

## Spring 2010



Every semester in Ottawa comes with its own surprises and challenges and the start of Spring 2010 was no different. With Parliament prorogued until March, some members of our incoming class were concerned about their internship placements. Fortunately, most students started their internships on time and are learning to navigate their offices.

This semester brings a diverse cast of characters to the LLC. Three of our 18 students are visiting from other universities and we welcomed students studying music, philosophy, geography and linguistics. Not surprisingly, there are some new and unique

internship placements. For the first time, a student is interning in the civil service, specifically with the CRTC. Placements in opposition leader Michael Ignatieff's office and NDP MP Wayne Marston's office provide a view from the left while on the government side, students are interning in ministerial offices, such as Foreign Affairs and Citizenship and Immigration.

Outside of work, students have taken advantage of an unseasonably mild January by venturing out to the Byward Market, skating on the Rideau Canal, and generally exploring the sites of Ottawa.

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## Thank You!

We at the LLC are grateful to have such a dedicated core of local alumni, who not only contribute to great potlucks, but also serve as a willing and able work force when there are extra tasks to be taken care of at the mansion. Last fall Randall Visser, Joel Kropf, and Adrian Reimer pitched in for a morning to do some fall clean up around the LLC and prepare the building for winter. In January Michelle Phillips and Kate Fraher helped out with a painting project in one of the dorm rooms. A big thank you to these people from the LLC staff.

## Alumni News

**Jocelyn Durston** (FA 03) has moved back to Vancouver and is working as a development coordinator for TWU.

**Nicole Dublanko** (SP 06) married Richard Foth in October 2009. They are living and working in Vancouver.

**Lindsay (Buchan) Delamont** (FA 08) got married in December 2008 and is now in her first year of law at the University of Victoria.

**Jolene Hildebrand** (FA 09) has moved to Ottawa and is working as member's assistant to MP Ed Komarnicki.

**John Vanderveen** (FA 09) has moved to Ottawa and is working as a research assistant to the Director of Appointments in the PMO.

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## Alum publishes book on human dignity

Mark Penninga (SP 03) has accomplished much since he spent a semester at the LLC interning for MP Maurice Vellacott. He completed his MA in political science at the University of Lethbridge before returning to the Vancouver area with his wife, Jaclyn, and two daughters. Mark is now the director of ARPA Canada, a Christian non-profit organization devoted to promoting political awareness and action in Canada's Reformed churches.

Last fall, Mark published a book called *Building on Sand: Human Dignity in Canadian Law and Society*, comparing secular and Christian views

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## Teaching in Thailand: Monique Summerfield

Sawatdee Kaa! Min-ga-la-ba! Greetings from the Thailand-Burma border.

As an active member of the International Social Justice Club during my time at TWU I came to learn about the people of Burma (Myanmar) and the many issues they face in their country. While at the LLC in 2008 I interned for the Canadian Friends of Burma, which allowed me to learn more about these ongoing issues and provide me with experience so that I could better assist these people in the future. A year and half after my time at the LLC the executive director of Canadian Friends of Burma invited me to join him in Thailand for a three week fact-finding trip in November.

Those three weeks of meeting with different NGOs and visiting camps are long past. Now I am preparing lesson plans and counting protein bars in preparation for the next three months when I will be teaching English in one of the many refugee camps. The camp I will be in has over 40,000 refugees, some that have been there for twenty years or more. Despite their seemingly hopeless situation these people are an example of strength and perseverance. Their true generosity and kindness are a constant encouragement to me and I look forward to living in community with them for the next three months, washing my clothes by hand, eating fish paste and rice, playing with the children, teaching and, best of all, learning.



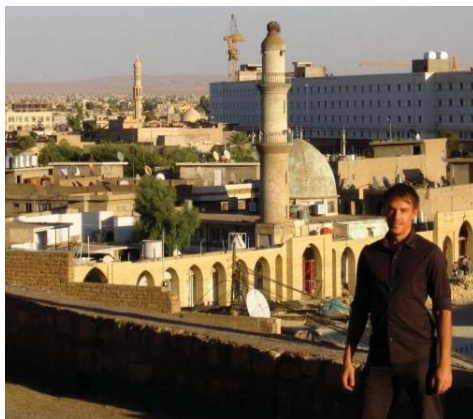
*Monique Summerfield with the Director of Canadian Friends of Burma and people from the Karen tribe of Burma.*

## Chris Brown returns from Iraq

Exactly one year ago I was braving the extreme temperatures of Ottawa's harsh winters and after having just returned from Iraq, I can say I have survived to other end of the mercury.

When I touched down in the Iraqi city of Arbil I was greeted by intermittent electricity and constant August heat. I was working at one of three Classical Christian schools in the semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan in Northern Iraq. I taught Grade 4 Literature and Grade 2 Art. I was encouraged, to teach from a Christian worldview even though 90% of the students came from Muslim families. Classes are conducted in English, but the schools were created and run by the indigenous populace. My team partner and I were warmly welcomed as the first Americans to teach at the school in Arbil.

It was an exciting and challenging experience (I ate many interesting animal body parts). The Kurds were all incredibly friendly and hospitable. They possess a strong sense of pride and hope for their country and desire a better future for their children. I hope to return and continue work with them.



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## Human dignity

about the value of human life and how these views apply to issues like abortion, assisted suicide, and equality rights.

"I think it is important that Christians think twice before we accept the secular rhetoric about dignity and human rights given the lack of a moral foundation beneath it," says Mark. "The Christian account is nothing to be ashamed of. On the contrary, it does a much better job of defending the worth and rights of all humanity."

To order a copy of the book, visit [www.BuildingOnSand.ca](http://www.BuildingOnSand.ca)



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