

## WHAT'S NEW AT VST FOR 2021

This is VST's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! And what an exciting time. The school is embarking on new partnerships, has welcomed new faculty and continues to accept more students. As part of the school's 50<sup>th</sup> there are plans in place to create more teaching space on the main floor of the school – a flexible space that will accommodate a class of 60, special event gatherings and public lectures. There are also plans for the chapel including a renaming, a carbon neutral footprint, upgraded food preparation space, and study and relaxation space. Happy Anniversary!

## LATEST NEWS

1. Upcoming Public Event: G. Peter Kay Lecture series February 5th. This year's speaker will be Dr. Amy-Jill Levine
2. Anyone is welcome to audit a course, and it's easy to register:
  - a. Visit [www.vst.edu/programs](http://www.vst.edu/programs); decide on the course you want to take; fill in the audit registration form found here: [file:///C:/Users/jlees/Downloads/Auditing-Registration-form\\_Nov21\\_fr%20\(4\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/jlees/Downloads/Auditing-Registration-form_Nov21_fr%20(4).pdf), and email the registrar at [registrar@vst.edu](mailto:registrar@vst.edu) by the registration cut off date.
3. The school signed new Partnerships with Jakarta Theological Seminary in Indonesia and St. Andrew's Theological Seminary in the Philippines. These are five-year terms and the partnerships will allow for deepened global conversation, diversity and learning.
  - a. Full details here:
    - i. <https://vst.edu/.../vst-and-indonesian-seminary-agree-to.../>
    - ii. <https://vst.edu/.../vst-signs-partnership-with.../>
4. VST welcomed three New Faculty
  - a. As VST says goodbye to Rev. Dr. Pat Dutcher-Walls, it welcomes the school's new Dean and Professor of Hebrew Bible Dr. Mari Joerstad, effective July 1, 2021.
  - b. And the inaugural director of the exciting new initiative, Congregational Vitality Through Community Engagement, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, is Mr. Chris Pullenayegem.
  - c. One of VST's alumna - Rev. Rebecca Simpson - will return to the school in the role of Presbyterian Director of Denominational Formation and Assistant Professor, effective January 1, 2021.
    - i. Full details for all three: <https://vst.edu/.../new-strategic-academic-leaders-confirmed>
  - a. And, the Presbyterian DDF role became vacant because this past fall the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart was named St. Andrew Hall's fifth dean.
5. More enrolment records broken
  - a. Last fall VST accepted 77 new students, with 59 starting; another record-breaking incoming year. Online classes are filled with students from Canada, Indonesia, Korea, and the United States.

6. Courses online

- a. It was a relatively easy transition to 100% online during the Covid pandemic as the school has been offering interactive distance education for quite a few years. Students and faculty have adapted exceedingly well to the new, yet temporary, format. With all the gifts that many faces on a screen bring, the school is still looking forward to the sound of students' voices in the hall and classrooms physically filled.

7. Award Recipients

- a. Rev. Curtis Bablitz, a 2011 VST MDiv graduate, has been awarded the 2021 TEG award. This award is conferred by the principal to someone in ministry leadership who displays thoughtful, engaged and generous characteristics. Please read the full article here:  
<https://vst.edu/.../principals-teg-2021-award-recipient.../>
- b. This year VST is excited to present Rupert Lang with the 2021 Honorary Doctor of Divinity. Rupert is renowned for his musical gifts and contributions. Please read more details here:  
<https://vst.edu/.../vst-announces-2021-honorary-doctor.../>
- c. This Spring VST MATS student, Shauna Kubossek won the student essay contest at the Anglican Theological Review.

8. Community worship

- a. Did you know you are welcome to attend VSTs community worship each week (Thursdays at noon). This past year it has been online through zoom. If you'd like to get the zoom link for upcoming services please contact Liz Ruder-Celiz at [erceliz@vst.edu](mailto:erceliz@vst.edu) And, for previous services you are welcome to explore VSTs YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/VSTVancouver/videos>

9. Did you know snazzy VST Merchandise is always on sale?

- a. VST mugs \$7
- b. VST T-shirts \$15
- c. VST Hoodies \$45
- d. Please be in touch with Julie Summers at reception for further details: [jsummers@vst.edu](mailto:jsummers@vst.edu) or 604-822-9031