



CAMPION'S Brag



An Alumni Journal
Volume Eighteen Spring/Summer 2012

Reporting from Abroad:
Tales from a Middle
Eastern correspondent

Journalists for Human Rights:
Student internship in Africa will
give voice to human rights
initiatives

Engaged Learning Program takes
education from the classroom to
real-life situations

The pursuit of the Olympic
dream subject of award winning
novel by Campion alumna

On the cover:

Campion student Noah Wernikowski, who graduates with a bachelor of journalism degree this spring, will spend his summer in Ghana on an internship with the international organization journalists for human rights.

(Photo: University of Regina Photography Department)

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Volume 18 Spring/Summer 2012

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Correction Notice:

In the Fall 2011 issue, the title on the news in brief article regarding Fr. Frank Obrigewitsch's 50th anniversary of entering the Society of Jesus incorrectly attributed the anniversary to his date of ordination. The title should have read Fifty Years a Jesuit. Fr. Obrigewitsch, SJ, entered the Society of Jesus in 1961, and was ordained on 10 June 1972. He made his final vows in April 1978.



Jesuit pedagogy encourages independent thought while challenging students to see the world from varying perspectives, with a goal of graduating men and women for others. It motivates students by personalizing learning, and encouraging them to be active participants in their lifelong pursuit of knowledge and understanding.

I see the work of international correspondents, who often risk their own lives to share the stories that shape our world, to be similar in many ways. To do their jobs well, they must first develop an understanding of the context in which they are working while, at the same time, translating this in a manner that resonates with the audience back home. Their stories highlight the human experience, often causing us to reflect on our

own situations and at times calling us to action in the name of justice and social responsibility.

Perhaps it is because I once aspired to be working in the field, or that I know journalists like Derek Stoffel grew up in the same prairie landscape as I, that I listen with greater interest to the stories they tell and wonder what it is really like to be in the shoes of the people they interview. I am inspired when I see young journalists like Noah Wernikowski take the initiative to use their talents to help make positive change in our world.

By my own choosing, my life took a different turn and I remained here, on the prairies, instead of pursuing a journalism career abroad. But one does not have to go far away to bring about positive change in the world. There are many organizations in our own communities that could benefit from our experience and skills. Students in our Engaged Learning Program, or those participating in various Campus Ministry and Campion College Student Union initiatives can tell us just how beneficial giving back to the community can be.

I have had the privilege of working in an environment that supports intellectual growth and promotes a commitment to social justice. Over the past decade, I have met many accomplished Jesuit scholars who inspire and challenge their students in their pursuit of lifelong learning.

One such scholar, whom I will always remember with great fondness, is the late Marc Gervais, SJ. Marc passed away in March of this year at the age of 82. I had the privilege of working with Marc when he returned to Campion as a visiting lecturer in the fall of 2003 and again in 2004. Well-known in the film industry, Marc shared with us his passion for film, and Westerns in particular. His energy was contagious, making it very difficult not to share his love of great cinematography. What most of us did not realize was just how well respected Marc was in the industry and the number of students he had taught who went on to become award-winning directors. It is an honour to say that I had the pleasure of working with Marc. He will be greatly missed.

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News in Brief

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Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ, delivered the 33rd Annual Nash Memorial lecture on 2 February 2012.

VATICAN ASTRONOMER DELIVERS NASH MEMORIAL LECTURE

Vatican astronomer Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ, PhD, delivered the 33rd annual Nash Memorial Lecture to a capacity crowd at Champion College on Thursday 2 February 2012.

A graduate of MIT and the University of Arizona, Consolmagno entered the Jesuits in 1989 and was appointed to the Vatican observatory in 1993, where he currently serves as the curator of the Vatican Meteorite Collection and

director of public relations. As well, Consolmagno conducts scientific research on the connection between meteorites and asteroids, and the origin and evolution of small bodies in the solar system. He is the author of numerous scientific publications and books, including *Brother Astronomer* and *God's Mechanics*.

In his talk, *The New Physics and the Old Metaphysics*, Consolmagno explains the relationship between science and religion, and how the two disciplines can support each other in our eternal quest for God.

Referencing the assertion made by Stephen Hawking in his book, *The Grand Design*, that God is not necessary to explain the origins of the universe, Consolmagno acknowledges where the argument for removing God as the “touch point of the Big Bang” is theologically correct.

“You do not need to invoke God to start the universe off; indeed, you should not,” says Consolmagno.

He argues that our knowledge of how the universe works, the science, is constantly evolving and

changing. Scientific knowledge a hundred years ago is different from what we know today, and it will continue to change as new information comes forward and new discoveries are made.

“Our cosmologies change; yet, our biggest questions remain constant: Who are we? Where did we come from? What are we doing here? These are questions that scientific cosmology can help inform, but ultimately they are not problems to be solved with an equation,” says Consolmagno.

“The cosmology of Genesis is dated, but its essential message is that, regardless of how we picture that universe or the details of its creation, a God outside that universe, acting out of love, created the universe. That is a message that is never out of date,” Consolmagno adds.

Consolmagno enjoys his work as a scientist, researching and investigating his own hypotheses, playing, as he calls it, in God’s universe. However, he contends that science can only answer the question of how things work, explaining the natural causes of events,

not why these forces exist. “God is not a force to be invoked to swell a progress, start a scene or two, and fill the momentary gaps in our knowledge. God is the reason why existence itself exists. God is the reason why space, time and the laws of nature can be present to operate the forces that Stephen Hawking is talking about,” says Consolmagno.

The Nash Memorial Lecture is available for viewing in both video and text format on the Campion College website:

www.campioncollege.ca/events/nash-memorial-lecture-series.

FORWARD TOGETHER LECTURE FOCUSES ON IMPORTANCE OF INTERCULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

Jesuit anthropologist Dr. Raymond Bucko, SJ, conveyed the importance of intercultural dialogue and learning at the 4th annual Forward Together lecture on 27 March 2012.

“Cross-cultural engagement is both the correct and beautiful thing to do—correct as it is a proper form of engagement basic to a civil society, but also



Anthropologist Dr. Raymond Bucko, SJ, speaking on the importance of intercultural dialogue at the 4th annual Forward Together lecture. The lecture was held in the Rex Schneider Auditorium on 27 March 2012.

beautiful because of the richness and intricacy we each hold in ourselves and as members of specific groups. We are not about building bridges across wide chasms, but discovering ourselves in others through both commonality and difference,” says Bucko.

Bucko is a professor of anthropology and program director of Native American studies at Creighton University, where he delivers courses and carries out research on medical anthropology,

anthropological approaches to religion, and the study of Native American religions and cultures.

Established in 2009 by the presidents of the University of Regina, Campion College, First Nations University of Canada, and Luther College, the Forward Together lecture highlights the joint commitment of the four institutions to inclusiveness, understanding, social justice, and human rights.

This year’s lecture, entitled *An Observant Samaritan* is

a Good Samaritan, was also part of Campion’s celebration commemorating the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Jesuits to Canada.

“Over the past few years, the Forward Together lecture has become an important event for the University of Regina and the Federated Colleges,” says Benjamin Fiore, SJ, president of Campion College at the University of Regina. “It is a way to celebrate our diversity and at the same time emphasize our shared ideals of equality,

News in Brief

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The Campion College chapter of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit Honour society, welcomed 11 new student members and three honorary members at its induction ceremony in January. Pictured here are Chapter President Stephen Sharpe, new member Amanda Danscok, and Campion College President Benjamin Fiore, SJ.

inclusiveness and human justice—ideals that unite us on campus and in the larger community.”

CAMPION MEMBER OF U OF R CHEER SQUAD EARNS SPOT ON NATIONAL TEAM

Kristen Slinn, a third year Campion College sociology student and member of the University of Regina Cheer Team, has been selected to join Canada’s National Cheerleading Team.

“Making the national team is still shocking to hear and

think about. I still can’t believe I am one of the athletes chosen to represent the country,” says Slinn.

Coming from a strong gymnastics background, Slinn began cheerleading with the club Team Rebels in her grade 12 year and has been part of the U of R Cheer Team for the past three years. The team recently won gold in the Collegiate Co-ed Division at the Sea to Sky International Cheerleading and Dance Championship in Vancouver. Slinn, who is very optimistic about the team’s future, attributes its recent success to their

ability to work well together and their dedication to continuous improvement. “I want to teach new people on the team the knowledge that I have gained, but I also want to learn from [my teammates] at the same time. I think that I improved this year with the team and look forward to only getting better next year.”

Slinn and team-mate Jenna Jelinski embarked for Toronto in mid-April to begin training with the national team before heading to the world competition in Florida. “I am extremely excited to

meet the challenges that I am faced with over the next few weeks and take away all that I can from the exceptional athletes and coaches I will get to train with,” says Slinn.

Slinn credits her success in part to the great deal of support she receives from her coaches Thomas and Janessa Rath, and her parents.

While Slinn hopes to become a role model for other athletes, she also hopes that “cheerleading continues to gain recognition as a challenging and athletic sport.”

COURSE OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE ITALY

Twenty-nine students will embark on a tour of Christian art and architecture, and ancient monuments in Italy this spring. The tour is part of two Campion College courses, one in Catholic studies and the other in classical studies.

The tour will include visits to various sites in Rome, Pompeii, Vatican City, Assisi, Florence, and Naples, including the Colosseum,

the Vatican Museum, the necropolis under the Vatican, the catacombs, the Uffizi Gallery, the tomb of St. Francis, and St. Peter's Basilica.

"What's good about the trip is that it allows students to see and study the actual monuments and sites, which is much different from seeing them on PowerPoint slides. Visiting the sites gives students a real sense of immediacy—it's something that can't be taught," says Dr. David Meban, associate professor of classics at Campion College. His course, *Cities of Rome and Pompeii*, examines the topography, architecture and lives of the inhabitants of these two important urban centers during the late-Republic and early-Principate.

Father Benjamin Fiore's course on early-Christian art and architecture studies the development and progression of classical Christian works from the earliest period to the Renaissance.

"The buildings we will visit range from those built by the Romans, which were then used by the Christians as models for their own structures. We will also visit some of the first churches built anywhere after



Students Bailey Eberle, Stephen Sharpe, and Andrew Lindenbach gave a Saturday to help with the construction of a Habitat for Humanity home in north central Regina.

Christianity was approved as a public religion in AD 313. Our visits to other museums and churches, such as those in Florence and Assisi, will have us encounter artworks that represent biblical and theological themes and will help us understand how the changing artistic sensibility of successive periods affected the art works," explains Fiore.

Students will benefit from an interdisciplinary learning experience as the tour will be divided between visits to monuments and collections pertaining to ancient Rome and the ruins of Pompeii, and churches and museums

containing examples of early-Christian art and architecture.

This is the second time Fiore and Meban are offering their courses in collaboration with a joint two-week study tour of Italy.

"I was very pleased with our first study tour and look forward to an even better experience this time," says Fiore, adding that he hopes the experience will allow students to develop their own appreciation for art and architecture.

Both professors hope that, by traveling to the destination and

experiencing Italy first-hand, students will develop a love and appreciation for the classical Roman period.

"For me, I hope students gain an appreciation of the accomplishments of the Romans—the scale and quality of some of the work they produced. I hope a visit to Pompeii will also provide insight into how some lower class Romans lived their lives on a daily basis," says Meban.

Abroad

By Derek Stoffel

I knew my life had changed in a big way when I found myself lying face-down on a street in Tripoli, Libya, as rocket propelled grenades flew over my head. Smoke poured out of the building in front of me that had just been hit. Machine gun fire erupted as Libyan rebels pushed ahead.

This was day number eight on the job in my new gig as Middle East correspondent for CBC Radio. As the battle for Tripoli entered its last few days, I realized I could not be further from home in Regina. Yet, as I ducked behind the van our crew rented, wearing body armour, I knew that this is what I had been preparing for since recording my first newscast in my parent's basement at age 14.

The last year has been one of the most exciting times to work as a foreign correspondent in the Middle East. Covering the 'Arab Spring', I have spent a lot of time in Libya. I have reported from Cairo's Tahrir Square as a million Egyptians chanted with one voice that they wanted change. I have wandered through refugee camps in Turkey and Jordan where Syrian families have

found shelter from the violence at home. More recently, I have been watching the war of words between Israel and Iran, as Israelis prepare for a possible war over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

My own preparations for life as a journalist began in Regina. As my friends played shinny out in the cold, I filmed it all and made a documentary. I started a newspaper in elementary school. After high school, I studied political science at Campion College before entering the University of Regina's School of Journalism.

I was always asking the question: "why?" It is a question I keep asking to this day as I try to help Canadians understand the world in which we live.

This question really resonated with me last October when I found myself in a big cold storage freezer in the Libyan city of Misrata. Days earlier, the notorious Libyan leader Muammar Gadhaffi had been killed as he tried to flee his hometown. Now, his body was on display for all to see.

The scene inside this room was utterly chaotic. The men, who waited hours (and it was all men, no women were in line) to see the man they despised, shouted 'God is great' as loudly as they could in between snapping off photos on their cell phones. The security guards literally pushed and pulled people in and out of the room when they decided time was up.

While crouching down in this freezer, taking photographs of the dead



dictator, all I could think was ‘why’. ‘Why did they kill him?’ ‘Why not put him on trial for the alleged crimes he committed against his own people?’ A lot of people in the West had the same questions. It was not until speaking to about a dozen people who waited to see Gadhaffi’s body that I started gaining some insight.

“He killed like it was a game,” said one man named Mohammad, who had brought his young son with him to witness this historical moment. Mohammad knew that a lot of people abroad frowned upon the killing of Gadhaffi, but he urged me to look at this through the eyes of a Libyan. “We needed to get revenge for 40 years of murder and mistreatment,” he told me. Seeing Gadhaffi in court—possibly in The Hague—was not justice in Mohammad’s eyes.

Whether it was wrong or right to kill Gadhaffi is something that can be debated for hours. I did meet one man in the line who was torn whether his former leader should have been kept alive to answer for his crimes.

The day I was in that meat locker next to Gadhaffi’s body I sent a story filled with the voices of Libyans back to Canada to be broadcast. I remember the story vividly—lots of voices, so much emotion. To me, letting Canadians hear these people from far away is what good journalism should be. And then, when the story is over, it is up to the listener, reader or viewer to make up his or her own mind.

Being out in the field covering these stories is critical to being able to deliver them to the audience back home. However, with new technology at the forefront, journalism continues to change and my work life continues to evolve.

For the most part, the change is for the better. Equipped with a laptop and a satellite phone, I can now jump on a plane and go anywhere in the world and report—sending radio and TV stories as well as print versions and photographs from anywhere in the world. I have uploaded radio items from the middle of the Afghan desert while out on patrol with Canadian

soldiers, and hung the satellite phone off a hotel balcony in Benghazi, Libya, when the power was cut.

However, being out in the field—we call it news gathering—is expensive. And in the world of shrinking budgets (which CBC is no stranger to) there is a worrying trend of reporters working in big newsrooms, filing stories taken from the wire services and video sent from halfway around the world, without leaving their desk in Toronto or New York or London.

The problem with that scenario is the lack of local knowledge that provides the context to the story and events as they unfold. Being in Egypt during that country’s revolution was critical to understanding why people were risking their lives to protest. Talking directly to the people involved in a story is the only way you can truly understand the situation.

One of the first things I covered in Israel was the story of Gilad Shalit, a young Israeli soldier who was held captive for more than five years by



Egyptian volunteers treat those who were wounded from clashes with security forces in Tahrir Square, Cairo (November 2011).

militants in the Gaza strip. Shalit was never forgotten in Israel. There were celebrations on the streets of Jerusalem the day it was announced he would be set free.

But his freedom came at a steep price. More than one thousand Palestinians were set free in exchange for Shalit. As I was relatively new to the region, I could not understand why Israelis would support this lopsided agreement. Being here, being out on the streets and talking to people, I found the answer. Unlike Canada, most Israelis spend two or three years of their lives serving in the armed forces. In a country where pretty much everyone knows what it is like to be a soldier, there is great empathy for the young men and women who serve in uniform. One Israeli mother told me if it were her son, she would empty all of the jails across the land to see him again.

Sitting at a desk in Toronto, my stories on Shalit's release would have missed this nuance. Thankfully, a number of news organizations—including the

CBC—realize just how important it is to have people deployed around the world, to deliver contextual and analytical stories to the audience back home.

And we do not do it alone. Because I am not fluent in Arabic, Hebrew, Dari, Pashtu, and a number of other languages spoken in the area I cover, I work with local translators when I travel, and when 'on base' in Jerusalem. They also help us arrange interviews, press accreditation, or even a taxi for the day. Journalists call them 'fixers' because they 'fix' the things we need to tell a story. I have met some wonderful fixers over the last few months—people who offer insight and the context surrounding the story, while often risking their lives as they do so.

My fixer Ahmed and I were out for a walk down the main street of Misrata, Libya. The third largest city in the country, it was the hardest hit in the fighting. Tripoli Street—the main drag—was nearly destroyed by shelling and street fighting that lasted for months.

Down the street, past a burned out building, I saw the familiar Maple Leaf flying high from a flagpole. We asked some of the men sitting around in the sun why the Canadian flag was there. "We wanted to say thank you to Canada," one of the men told me. It was a small gesture of appreciation for Canada's involvement in the NATO air mission to protect Libyan civilians.

"Tell the Canadians we are grateful for their help. Tell the people back home this," the man asked of me. And I did, that night on the radio. That is why I went into journalism: to better understand my world and to help others—whether they are Canadians listening back home or a group of old Libyan men sitting down for some tea—better understand each other.



Derek Stoffel talks to Syrian refugees in a Turkish refugee camp in Hatay province, Turkey (January 2012).



Angie Abdou (left) presented on a panel of writers at the U of R Homecoming this past September.

10 Novel takes readers on the athlete's Olympic journey

By Shauna Koester

Literature allows us to travel to foreign places, even if those foreign places are somebody else's skin.

In 2012, all eyes will be on London, England, as the world's foremost athletes compete in the quadrennial international competition known as the summer Olympic Games. But once the competition is over, and the Olympic flame is extinguished, what happens to the athletes?

This is the question posed by *The Bone Cage*, the first full length novel by Champion College graduate Angie Abdou. Born and raised in Moose Jaw, Abdou spent her time immersed in amateur athletics. A swimmer, she raced with the Moose Jaw Kinsmen's Flying Fins and the Regina Optimist Dolphins swim clubs and briefly attended Campbell Collegiate.

After high school, Abdou came to the University of Regina for the journalism program. "I wanted to explore, to do something different." She remembers her time at Champion fondly and credits her English 100 class taught by Champion professor Dr.

Thomas Rendall, a medievalist, with introducing her to one of her favourite areas of literature.

After obtaining her bachelor's degree from the University of Regina, she went on to receive her master's degree from the University of Western Ontario and a PhD in English literature from the University of Calgary.

Abdou's literary background is evident in her 2007 novel *The Bone Cage*. A story of amateur athletes and their quest to go to the Olympic Games, the novel explores the realities—the determination and the exhaustion, the triumphs and the utter heartaches—of the amateur athletic experience.

We meet her main characters, Sadie, a swimmer, and Digger, a wrestler, as they embark on the last leg of their Olympic journeys, entering the vigorous time of pre-games training.

Abdou admits that focusing on wrestling and swimming was not her first choice. "I didn't want people to

***Abdou says
"I wanted to put
(the readers) in
the skin of the
athletes."***

make autobiographical assumptions," she notes. Yet in the end, she went with what she knew, since "good writing comes from insider knowledge." The readers of *The Bone Cage* benefit from this experience, as Abdou aptly describes the physical, psychological, emotional, and even olfactory experiences of her characters. Abdou says "I wanted to put (the readers) in the skin of the athletes."

Throughout the novel, her characters struggle with the idea of identity, and how their identities are inextricably tied to their Olympic goals. As Sadie ruminates "She'd built her whole life— her very identity—on those two



The Bone Cage was named a CBC Canada Reads selection in 2011 and Grant MacEwan University's Book of the Year in 2012.

words: Olympic dream. Now was not the time to question them.”

Abdou's purpose of the novel is to inspire readers to engage in a serious conversation about the Olympic quest, and question the value of this pursuit. Yet her book is not a critique of the Olympic Games, but rather an attempt to alert the reader to the elements of athletics outside of the Olympic spotlight. She found that amateur athletics was hardly covered by the media, and that Olympic coverage was frustrating because it rarely looked beyond the podium. Abdou compels her readers to look beyond the quest for medals, and consider their lives leading up to and after their big day comes. She also hopes that readers will begin to question how we can help athletes transfer their skills to a post-athletic state. Abdou alludes to the prevalence of post-Olympic depression, which is partially due to the athlete's needing to create an entirely new identity outside of athletics.

Despite the serious questions raised, *The Bone Cage* demonstrates a respect

and admiration for Olympic-level athletics. Abdou stresses that she also “wanted to celebrate the camaraderie of athletics, and celebrate the meditative state of a good practice.”

Her work highlights the familial relationships between team-mates, and the sheer will driving each of these athletes. “If my kids wanted to pursue sports at that level, I would support that dream absolutely.”

Canadians have certainly responded to her novel. In 2011, *The Bone Cage* was named a Canada Reads selection, a feat even more impressive in a year where voters were instructed to choose the “essential Canadian novel”, as noted on the Canada Reads website (cbc.ca/canadareads). Among the book's other accolades is its selection as Grant MacEwan University's Book of the Year in 2012.

While Abdou's novel is an excellent example of Canadiana, it most certainly reflects her Western Canadian upbringing, particularly in



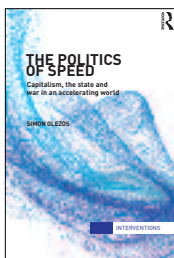
A native of Moose Jaw, Angie now resides in Fernie, BC, and teaches at the College of the Rockies. Her latest book, *The Canterbury Trail*, was a finalist for the Banff Mountain Book of the Year in 2011. (Photo credit: 6:8 Photography)

the setting. *The Bone Cage* is set primarily in Calgary, and her next novel, *The Canterbury Trail*, is set in a fictional town in British Columbia. She admits that she likes to write about mountain culture in particular, and that as a reader, she likes books set in Western Canada because the western readers can see themselves reflected in the book. As an author, after using a real setting like the locker room at the University of Calgary, Abdou finds that revisiting the setting in person is like stepping into a fictional world.

In a year of Olympic preparations, Angie Abdou's *The Bone Cage* challenges readers to look beyond the spectacle and see the athletes—all striving for the elusive Olympic dream.

Academic Notes

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ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Campion College hosted the Regina book launch of recent publications by **Dr. John Meehan, SJ**, and **Dr. Simon Glezos** on Wednesday 30 November 2012 in the Champion College Student Commons.

As one of the first Western nations to recognize the People's Republic of China, Canada shares a long history with this East Asian country. Meehan's latest book, *Chasing the Dragon in Shanghai: Canada's Early Relations with China, 1858-1952*, reflects on the experiences of the early Canadian missionaries, businessmen, and government officials who helped shape Canada's current relationship with China. *Chasing the Dragon in Shanghai* is published by UBC Press.

Meehan is assistant professor of history and Catholic studies at Campion College, and author of the award winning book *The Dominion and the Rising Sun: Canada Encounters Japan, 1929 - 1941* (UBC Press, 2004). He has a MA in international relations from The Johns Hopkins University (Washington, DC) and a PhD in history

from the University of Toronto.

In his book, *The Politics of Speed: Capitalism, the state and war in an accelerating world*, Glezos investigates the effects of the accelerating pace of global events in relation to areas such as democratic governance, warfare, and globalization, and proposes a means of "engaging with global acceleration" in a way that may help avoid its pitfalls.

Glezos taught classes at Campion during the winter 2011 semester as a sessional lecturer. He has a PhD in political theory and international relations from The Johns Hopkins University. His research applies contemporary political theory to questions of speed and technology in global politics.

ACADEMIC NOTES

Dr. Jackie Kuikman, associate professor of religious studies, returned to Mumbai in the fall to study Jews in India. Her paper titled *The Bene Israel of India: The Politics of Jewish Identity* will be published in the *Journal of Studies in Religion*.

Dr. J. Alex MacDonald, associate professor of English, presented a paper entitled *Planning for Utopia: The "Regina Manifesto" of 1933* at the Society for Utopian Studies annual meeting in October 2011.

Dr. Dawn Flood, assistant professor of history, was a guest lecturer at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, in April 2012. The lecture, which was part of the university's History of Sexuality series, is titled *African American Rape Victims and Chicago Courtroom Strategies During the 1950s*.

Dr. Jan Purnis, assistant professor of English, gave a talk entitled 'We are what we all abhorre': Anthropophagy and Early

Modern Physiology at the University of Regina as part of the Orlene Murad Academic Discussion series.

In March, Purnis presented 'Barbarians as theologians': Colonialism and the Resurrection of the Body at the Renaissance Society of America annual meeting in Washington, DC.

This past April, Purnis gave a public lecture at the Regina Public Library entitled 'And Make Two Pasties of Your Shameful Heads': Cannibalism in Shakespeare.

Dr. Anna Mudde, visiting assistant professor of philosophy, presented the paper entitled Human Artifacts at the Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy, which was held at the University of Victoria in October.

As well, Mudde presented *Ambiguous Others: Simone de Beauvoir, Ricoeur, and Narrative Identity* at the Society for Ricoeur Studies' conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. The conference was held in Philadelphia, October 2011.

In December 2011, Mudde traveled to Washington, DC, where she was an invited speaker at

the Radical Philosophy Association's Author Meets Critics panel on Alexis Shotwell's 2011 book *Knowing Otherwise: Race, Gender, and Implicit Understanding*.

The Eighth Reindeer Monologues by Jeff Goode was directed by **Margo Regan**, sessional lecturer in theatre studies, and performed at the University of Regina from 1 December to 3 December 2011. Regan also acted in various plays throughout the winter semester and at the 2012 Spring Festival.

Dr. Philippe Mather, associate professor of media studies, is assisting in the organization of a multi-disciplinary conference on French science fiction. The conference is scheduled to take place at the University of Regina in November 2012. The unique contributions by French filmmakers to science fiction cinema are widely unknown, but greatly influenced the art of science fiction film. Georges Méliès took theatre audiences to the moon for the first time in 1902. Moreover, French science fiction comic strip artist Jean-Claude Mézières was clearly the inspiration

for George Lucas' costume and set designers, who kept personal copies of Mézières' Valérien albums in their libraries when working on the Star Wars film series. More information about the conference is available on the festival website at www.sf-fr.ca.

Dr. Robert Piercey, assistant professor of philosophy, presented Ricoeur's Philosophy of Science Reconsidered at the Society for Ricoeur Studies conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. The conference was held in October in Philadelphia.



Dr. Jan Purnis



Dr. Dawn Flood



Dr. Philippe Mather

I4

journalist for

Human Rights

By Lori Weins

Giving people a voice and expanding his own understanding of international human rights has one Champion student preparing to intern at a radio station in Ghana, a sub-Saharan country in West Africa, this summer.

Noah Wernikowski is the only student from Western Canada to be chosen to participate in the journalists for human rights program this year.

Photo credit: U of R Photography Department

Noah Wernikowski, who is graduating from the University of Regina's School of Journalism this spring, was one of only five students from across the country—and the only one from Western Canada—chosen to participate in the international journalists for human rights (jhr) program.

"On one level, it's just really exciting. International experience is always good, where you're right there and seeing everything," said Wernikowski. "On another level, I hope it challenges how I look at things. I totally expect that certain ideas in my head will be challenged and I will grow as a person. That's something that's very important to me."

Jhr is Canada's largest international media development organization. Through a variety of programs, the organization creates widespread societal awareness. All jhr programs promote rights media, which is described as the process of writing, collecting, editing, producing and distributing media that creates societal dialogue on human rights issues.

Wernikowski's assignment is with CitiFM, an English-speaking radio station that operates from Adabraka in Accra, the capital of Ghana. The station has earned a reputation as a strong advocate for consumer issues, including safety, sanitation, education, health care, security as well as political and news features on issues

affecting the country. Because it is a relatively large media outlet, he will be part of a media team that attempts to shed new perspectives on the rights and responsibilities of citizens in Ghana.

According to Wernikowski, the experience of students who work for jhr in Ghana varies depending on where they are stationed. "In small places, you are in more of a leadership role and you can decide what stories you want to follow," he explains. "For me, it is more of an internship. I will be working more as a team with translators and other staff."

To him, that is a plus, as he sees it as a real opportunity to dig into issues that matter and to give him a chance to



expose injustices or inequities in human rights and to sharpen his journalistic skills.

“Unlike many other internships where you cover some fluff stories, the idea is that I will be doing a lot of human rights stories, which is exciting,” he says. “That’s a big plus for me.”

Despite the increasing number of stories about international aid workers being targeted, he is not concerned about his safety. “Ghana’s one of the safest countries in Africa. Their economy, relatively speaking, is strong. There is a good history of democracy and a good history of media. In fact, the biggest thing my parents are worried about is diseases, so I need tons of immunizations and I will need to take malaria pills,” he explains. Jhr will provide him with safe accommodations and the support he needs throughout his internship.

He expects the experience to open his eyes to other cultures and issues that affect the world.

Born and raised in Regina, Wernikowski graduated from Leboldus high school before applying to Campion College at the University of Regina. He spent two years as an English major with a strong interest in history before applying to the School of Journalism.

“I loved English and I loved history, but I discovered it was not writing about the subject I liked so much, but the research and study,” he says. “Plus I liked Hunter S. Thompson, so journalism seemed like a good fit.”

Once he was in journalism school, he became involved in the campus chapter of jhr. “It is a small, fledgling chapter compared to other campuses across the country,” he says. “There are really only four or five journalism

students who are committed, although we are reaching out to other faculties to expand the membership.”

The jhr internship is a highly competitive competition, with journalism students across the country competing to earn a spot. “It was an extensive application process along with a 1.5 hour interview. I didn’t expect to get it, but I applied because I really wanted it,” he says.

While Wernikowski is not sure what clinched his spot, he speculates that his humility and the reputation of the School is what appealed to the organization.

“I think I write well, but the other part of it is that the U of R has a good reputation. I think in the competition, you run into a lot of egos. Lots of people want to talk about how much they’ve published. That’s not really me. I approach it from a standpoint



Noah, who plans to graduate with his bachelor of journalism this spring, will spend the summer working at a radio station in Ghana.

where I really want to do it to learn.”

Wernikowski is proud to have been chosen, but he is more proud to think that he can make a real difference in promoting human rights.

“Jhr is a really neat organization that does a lot of great work. It strives for sustainable change, which I really like. It doesn’t look for band-aid solutions. It believes the best way to defend rights is to educate people,” he says.

According to Campion College President Benjamin Fiore, SJ, the College is proud to support Noah’s involvement in jhr because it reflects one of the fundamental beliefs of the institution.

“This work is part of the Jesuit ideal of education with a service to the community,” explains Fiore. “In a broader sense, it provides a global outlook of the world.”

Wernikowski was responsible for raising \$6,500, so he approached the College to help him with funding. Campion awarded him with a \$1,000 special bursary that is available for students engaging in service or volunteer work overseas with a focus on human justice or development.

“The media have such a great influence on creating public opinion. If we can assist the development of socially aware journalists who are committed to human rights, we not only help them, but help the people who they will touch in the future,” says Fiore.

According to Fiore, the money for the bursary comes from funds raised in a recent annual campaign. Campion is hoping to build an endowment so future funds can be used for a new scholarship that helps to promote this commitment to human justice.

Wernikowski is grateful for the opportunity afforded to him and for the support of the College in helping him achieve his goals.

“I can honestly say that I’m really proud to be a Campion student,” he says. While he is not sure where his future will take him, he would ideally like to go back to university. “My short term plan is to work for a year or two. I’m 21, so I’m thinking of doing a masters in journalism or some interdisciplinary area,” he says.

For now, though, Wernikowski is concentrating on making the most of this amazing opportunity. “It’s daunting, but exciting. I’m really looking forward to the experience.”



Campion President Benjamin Fiore, SJ, presents Noah with a \$1,000 bursary to help fund his jhr internship in Ghana. The funding was made possible from an international scholarship established this year from funds raised by the 2010-2011 annual campaign.



For students like Holly Goosen, the Engaged Learning Program provides the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in the classroom to real-life situations, while making important contributions to the community.

I 8 Program takes education outside the classroom

By Kelly-Anne Reiss

Volunteering can be a life changing experience, as psychology student Naitik Patel found out last year.

He used to study biology until he had the opportunity to volunteer at Cheshire Homes, a residence for young people with disabilities, including those who have had debilitating accidents. As Patel socialized with the inhabitants, watching movies and playing games with them, he became fascinated by how the human mind can lose memories.

“One week they would teach me to play a card game that I had never played before and then the next week they had never heard of that game and I would have to teach it to them,” says Patel. “It was interesting. They couldn’t remember the game, but they would be able to recall movies they liked.”

Although the residents did not remember him from week to week, they were always happy to see Patel, who would chat with them about pop culture.

“It was a really enjoyable experience,” says Patel.

Patel began volunteering at Cheshire Homes as part of Campion’s Engaged Learning Program, an optional course work component offered through various classes taught at the College.

“Students from a wide variety of courses are currently serving in community agencies and programs,” says Campion College President Benjamin Fiore, SJ. “Their work adds depth and understanding to their course content, supplies local agencies with needed assistance, provides the students with work experience, roots them in Saskatchewan’s life and economy, and develops the students as men and women for others, a goal of Jesuit education.”

Students can volunteer for a number of different organizations around Regina, including Wascana Rehabilitation Centre, Ranch Ehrlo and the Saskatchewan Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured (SARBI).

Patel had the choice of writing a research paper or volunteering 15 to 20 hours in the community and recording his observations on the human memory.

“I decided to volunteer because I’m very good at working with people and making a connection with them,” says Patel. “When you do research at your computer you don’t get that people experience.”

Dr. Tom Phenix, who teaches psychology, says that the workload between writing a research paper and volunteering is comparable. Phenix allows the option of a volunteer project, which is worth 20 per cent of the student’s final mark, in his 200-level cognitive psychology class, and finds that more than half his students opt to volunteer.

“It’s not easier, but they choose to do it,” he says.

Phenix’s cognitive course introduces students to important concepts, experimental techniques and theoretical issues in the field of cognitive psychology. It examines

how people think, make decisions, and understand and solve problems, says Phenix.

“It makes the lectures come to life and gives them first-hand experience,” he says, adding that there is a misperception that academia can only operate from the ivory tower. “But perspective comes from working in the real world.” By volunteering with those with cognitive challenges, students are able to make the connections between the theories taught in class with real-life situations.

“I experienced what I learned,” says Patel, who is now interested in how memory works. “I want to take some higher level courses in psychology.”

During his time at Cheshire Homes he could see memory and mind interact, and how the residents’ memories worked and where they had difficulty. He could see differences depending on disability.

Holly Goossen, who volunteered for Neil Squire Society, an organization that aims to empower Canadians with physical disabilities through the use of computer-based assistive technologies, adds that the volunteer project also looks good on a resume.

“It gets you out there, doing new things,” says Goossen, who, like Patel, loves working with people.

Goossen was a volunteer for a program called Computer Comfort. Goossen was paired with a client whom she met with on a weekly basis, working together creating computer documents. Goossen helped the client get more comfortable using the computer, and, in return, the work helped Goossen better understand cognition and memory.

“It’s been a really humbling experience,” says Goossen. “It’s taught me patience. I have to break down

what I can do automatically into simple steps. It’s been hard to teach, but it’s rewarding.”

“The Engaged Learning Program allows students to make the comparison between the healthy mind and the injured mind,” says Phenix.

“We can use ourselves as the norm,” says Goossen. “I’ve been observing what my client can remember from week to week.”

In addition to being an excellent learning opportunity for students, the Engaged Learning Program has proven to be equally beneficial for the community groups that participate.

Debbie Yurkoski, the executive director of Cheshire Homes, says the Engaged Learning Program has been an important opportunity for her residents to socialize with people outside their own family.

“This was an excellent opportunity for them to interact with new people and maybe make some friends,” says Yurkoski, adding that it is difficult for Cheshire to find volunteers to take their residents out into the community.

“The program makes it possible for our clients to go out more often than they would be able to otherwise,” she says.

Students volunteering have accompanied residents to music therapy, helped with craft projects, and organized a Halloween dance for them.

“That was a wonderful experience for everyone,” says Yurkoski. “Sometimes even just hanging out and visiting is beneficial to the clients who don’t get much one-on-one time.”

Yurkoski has observed that it is also beneficial for the students to learn

more about individuals with disabilities and see how similar they are to people who do not have disabilities.

“Both the students and our clients have an opportunity to see a world that is different from their own,” she says. “This has wonderful confidence building and skill building benefits to both parties.”

“It’s a win-win situation,” says Phenix, who has offered an Engaged Learning component in some of his courses over the past two years. “It can be a transformative experience. It can have a profound impact and give the students an appreciation of the resilience of the human spirit.”

Yurkoski hopes the friendships that transpire from this volunteer work will endure and may lead to a desire to work in the disability sector.

Patel’s switch in major shows Yurkoski’s hopes will be realized in some.

“The people I worked with were really inspiring,” said Patel, who plans to continue volunteering at the home. “Even though they’ve had accidents, they keep going no matter what. They can still do everything I do, but just in a different way.”

Goossen, who has not decided her career path yet, agrees. Her experience at the Neil Squire Society has her interested in doing further volunteer work as well.

“It made me really want to get out there and do more.”

Brag a Bit

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Flynn Mariasegaram

Maxy Mariasegaram (BSc Hons '97) and his wife Mythily welcomed the arrival of their baby boy, a week earlier than anticipated, on Christmas Eve 2011! Flynn was born at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane. While both love parenthood, they admit that the past four months have been very busy and a massive learning curve handling the little family addition. As well, Max recently decided to hang up his science hat following a PhD in genetics from the University of Melbourne in 2004 and six years of postdoctoral work in the same area. He was accepted into the four year graduate medical program at the University of Sydney in February 2012. He has since completed one block, and is really enjoying the change of direction. "I guess, I have always had an interest in medicine particularly so I can live out my Champion inoculated sense of service, and I did not want to go to

my grave thinking I should I have tried," says Max, adding that he is interested in touching base with U of R, especially Champion, alumni in Australia (e-mail to maxy.mariasegaram@gmail.com).

Asha Yanko (BSc. Geology, 2004) moved to Calgary, Alberta, shortly after finishing her degree. While employed as a geologist in downtown Calgary, Asha chose to pursue a different career path after working with University of Calgary geology students who reignited her lifelong passion for learning, and, in 2006, she ventured back to school to obtain her bachelor of education degree at the University of Calgary. She is currently married and has been happily employed as a teacher with the Calgary Board of Education since 2008.

Flannery (née **Supeene**, BMus '05) and **Brett Salkeld** (BA Hons '05), together with their two children Tobias Peregrine ("Toby"), 5, and Oscar Benedict, 3, welcomed their newest family member Jane Margaret ("Daisy") on 9 March 2012. The Salkeld

family currently resides in Toronto where Brett is writing his doctoral dissertation in systematic theology, but plan to move to Vancouver this summer where Brett has been appointed Hanrahan Scholar-in-Residence at St. Mark's College (UBC) for the coming academic year.

Adam Dubé (BA Hons '06) successfully defended his doctoral thesis in psychology this past April. Adam completed both his master's degree and his doctoral degree under the supervision of Champion College Professor Katherine Robinson. Adam was also the recipient of the Champion College Graduate scholarship in 2006, which provided him with his first source of graduate funding. He will be among the PhD graduates at the upcoming University of Regina Spring Convocation ceremony in June.

Anastasia Eduwa-Okai (BA '09) married Lincoln Brown in December 2011 at St. Peter's Church in Regina. The couple has since moved to South Africa where Anastasia is studying law at Wits University.

Heather Molloy (BMus '10) recently finished her MMus in Opera performance at the

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University of British Columbia. She is currently finishing up an internship with Vancouver Opera and is also taking part as a chorister in their current production of Aida. This July Heather will head to the European Music Academie in the Czech Republic to perform the role of Dorabella in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. It will be her second time to the academy. Closer to home she is working on a concert staging of Bramwell Tovey's newly commissioned Opera, *The Inventor*, with the Vancouver Symphony. The work premiered last season at the Calgary Opera and tells the story of Sandy Keith, con man and nephew to the famous Alexander Keith. Bramwell is taking the work to Vancouver to his own symphony to have the work recorded. Here Heather will be singing Christian Keith, mother of Sandy.

This fall, Heather will move to Calgary to join Calgary Opera's Emerging Artist Program. Other works of note include appearances at the Westbend Music Festival in northern Ontario, *Bard on the Beach* (Vancouver's Summer Shakespeare festival) as well as a soloist for the Saskatoon and



Campion College alumni took a trip down memory lane at the Fr. Peter Nash, SJ, style wine and cheese held during the U of R Homecoming weekend in September. The weekend, commemorating 100 Years of Excellence in Education for the University of Regina, also included a BBQ, presentation by Campion alumnus Larry Day, Sunday liturgy, and an exhibit of rare paintings from the Jesuit Archives.

Regina Symphony Orchestra.

IN MEMORIAM:

Lawrence Abello, SJ (H.S. '49), 22 January 2012.

Thomas Nicolas Schonhoffer (BSc '05, BA Hons '06), 24 January 2012.

Marc Gervais, SJ (visiting lecturer, fall 2003/fall 2004, and inaugural Nash Memorial lecturer), 25 March 2012.

SAVE THE DATE

Don't miss an opportunity to reconnect with your fellow classmates and former professors, plan to attend the 2012 Alumni of Distinction dinner on Friday 26 October 2012 at the Hotel Saskatchewan. Tickets are \$75/plate and can be purchased by calling 586-4242 or 800-667-7282.

Alumni of Distinction award recipients will be announced in the fall. For more information on the event, visit our website at

www.campioncollege.ca/alumni.

BRAG A BIT:

We want to hear from you! Send your Brag a bit information to Alumni Affairs, Campion College, University of Regina, 3737 Wascana Parkway, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4S 0A2, or e-mail campion.college@uregina.ca.

“Campion College is a Jesuit Catholic community of learning, federated with the University of Regina.

It provides a liberal arts education dedicated to the development of the whole person—intellectually, spiritually, socially—for service within society.” Mission Statement, Campion College, University of Regina