick '01 won an award for an editorial she published in *Christian Courier*

Erin Hatton '03 won for her historical novel, *Across the Deep*

A fellowship that focuses on food

Kyla DeHaan, a third-year international development and environmental studies major from New Argyle, PEI, is the Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies' Calvin B. DeWitt Leadership Fellowship recipient for 2015. The Fellowship recognizes both superior academic achievement and leadership in creation care.

Kyla has been exercising those gifts in Hamilton, including the development of a program that allows a food bank to better serve individuals from different cultures. She intends to focus on agricultural missions, and will be taking courses at Au Sable's Pacific Rim Campus on Whidbey Island, Washington.

"I love agriculture," says Kyla, "and want to gain practical skills on learning how to sustainably use agriculture to benefit the environment and communities around the world."

More than calculators and counting

Last January, a trio of Redeemer business students competed in the CPA Challenge, an accounting competition sponsored by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario.

The three—Trevor DeWeerd, Alexandra Wouda and Kylie Barnes—were encouraged to use skills such as communications, teamwork, leadership, negotiation and time management. Kevin Rowaan, another accounting major and Redeemer's representative on the CPA Board of Ambassadors, organized Redeemer's participation in the competition.

It was a healthy competition that benefitted students in a number of ways. "It was a great opportunity to meet other students with the same career plans," said Wouda. "I was also able to meet experienced professionals and learn from their experiences. And it was a lot of fun!"

Royals Round-Up

Straatsma and Kurvits named Athletes of the Year

2015-16—one of the most remarkable years in Redeemer varsity sports—was celebrated at the Athletics Award Ceremony in April.

Curtiss Straatsma, a fourth-year physical education major from Brampton, ON was named the Female Athlete of the Year. Straatsma was among the leaders in many categories in Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) women's volleyball. She led the league in kills and points, finished second in aces and overall scoring and in the top 25 in digs and in blocks, making her one of the best all-around player in the province. Straatsma was instrumental in leading the Royals to the bronze medal match at the OCAA Provincial Championships. She also set a new Redeemer scoring record with more than 1100 career points.



Owen Kurvits defended his OCAA title and went on to win the CCAA national championships in Halifax, NS.

Owen Kurvits, a second-year kinesiology student from Hamilton, ON was named Male Athlete of the Year, in no small part for being the first Redeemer athlete to win a national championship. After defending his OCAA title in men's badminton, Kurvits won gold at the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA) championships in Halifax, NS. He was also named OCAA Player of the Year and a CCAA All-Canadian. He becomes just the second athlete (Ryan Talsma was named three times) to win the All-Canadian award. On top of his athletic accomplishments, Owen was also named an OCAA All-Academic and a CCAA Academic All-Canadian.

Also at the ceremony, a trio of former Royals volleyball players were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame: Ryan Talsma and Brad Douwes were inducted as players, and Nathan Siebenga was recognized for his years coaching and building the program.

Redeemer after work

Alumni Council member Rachel Brouwer '05 and Alumni Director Valerie Louter '95 had a great time connecting with London-area alumni this past June. An enthusiastic and talkative group gathered at the cozy Fellini Koolini's restaurant to share Redeemer stories and to catch up with one another. Liz Fawcett '11 said what many felt about their time at Redeemer: "It was a great place to transition from being a teen/young adult into the professional world. Classmates, pros and staff were all very influential, constructively directing me through this change."

Two firsts for Redeemer alumni

After graduating from Redeemer in 2012, Christian Vandergeest completed a Masters in Global Affairs from the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. In the fall of 2015, he entered the JD program at Harvard Law School, the first (we think) Redeemer grad to be accepted to Harvard.

Brent McCamon '15 has been hired as the first-ever intern in the Office of Religious Freedom (ORF). McCamon was brought into the Office by Dr. Andrew Bennett, Canada's Ambassador for Religious Freedom. During his placement, McCamon will be involved in fostering freedom of religion or belief as a Canadian foreign policy priority. His work will include research, policy development and advocacy on behalf of persecuted religious individuals and communities.

Christian Vandergeest recently entered the JD Program at Harvard Law

Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament

The Alumni Association's 20th Annual Golf Tournament continued its great tradition of connecting with other alumni and friends for a morning of friendly competition. Over the last few years, more and more young alumni have participated in the tournament. This year, more than 80 golfers—the largest turnout to date—played to raise money for the Alumni Award Fund. Through it, \$5000 is given annually to support student leaders.





Photo Credit: Annie Ling. From the series *Floating Populations*

Magazine, Courier International, the Wall Street Journal, Fader Magazine, New York Magazine and South China Morning Post.

In nominating Annie for the award, classmate and friend Samuel Martin described the breadth of Annie's work and influence: "Annie's work is international in topic and in the attention [it] has garnered. Her photography tells stories that often go unheard, bringing awareness and promoting the need for justice for all people, particularly those living on the fringes of more affluent societies."

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes the work of alumni in supporting the Alumni Association's mission of building relationships and fostering community. "We are delighted to name Annie Ling as our Distinguished Alumni Award winner for 2015," notes Miranda de Rooy, president of the Alumni Council. "Her talent, love of community and passion are poignantly captured in her photographs, whether they are taken in New York City, Moldova or Iceland. We congratulate her for all that she has done and look forward to seeing her continue to use her gifts in community-building in the years to come."

For more information on the Award, visit redeemer.ca/alumni. To see more of Annie's work, visit annieling.com.

Telling the world's stories

It's often said that a university education can open one's world. Annie Ling's journey has literally taken her around the world to bring to light some communities that the world would perhaps rather not see. It's for the work and passion she brings in telling the story of those communities that Annie has been selected as the recipient of Redeemer's 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Annie is a documentary photographer and artist currently based in Brooklyn, New York. Her work has been exhibited around the world, and featured in publications such as the *New York Times*, *GEO*





Personal Touch

A couple months back I was sitting with my wife enjoying a morning cup of coffee when it dawned on me that it had been five years since the “Redeemer days.” I found myself filled with a flush of emotions.

The grief or loss at never since having found to the same degree on the 24/7 sense of community that was shared at Redeemer: the excitement and unity of dorm life, where I learned to interact with brothers and sisters in Christ from different walks of faith; the gratitude for the great friendships that were forged, friendships that have led to an 8th annual canoe trip; the hope that Redeemer would continue to be a place that shapes and forms students to live in community and to grapple with ways to live out their faith in whatever profession they find themselves in.

As an alumnus who is five years removed from Redeemer, settled into a career, and expecting a first child, it’s exciting and emotional to reflect on the past. But it’s also exciting to think of Redeemer’s future and I hope that students continue to be shaped and formed by their “Redeemer days.”

Paul DeWeerd '10 and his wife Juliana live in Clinton, ON

In Memorium

Arlene Heidbuurt '88

Arlene majored in psychology and minored in music at Redeemer. After graduating, she worked for many years at Christian Horizons before becoming a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker. She assisted many charities was an active member of Community Christian Reformed Church in Kitchener. Arlene passed away peacefully on May 5, 2015 in her 50th year.

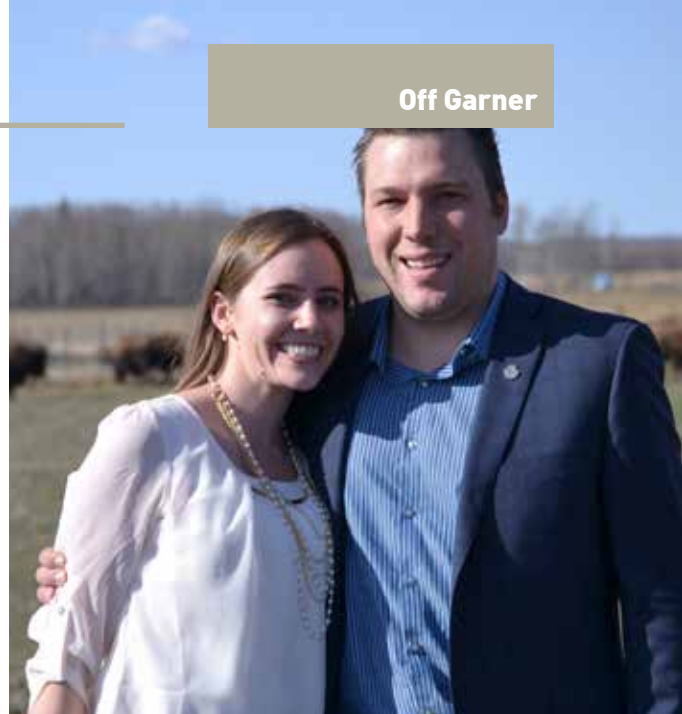
Walt Hartholt '89

Walt graduated from Redeemer in 1989 with a BA in history and returned a year later to earn his BCEd. While at Redeemer Walt was a member of the men's varsity volleyball team; he also met his wife Nancy at Redeemer. Nancy and Walt have two children, Luc and Kendra. Walt was a member of Hope Christian Reformed Church, and was principal at Brantford Christian School. Walt passed away on July 6, 2015 at the age of 49.

Joshua Baldeosingh (2009-2010)

Joshua was at Redeemer for one year. He was completing his Master of Divinity degree at Wycliffe College in Toronto with the goal of becoming an Anglican priest. Joshua's parents said, "God called our son Joshua by name we were honoured and blessed to see him grow into a Godly man." Joshua passed away in a motor vehicle accident in Alberta on July 6, 2015. He leaves behind his wife Brittany and infant daughter Eve. He was 26 years old.

*Katelyn Borgdorff
'13 and Roger
Van Haren*



Alumni News

Don and Elly '98 Jaspers-Fayer are very pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Dennalyn Dawn (March 2015) and son Dawson Gerrit (August 2013). "Our children were made possible through the loving, generous embryo donation of friends whom we met at Redeemer! We thank God for the precious gifts of friendship and children." Email: ellyjf@hotmail.com

Dr. David Speicher '04 and Rebeca Speicher announce the safe arrival of their son, Hunter Theara (a Cambodian name meaning "kind and generous") in October, 2014. Family in both Canada and Cambodia praise God for this blessing. Mom and baby are at home and doing well. Dad is surviving. Email: davidrebeca2011@gmail.com

Jake '06 and Robin Belder '07 have moved to Durham in the UK where Jake is doing a doctorate through Cranmer Hall Theological College at Durham University, and training for ordained ministry in the Church of England. Robin is at home and busy with their two boys, Kai and Asher.

Katelyn Borgdorff '13 married Roger Van Haren in January, 2015. They live in Ponoka, AB where Katelyn works with the accounting firm Rowland Parker & Associates. She's very much enjoying her work there and plans to take her CA exams this fall. Roger works as a landman and they also assist Roger's parents in managing the family's bison farm.

Jonathan Weverink '97 and Sheila Dykstra '98 were married on July 24, 2015 in Kemptonville, ON. Sheila is continuing her work as education consultant in Nigeria with Christian Reformed World Missions, and Jonathan will be joining her there.

On the Move

Redeemer welcomes and bids farewell to several faculty

After completing nine years of service at Redeemer in the music department, **Dr. Paul Thorlakson** has accepted a position in the department of worship and the performing arts at Lancaster Bible College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Dr. James R. Payton retired after 30 years of service. Dr. Payton has served Redeemer as a professor of history, as an academic dean, as well as in a variety of academic administrative roles. He was also the first and until his retirement the only marshal for convocation and other ceremonies.

Dr. Derek Schuurman is currently on a one-year leave of absence from the university, during which he is participating in a visiting professorship at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa.

Dr. Robert Joustra '05 has been appointed director of the Centre for Christian Scholarship. Learn more about the new Centre on page 29.

Dr. Joanne Nazir joined the education department this fall. Dr. Nazir will lead Redeemer's teaching math and teaching science classes for teacher candidates. Her primary research interests are in science, technology, society and environment education and outdoor environmental education.

Dr. Naaman Wood is the first faculty member appointed to the newly formed Media and Communication Studies Department (see page 13).

Dr. Deanne van Tol has been appointed to fill the vacancy left by Dr. Payton in the history department. Dr. van Tol's area of expertise is twentieth-century Africa, with a focus on the history of humanitarianism and development efforts. She teaches courses in African, Western European, and Indian history.

Dr. Sarah Reid-Yu accepted an appointment in December 2014 in health sciences. Her research interests include innate immunity and infectious disease. She is teaching the introductory course in health sciences and a course in epidemiology.

In the fall of 2014, **Dr. Marie Good** was appointed to the psychology department. Dr. Good's research interests include spiritual and religious development.

Also in the fall of 2014, **Dr. Lindsey Short** was appointed to the psychology department. Her research interests include facial processing and trait attributions based on facial structure.

As noted on page 13, **Dr. David Zietsma**, associate professor of history, was appointed to a new role as Vice President, Marketing and Enrolment on January 1, 2015. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Zietsma was serving as Associate Provost, Curriculum and Dean of Humanities.



From left to right:
Lindsey Short,
Sarah Reid-Yu,
Marie Good,
Joanne Nazir,
Naaman Wood



REDEEMER

Centre for Christian Scholarship

Christian scholars and public impact

The Centre for Christian Scholarship opens

Now, more than ever, our culture needs strong Christian thinkers to participate in the public forum, to shape and influence it for God's Kingdom. Redeemer's new Centre for Christian Scholarship gives scholars a place and a vehicle to explore these important issues. The Centre opened in February 2015, supported by a grant from Stronger Together, a co-operative funding organization.

There are several ways that the Centre has already been encouraging scholars.

Redeemer faculty members Jim Vanderwoerd (sociology), Deborah Bowen (English) and Darren Brouwer and Edward Berkelaar (chemistry and environmental studies) have been awarded a total of \$25,000 to support Christian scholarship that has an emphasis on public impact. The awards are named for Bernard Zylstra (1934-1986), a professor of politics at the Institute for Christian Studies who had significant influence on the development of Christian perspectives and practice of politics.

From October 28-30, the Centre and Edifide are joining to host landmark speakers and thinkers contributing to faith in our public life. The conference, *Purpose, Power, Potential*, will be held at Redeemer and feature speakers such as Andy Crouch, Karen Swallow-Prior, Peter Mahaffey and Noah Toly.

At the conference, Dr. Toly, assistant professor of politics & international relations and the director of the Center for Urban Engagement at Wheaton College, will be named the winner of the 2015 Emerging Public Intellectual Award. The \$5,000 award is sponsored by the Acton Institute, Cardus, the Center for Public Justice, Stronger Together, and Redeemer University College.

“The goal of the Centre is to bring together faculty at Redeemer and elsewhere and the evangelization of culture”

“The goal of the Centre is to bring together faculty at Redeemer and elsewhere and the evangelization of culture,” notes Dr. Robert J. Joustra, assistant professor of international studies at Redeemer, who was appointed director of the Centre. “It will be exciting to see the impact that the Centre will have in the public sphere.”

For more information, visit the Centre's website at www.redeemer.ca/ccs.

The Centrality of the Sciences

Faculty and students engage the practical and the theoretical in the natural sciences

From mathematics to health sciences, Redeemer students and faculty are deeply engaged in the sciences. Here are just a few examples of the teaching and research in the sciences that takes place at Redeemer.

Faith and numbers

“ $1 + 1 = 2$ whether you are Christian, Muslim or atheist, doesn’t it?” That is the type of question that was addressed at the 2015 Association of Christians in the Mathematical Sciences (ACMS) conference held at Redeemer in June.

Featuring keynote speakers Annalisa Crannell, a mathematician from Franklin & Marshall College, and Matthew Dickerson, a computer scientist from Middlebury College, the conference was attended by more than 100 Christian scholars from across North America.

“Christians have disagreed on several important philosophical questions regarding maths and sciences,” notes Dr. Derek Schuurman, associate professor of computer science. “But a Reformational approach to mathematics, such as is found at Redeemer, identifies numbers and space as being aspects of creation and recognizes that God is entirely above his creation. It is a position that reflects our Kuyperian vision to be a witness of Jesus Christ as Lord of every square inch, including areas such as mathematics and computing.”

Musseling in on research funding

Associate Professor of Biology Joel Klinck was awarded a \$39,100 grant from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) to assess genotoxicity in freshwater mussels exposed to municipal sewage treatment plant effluent.

As part of his research, Dr. Klinck and his colleagues take blood from mussels to assess its toxicity by analysing DNA damage. This work is extremely important because more than 70% of North American mussel species are either endangered, threatened or in decline.

Klinck’s involvement in this project is also significant as he becomes the first faculty member from Redeemer to receive a research grant from an Ontario ministry. His collaboration with Green House Science, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and Environment Canada demonstrates the quality of research that goes on at Redeemer.



Chemistry students lead study of contamination in watershed

Students in Dr. Darren Brouwer's Analytical Chemistry class completed a detailed study of the water quality of various tributaries in the Chedoke Creek sub-watershed. Expanding on a similar study done in 2012, the students' research suggests that sewage is finding its way into these waterways, likely through cross-connections between sanitary and storm sewers. This has led to high levels of coliform and E. coli bacteria, as well as excessive concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus.

The students also shared their research in a public presentation attended by representatives from the City of Hamilton and several local environmental organizations.

The course was designed with a project-based learning (PBL) approach. "The students learned the theories and tools of analytical chemistry by going through all aspects of a particular problem or project," said Brouwer. "But beyond 'just' the science, the students also learned about city politics and infrastructure, and the development and implementation of environmental policies." Through their shared research work, the students also learned about teamwork, problem-solving and the importance of communication. "This is the way that you address issues in the workforce," pointed out Brouwer. "This type of experiential learning is incredibly valuable for students."

"Students also learned about city politics and infrastructure"



Spending summer in the lab

Each summer, students are hired by faculty in Redeemer's mathematics, environmental studies and chemistry departments to carry out research projects. The students presented the results of their work at the Tenth Annual Sciences Division Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Projects ranged from mapping pollution in Hamilton's watershed to using computational mathematics to solve chemical structures to studying matrix patterns.

The presentations were the culmination of months of work with faculty from Redeemer's sciences division. They also partnered with universities and government agencies, including the Canada Centre for Inland Waters. The projects were funded in part by the Natural Sciences and Engineering and Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and by Redeemer's Centre for Christian Scholarship.

Imago Dei

Dr. Christina Belcher explores what it means to be made—and to teach—in the image of God

It was not until after beginning my career as a public school teacher that, at age 29, I became a Christian. Feeling inspired by the Holy Spirit, I wanted to see if Christian education—and Christian teachers—really were any different! I did not expect to discover any “secret curriculum or assessment” to be at the core of this difference. Skills would be the same, but I mused that surely the worldview that impacted their teaching must not be. From that question, I began listening for God to guide me in ways that enlarged my passion, wisdom and understanding of how my vocation is informed by faith.

Current culture can be found lacking in conversations, questions, or frameworks that reflect a Christian perspective. My research interests—emerging from a passion about the Word, from words in language and how we use them—have probed me to further emphasize worldview and its place and purpose in culture

Dr. Christina Belcher is a professor in the Department of Education at Redeemer University College.

and Christian higher education. It is what led me to undertake a Master of Worldview Studies at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto and continues to guide my professional interests.

My current research investigates authentic ownership of a worldview. Dr. Beverley Norsworthy, dean of education at Bethlehem Institute of Education in New Zealand, and I are exploring data from 120 teachers on their understanding and perspective of *Imago Dei*—what it means to be made in the image of God. We want to see how that worldview guides, or fails to guide, how teachers see themselves and their students. This work explores perceptions of how teachers apply the principles of Scripture in schools. Does understanding of a personal worldview and knowing one’s purpose in a relationship with God become evident in “faith-fully” teaching?

At this stage of the research, we have made two conference presentations and have a publication on our findings in the next ICCTE (International Christian Community for Teacher Education) journal.

What kind of graduate does a Christian education produce? If the goal is indeed to equip the mind to live for God and cause a culture to flourish, the question is crucial for educators. My colleagues and I look forward to continuing this conversation through further research in a variety of ways and forms.



Faculty research update



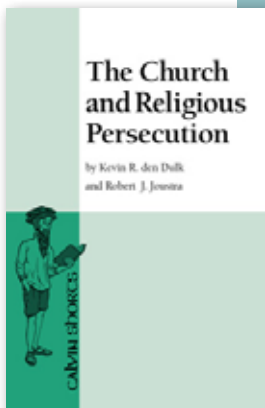
Dr. Adam Barkman, associate professor of philosophy, equips tourists and art students with the means to interpret the iconography and symbolism of Islam in cultural artifacts.

Making Sense of Islamic Art & Architecture (with T. Hudson) London: Thames & Hudson.

Dr. Craig Bartholomew, professor of philosophy and religion & theology, has written one book that describes the beauty of one man's struggle with God, and another that helps seminarians pursue a lifetime of biblical interpretation.

When you Want to Yell at God: The book of Job. Bellingham: Lexham (Transformative Word).

Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics: A comprehensive framework for hearing God in scripture. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.



Dr. Robert Jostma, assistant professor of international studies and director of the Centre for Christian Scholarship, has co-authored a book that examines the nature and scope of religious persecution worldwide and how the church can build a faith-based movement against persecution.

The Church and Religious Persecution (with K. den Dulk). Grand Rapids, MI: Calvin College Press.

Dr. John Byl, professor of kinesiology/physical education, emeritus has co-authored a number of books on supporting lifelong healthy, active living through playing games. The *Teaching Games for Understanding* series is published by the Canadian Intramural Recreation Association of Ontario (CIRA), an organization which Dr. Byl has long supported.

Net and Wall Games (with J. Kowamoto). Hamilton, ON: CIRA.

Bats and Balls - Striking and Fielding Games (with G. Mauro and T. Stone). Hamilton, ON: CIRA.

Target games (with G. Zubycck and L. Haducek). Hamilton, ON: CIRA.

Dr. Al Wolters, professor of religion & theology, emeritus, has contributed a book on Zechariah, part of the *Historical Commentary of the Old Testament* series.

Zechariah. Leuven, Belgium: Peeters.



The impact of a donation

Last year Dr. Darren Brouwer, associate professor of chemistry, had a limited time offer to purchase an innovative new instrument that provides students with hands-on experience in determining the molecular structures of chemical substances. The instrument, a “benchtop” Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectrometer, was being offered to Redeemer with a generous, but limited-time educational discount from the supplier, Nanalysis Corporation, based in Calgary.

Still, without a grant or designated donation, the acquisition was not possible. It was around the

same time that a donor approached Redeemer through the Christian School Foundation. The donor, who prefers to remain anonymous, expressed an interest in funding an item relating to science and technology and agreed to allocate funding to acquire the spectrometer.

“Due to the high cost, space, and maintenance requirements of conventional NMR instruments, this key piece of scientific instrumentation has been out of reach for small universities such as Redeemer,” remarked Brouwer. “Thanks to this generous donation and the technical innovations that have brought the size, cost, and maintenance of an NMR spectrometer down considerably, our students will now gain valuable experience with this important tool.”

Students in chemistry, biology, health sciences, and environmental studies programs will use the benchtop NMR spectrometer mainly in organic chemistry courses and for senior research projects. Through Nanalysis’ education program, there are also opportunities to disseminate the pedagogical innovations developed at Redeemer to other universities that use the benchtop NMR spectrometer, raising Redeemer’s profile.

If you would like to know more about making a donation to benefit Redeemer students, visit redeemer.ca/give or contact Judith Drost Storey in the Advancement Department. She can be reached via email (jdrost@redeemer.ca) or phone (905.648.2139 x4475).

Coming Events

Sibling Weekend

Friday October 16 - Sunday October 18

Redeemer students get to hang out with their siblings on a typical weekend at Redeemer. Sibling weekend is geared towards siblings aged 12 – 17.

New Horizons

October 20

New Horizons is a day on campus designed for retired adults (including church and other seniors groups), with a special welcome to grandparents and friends

Floyd Elzinga's Haymaker

Opening Reception: October 23, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

This exhibition will showcase artwork combining rural and agricultural icons with business archetypes and styles. The exhibit runs to November 30.

Purpose, Power, Potential Conference

October 28 - October 30

This fall, the Centre for Christian Scholarship and Edifide are joining to host two landmark speakers and thinkers: Andy Crouch and Karen Swallow Prior.

Poetry Readings

The Canada Council for the Arts, the Hamilton Poetry Centre and Redeemer are pleased to bring a number of poets to our campus. Everyone is welcome to attend these readings. Each event takes place from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

November 19 – Karen Enns

January 21 – Robyn Sarah

February 4 – Joanne Epp

March 3 – Cara-Lyn Morgan

Handel's Messiah

Redeemer Concert Choir performs Handel's beloved oratorio

December 4 in Redeemer's Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.

December 5 at MacNab Presbyterian Church - 7:30 p.m.

December 6 - Sing-A-Long Messiah at MacNab Presbyterian Church - 3:00 p.m.

Cotton Patch Gospel

January 25-30, 2016

The Theatre Arts Department presents its mainstage musical featuring the music of Harry Chapin and storytelling style of the American South.



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The rapid rate of change in our world makes choosing a career path difficult. You need a dynamic education where theory meets experience. Don't know what you want to study yet? That's okay. There's time, and this is the perfect place to figure it out.

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