



Focus on Higher Education

Higher education is a team effort. Financial stress, anxiety over marks and loneliness are just some of the things young people deal with when they go to college or university. But parents can help. They can aid their student-children in money management, provide encouragement and keep the lines of communication open. *ChristianWeek's* Focus on Higher Education addresses these issues, and explains how some schools strive to help their students adjust to the change in lifestyle.

A parent's primer to saying goodbye

A little preparation can ease the stress when kids leave the nest

*Sandra Reimer
Special to ChristianWeek*

Going to college or university away from home is a big step for a teenager. Whether your child has already begun a post-secondary journey or is still a few years away, here are some tips on how to ease his or her transition to school.

Prepare financially

Post-secondary education is expensive. Long before your child is ready to pursue further education, you need to consider where the funds will come from. Some parents begin putting money away in a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) as soon as their children are born. Others believe children should pay for all or part of their educations.

Jayne Self, who lives in Orangeville, Ontario, used an RESP to cover the first year of university for each of her three sons. They paid for subsequent years through government loans and income from summer jobs.

Paul Oleniuk, who recently graduated from Providence College in Manitoba says his parents "made it clear that they would be willing to pay for my travels to and from home, but it was my education, and so paying for it was my responsibility, which I found reasonable."

Once your child is at school, he or she will need money for living expenses—and the ability to manage it. It's a good idea to teach financial management skills before your kids leave home.

Kimberley Milousis of Toronto, Ontario, stopped paying for clothes, shoes and activities for her oldest son about a year before he left for university. "We provided food and basic toiletries, but he was responsible for buying the rest out of a weekly allowance."

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Canadian students learn abroad

Emily Wierenga
Special to ChristianWeek

Education is evolving; today's classrooms have no walls. With this in mind, Christian institutions and universities are integrating travel into their curriculum.

PRAIRIE BIBLE INSTITUTE THREE HILLS, AB

Explore

Launched by associate dean Tim Fodor in 1998, Explore exists to help students experience God in the wilderness, to train up Christian leaders and to help these leaders learn how to serve one another in love and humility.

"The wilderness is an excellent environment for facilitating this kind of growth," says Explore director Hannah Mikul. Since its inception, 380 students have taken part in the program.

Each semester, students travel to Camp Bighorn, a Christian adventure camp in Plains, Montana, where they earn a one-year certificate in ministry and outdoor leadership by running ministry practicums as well as participating in leadership and wilderness skill training.

Explore2, which involves a 21-day wilderness expedition, was founded in 2007 for stu-

dents wanting to earn a two-year Associate Degree of Arts in Ministry.

"We strive to teach our students that leadership is not about position but about influence, and that when one accepts the responsibility of carrying influence in our world, Christ will be made known," explains Mikul.

Discover

In 2003, Prairie established Discover, a service-learning trip to Guatemala and El Salvador.

"As students learn and participate in intercultural studies, they are discovering more of who they are [while] engaging with their environment, each other and with God," explains former director Melinda Karleson.

Discover participants spend their first semester training in ESL, urban and church ministry and community development, both at Camp Bighorn and in various locations in Spokane, Washington.

Second semester students travel to El Salvador where they learn Spanish and begin their cultural anthropology class before heading to Guatemala Bible Seminary, the ministry mainstay. They then return to El Salvador for their final practicum.

"We want to help students develop a deeper understand-



Students at St. Stephen's University travel to Istanbul, Turkey as part of their travel curriculum.

ing of what it means to work alongside the local church," says Karleson. Upon completion, students receive a certificate in intercultural studies and leadership.

As Discover Graduate Meredith Dow says, "Prairie focuses on life with God, growing closer to Him through community chapels, mentorship, small groups and individual Bible study, and then sharing Him with others through practical hands-on training."

TYNDALE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE TORONTO, ON

Tyndale University College offered its first study abroad program in International Development two years ago. Since then, it's had seven students and two cohorts to both Latin and South America.

Jan Alpenberg, associate professor of business administration, heads up the program. "The idea behind the internship abroad is to get the students

exposed to a variety of issues associated with working in an international development organization," she says.

Students' expenses are covered as they spend three months overseas during their third year, where they engage in culture, language, micro-finance, project work, communication, working with others, planning and learning by doing and seeing. Upon return, they are able to intern with the same organization, while earning a wage.

"As a Business-International Development major, I volunteered with Mision Hispana in Nicaragua," says Kathryne Silver. "I received more than a new language, great experience in my area of study and a revitalized passion for empowering the poor. I left Nicaragua with an overwhelming sense of God's presence around the world, even in the most desperate of circumstances."

BRIERCREST COLLEGE AND SEMINARY CARONPORT, SK

Students enrolled in Briercrest's Associate of Arts TESOL and Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies TESOL programs have the option of doing an internship in Indonesia, Turkey, Yemen, Afghanistan, Guinea or Mongolia, among others.

"The organizations come to us," says David Catterick, assistant professor of Global Studies. ELIC (English Language Institute China) is one such organization, sending out hundreds of students to five Asian countries each year. "In most other cases, mission organizations come to us and say they have a specific mission opportunity and need qualified teachers."

Internships are approximately six weeks, with a minimum of 45 hours of teaching. A pre-intern option is also available in Hong Kong.

Accredited with TESL Canada since 2007, BA graduates emerge "with the highest level of qualification," says Catterick, as well as 500 hours of instruction.

ST. STEPHEN'S UNIVERSITY ST. STEPHEN, NB

In 1988, St. Stephen's University (SSU) developed two study programs in order to create shared learning experiences as well as encourage spiritual formation within its students. Today these programs, worth 15 credit hours each, incorporate preparatory reading and writing prior to eight weeks of travel during which students experience the historic sites, art and people of Europe and Asia.

"By directly engaging the 'stuff' of history and culture, students are transformed into caring about what they learn," explains associate dean of arts Walter Thiessen, who led the trip to Europe this summer.

Due to the popularity of its study abroad programs, SSU has since created a degree in International Studies. The latter "grew out of conversation with mission agencies and NGOs who told us they wanted students with a solid general education and some practical skills to bring to their international work."

The liberal arts university has also developed a two-week trip to Greece and Turkey for graduate modular and residential ministry students.

Mel Weatherhead traveled to Europe with Thiessen and her classmates in 2008. "In every way this community has taught me to forgive, to step out of my comfort zone and become a person I never thought I could be," she says. "Though I am still learning... this experience... is changing the way I see the world and my place in it."

CAPERWRAY HARBOUR BIBLE CENTRE THETIS ISLAND, BC

Since its inception in 1979, Capernwray—whose mandate is to train believers for full-time ministry, regardless of occupation—has offered a multi-faceted global outreach. Many of its 110 to 140 students are international, with 12 to 20 nations being represented each year.

Students are also encouraged to take part in a three week mission trip; past destinations have included Israel, Italy, Mexico, Seattle, India, Japan, Malaysia, Africa and the Philippines.

"We're involved in many service opportunities," says Chris Fordham, conference coordinator. "In building relationships with people and meeting them where they're at, and leading them deeper in their relationship with the Lord."

Finally, students have the option of doing a three, six or nine-month practicum program in Asia, following their biblical training. "We send people out to do what God has called them to do—share His life with others," explains Fordham. "They get to work with local churches and pastors, and have the opportunity to live and serve in community."

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY OTTERBURNE, MB

Despite being new to the international scene, Providence is seeking to make service-learning a primary goal. A trip to San Carlos, Mexico will take place in February and March of 2011, involving students in a number of practical efforts including ESL, youth and children's programs, as well as serving the poor. Participants will fulfill the "learning" component of the trip by studying under local missionaries and pastors.

Continued on next page

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The two-week trip accomplishes three goals, says Jeff Banman, director of field education. Primarily, it opens students' eyes to cross-cultural living. It also makes room for practical application of one's education, regardless of the program. And it provides an avenue through which students might live out their Christian faith.

"Our hope for the future is...that every student of Providence will at least have the opportunity to receive a portion of their education in a cross-cultural setting."

YWAM CANADA VANCOUVER, BC

With more than 30 locations across Canada, YWAM offers young people ages 18 to 30 a five-month Discipleship Training School (DTS) comprised of three months of Bible education and two months abroad at any number of locations including China, Indonesia, Morocco, Malaysia, Thailand and Cambodia.

"I like sending youth overseas to give them perspective," says Vancouver director Mike Davies. "To show them how well off and blessed we are, and to give them a better worldview."

Founded in 1960, YWAM exists to "know God and to make Him known." Through evangelism, mercy ministry, training and discipleship, the organization located in 170 countries gives



Trinity Western University students can study fine arts in London, England.

young adults fast experience in the mission's field.

"We hope (students) will come out of it having a deeper relationship with God, and to have the tools to make Him known, whether in full-time missions, or in the marketplace."

TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY LANGLEY, BC

For Trinity Western University (TWU), experiential learning has an extensive history. "Trinity aims to provide every graduate with options to engage in high quality learning through at least one travel study experience," says Travel Study coordinator Gretchen Johnson.

With destinations such as China, Europe, Africa, Central America, Israel and Australia, an average of 140 students participate annually in the three to four-

week study abroad program.

Other TWU global experiences include the full-term study program through "Best Semester," as well as mission-oriented global project trips, focused on humanitarian issues.

Melissa Gratz was one of 12 women who went to Guatemala in May of 2010. "I learned that every culture and every individual has a story," says Gratz, who has her Masters in Applied Linguistics and Exegesis. "Behind the intricate work of a *huipile* (shirt or blouse) is a story of family who prevailed despite extenuating circumstances. Behind a cup of coffee is a story of a hard-working coffee farmer who values education for his family. Behind a little jar of homemade hand lotion is a story of a young entrepreneur who works hard to provide for her family."

Master's program puts faith to action in global context

Wycliffe College combines theology with development, academics with internships

Mike Duerksen
Special to ChristianWeek

TORONTO, ON—When Luke La Roque wanted to put his faith into action in both an academic and global context, he enrolled in Wycliffe College's new Master of Theological Studies (MTS) in Urban and International Development program.

One year later Luke, along with his wife Alyssa, is living in Liwonde in Southern Malawi, interning at a local NGO and helping implement several development interventions with the aim of improving food security.

"It's been incredible so far," he writes in an e-mail.

"Between learning the Chichewa language and getting a handle on what development is like on the ground in a foreign culture, we are having a blast."

Luke's internship is part of the new two-year program, which strives to combine theological education with hands-on experience in community development.

"Many people of faith today want a program that will give them spiritual, academic and practical skills to serve in international or urban

development," says Thomas Power, interim director of the MTS Development program.

"They want to affirm how their skills and interests can be used and developed to serve God in the world."

A theological college located at the heart of the University of Toronto, Wycliffe is offering the new program for the second year this fall.

Since its inception in 2009, more than 40 people have enrolled.

After a year of theological studies in an academic setting, students are placed in internships all over the world—from Sierra Leone to Bosnia and everywhere in between—that build on their interests and skills.

Power says these may include areas like advocacy, restorative justice, education, agriculture and others tailored to the students' needs.


"We feel that we are responding to a real need in providing people of faith with the skills and theological per-

spective to work in development and engage issues of social justice, poverty, homelessness and human trafficking," says Power.


The degree can be used to qualify for doctoral study and is awarded conjointly with the University of Toronto.

"Between learning the Chichewa language and getting a handle on what development is like on the ground in a foreign culture, we are having a blast."


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Get a passing grade in Money 101

Going to college may seem like a dream come true, until the bills start rolling in

Henry Friesen
Special to ChristianWeek

“College! Freedom at last! Free to come and go as I please. Free to stay up as late as I wish. Free to hang out whenever I please. And free to buy whatever I want.”

At least that was the theory. You’ve noticed that your freedom is curtailed by assignments demanded by unrealistic professors. They seem to think you have nothing better to do. Missing half of those early morning classes not available in any other time slot is also becoming a concern. You have a vague apprehension there will be payback sooner or later. You opt for later. But you’re discovering few things are free.

Does that sound familiar? Welcome to the real world! Not planning ahead could have a temporary impact on your scholarly success. But not paying attention to your finances during college could haunt you for decades.

For example, a recent radio program featured a student couple in their mid-30s with school-related debts in excess of \$120,000. The duo believed they were blessing society by staying in college; that relying on credit cards when their student loan money ran out should somehow not be their problem. Their apparent strategy: wishful thinking.

If you’ve figured out that taking charge of your finances while in college requires more than abstract notions, read on. How can you make the best of

the difficult financial balancing act called “higher education?” How can you demonstrate to your “cheering section” that your college education is a good investment?

Money 101 basics

If you are otherwise ready for college, it’s rarely a good idea to delay attending until you can afford it. Life doesn’t work that way. In fact, the longer you wait, the more difficult it will be.

But investing time to plan ahead and learning how to tell your money where to go, instead of asking where it went, can make a big difference in how long you’ll end up paying for it.

Fortunately there are many resources out there, some of which don’t have to be repaid. With some diligence you can discover a surprising number of benefactors wanting to bless deserving students with bursaries and scholarships. Applying early can put you at the front of the pack. And good marks are a plus.

Steps to freedom

Getting a college education is expensive, but it doesn’t have to be scary. Following these steps will give you a passing grade in Money 101.

Cost. How much does a year in college cost? Tuition fees, available on college websites, are relatively easy to determine (although your resources could influence your choice of college and program). The cost of books depends on whether they are new, used or borrowed.

The rest is up to you. Rent or live at home? Dorm package or cook? Car or bus? Fancy laptop or iPad? Even if you don’t think you have options, it’s a good idea to calculate the cost for the alternatives. You might be surprised.

Don’t forget personal expenses like clothes, entertainment and eating out, toiletries, cell phone, etc. Build a cushion into your budget of at least \$50 a month to cover surprises. Include a tithe on your earnings. Do NOT include much for gifts. Beyond the occasional card or trinket, it makes little sense to buy expensive gifts with other people’s money. Your day will come.

Resources. How will you pay for it? Consider your resources in this order: savings, bursaries and scholarships, parents, part-time job, student loans and bank loans. Credit cards and lottery tickets don’t rate and wishful thinking has limited value. Doing this homework early can make a big difference.

Compare. If your resources are less than estimated costs, go back to the drawing board. The time to make difficult decisions on costs is now, not when the money runs out. Paying for college usually involves trade-offs and sacrifices. What are you prepared to do without?

Your parents do you a huge disservice by making it easy to avoid this step. Money 101 should be required for everyone. A college education without learning to manage your finances leaves you vulnerable.

Track. Your most important

financial resource is a system for recording money in and money out. This includes bank/cash balances to ensure that everything is recorded. (It’s easy to stay within budget if you don’t write down all your expenses!)

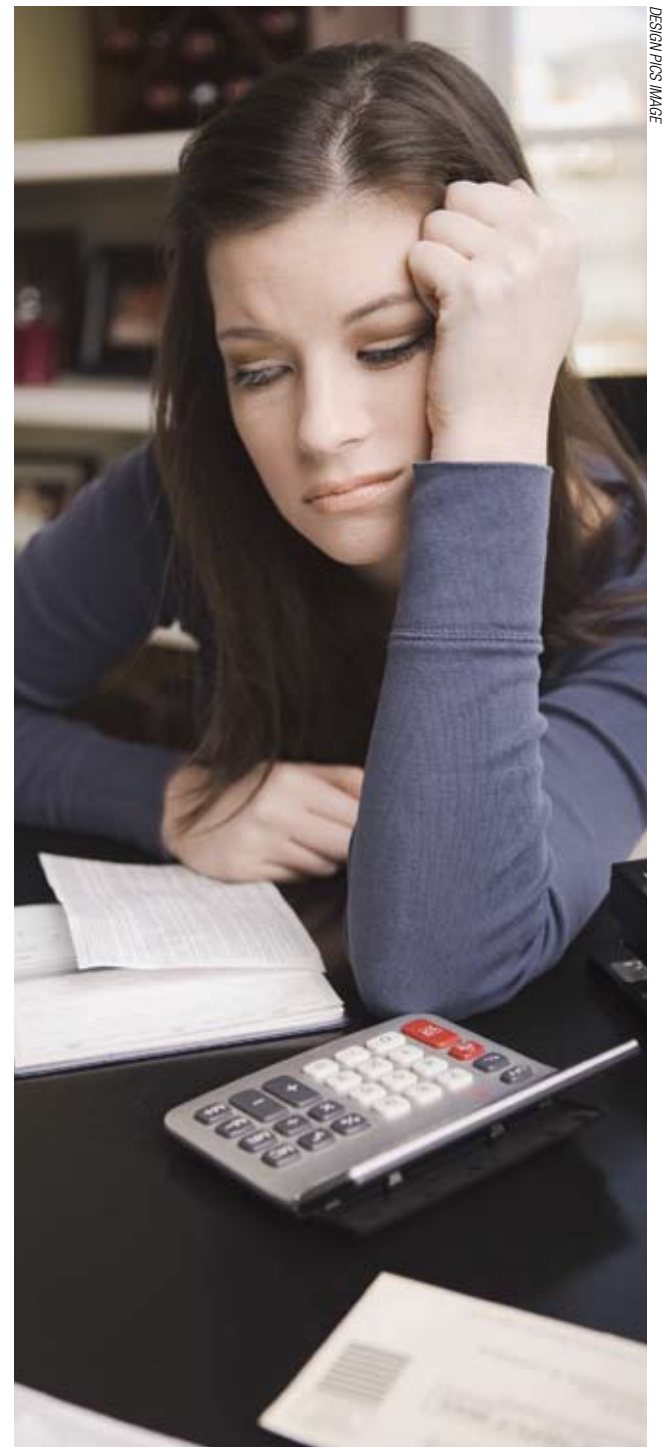
A client recently sent his 18-year-old to another continent for college with typical parental concern. He designed a neat, but simple, spreadsheet that not only tracks expenses, but also compares actual expenses to budgeted expenses on a cumulative basis, month after month. Parental contributions will be deposited monthly. The student agreed to e-mail the spreadsheet to dad once a month.

Evaluate. “But I wrote it down!” is not enough. Review the results regularly and be willing to make adjustments to your spending if necessary.

You (and your parents) should keep in mind that a budget is a target. Perfection is not the objective. Like circles on a target, a budget is an effective way to measure differences. But trying to follow a budget should not be optional. And reasons for missing the target should be reviewed periodically.

Of course this exercise will only work if both you and your parents cooperate willingly and communicate regularly. Be warned that the best education comes from mistakes. Work together with your parents to focus less on blame or guilt and more on “What have I learned that will help me in the future?”

Stay alert. Watch for signs of trouble. For example, if you can’t pay your credit card in full each month, freeze it in a block of ice until the balance



is back to zero. Making only the minimum payments is an excellent way of getting into financial difficulty.

Get help. Your college wants to keep you as a student. If you are having trouble paying your bills, the college finance office will be your strongest ally as they help you look for solutions to stay in school. Two student finance officers I contacted for this article emphasized that trying to handle things without talking to the college is almost certain to make things worse.

Celebrate! Just following

these steps successfully is a good reason to celebrate. You don’t need an A-plus in Money 101 to pat yourself on the back. In fact, if you get an A-plus you probably didn’t need the course in the first place.

Money will be an integral part of your future. Taking Money 101 along with the rest of your college courses will improve the odds that money will be a lifelong blessing rather than a curse.

Henry Friesen writes in Niverville, Manitoba. His three children have acquired more than a dozen years of “higher education.”

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Surviving the first Week

The first week of school. For first-year students, it often means a first, prolonged separation from parents. Freedom! It also means, anxiety, financial stress and loneliness. Thankfully, Canadian Christian colleges and universities do their best to help new students adjust quickly to their new surroundings and routines.

ChristianWeek asked a handful of Christian schools a single question: **What things does your school do to help new students settle in and find their way during the first weeks of September?**

Here's what they had to say.

AMBROSE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE | CALGARY, AB

Orientation Week at Ambrose is an event that involves months of planning by our Student Life department, as well as student leaders. Our returning students are indispensable to the orientation event and the welcoming atmosphere of Ambrose. During the two days we combine information sessions with games and sports and an opportunity to become acquainted with their faculty members. Parents are actively encouraged to attend, take a tour of the campus and enjoy lunch with their students. The specific needs of commuter students and residence students are addressed. Every attempt is made to encourage, welcome, inform and draw students into the vibrant community that is Ambrose.

BETHANY COLLEGE | HEPBURN, SK

Bethany College is purposeful about creating an environment to help students in their transition. Erica Ray, associate dean of women describes the fall semester preparation as "intentional." "We review first year files to get to know student needs, to place them with roommates and unit groups and respond with a care plan to help them integrate with the Bethany community," she says. The first week is designed to help with student interaction, college orientation and campus involvement. The opening week also includes various activities, such as first-year "mugging," where new students are welcomed by Student Council (STUCO) and the admissions team, and served floats in Bethany mugs. There's also the all-dorm meeting (residence orientation) and small unit group time, recreation options, chapels, a dodgeball tournament and coffeehouse, featuring the music of faculty and students. Brittany Suderman, second-year/STUCO secretary, says, "I came from a high school of 2,000. In coming to a college this size, it has been good to know and experience that I am needed as a leader."

BOOTH UNIVERSITY COLLEGE | WINNIPEG, MB

At Booth we believe in the importance of making new students feel at home and comfortable in their new surroundings. A part of that process is helping them know the city and what is available to them. The one big event we had this year was a costumed tacky tourist "Winnipeg Romp." Students set off in groups to planned points of interest downtown where a faculty member/staff was waiting with a fun task for them to do. We ended at The Forks with snacks and passed out lollipops to everyone we could see. Students and staff had a lot of fun and we plan to do this again next year as a part of our orientation week.

CRANDALL UNIVERSITY | MONCTON, NB

At Crandall University we realize that starting university for the first time or returning to your studies after a period of absence can be both an exciting and challenging time. Our goal is to help with those transitions in order to get a solid start to the year. Orientation activities during Welcome Week are designed to help students connect with others and recognize what is available on campus to help adjust to life at Crandall University, both through programs and the people who will become an important part of a student's time at university. Staff and student organizations work hard to prepare for Welcome Week in order to offer a wide range of fun activities. Over 70 student leaders are involved in getting the new school year off to a great start. This group serves on student council, the orientation team, resident assistants living in campus housing, and new this year our welcome team.

PRAIRIE BIBLE INSTITUTE | THREE HILLS, AB

Prairie is committed to equipping students to "Know Christ and Make Him Known" from the very first day they step onto campus. Our Week of Welcome, held during the first week after students

arrive, is designed to assist new students in making the transition to college life. Through various seminars, community-building events and fun social activities, we help them navigate the campus, provide them with information concerning our programs and support services, and explore our expectations for those joining our Bible-intensive, discipleship-focused community. As students connect with other students, staff and faculty, they discover what makes Prairie so special.

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY | OTTERBURNE, MB

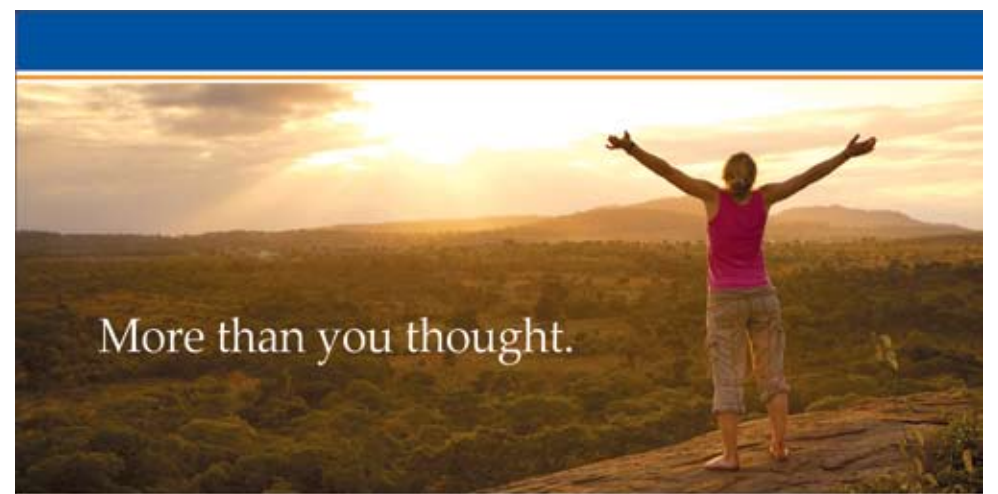
Meet. Eat. And establish community! At Providence College and Seminary, the first few weeks are when you create a network of support to meet your social and spiritual needs throughout the year. It is important to do these things so that students feel comfortable and equipped socially, spiritually, physically and academically, and can settle into the life of the community quickly. A kick-off banquet, dessert night, and community barbeque will fill your stomach, while the freshman retreat, orientation sessions, and convocation events will prepare you for the year. What else? This year, we even did a corn maze!

REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE | LANCASTER, ON

Redeemer University College is very intentional about our welcome for new students. We want to make sure that they are adequately introduced to the social, academic, spiritual, geographical and community service aspects of university life. We also realize the diversity of our student body, which means our events have to be plentiful and equally diverse. New students connect to peers, staff and professors through game nights, concerts, a food drive, dances, scavenger hunts and much more. One of the highlights for new students is our LAUNCH Olympics, which is a series of wacky games followed by a mud-pit tug-of-war. A bond is formed with dorms and teams through this experience, and they can begin to call Redeemer home. A video of the LAUNCH Olympics and more information about our orientation program can be found by visiting www.redeemer.ca/orientation.

TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY | ABBOTSFORD, BC

At Trinity Western University new students are enthusiastically welcomed by 250 student leaders in Hawaiian shirts. The Transition Programs Office coordinates a team of staff and student leaders to implement Orientation Week (O-Week) where students have the opportunity to ease into university life, get to know others and gain a sense of belonging. Students check in, confirm their first semester classes, learn about university programs, campus services and layout, meet other students in their discipline, participate in Connections groups and gain a general introduction to the nature and character of Trinity Western's community. University 101 is a required course that continues after O-Week where students participate in discussions within their Connections group. Students need this opportunity to adjust to their new living situation, discover self-management and build positive academic habits.



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Parents

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Her son was free to buy expensive clothing but had to live with not being able to go to the movies with friends if he was out of money. "By the time he left for university, I think he had a pretty good grasp on how to use his money," she says.

Get ready emotionally

Ideally you've been building a close relationship with your children all the way along. As you send them off to school, the relationship will change. But, they still need you. Darrell Friesen's daughter left their Winnipeg home for Bible school in Austria this past September. To prepare emotionally, the family spent

extra time together.

"A two-week family trip to her grandparents in the U.S. was a good time of bonding, reminiscing and talking about the coming experience," he says. "We also tried to build in extra family time and one-on-one time as the departure date came closer."

Your child may need extra support during the first few days and weeks of school.

"I was very lonely the first night...and really wanted to get on the next plane home," says Oleniuk. In the beginning, he called his parents frequently. "It wasn't so much that we talked about loneliness and the fear I was feeling, but that we were just talking. Knowing that they were willing to listen and be supportive from 2,500 kilometers away really helped."

While they're at school, it's important to maintain a relationship with your children—though it won't always be easy, depending on how much contact they need or want.

Visiting home can help your child reconnect with the family and provide emotional grounding.

Milousis keeps in touch with her son using Facebook, e-mail and Skype.

"There are messages going both ways, but his e-mails and messages are mostly practical," she says.

Oleniuk used to call his family once per week on the dorm pay phone. "It would often take me a couple of hours to get through all five members of my family."

Visiting home can help your child reconnect with the family and provide emotional grounding. Janet Sketchley planned for her son Andrew, who attends school 18 hours away from their home in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, to come home for Thanksgiving. She also told him he could return sooner if he was homesick.

Handling the workload

Post-secondary academic expectations are higher than what your child is used to at high school. You won't be there to remind them to attend class, complete assignments or go to bed on time. But you can prepare them to manage independently.

"Because the boys were responsible for juggling school work, small jobs and social life before they left home, I had seen first hand how they managed their time and knew they could do this without me hanging over their shoulder," says Self. She feels strongly that kids should learn these skills before they leave home so parents can guide them. In her kids' last few years of high school she deliberately backed off and let them schedule their own time even when it meant reaping the consequences of poor choices.

Milousis is also confident that her son can keep up with the workload, but she worries that he is not getting enough sleep. "There is lots for him to do all the time. He'll need to learn boundaries for himself," she says.

Being available to talk about time management and encouraging your child to seek guidance from school personnel is also helpful. If your child is



Darrell Friesen (left) and his daughter, Kaily, at her high school graduation.

living in a dorm, there is usually a Resident Assistant (RA) that can answer questions and direct them to other resources. Most Canadian colleges and universities offer personal counselling, health services, tutoring, and other free or low-cost supports for students.

Spiritual foundation

Self and her husband laid a spiritual foundation for their sons through prayer, teaching them biblical values, and "living as honestly and authentically as we could so they could see biblical values in practice." They also exposed their kids to and talked about other faiths.

"My sons feel their biggest strength was knowing what they believed and why they believed it before they left home, so when faced with the myriad of options at university they were grounded enough to evaluate what they saw or heard and not to be swayed," she says.

Leaving home gives young adults a chance to choose the Christian faith for themselves. Encourage your child to join

Christian groups on campus like InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and to find a church. Some churches in college and university towns have vital young adult ministries and may even arrange rides to church for students. In the end a faith journey is a personal choice, so make sure encouragement doesn't turn into nagging.

Saying goodbye

Oleniuk warns parents that when they drop their child off at school, they will never see that child again because he or she will return as an adult. He recommends parents give support if it's wanted but otherwise to back off.

"It may be tough, but their child is trying to figure out their own place in the world, and will have to do that in their own way, even if the parents gain a few grey hairs as a result."

Rest assured that through the joy and pain of easing your children into post-secondary education you will also be helping them transition to adulthood.

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Canadian Mennonite University offers Christian university education in the Anabaptist tradition, with undergraduate programs in a broad range of disciplines—including business, communications, science, peace and conflict resolution studies, music, and much more—plus graduate degrees in Theological and Biblical Studies and Christian Ministry. CMU is a member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. CMU's mission is to 'equip women and men for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society.' We invite students to let their learning be salted with the presence of Jesus Christ as they grow in faith, clear thinking, and capacity to work and serve with compassion.

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Learn more. Visit www.prairie.edu or call 1.800.661.2425.

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Providence College provides a premier Christian university education to students from all over the world. Founded in 1925, our faculty and student body represent 15 denominations and many different countries. Our mission is to teach people to think, live, and serve as Christians in the church and society. Providence graduates work in

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Continued on next page

Focus on Higher Education

Continued from previous page

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Post-secondary schools cash in on federal funding

Manitoba schools develop cutting edge programming

Rachel Bergen
Manitoba Correspondent

WINNIPEG, MB—Students across Canada are benefitting from a federal and provincial government initiative, including students of Providence College in Otterburne, Manitoba and Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) in Winnipeg.

The Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP) aims to support infrastructure enhancement at universities and colleges in Canada to keep Canada at the forefront of scientific advancement.

CMU recently opened its new state of the art science laboratory on the school's South Campus, thanks to \$301,500 from the federal government, \$150,800 from the provincial government, and private donations of about \$350,000.

Now, current CMU students and those considering the school can more deeply explore the field of science in the areas of biochemistry, organic chemistry, genetics, physics, cell biology and microbiology, says associate professor of Biology, John Brubacher.

The new lab "considerably strengthens CMU's ability to deliver a broadly-based, Christian liberal-arts education," says CMU president Gerald Gerbrandt. "Students seeking a future in science will have a strong foundation to begin that journey."

Providence College recently launched the first fully interactive distance education classroom in Western Canada.

They call it eProv, and it was made possible by \$557,000 in funding from the federal government. "Because it's small, Providence is an ideal place to develop and implement this sort of cutting-edge technology," says Bruce Duggan, associate professor of Management at Providence College.

Now, students seeking a faith-based education who live in places like the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, California and Northern Ontario can participate in interactive distance education without leaving home.

"Students will be able to join classes from anywhere in Manitoba, from across Canada's North, and even from around the world," says Providence president Gus Konkel. "So long as they have access to a computer and the Internet, they have access to a live classroom experience through Providence."



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