

THE MORNING STAR



On being a parent and a student at the same time

BY ANNETTE BROWNLEE

I remember a Wycliffe student of several years ago who organized her life so she could be both a student and parent and spouse. She was the mother of two elementary school-aged boys. In the morning she or her husband would drop their sons at their school, then she'd get on the subway and arrive at Wycliffe in time for Morning Prayer. (Morning Prayer is a daily worship service of Scripture, prayer, and song that takes place each weekday at 8:30 a.m. in the College Chapel.) That same year there were a few single students living in the dormitory of the building—two flights up from the Chapel—who could not manage to make it to Morning Prayer on time.

How did she do it? She did not do it alone. She had the support of her family. She also had the discipline to organize her time and, along with her spouse, their household. A few (not the vast majority!) of the single students in the dorm that year, had no such external pressures, or it seems, internal motivation, to do likewise. She had both.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 24, Tue

Principal's Dinner (sold out)

Sept 25, Wed

Einstein's God, p. 3

Sept 27, Fri

Theology Pub Night on Medical Assistance in Dying, p.4

Oct 2, Wed

TST 12th Annual Agapé Service, p. 4

Oct 16, Wed

Founders' Day Memorial Lecture, p. 4



“Being a parent and student at the same time means pondering the limits of time and creatureliness”

(continued from the previous page)

I remember another woman who was a doctoral student and mother of four small children. Her husband was the pastor of a church, with a Senior Centre attached to it. They organized childcare for their kids among some of the people in the Senior Centre. Family support, reliable childcare, discipline, and organization are essential if one wants to be a parent and student at the same time.

But to be both is about more than “how to.”

Being a parent and student at the same time means pondering the limits of time and creatureliness, and the relationships between the vocations of family and study. Such pondering is a good thing indeed. The superwoman or superman, tiger mother or earth mother are not Christian images. We are finite, mortal creatures. We do not have limitless energy, love, or ambition. That capacity is reserved for God alone. Understanding our limits and living within them is a good thing to model and teach our children. When we over function we inadvertently invite our children to under function.

To be both a parent and student is also to struggle with what at times feel like competing vocations. How do we honour both? To be a student is a vocation, a job if you will. It calls for time to read and reflect. It calls for time and space to think and write. It cannot be done well (or

perhaps at all) if we think we can fit it in between all the other things we do. One of our doctoral students treated his studies as his full-time job. He would come to Morning Prayer, put in a full day of work in the study room in the building (he could be seen pacing the halls in thought) and then picked up his children after school. Day after day punching the clock. I know several students who, after dinner, sit down at the table with their children and everyone does homework together. What could be better?

But back to the limits of creatureliness. One such limit is time. We have all the time there is, all the time God has created—there are no extra hours stored up in heaven or hidden behind Christ’s robes. The gift of a day, 24 hours, is a part of God’s creation and as with all God’s gifts, it is good. That means it is enough. We cannot be a student and parent alone. We cannot do both roles without support and good childcare. We cannot do it without community.

And community is another one of God’s good creations.

ABOUT

Annette Brownlee is Chaplain, Professor of Pastoral Theology and Director of Field Education at Wycliffe College.

Events & Announcements

LIBRARY DROP-IN SESSIONS

Location: Graham Library Classroom. Sign up not necessary

Familiarizing yourself with the library system is important to your academic success. Be sure to join one of the drop-in sessions next week at the Graham Library. If you cannot make it to any of these sessions, you may email the Theology Librarian Tom Power at thomas.power@utoronto.ca to make alternative arrangements.

Tue, Sept 24

2:00-2:30 p.m. Finding the books you need

2:30-3:00 p.m. Finding articles in theology

Wed, Sept 25

10:00-10:30 p.m. Finding the books you need

10:30-11:00 p.m. Finding articles in theology

Thur, Sept 26

12:00-12:30 p.m. Resources for Biblical studies

12:30-1:00 p.m. Compiling bibliographies

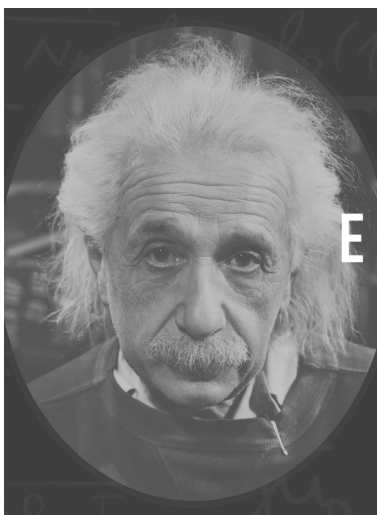
DMIN DEGREE APPLICATIONS

Application deadline: 4:30 p.m., Friday, November 22, 2019

Are you ready to transform your ministry? Are you yearning for space to grow and learn? Have you been contemplating pursuing a Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree? Here's your chance! Applications are now being accepted for the Toronto School of Theology's Doctor of Ministry Program for the Spring 2020 Cohort. You may find the application form on the [Toronto School of Theology website](#).

“If I could give my former self advice I would take more time getting to know the library system. I would affirm the importance of keeping the daily office and community Eucharist. I enjoyed these things and found them a great support for my studies. Read all you can and listen more than you speak.”

— Raymond Aldred,
Wycliffe Alumnus



MCGRATH ON EINSTEIN'S GOD

Wed, Sept 25 at 7 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church, 630 Spadina Ave.

On Wednesday, September 25, Dr. Alister McGrath, Andreas Idreos Professor of Science and Religion, Director of the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion, and Fellow of Harris Manchester College at Oxford University will sketch the religious views of one of the greatest scientific minds of the last century, in a lecture titled "Einstein's God." Sharing insights from his forthcoming book, *A Theory of Everything (That Matters): A Brief Guide to Einstein, Relativity, and His Surprising Thoughts on God*, McGrath will argue that while Einstein did not believe in a personal God, he was driven by a "cosmic religious feeling" that became his "strongest and noblest motive for scientific research."

For tickets and more information, visit <https://www.wycliffecollege.ca/einstein>.

WEEKLY CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Morning Prayer
Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m.

Taizé Evening Prayer
Mon, 5:30 p.m.

Wine Before Breakfast
Tue, 7:22 a.m.

Sung Evensong
Tue, 5:30 p.m.

**Holy Eucharist with
faculty sermons &
child care**
Wed, 4:45 p.m.

Prayer & Praise
Thu, 5:00 p.m.

Evening Prayer
Fri, 5:30 p.m.

More Events & Announcements

THEOLOGY PUB NIGHT

Friday, Sept 27, 7:00—9:00 p.m. in Leonard Hall.

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) will be the subject on the agenda for discussion at this month's Theology Pub Night. Wycliffe Program Director Steve Hewko will interview featured guests Larry Reynolds, Julia Lee, and Natasha Fernandes. Together they will consider how the legal practice of physician assisted suicide reflects on Canadian culture and the status of Canada's current and future health care.

This event is free and open to the public. Bring your friends! Oh, and there will be beer.

12TH ANNUAL AGAPÉ SERVICE FOR THE TST COMMUNITY

Wednesday, Oct 2, 1:30—3:00 p.m. at Knox College Chapel, 59 St. George Street, Toronto

This is an annual worship gathering to which all members of the Toronto School of Theology community are invited: students, faculty, and staff. This year, Knox College will host the event in the Knox College

Chapel at 1:30 p.m. with reception and refreshments to follow. The theme of the service is "The Power of Love," based on 1 Cor. 12:31-13:13, Psalm 133, and John 17:20-23.

THE STORY OF RADIO MIND: A MISSIONARY'S JOURNEY ON INDIGENOUS LAND

Wednesday, Oct 16, 3:00—4:30 p.m. at Wycliffe College

The Founders' Day Memorial lecture honours the vision and commitment of the original founders of Wycliffe College through an annual lecture whose subject matter relates in some way to the history of the College and its role in the Church. This year the lecture will feature Professor Pamela Klassen (Department for the Study of Religion U of T), who will speak about her new book, *The Story of Radio Mind: A Missionary's Journey on Indigenous Land* (University of Chicago Press, 2018), which tells the story of Frederick Herbert DuVernet, 1860-1924, a Wycliffe graduate (Class of 1880).

It is a free, public event. Anyone is welcome to attend.

STAY CONNECTED

Follow us
on Social:



The Word @ Wycliffe is a monthly e-newsletter of Wycliffe stories, news, and updates, delivered to your inbox! Sign up at wycliffecollege.ca/wordatwycliffe.

The Morning Star is a weekly e-newsletter geared specifically towards students and residents. Save paper and sign up to receive digital copies at wycliffecollege.ca/newsletter.

LOOKING TO MAKE SOME EXTRA CASH?

We are looking for students and/or residents for the following areas:

- Event support (set-up and tear-down)
- Audio editing support
- Donor relations (thank-you phone calls)
- Data entry
- Graphic design
- Miscellaneous tasks

Please e-mail Peter Herriman at pherriman@wycliffe.utoronto.ca indicating the area(s) you are interested in. Thank you!