

The Annual Cathie Nicholl Scholarship for the Linlathen Project 2019

The *Linlathen Project* aims to develop and nurture a community of theological scholars in Eastern Ontario; it is the intent to encourage all participants to think deeply about an important topic in a theological context, equipping them to return with new perspectives and/or renewed energies to their own daily communities. Long term, the *Linlathen Project* hopes to facilitate meaningful theological dialogue and build deep Christian community. With this goal in mind, we are committed to exercise ecumenical hospitality as modeled by Thomas Erskine in his nineteenth century Linlathen ministry (Romans 12).

In keeping with the above objectives, the Committee offers the “Cathie Nicholl Scholarship” each year. This is a T.A.-ship for a graduate student -- of Theology or with theological interests -- in or from Eastern Ontario. Cathie Nicholl was a significant personal influence on three of the original committee members during their student years, and we firmly believe that Linlathen is a full embodiment of her teaching in our own lives. As such, we have committed to honour her work and continue to support her passions with this scholarship.

The Cathie Nicholl Scholarship 2018 includes free conference registration plus room & board at the not-very-luxurious-but-hopefully-very-welcoming Windstone Farm, in Beckwith Ontario, for the Linlathen Conference “Inklings & the Poetic Imagination” with Malcolm Guite, Aug. 2nd -5th, 2019. The recipient of this scholarship will be present to be an assistant during the conference – from Thursday evening or Friday morning through to Monday evening (ie an extra pair of hands for the guest speaker, but also generally... from facilitating conversation and participating in outdoor walks to setting up chairs to helping serve meals and doing dishes... alongside other academics doing the same). The recipient will attend all group discussions/events, and is invited to participate in the general conversation and fun throughout the conference. It is expected that the Cathie Nicholl Scholar will richly benefit from relationships built and conversations listened to and participated in whilst here; he/she is an assistant during this period, whose main goal is to help facilitate the conference as part of the ‘Linlathen Team.’ It is hoped that in the days following the conference the Cathie Nicholl Scholar will write a short draft ‘report’ of the retreat (approx 3-4 pages), and be willing to either attend one follow-up committee meeting for assessment of the conference to facilitate planning of future endeavours, or, to submit a list of recommendations/insights, if such attendance is not possible.

A brief on Cathie Nicholl:

Cathie Nicholl (1910 - 2004) served as an Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship staff working with university students for 51 years and was also instrumental in the development of Pioneer Camps across Canada. She was awarded the Order of Canada for her life-long contribution to the lives of Canadian youth. Cathie was the eldest daughter of Scottish missionaries in Northern China, who inspired in her a life-long love of reading scripture and singing hymns. Her early years were spent studying at Cheefoo School in Yantai, northern China: “There was a wholesome, normal spiritual foundation for everything [we] did. They constantly stretched us. They never undershot us.” Shortly before she turned 19, Cathie left China for Toronto, intending to train as a teacher -- in preparation for which she took Canadian history and business courses. She was sidetracked by a job however, one which intervened in her own academic plans but ensured university engagement for the remainder of her life: she became secretary in the fledgling Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. Soon, she was working directly with undergraduates and graduate students, challenging them intellectually, spiritually, relationally – seeking to encourage (and model) a holistic expression of living fully the Life More Abundant. “When I started, I didn’t plan to work for 50 years, but was very conscious of the fact that God had called me into this thing ... I loved the kids. They were like adrenaline to my system.” This Inter-Varsity vocation took Cathie to each of Canada’s provinces, as well as to Jamaica, pioneering high-school chapters in addition to her university work. She also directed Pioneer Camps in Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia. Although Cathie never married and had no children, she yet had thousands of young people around the world for whom she was a life-changing mentor and life-long friend. Many are now themselves models of similar holistic expressions of faith in educational institutions and relationship-oriented communities across the globe.

For more on Cathie Nicholl, see: www.canadianchristianleaders.org; Wilbur Sutherland & IMAGO produced a video of Cathie’s work in 1990, titled: *This May Be Your Life’s Work: A film about Christian Leadership Training Based on the Life of Cathie Nicholl.*

Applications for CNS scholarship:

- * To be submitted by April 27th to linlathenlectures@gmail.com, cc kjeffreyjohnson@gmail.com.
- * Must include two personal references: one from clergy/chaplain/or university professor, the other from someone who has known you for at least 5 years.
- * Please include CV.

* Please answer the following 6 questions on a separate page:

1. Explain why you are interested in being a Cathie Nicholl Scholar at Linlathen.
2. How did you find out about this scholarship?
3. What specifically about the 2018 Linlathen conference theme appeals to you?
4. What is your current area of academic study? (this need not relate specifically to conference theme)
5. What are your personal areas of leadership skills?
6. If you were given an opportunity to contribute in leadership to this conference, what area(s) would most appeal (music, reading, acting, leading discussion, outdoor activities, walks, prayer, etc) ?

* A copy of the books *Faith, Hope, and Poetry*, and *Mariner. A Voyage with Samuel Taylor Coleridge* by Malcolm Guite will be included as part of the scholarship award. The Cathie Nicholl Scholar will be expected to read at least the first of these in advance of the conference, as well as familiarize him or herself with the work of A Rocha Canada (arocha.ca) and Imago Arts ([imago-arts](http://imago-arts.com)). To read more about the Linlathen Lectures, please go to ww.linlathen.com.

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