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Diverse Voices

Michelle Voss Roberts
Joins Emmanuel College

TORONTO'S DIVERSITY is simply one of the reasons why Michelle Voss Roberts, Emmanuel College's newest principal, is pleased to call one of Canada's largest cities her new home. "My family and I have already experienced a great deal of hospitality here," she says, "and when you embed education in a place characterized by collaboration and hospitality, it's a recipe for wonderful things to emerge."

On July 1, 2018, Voss Roberts began her five-year term as the 13th and first woman principal of Emmanuel College. Of course, there have been—and continue to be—many other great women leaders at Emmanuel, including Phyllis Airhart, Emmanuel's past interim principal. "I stand on their shoulders," remarks Voss Roberts. "The fact that gender and sexuality studies are part of my scholarship is, perhaps, more significant than my own gender identity. Feminist theory and theology unearth power dynamics. Emmanuel College works hard to generate conversations about power and privilege and I am excited to join in these conversations."

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Raised in the Christian Reformed tradition, Voss Roberts learned early on that the “life of the mind was given to [us] by God, and not to be feared.” As part of her study as a religion and theology major at Calvin College, Michigan, the Hindu religion caught her attention. From 2000–2002, as an MTS graduate student at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta, she had the unique opportunity to study with South Indian Christian scholar, M. Thomas Thangaraj. Thangaraj has devoted his teaching and research to bringing disparate cultures and religions together. Under his tutelage, and that of her supervising faculty

to think the same way, but so that people can articulate why they think the way do. Examining presuppositions helps us go beyond a gut level reaction and think deeply about how we engage these traditions.”

As an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, a denomination in full communion with the United Church of Canada, she brings to Emmanuel her deep understanding of the role of theological education in the 21st century. She is especially committed to building communities of dialogue across different religious traditions. “I think about theological education and vocation very broadly. A degree from Emmanuel can

of race and class, gender and sexuality, science and ecology, and religious pluralism. “We considered it important for our future leaders to learn Christian theology in conversation with these contexts. We intentionally wove them into our curriculum and, by so doing, discovered that diverse voices in the classroom contribute to better discussions.” As of 2018, Voss Roberts was promoted to the rank of full professor. This year also marks eight years of service with the Society for Hindu-Christian Studies; Voss Roberts is the current president.

Throughout her career, Voss Roberts has continued to research and to write extensively, creating new pathways into traditional doctrines through collaboration with other scholars. She has authored numerous scholarly publications, contributed discipline-based essays in edited volumes, and has spoken internationally. In 2010, she wrote the ground-breaking comparative theological work *Dualities: A Theology of Difference*. Her second book, *Tastes of the Divine: Hindu and Christian Theologies of Emotion*, received the American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion, Constructive-Reflective Studies. In 2016, she edited *Comparing Faithfully: Insights for Systematic Theological Reflection*. Her latest project, *Body Parts: A Theological Anthropology*, is inspired by non-dual Saiva views of the body to integrate neglected dimensions of human beings into a Christian theological anthropology.

Her research and teaching have focused on her deep knowledge of and passion for systematic, comparative and feminist theologies, which she has shared through many of the courses she has taught.

Please join with Victoria University’s Board of Regents in celebrating and welcoming Professor Voss Roberts to Emmanuel College. Her expertise in theological education, her leadership qualities and her strong faith and character led the Board to recommend her as principal with both confidence and enthusiasm. ◉

“We considered it important for our future leaders to learn Christian theology in conversation with these contexts. We intentionally wove them into our curriculum and, by so doing, discovered that diverse voices in the classroom contribute to better discussions.”

at Emory, Voss Roberts became similarly interested in comparative theology and sought deep and prolonged understanding of other religious traditions so that she could “return to [her] own tradition with new categories and questions and see it all in a new light.” This “back-and-forth movement,” as she describes it, has been constructive for her own theology and her academic interests.

Thereafter, Voss Roberts began her PhD in theological studies with a certificate in women’s studies, also from Emory, graduating in 2006. Her Christian theological work is “deeply informed by interreligious conversations.” Surfacing these types of conversations—though they can sometimes be difficult, and perhaps even feel threatening, at times—is important to Voss Roberts because “at the very least, they help us to understand our neighbour’s perspective.” This kind of study can also help students understand the diversity of approaches within the Christian tradition. “There have been strong historical and theological reasons both for and against studying other religions,” she says. “The resistance needs to be part of the conversation—not to convince everyone

equip students to be effective leaders in many sectors. A call to the ministry can mean many things—congregational ministry and chaplaincy, certainly. We also need theologically informed people in leadership in schools, hospitals, businesses, social work, psychotherapy and counselling—across the board. While grounded in their own traditions, our graduates understand and work and minister to people from any tradition, including no tradition at all. For example, I’m very excited to be in a place where we’re equipping Christian, Muslim and Buddhist spiritual care providers from within their own traditions, and I think this leads to a robust and pluralistic society where we don’t presume that everyone speaks the same religious language.”

Voss Roberts began her career in academia at Rhodes College, where she was an assistant professor of religious studies from 2006 to 2011. From 2011 to 2018, she taught theology at Wake Forest University School of Divinity in North Carolina. Voss Roberts served as associate dean for academic affairs from 2015 to 2018. In this role, she contributed to changes in the curriculum in order to highlight issues

Borders

by Michelle Voss Roberts

THREE HUMANS, A GOLDEN RETRIEVER AND A TOYOTA PRIUS

waited to cross the border. As we queued with others on the Peace Bridge, I felt some trepidation. Would our paperwork be in order? Would the border agent inspect the car, find some forbidden agricultural product, and turn us away?

It was a joyous day for our family, but I could not stop thinking about what other families were experiencing that very day at other borders: asylum seekers being refused entry and due process, parents being physically torn away from their dearest ones. I continue to be haunted by the children in cages, the babies calling out for mamas in tent cities, and the trauma that months of separation has etched upon them. Many hundreds of families still live the nightmare of “zero tolerance” in U.S. immigration policy. What my family could do with so much ease and assistance, too many cannot.

Each interaction between Emmanuel’s diverse faculty, staff and students can be a kind of border crossing. How will we at Emmanuel College treat our border crossings this term? New faces grace the halls, while others have moved on to vocations as ministers, spiritual care providers, teachers and leaders in many sectors. Each of us will have the opportunity to welcome someone new. Each of us may be tempted to close ourselves off from the unknown.

Opportunities for hospitality continue after new student orientation. Emmanuel College’s multireligious programs ensure it. In a classic early work of interreligious study, *A Search for God in Time and Memory* (1967), John Dunne uses the metaphor of “passing over” and “passing back” to describe what happens when we expand our worlds by understanding other religious traditions. This learning is like entering unfamiliar territory—passing over. When one passes back, one then views the familiar landscape with a new set of lenses.

Friendship, study, and this city’s rich multicultural environment present opportunities to explore intellectual and spiritual borders every day. I hope that each of Emmanuel’s students will grasp the special opportunity to be part of one another’s formation as religious leaders.

Borders are not always where we think they are. We do not always encounter a phalanx of uniformed agents telling us when we have crossed over from one tradition to another. Individuals inhabit multiple places simultaneously, deeply formed by multiple cultural and religious contexts. Communities have borrowed and adapted from one another over time. In addition, boundaries are not always where we want them to be. Not everyone has had the same privilege of moving between worlds, and not everyone wants visitors. Border crossers must attend to power, privilege, and complicated past interactions in order to navigate these crossings with mutuality and respect.

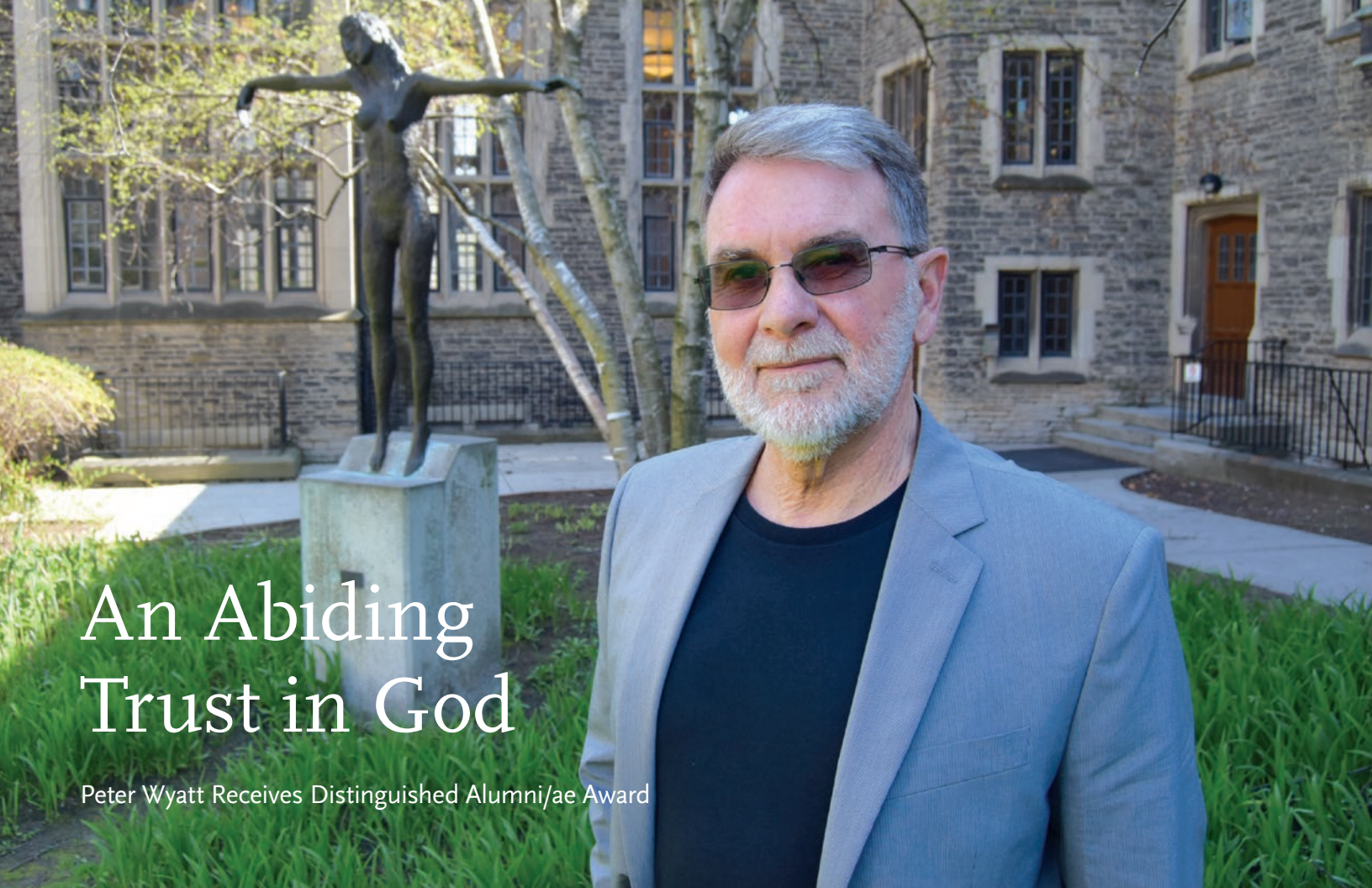


If we use our time well at Emmanuel College this year, we will enter one another’s worlds with intention and care. Comparative theology, the discipline in which I situate my scholarship, is a particular instance of this work. One engages in prolonged study of a tradition not one’s own, seeking understanding in that tradition’s own terms. This deep inquiry naturally generates new questions and categories to consider alongside one’s own commitments. The back-and-forth movement can become a cycle of ever deeper understanding of self and other. Openness to this process can lead to insight, growth and change. When people practise this movement together, it can lead to mutual appreciation and friendship.

I have appreciated the similarities between Christian and Hindu traditions, but just as often the differences have become points of fascination. Learning a new theory, or observing an unfamiliar practice, impels me to learn more—and this has helped me to discover unknown and life-giving facets of my own faith tradition. The colours of my Christian faith are deeper and more vibrant because I study and converse with religious neighbours.

Friendship, study, and this city’s rich multicultural environment present opportunities to explore intellectual and spiritual borders every day. I hope that each of Emmanuel’s students will grasp the special opportunity to be part of one another’s formation as religious leaders. This semester, I have invited students to join me in a series of book discussions on Eboo Patel’s new book, *Interfaith Leadership: A Primer*, which will help us to develop important skills for this work. The College will also make available a number of discounted day passes for Emmanuel students to attend the Parliament of the World’s Religions—a gathering of thousands of religious border crossers and diplomats—in Toronto this November.

“Welcome to Canada,” the border agent said. I took a picture of the letters C-A-N-A-D-A emblazoned over the border kiosks. I included the iconic maple leaf in the shot for good measure. With this same hospitality, I welcome you to join us at Emmanuel College. ◉



An Abiding Trust in God

Peter Wyatt Receives Distinguished Alumni/ae Award

DESIGNED TO REFLECT the building styles of Oxford and Cambridge, Emmanuel College displays architectural elements typical of the neo-Gothic style: soaring pinnacles, pointed arches, steep-sloping roofs and decorative carvings—almost enough detail to imagine that one has been transported to England. Once inside the building, it is easy to forget that it sits adjacent to Queen’s Park Crescent, one of the city’s main, busy arteries. Locating oneself becomes a matter of perspective; however, in spite of subjectivity, truth persists: Emmanuel is located in Toronto, and it is deeply rooted in the history of Methodism, in its association with Victoria University in the University of Toronto, with the United Church of Canada, and with the Toronto School of Theology. The sway of personal perspective is powerful, says former Emmanuel principal and professor emeritus, Peter Wyatt Vic 6T6, Emm 8T3, but it is important to be able to locate context and to distinguish myth from reality.

Wyatt has long been interested in the relationship between truth and the perspectival grasp of it. Importantly, he speaks of a constructive tension “between having clear convictions about ultimate reality, and being aware that our grasp on it is dependent on many factors, including human frailty.”

Wyatt says, “Some people will claim certainty for their religious convictions, sincerely believing that they are in possession of truth about God’s nature and purposes, and that they are among those who are headed to a blissful eternity. This, I believe, is to claim more for faith than what faith itself promises. I believe that faith is a kind of knowledge—cordial knowledge, as Calvin said, ‘knowledge of the heart.’ To have faith, then, is not a matter of certainty, as is the case with empirically tested forms of knowledge, but faith does entail confidence in the trustworthiness of what believers know of God. Those who come to Christian faith can have confidence in the love and grace of God known in Jesus Christ. But this

confidence in what is known of God through faith is not a matter of certainty, ‘for we walk by faith, not sight’ (2 Cor. 5:7). We trust in God.”

An abiding trust in God, alongside rigorous theological research and education, motivates Wyatt and guides him to “practise what [he] believes, while remaining open to light that may come from other sources.” For him, those first rays of light came following his undergraduate degree in philosophy and English at Victoria College, which he completed in 1966. He went on to obtain an MDiv from Union Theological Seminary, in New York, after having completed his master’s thesis on *Calvin’s Concept of the Majesty of God*. Already married to Joan (Parsons) Wyatt Emm 8T6 in 1965, and following ordination by Hamilton Conference in 1969, he served as minister of the St. Paul Pastoral Charge in St. Paul, Alberta from 1969 to 1974. He then served part-time for three years with the Whitevale pastoral charge in the York Presbytery while he undertook studies for his ThD

at Emmanuel College, Victoria University, and the Toronto School of Theology.

Making changes to family life and interrupting his pastoral career in order to return to a demanding research and study schedule was “a stiff challenge,” he recalls, especially after four years of an undergraduate degree and three years of theology. However, he firmly believed in his decision and in the importance of theological education. “Theological education is the equipping of the saints for leadership in informed and rigorous service of the gospel in the church. Without knowledge of all that has gone before and of critical assessment of what is unfolding today, we are ill equipped to give such leadership.” Additionally, a research doctorate is a mandatory criterion for appointment to academic posts that stress achievement in research, such as Wyatt’s future post as principal of Emmanuel College.

In 1977, he became minister of the Port Hope United Church. While serving there, he completed his dissertation on *Jesus Christ and Creation in the Theology of John Calvin*, receiving the parchment in 1983 from the hands of then Chancellor Northrop Frye Vic 3T3, Emm 3T6. He served next at Melrose United Church in Hamilton until 1989, when he moved to Trinity-St. Paul’s United Church in Toronto, where he served as co-pastor alongside his wife, the Rev. Joan C. Wyatt.

In 1995, Wyatt took a position as general secretary, theology, faith and ecumenism with the United Church of Canada, in which he served until 2001, when he was installed as the 11th principal of Emmanuel College—a post he held until 2008. On the day of his installation he described the College as a “community of disciplined learning, a community in which sitting still before truth, beauty and goodness can take place and be honoured. Emmanuel is, at once, a community of disciplined learning, a community of faith and formation, and a community of the story.” Once again, Wyatt illustrates how tension, perception, and faith are intertwined constructively. When Christian doctrines “assert truth about God, the world, and ourselves,” he says, “it is a truth that seeks to influence us... theological education is necessarily inflected by faith.”

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As principal, Wyatt became professionally associated with the Association of Theological Schools and the Canadian Theological Society; he was already a long-standing member of the North American Academy of Ecumenists. One of his many achievements was strengthening relationships with church judicatories and with congregations, as he believed in a mutually supportive relationship between College and church. Born out of this conviction, he helped to spearhead the Campaign for Theological Education and Congregational Leadership to endow the Jane and Geoffrey Martin Chair in Church and Community. “I am grateful for the wonderful generosity of Jane (Emm 0T2) and Geoffrey for the gift that made this chair possible,” he says. The Martins’ leadership gift supported making theological education more responsive to the real-world needs of the United Church and aligned Emmanuel’s

mandate with the needs of the community through various teaching, research and student support initiatives.

Following his tenure as principal in 2008, Wyatt returned, in his retirement, to pastoral life as a supply minister across the country; he has served congregations for over 25 years. He also has served as academic dean of the Global Institute of Theology for the World Communion of Reformed Churches, and, for nine years, as member and then co-chair of the Roman Catholic/Reformed International Dialogue. For 10 years, he was the United Church delegate to the Caribbean and North American Area Council of Reformed Churches.

His commitment to ecumenism resulted in his travelling frequently and internationally as a speaker on theological and ecumenical themes. He continues to be engaged in theological inquiry as editor of *Touchstone*, a Christian theological journal, to which he also has contributed articles. For his scholarly and professional achievements Wyatt received, in May 2018, the highest honour of the Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association (ECAA)—the Distinguished Alumni/ae Award. When asked about the award, Wyatt remarked: “Calvin said something like, ‘We are holy more in aspiration than achievement.’” It is the perspective of the ECAA, however, that Wyatt’s achievements are most worthy of celebration and reward. ◉

Peter Wyatt with his wife, Joan.



Send us your news:
emm.alumni@utoronto.ca

Tom Reynolds Wins the Roy M. Davidson Trust Award



Professor Tom Reynolds is the 2018 recipient of the Roy M. Davidson Trust Award. Conferred by the Board of the United Church of Canada Foundation, the award recognizes excellence in teaching

and scholarship in theological education. In their nomination, Emmanuel College colleagues and former students described Reynolds as embodying their “finest aspirations in the integration of academy and church, scholarship and service, teaching and leadership.” He was also praised for being a prolific scholar, a popular teacher, a much-sought-after doctoral supervisor, and an excellent, most capable academic administrator. Emmanuel College is delighted to celebrate his outstanding contributions.

Outstanding Gift of \$1M for Emmanuel College Professorship Anonymous Donor Supports Muslim Studies Focus of MPS

Victoria University celebrated the success of Muslim Studies at Emmanuel College, and those who have supported the initiative over the last several years, at a reception on May 8. A highlight of the evening was the announcement of an extraordinary gift of \$1 million from an anonymous donor to support a professorship in Muslim Studies at Emmanuel College. The Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS) degree at Emmanuel offers a Muslim, Christian or Buddhist focus. This gift ensures funding for the professorship within the Muslim focus. “This gift shows outstanding



Nevin Reda, assistant professor of Muslim Studies, chats with fellow guests at a reception in May.

leadership and belief in Emmanuel’s vision for Muslim Studies,” says William Robins, president of Victoria University. “It is an extraordinary commitment.”

“Our students and professors are exploring how particular religious identities enrich each other in a learning community where Christians, Muslims, Buddhists and those from other faith traditions engage in respectful discussion,” says Phyllis Airhart, past interim principal of Emmanuel College. “The generous gift we’ve received for the professorship in Muslim Studies is the latest expression of the remarkable support for our innovative programs.”

Guests at the event included members of the Emmanuel community, members of the Muslim community representing a number of GTA mosques and Islamic associations, members of the Emmanuel fundraising advisory council, current students of the MPS Muslim Studies and inaugural graduates of the program. Following the reception, guests were invited to use the ablution facilities and dedicated Muslim prayer room for Maghrib (evening prayers).

Nearly all Muslim students at Emmanuel College pursue the MPS degree. They may also opt to take the Certificate in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy as part of the MPS. The Muslim focus includes courses in the Qur’an, the history and theological tradition of Islam, Islamic law and ethics, Islamic spirituality and Islamic thought. Students are also required to take one course in another faith focus.

This year the College also received a donation to create the Mohamed Mansour Lectureship in Contemporary Islamic Thought. This funding will support two lectures and will attract major thinkers to the University campus. The inaugural lecture was given by Umar Faruq Abd-Allah in April on the topic of “Islam and the Cultural Imperative.”

“It is an exciting time to be at Emmanuel College,” says Nevin Reda, assistant professor of Muslim Studies. “The Muslim Studies focus grounds students in Islamic thought and equips them with the practical skills and understanding of the Canadian context needed to become spiritual and community leaders, with careers in chaplaincy, spiritual care and psycho-spiritual therapy.”

Emmanuel College Welcomes Lizette Pearl Tapia to Campus 2018 Anne Duncan Gray Visiting Scholar

Emmanuel College is pleased to welcome Lizette Pearl Tapia to campus as its 2018 Anne Duncan Gray Visiting Scholar. Tapia is an assistant professor and dean of student life at Union Theological Seminary, Philippines. She also serves as the convenor at the Seminary’s Center for Gender and Sexuality. She is in the process of completing her doctor of theology degree from the Global Institute of Theology, Yonsei University. Her dissertation is entitled *The Assumption of Desire: Towards*



a Feminist Theology of Incarnation. She holds a master of theology from the South East Asia Graduate School of Theology and a master of divinity from Union Theological Seminary. A member of the

Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians and the Christian Conference of Asia, Tapia is also the author of many scholarly publications. During her stay in Canada, she will serve the Emmanuel community as a speaker and resource to the broader church. The Anne Duncan Gray World Outreach Teaching Fellowship supports an international scholar of theology. It was established in 1978 by the United Church of Canada through a bequest from the estate of George L. Gray in memory of his wife, Anne.

Mark Toulouse Portrait Unveiling



Mark G. Toulouse Emm Hon. 1T7, professor emeritus and past principal, returned to the campus on February 8, 2018 to unveil his official portrait by award-winning artist Hazel Morgan. Held in

Emmanuel College chapel, the celebration was packed with faculty, staff and friends. Toulouse was commended for his leadership and vision. If you would like a copy of Mark Toulouse’s remarks in full, please e-mail emm.alumni@utoronto.ca.

Connect, Contemplate, Celebrate

Emmanuel Marks One Week of Alumni Celebrations!

Organized by the Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association (ECAA) with support from Vic's Office of Alumni Affairs & Advancement, this year's Emmanuel Alumni/ae Day on May 7 was a resounding success! A particularly joyous occasion, the event drew large numbers of alumni/ae back to campus to celebrate, to worship, to network and to learn.

EMMANUEL ALUMNI/AE DAY began with a territorial acknowledgement followed by singing, prayer, worship and communion. Nancy Hardy Emm 6T8, 8T7, 1T2, who preached the sermon "Singing a Song of Faith," spoke of the mystery and universality of music, and the power of the hymns we sing. She remarked, "that when we sing together, the music can connect us, transform us, and unite us with the world around us." It becomes a means of ongoing reflection and an invitation for the church to connect what they sing with what they do. The ECAA recognizes and extends special thanks to co-presiders Nancy Hardy and Dan Benson Emm 0T9 for their excellent service, and for Hardy's work in coordinating the service and writing the

liturgy. Hardy also expressed her gratitude to Dee Lawrence Emm 1T0 for vocals, Fred Graham on piano and organ, Jessica Swance and Evan Smith Emm 1T3 for drumming, Joanne Hedge Emm 1T1 for communion, readers Deb Foster Emm 0T6, 1T4 and Glen Greenwood Emm 1T3 and, of course, all members of the ECAA! "The whole day was fun," remarked Hardy. "I saw people I hadn't seen for years, and discovered so much through conversations."

A special feature of this year's Alumni/ae Day was the lunch-time presentation of the new Service Awards to six most-deserving recipients: **Richard G. Chambers Emm 8T6**—for his work at U of T's Multi-Faith Centre and interfaith community

support; **Leslie Dawson Emm 8T7**—for her chaplaincy service in the Canadian military; **Cheri DiNovo Emm 9T5, 0T2**—for her work in public service and advocacy; **John McTavish Vic 6T3, Emm 6T6**—for his work in congregational ministry and writing; **Peter Newbery, C.M., O.B.C., Vic 6T1, Emm 6T6**—for his service to rural and Indigenous communities in B.C.; and **Lee Simpson Vic 7T4, Emm 0T5**—for her work in publishing and congregational ministry.

We look forward to welcoming you back next year to Alumni/ae Day being held on Monday, May 6, 2019.

Did you attend Emmanuel Alumni/ae Day? Please give us feedback! An online form is available at: www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/alumni/alumniday/feedback.htm.

Please let the ECAA know what you think should be considered for next year's program by emailing emm.alumni@utoronto.ca.



Peter Newbery, C.M., O.B.C., Vic 6T1, Emm 6T6, pictured, had not been back to Emmanuel in 53 years! "I want to thank the Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association for hosting the annual day on May 7. To an ancient graduate, Emm 6T6, it was a truly memorable day, giving us, as it did, an opportunity to connect with friends and colleagues with whom we have worked and played over the last 52 years. Though my own calling has led to work focused on the rural/remote west coast and into medicine rather than congregational work, I have always regarded what I do as having a pastoral quality. All I have had the privilege to do has been grounded in lessons learned at home, and at Emmanuel. My heartfelt thanks to those teachers past and present who provided that foundation for me and who continue to provide it for our church's leadership."

Service Award winner Peter Newbery, C.M., O.B.C., Vic 6T1, Emm 6T6, pictured, had not been back to Emmanuel in 53 years! "I want to thank the Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association for hosting the annual day on May 7. To an ancient graduate, Emm 6T6, it was a truly memorable day, giving us, as it did, an opportunity to connect with friends and colleagues with whom we have worked and played over the last 52 years. Though my own calling has led to work focused on the rural/remote west coast and into medicine rather than congregational work, I have always regarded what I do as having a pastoral quality. All I have had the privilege to do has been grounded in lessons learned at home, and at Emmanuel. My heartfelt thanks to those teachers past and present who provided that foundation for me and who continue to provide it for our church's leadership."

Alumni/ae-led workshops rounded out the afternoon before the wine-and-cheese reception. At the Alumni/ae Day dinner that evening, Peter Wyatt Vic 6T6, Emm 8T3, former Emmanuel College principal and professor emeritus, received the Distinguished Alumni/ae Award. He is pictured, here, receiving his award. When he completed his seven-year term as principal of Emmanuel College in 2008, Paul W. Gooch, then president, remarked that Wyatt passionately and eloquently represented Emmanuel on the senior administrative team and in governance in a "spirit that [was] gracious and wise." Wyatt's belief in the importance of theological education and its association with leadership roles in the church, his dedication to ecumenism, his excellence in preaching and teaching as well as his work as editor of *Touchstone*, are just a few of the reasons he was selected to receive this award. Read more about him on page 4.



Peter Wyatt Vic 6T6, Emm 8T3 receives his Distinguished Alumni/ae Award from Dale Skinner Emm 0T3, ECAA past president.

Celebrating Excellence: Congratulations Graduates!

EMMANUEL'S MOST RECENT ALUMNI/AE

enjoyed a celebratory lunch in Old Vic's Alumni Hall on May 8, 2018, just two days prior to their official convocation ceremony. Then interim Principal Phyllis Airhart brought greetings to the group and Louise Yearwood, executive director of alumni affairs & advancement, welcomed them as the newest members of the Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association. MDiv graduate Stephen Milton Emm 1T8 was selected by his peers to speak at the event. At the convocation ceremony on May 10, Milton's academic achievements were recognized with the Elizabeth and Seth Mathers Scholarship in Systematic Theology, the William Robert Young



Scholarship in Church History, and he was the co-recipient of the Toronto Conference United Church Women 40th Anniversary Award. Victoria University also awarded two honorary degrees that day. An honorary Doctor of Humane Letters was

conferred upon Cassim Degani, surgeon and humanitarian. An honorary Doctor of Sacred Letters was conferred upon Stanley John McKay, former United Church moderator. See full story below.

Emmanuel Convocation: Victoria University Confers Two Honorary Degrees

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY AWARDS honorary degrees to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of graduates of Victoria College and Emmanuel College, and to honour the exemplary lives of individuals who have made remarkable contributions to Canadian society, and communities abroad. The many accomplishments of those considered for the honour reflect the distinctiveness of Victoria University, including fostering diversity and practising inclusive excellence. The high esteem for these honorary degree recipients should be such that, in the awarding of an honorary degree to them, distinction is also brought to Victoria University. At the May 10 Emmanuel convocation, Victoria University conferred honorary degrees upon Cassim Degani and Stanley John McKay.

Cassim Degani is a surgeon at the Shouldice Hospital and at the Humber River Regional Hospital. He previously served as chief of surgery at the Shouldice Hospital from 1998 until 2006, and at the Doctor's Hospital from 1991 until 1994. Degani has been an advocate of interfaith dialogue, and, to that end he has been an enthusiastic supporter of the establishment of Muslim Studies at Emmanuel College. He has proven himself a selfless humanitarian through his service and leadership, and by volunteering his skills as a physician in response to major natural disasters, conflicts and invasions. He has taken time off from work to set up medical camps and to assist survivors in Bosnia, Kosovo, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Iraq. In 2016 Degani received the Global Humanitarian Award from the International Development and Relief Foundation, and he was honoured in 2012 with the Award of Excellence from the American Federation of Muslims of Indian Origin. Degani also received the Jewel of the Community Award from the Mehfil Group of Toronto in 2008, and the Humanitarian Award from the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce in 2000. For his services in Afghanistan and Bosnia, he received the Humanitarian Services Award from the Islamic Medical Association of Canada Trust. Victoria University conferred the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, upon Degani.

Stanley John McKay was instrumental in the United Church of Canada's national consultation process for the National Native Council from 1982 to 1987. During that time, he successfully advocated for the United Church's apology for its role in the cultural oppression of First Nations peoples. McKay was the first Indigenous person to lead the United Church of Canada, and he served as the 34th moderator from 1992 to 1994. His enduring commitment to peace, justice and respect shines through his extensive work towards reconciliation. McKay served as the director of spiritual care, Health Sciences Centre from 1997 to 2000 and as the co-director of the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre from 2000 to 2002. McKay has also presented many lectures and workshops about cross-cultural understanding and First Nations spirituality. He presently serves as an advisor in health and education and he continues to volunteer in community development and education related to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. For his revolutionary work, McKay has received many honours, including a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 1997. Victoria University conferred the degree Doctor of Sacred Letters, *honoris causa*, upon McKay.



At the May 10 Emmanuel convocation, Victoria University conferred honorary degrees upon Cassim Degani (left) and Stanley John McKay (right). Also pictured (centre), is Carole (Goss) Taylor, O.C., Vic 6T7, Hon. 1T2, Victoria University's chancellor.

Journey with Hope

The fundamental job of the imagination in ordinary life... is to produce out of the society we have to live in, a vision of the society we want to live in.

Northrop Frye, *The Educated Imagination*

We know what God requires of us: to do justice, love kindness, and walk in God's way.

Micah 6:8

DEAR EMMANUEL COLLEGE ALUMNI/AE AND FRIENDS OF EMMANUEL COLLEGE,

After 30 years in theological education—10 at St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon and 20 here at Emmanuel and Victoria—I write this farewell letter. Since all of us are located in particular contexts and stories, I share some of mine and invite you to consider what has shaped your vocation.

I was born to mother, Joyce, and father, Garth, in northern Ontario's Kirkland Lake, and joined my brother, Murray, on a five-point United Church pastoral charge. Two years later, we moved across the Québec border to Rouyn-Noranda where my sister, Valerie, was born. The next pastoral call was to missionary work at the Mindolo Ecumenical Centre in Kitwe (then Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia) where the mission was caught up in struggles for independence from colonial rule and the anti-apartheid movement. Sadly, on a customary furlough "home" in 1964 to Toronto, Dad developed detached retinas so we had to remain here.

When doing a double major in history and religious studies at Victoria College, I joined the Student Christian Movement and attended Bloor Street United Church, where prairie-born Cliff Elliott was in ministry. These communities empowered connections between religion and commitments to struggles for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

I followed these lifelines in summers between academic years. In Sri Lanka, I volunteered with Canadian Crossroads International with Sarvodaya, a Buddhist rural development movement. I also

worked as an historical park interpreter at the site of the seventeenth-century Jesuit mission, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons. With Frontier College, I worked as a labourer-teacher in a Northern Ontario bush camp where I polled logs into the sawmill and did adult education and community work. As its Atlantic region co-coordinator, I recruited, trained and supported labourer-teachers doing literacy work with rail gangs, and with mining and fishing communities.

These experiences continued to hone my vocation while conscience and social movements for radical change urged me to connect this work to Christian faith. In 1978 I enrolled in the MDiv program at Emmanuel College and the Toronto School of Theology. I took courses connecting Canadian, ecumenical, and global struggles for justice and the role of religion in public life. I knew I was not called to pastoral ministry so between academic years I worked at Nellie's Hostel for Women in Crisis and then at Grindstone Island Co-operative Centre for peace and justice training. After graduating in 1981 I worked at the SCM Bookroom while seeking to discern my vocation—family, friends and mentors encouraged me to pursue further studies.

Since there was no doctoral program in Canada focused on ecumenical liberative traditions and Christian feminist social ethics, I enrolled in Union Theological Seminary, New York. I joined the international students' caucus, enjoyed work as a security guard, switchboard operator and window glazier, and was shaped especially by Professors James Cone, Beverly Wildung Harrison, and Dorothee Sölle.

In 1988, while still in New York and just engaged to my classmate Michael Bourgeois, I was invited to apply to teach theology at St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon. He encouraged me with a shared passion for liberative theology and teaching. Providentially we settled into the heartland of the Canadian social gospel movement—and I finished my doctoral dissertation, *The Grace of Difference: A Canadian Feminist Theological Ethic*.



I also participated in the wider church, for example, as a member of the United Church's Committee on Theology and Faith, and of the World Council of Churches Decade of Solidarity with Women. In 1998 I was called—out of the blue—to apply for my current position at Emmanuel; to work with candidates for ministry in the United and other churches, and to work with graduate students across the Toronto School of Theology. I will always cherish being able to cross the quad and teach social justice for three years in Victoria College's Vic One program. Now may this moral vision encourage us:

The creation God loves is sick unto death, and needs caretakers, lovers, gardeners, companions and partners who will work to preserve life rather than death, collective security rather than national security, rice in the mouth and a roof over the head rather than military and nuclear hardware. The kind of love that is needed to make the vision a reality has tough sinews. It roots up and pulls down, builds and plants. It is full of tenderness. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. It wipes away tears from all eyes.

Lois Wilson Emm Hon. 7T8, *Turning the World Upside Down*

With hope,
Marilyn Legge

Marilyn Legge Vic 7T4, Emm 8T1 will retire as Emmanuel's associate professor of Christian ethics at the end of June 2019. She was Vic One's June Callwood Professor of Social Justice from 2006–2009. She also serves as a member of the Toronto School of Theology graduate faculty and as a senior fellow of Massey College.

Births

To **Andrew Aitchison Emm 1T4** and Preston MacNeil, a daughter, Presley Vanessa Aitchison-MacNeil, on September 7, 2018, in Oakville. Andrew is the admissions counsellor and recruitment coordinator at Emmanuel College.

Deaths

Harold J. Alston Emm 7T6, in Kingston, Ont., December 14, 2016.

Ray A. Francis Emm 6T0, in Kentville, N.S., February 27, 2018.

Donald A. Gillies Emm 5T9, in Burlington, Ont., September 4, 2018. He was awarded Emmanuel College's 2011 Distinguished Alumni/ae Award.

Frank Wallace Lockhart Emm 6T0, 9T7, in Bowmanville, Ont., October 3, 2018.

Doreen Van Camp Vic 5T9, Emm 8T7, in Uxbridge, Ont., May 22, 2018.

Careers, Authors, Honours

In June, **Graeme Carruth Emm 9T4** was awarded the Marlant/Joint Task Force Atlantic Formation Chaplain's coin for exceptional, dedicated service as a full-time chaplain at CFB Halifax.

In September, in addition to his duties as a full-time military chaplain, he began his part-time role as chaplain to the Atlantic School of Theology, in team with Charlie Black.

HyeRan Kim-Cragg Emm 0T6 has published *Interdependence: A Postcolonial Feminist Practical Theology* (Wipf and Stock, 2018). This book highlights the need for postcolonial feminist approaches to practical theology.

It advocates for the inclusion of colonialism as a critical optic for practical theology and looks closely at how colonialism engages

with issues of race, ethnicity, gender, class, disability and sexual orientation. Seeking to highlight the importance of the interdependence of life, the author challenges and contests the notion of

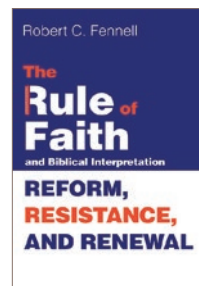


CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Do you know an Emmanuel College graduate who should be recognized for their extraordinary and exemplary ministry to the church, academy or society at large? Nominate them today for the 2018 Distinguished Alumni/ae Award. The Distinguished Alumni/ae Award recognizes recent or lifetime achievements at the local, national or international level. Nominations for the 2018 award currently are being accepted and must be received by Nov. 30, 2018. Visit www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/alumni.htm to make your nomination or download the nomination form.

independence as the desirable goal of the human being. Lifting up the experiences of overlooked groups—including children at adult-centered worship, queer and interracial youth in heterosexual and white normative family discourse, and non-human species in human-centered academic and theological realms—the book contributes to expanding the concerns of practical theology in ways that create healthy community for all human beings and non-human fellow creatures.

Robert Fennel Emm 9T4, Emm 0T5 has written a new book: *The Rule of Faith and Biblical Interpretation: Reform, Resistance, and Renewal* (Cascade, 2018).



This book explores the interpretive practices of great reformers and renewers of the church, including Luther, Calvin, and Wesley, who kept up a lively dialogue with the ancient

authors of the Christian movement. In that dialogue, they discovered a dynamic guide to better exegesis. Fennel provides a compelling account of faithful interpreters from the past whose example inspires contemporary readers as they seek to understand the Bible.

Sheila Mallory Emm 8T2 is a retired United Church minister who has written a memoir of her life called *In the Shadow of God's Wings* (2018). Through various careers and finally her ordination as a minister who served congregations in Ontario, New Brunswick and P.E.I., she kept a daily diary of events in her life. At age 83, and following



recovery from a near-death experience, she has used her diary and her own reliable memory to write this story of her life. She is remarkably candid about events, good and bad. Her hope is that by revealing her struggles and challenges, her memoir may encourage others to find meaning in life so that they too may walk with God. Since her childhood in a secure, loving family with attendance at church and Sunday school, Mallory has been attracted to the stories of those who listened to and obeyed God. Despite some meaningful encounters with God in her early years, a serious illness in her early adulthood challenged her faith. For decades she feared a relationship with God, feeling He had rejected her and left her to struggle alone. Gradually, over the years, she learned that out of painful crises come incredible blessing and wisdom. She discovered that God had not abandoned her—rather, she had always been in the shadow of God's wings.

EMMANUEL COLLEGE NETWORK

What do you get when 100-plus Emmanuel College alumni/ae all agree to form a community to support other Emmanuel graduates in the pursuit of their vocation beyond their degree? You get the Emmanuel College Network—grads helping grads and student interns around Canada and beyond to help spread the good news! If you are interested in having your name and contact information added to this list, please contact alumni/ae officer, Jennifer Wells, at jennifer.wells@utoronto.ca. Your contact information will be shared only with fellow Emmanuel alumni/ae who are interested in making a meaningful connection.

MILESTONES

Néstor Medina Emm 0T8 has written *Christianity, Empire and the Spirit: (Re)Configuring Faith and the Cultural*. (Brill, 2018). In this book, Medina uncovers the cultural processes that play a crucial role in influencing how people understand reality, express the Christian faith and



think about God. He uses decolonial thinking, Latina/o theology, and Pentecostal theology to show how the cultural dimension is a central feature in the biblical text, that it was the force that co-opted Christianity

from the imperial era of Constantine onwards, and that it undergirded Western European colonialism and the missionary project. He engages with Protestant and Catholic articulations on “culture” and demonstrates how most theologians perpetuate Eurocentric frames for considering the relation between Christianity and the cultural dimension. As an alternative he offers a theological proposal that recognizes the Spirit at work in the phenomena of cultures.

Christopher Zeichmann Emm 1T7 has published *The Roman Army and the New Testament* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018). Though New Testament scholars have written extensively on the Roman Empire, this book approaches the topic of the military and provides a clear discussion of issues that are often taken for granted: Who served in the military of early Roman Palestine? Why did men join the Roman

army, seemingly at odds with their own interests as subject peoples? What roles did soldiers serve beyond combat? How did civilians interact with and perceive soldiers? These questions are answered through careful analysis of ancient literature, inscriptions, papyri, and archaeological findings to paint a detailed portrait of soldier-civilian interactions in early Roman Palestine. The importance of these historical issues for biblical scholarship is demonstrated by a verse-by-verse commentary on relevant passages that stretches across the entire New Testament, from the Slaughter of the Innocents in Matthew’s nativity to the climactic battle with the Great Beast in Revelation.

Philip Ziegler Vic 9T1, Emm 9T6, Emm 0T2 has written a book that explores the importance of apocalyptic theology called *Militant Grace: The Apocalyptic Turn and the Future of Christian Theology* (Baker Academic, 2018). Ziegler’s work delves into the significance of apocalyptic readings of the New Testament for systematic theology and highlights the ethical implications of the apocalyptic turn in biblical and theological studies. Written by a leading theologian and proponent of apocalyptic theology, this primer explores the impact of important recent Pauline scholarship on contemporary theology and argues for a renewed understanding of key Christian doctrines, including sin, grace, revelation, redemption and the Christian life.



MILESTONES

Alumni are invited to send information for inclusion in *Milestones*. For marriages, please indicate, if applicable, whether you prefer to be known by your married or birth name. An obituary must accompany death notices.

Or e-mail your *Milestones* news to emm.alumni@utoronto.ca.

Grad Year: Vic Emm

Name *(Please add title and/or maiden name if applicable)* _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please include my e-mail address in my *Milestones* notice.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Association (ECAA) has developed the Emmanuel College Alumni/ae Service Award to recognize a single, noteworthy achievement. This award is different from the Distinguished Alumni/ae Award, which honours lifetime achievement at the local, national or international level. The award was inspired by the late Sylvia G. Dunstan 8To, 8T6 who is known to the Emmanuel community for "Go to the World," a hymn performed at every College convocation. Dunstan served as a minister, prison chaplain and the editor of *Gathering*, a Canadian worship journal. While thinking about the terms for this award, the ECAA recalled the late Dunstan and believes the award appropriately commemorates her dedication to service in her community. The awards will be conferred on Alumni/ae Day on May 6, 2019. Nominations for this year are accepted until December 31, 2018. Please visit www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/alumni/achievement.htm for more details and the online nomination form.

ARE YOU GOING?

Save the Date for Emmanuel Alumni/ae Day: May 6, 2019

Your ECAA Executive is pleased to announce that the date for Emmanuel Alumni/ae Day is Monday, May 6, 2019. This spring event will feature annual worship, fellowship and time to gather with former classmates, faculty and staff, and more! The Alumni/ae Service Awards and the Distinguished Alumni/ae Award will be presented during the course of the day. Save the date and stay tuned for more details. We look forward to welcoming you back to campus in May!

Save the Date for Victoria University Convocation and Emmanuel College Graduation: May 9, 2019

All are welcome to congratulate Emmanuel's newest alumni/ae—the Class of 2019—at next year's convocation! The ceremony will begin at 4 p.m. in the Isabel Bader Theatre at 93 Charles Street West. The celebration will continue afterward with a reception in Alumni Hall, Old Vic. We hope to see you there!

DAY WITH EMMANUEL

Open-house events for prospective students

March 2, 10 am to 2:30 pm,
Emmanuel College.

Advanced registration required.

Visit www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/Prospective/Connect_with_Emanuel/events.htm

SAVE THE DATE FOR ALUMNI/AE WORSHIP: JANUARY 30, 2019

Your ECAA Executive is pleased to announce that the date for Emmanuel Alumni/ae Worship is Wednesday, January 30, 2019 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. in the Emmanuel College chapel.

Join with Emmanuel College alumni/ae, current students, staff and faculty for a service of word and table.

THE MOHAMED MANSOUR LECTURE IN CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC THOUGHT

with Zainab Alwani, associate professor of Islamic Studies at Howard University School of Divinity

QUR'AN AND HUMANITY: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF THE QUR'AN

Nov. 2, 6:30–7:30 p.m. Victoria College chapel (VC 213), 91 Charles St. W., 2nd floor

Emmanuel College's Ablution facilities and Muslim prayer room will be open for prayer prior to the lecture. 75 Queen's Park Crescent, Rooms 004, 006

Reception to follow in the second floor foyer

Register at <http://bit.ly/MansourF2018>. For inquiries, please contact: Emmanuel College 416-585-4539 or ec.events@utoronto.ca

For event details and registration, visit www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca or contact ec.events@utoronto.ca or 416-585-4539. A congregational discount of 15% is available for groups of two or more participating members, and students pay half price. There is a 15% discount for an individual attending two or more events in the year.



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
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