

Press Release- Halifax, Nova Scotia  
For Immediate Release- Monday, February 19th, 2014

## **OUT{IN}SIDE: Turning it Inside Out at Atlantic School of Theology**

Groundbreaking research topics relevant to the Church offered to public by graduating students.

Mark your calendars for March 11, 12 and 13th!

Starting at 9 am on the 11th, thirteen graduating students from the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, NS will be presenting their research topics to fellow students, faculty, family, friends and the wider community. The topics were chosen by the students in consultation with mentor, the Rev. Dr. Susan Willhauck, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Course Advisor.

Final year student John Wray states, "I think that grad projects offer the church, the leadership and its participants a unique opportunity: a chance to deeply listen. These projects help us to hear voices we don't normally get to hear allowing us to faithfully respond by transforming our practices and our communities. It is an incredible opportunity for both the audience, the participants and the presenters."

The thread of the research topics ranges from "Church Gossip" to "Grandparents as Faith Educators" to "Sports and Ministry", looking at hot button issues that are currently affecting Churches, Congregations, and various Church ministries.

David Campbell, Master of Divinity student says, "The AST Grad Projects encourage us to dig deeper into significant theological aspects of life, ministry and the church. We are going into real situations where we hear the opinions and beliefs of the people who live in and face the reality of what the Christian church is today. These projects are a creative opportunity to explore the areas of ministry that we are passionate about."

"When we consider the lack of sources and research available, and that many of the topics being presented this year are relatively unexplored territory, it reinforces what an important contribution these projects can be to the church. We are helping to fill in the gaps where information is limited or does not exist," notes Sarah Grady, Graduate Project presenter looking at Making Online Connections.

Atlantic School of Theology, an ecumenical school of theology and Christian ministry, was founded in 1971 by institutions of the three founding parties: the Divinity Faculty of the University of King's College (Anglican Church of Canada), Holy Heart Theological Seminary (The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Halifax) and Pine Hill Divinity Hall (United Church of Canada). It is specially characterized as an ecumenical, tri-denominational theological school with an ecumenical Board of Governors, Senate, Faculty, student body and curriculum. The School offers Master of Divinity and Master of Arts (Theology and Religious Studies) degrees.

The offering of the Graduate Project Seminar and Presentations as a course, within Master of Divinity Degree requirements, gives the students practical experience in data collection and analysis while exploring emerging issues and trends in the life and work of the Church.

Rachel Campbell, who's looking at Gossip and the Church, emphasises, "The Grad Projects of 2014 are not only full of valuable information for the Christian Church of today and tomorrow, but they have an energy that is undeniable and ground breaking. Join us for three days of informed research and lively presentations. Our team is ready to share what we have uncovered. Do not miss it."

The Graduate Project Presentations will take place in the Chapel of the Atlantic School of Theology, 660 Francklyn St., Halifax, NS.

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

9:00 Rachel Campbell "Church Gossip"  
10:00 Rob Jeffrey "The Impacts of Preaching"  
11:00 Anne Hoganson "Spontaneous Public Prayer"  
12 noon Lunch  
1:00 Sarah Grady "Making Online Connections"  
2:00 Gneid Walsh "Texting and Care"

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

9:00 John Wray "Men Leaving Church"  
10:00 Lana MacLean "Assisted Living and Church"  
11:00 Bob Hanf "Corporate Social Responsibility and Faith"  
12 noon Lunch  
1:00 Tami Spires "Fiction and Faith"  
2:00 Lorraine Otto "Grandparents as Faith Educators"

Thursday, March 13, 2014

9:00 Darlene Jewers "Anglicans and Creation Care"  
10:00 David Campbell "Sports and Ministry"  
11:00 Laurie Howard "Practicing Mission"

For more information on AST Graduate Project Presentations 2014 please contact either Lana MacLean at [lane.macleam@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:lane.macleam@ns.sympatico.ca) or Tami Spires at (902) 237 8536.