



THE BLAZER

CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE · SPRING 2009

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*International Peace
Initiative*

EDITOR'S NOTE

During my brief residency in the seat of the Communications Director I've been fortunate to get an insider's look at what makes this small university special.

My own undergraduate studies took place in a large university where faculty took perverse pleasure—it seemed—in declaring on our first day that many of us would fail out of the journalism program. We were constantly being shaped for the highly competitive environs of the modern newsroom. I survived the cuts, but walked away disillusioned after graduation.

CMU's halls seem positively warm in comparison: the ample couches that invite friendly conversations (and naps, as I've noticed), the friendly greetings of faculty and staff, and classroom sizes that invite discussion and relationship.

The students I have met speak of service and mission; they talk about bringing meaningful change in the world. In my other role, teaching development ethics at Menno Simons College, I have often been invigorated by the passionate class discussions about global justice, the work of international development and the role Canada, and Canadians, should play in the world. The energy is almost electrifying.

And as the list of graduates heading off to Masters programs—including one of the most prestigious in the world—indicates, the academic requirements are rigorous. Being a small university certainly doesn't mean sacrificing quality.

It has been a privilege to experience this first-hand. I invite you to do the same.

Carol Thiessen, Interim Editor

MOVING?

Drop us a line, fill out the web form at www.cmu.ca/alumni.html or email alumni@cmu.ca



Outtatown graduate Lisa Schellenberg shares a moment with mom Gwyn Schellenberg.

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On the cover: Adelia Neufeld Wiens adjusts Jeff Metcalfe's hood before the Graduation Ceremony.



Largest Graduating Class

CMU AWARDS DEGREES TO 80 STUDENTS;
92 GRADUATE FROM OUTTATOWN

BY JOSIAH NEUFELD

You face a different world than graduates did a year ago, Dr. Nettie Wiebe told CMU's 2009 graduating class as they readied themselves to shift the tassels from one side of their mortarboards to the other.

Wiebe, an organic farmer, environmental activist, co-founder of Via Campesina—an international peasant movement—and professor of Church and Society at St. Andrew's College in Saskatchewan, spoke at the commencement service April 26.

"Your prospects look noticeably different than they did one graduating class ago," she said to the 80 students, CMU's largest ever graduating class, in a gymnasium packed with family and friends. The economy is failing, workers are losing their jobs, the gap between the rich and poor is widening, and climate change is dealing a harsh blow to the planet's most vulnerable populations, Wiebe warned.

"It will require radical and fundamental social, political, cultural and economic changes to stem the destruction and injustices among us," she said.

"But I want to persuade you that the most important gift you can bring is hope in the work you are going to do.... Hope is not fantasy or wishful thinking. Real hope is grounded in faith and kept alive by loving action."

At the Baccalaureate service earlier in the day, Abe Bergen, Director of Enrolment Services, urged the graduating class to imprint the Scripture passage from Isaiah 30:21 on their minds as they searched for the way of God: "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'"

Many of this year's graduates are poised to follow the voice Bergen alluded to in ways of their own. Darren Neufeld, who graduated with a four-year B.A., majoring in psychology, has been accepted into the University of Manitoba's pre-Master's clinical psychology program.

During his studies at CMU, Neufeld conducted an independent thesis examining the threats both success and failure can pose to individuals. "I want



to make sure faith is evident in my work,” said the Howden, Man. native. “I want to be an instrument of healing for others.”

Joseph Naimodu travelled from much further than Howden to pursue a degree at CMU. Naimodu, who hails from Kenya, graduated with a three-year B.A. focused on theology and international development. He came to Canada hoping to find a school where he could study those two fields in tandem.

“I was inspired not just to be a minister in church, but to be involved with bringing physical transformation. Africa struggles with poverty. We need wholistic development as well as spiritual development,” said Naimodu.

Sandra Dueck said the Bachelor of Music Therapy degree she earned at CMU taught her about applying faith to her vocation. Dueck will be doing a six-month internship at Baycrest Hospital in Toronto following her graduation. Her work will involve using music to reduce stress in elderly patients. Music can be used to help patients come out of their isolation, she said.

“I think CMU prepared me very well,” said Dueck. “The Christian foundation really benefitted me. Christianity and music therapy are really tied together as a whole.”

The April 26th ceremonies were not the only graduation celebrations at CMU.

A week earlier, 92 students graduated from CMU’s eight-month Outtatown Discipleship School, which takes young adults through vigorous life training and experience, stretching across Canada and to either Guatemala or South Africa.

“To me Outtatown was about seeing in full-colour,” said Kendra Matheson, speaking at Outtatown’s graduation celebration. Matheson described worshipping with abandon in Guatemala, experiencing full-on thrills, and growing in her understanding of a vibrant God. “He calls us to love him to the fullest,” she said.

Matheson, from St. Mary’s, Ont., described how the Outtatowners were immediately immersed into community life through canoe trips and camp life. “I looked back after a month and all of a sudden I had friends that were better than ones I’ve had for 18 years back home. That’s what Outtatown does,” she said.

Gavin Hall, associate pastor of Assiniboia-Charleswood Community Church in Winnipeg, and instructor at Outtatown, challenged the graduates to be faithful, fertile and fruitful disciples. He compared their experiences as disciples-in-training to the young Samuel in I Samuel. “It is never too early to be what you could be,” he told them. **B**



CMU graduate Janelle Hume (R), with her mom Karen Hume (L).



CMU CHANGES GRADUATE'S VIEW OF WORLD

“CMU changed my view of the world.” That’s how Emily Loewen sums up the impact CMU has had on her life.

Loewen, who graduated in April with a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree, says she used to separate church from the rest of her life. But when she arrived at CMU from her home in Langley, B.C., her immersion in dorm life, her interaction with professors, and especially the teaching in her classes began to change how she viewed her faith.

“In my theology classes I have gained a better understanding of the scriptures and why as a Mennonite I believe what I do. In my biology classes I have come to see God in the wonderful intricacies of creation. In international development I have learned that God is present in the food choices I make, how I use transportation and how I advocate for the poor,” says Loewen.

“In psychology and sociology I have come to understand how my faith can be used in my relationships and interactions with others. In politics I have seen God in the polling booth and in relations with the government,” says Loewen, who will intern with the MCC/UN Liaison office in New York this summer. In September, she begins work as a Legislative Intern with the Manitoba Legislature.

“My faith has become more real to me. I now see God in every aspect of my life.”



KENYAN FINDS UNEXPECTED COMMUNITY AT CMU

When Joseph Naimodu arrived at CMU in 2006—fresh off the airplane afrom Kenya—he struggled to remember the names of all the people he met. “Everyone looked the same,” he recalls.

But over three years studying theology and international development studies at CMU, many of those strange faces have become close friends.

In fact, when he looks back at his time at CMU, people are what stand out. “I think we have a great community here, and they have made studying easier for me,” says Naimodu, who graduated with a three-year Bachelor of Arts degree.

Now Naimodu is returning to his Maasai community, which sits on the edge of Kenya’s Great Rift Valley. There he will be working for his church, Olepolos Community Mennonite Church, directing a child development project in partnership with Compassion International.

And while he’s excited to see his family and friends again, and tend his farm, he’ll leave knowing he’s leaving new “family” behind in Canada. “Before I came here people said, ‘Oh, North Americans are very individualist. They don’t care about other people.’ That certainly wasn’t the case here. I’ll miss this community.”



OUTTATOWN RANKS HIGH FOR FUN AND FAITH

For Jason Attema, Outtatown ranked off the charts in both fun and spiritual impact.

“Hands down the most fun year of my life,” says Attema, of Edmonton. “How can you top meeting 30 new people, going halfway around the world with them, and experiencing these crazy, ridiculous things with them?”

CMU’s Outtatown Disciple School is full of adventure—from bungee jumping to mountain climbing to surfing. But fun was only one part of Attema’s year.

Attema, who attends Edmonton’s Covenant Christian Reformed Church, entered Outtatown straight out of high school, having gone to Christian schools all his life. But the first semester’s experiences in Western Canada, including seeing the harsh realities of life for many people on Canada’s hard-bitten inner city streets, really opened his eyes. He says he saw God in those places. “Those were the spiritual moments,” he says.

Attema’s second semester in South Africa also impacted him profoundly. “There are way too many Christians in our society who care too much about not doing the wrong thing, and forget about doing the right thing,” he says. “This semester completely forced us out of the comfort of our homes and into the places where faith is really tested.”

Outtatown also challenged Attema to re-evaluate his life goals. He had planned to study engineering next year; now he thinks missions may be in his future. “I don’t want my relationship with God to be confined to a set of rules that I follow. I want my faith to mean something, not just to me, but to the rest of the world as well.”



MSC GRAD CHALLENGED AND HUMBLLED BY PRACTICA

Kendra Williams came to Menno Simons College looking for a well-rounded program in International Development Studies—one that analyzed development from both institutional and grassroots levels.

She found her courses at MSC did just that—and more. Williams, from Thunder Bay, Ont., also completed two practicum placements as part of her double major in International Development Studies (IDS) and Conflict Resolution Studies (CRS).

She first volunteered with the Center for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society in Jaipur, India, where she was impressed by the local expertise and devotion to community development—and how little she knew. “It was humbling going as a Westerner to another country and being really ineffective,” she says with a laugh. “They were really doing us a favour.”

“What I gained most from the experience was the cross-cultural learning,” says Williams.

Then for her CRS practicum, Williams volunteered with the Youth Peacebuilding Project in Winnipeg, part of CMU’s Institute for Community Peacebuilding, which brings together youth from diverse backgrounds to build positive relationships. “I found that my CRS practicum was really helpful in terms of learning. It totally backed up what I had been studying in class.”

Williams says the tight-knit student community and knowledgeable, approachable faculty also made her Menno Simons experience a positive one. “MSC does a great job of making everyone feel welcome.”



Behind the Scenes at CMU

BY JOHN LONGHURST

The body of Christ, the Apostle Paul reminds us, is made up of many parts, and all of the parts play important roles.

This includes the parts that might seem, at first glance, to be less important. It is quite the opposite, Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12: 22-23: “On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour.”

What’s true for the church is also true for a place like CMU. It takes a lot of people to run a university. In addition to the faculty, there are staff who answer phones, clean the classrooms, keep the aging boilers running, help students register for courses, repair things when they break, design posters and brochures, assist with residential life, cook and serve food, maintain the website, plough snow off the sidewalks, cut the grass and a hundred other essential things.

Most of these activities are hidden, or hard to see. But if just one part of this body breaks down or fails to do his or her part, the business of the university—educating students—can grind to a halt.

“When people think of a university, they can tend

to think of the faculty, who usually are more visible,” says CMU President Gerald Gerbrandt. “The people who are more behind the scenes might not get as much attention. But they are every bit as important—or maybe even more important if the boiler in the residence breaks down on a cold winter night, or the Internet goes down.”

Out of the many staff who work behind the scenes at CMU, we’ve chosen eight to feature in this issue of *The Blazer*. They stand in for all who make it possible for the university to fulfill its mission; indeed, they see



their work as part of CMU's mission to prepare students to be leaders in church and society.

As Gerbrandt says: "When students graduate, it is common for them to acknowledge the impact that faculty had on their lives. That is normal, since they see and interact with them a lot. They usually don't say anything about the staff, since they are less visible.

But the truth is the work of the faculty simply could not be possible without the dedicated work of the staff. They are owed a huge debt of gratitude."

Ron Boese
Director of Maintenance

Ron Boese has worked at CMU for 25 years, making him one of the longest-serving staff here. So what keeps him going?

"Working at CMU is not only a job," he says. "It's my mission. I really enjoy watching young people grow up, become active in the church and take their life and their faith seriously."



Boese's job is to keep the campus in good working order, and comfortable for students. "Through my work, I hope that it will be easier for them to study," he says.

He also likes to get to know students, joke with them and encourage them, particularly during stressful points, like crunch time at the end of semesters. "I hope I can help them see that they can get through the tough times, and maybe put a smile on their face," he says.

"We also pray for the students. To us, they aren't a number. They are persons we want to serve and see grow and reach their full potential as Christians and in the careers they choose."

Joyce Friesen
Development Administrative Coordinator



When you give to CMU, there's one person who always knows about it: Joyce Friesen. It's her job to make sure that your donation goes to the place you want it to go, and that you get your receipt and a thank-you.

That, at least, is what's in her job description. But Friesen sees it as much larger than that.

"I like to think that the work we do as support staff sets the stage for CMU to provide quality education in a Christian environment," she says. "I also see that part of my job is to encourage students."

Friesen knows how important that is. Two of her three sons are students at CMU's Shaftesbury campus, and all three were part of Outtatown, CMU's adventure and discipleship school.

"The church needs young adults who will grow up to be genuine people of God," she says.

"At CMU they can be challenged to have a strong faith in God, which

will enable the church to grow." Friesen speaks glowingly of her sons' experience in Outtatown.

"It was fabulous. It enabled them to make the faith they had grown up with their own. It was a safe place to ask the tough questions together with their peers, with the guidance of some pretty amazing site leaders."

Marcus Fowler
Program Manager, Outtatown

His business card might say "Program Director" but Marcus Fowler's job is part teacher, mentor, promoter, educator and tour arranger and guide.

"My job involves hiring, training and mentoring site leaders; working with partners at various camps, hostels, churches and retreat centres to arrange accommodations; working with instructors to determine curriculum and to arrange speaking assignments; maintaining relationships with ministry partners in South Africa and Guatemala; working alongside the CMU admissions team to recruit students; and working alongside the CMU communications team to promote and spread the word about Outtatown," he says.

It's an exhaustive—and exhausting—list, but Fowler, a former Outtatown site leader in South Africa is energized by the activity.



“I am very passionate about the mission of Outtatown,” he says. “I feel that the work I have done has contributed to the mission of helping students know God, know themselves and know the world.”

But what gives him the most energy is working with students and site leaders.

“I love working with people who are passionate about discipleship and radical faith in Jesus,” he says. “I also love seeing the students grow and change as a result of their Outtatown experience.”

He is also passionate about the need for Christian youth to get out of their comfort zones—spiritually and physically—through a program like Outtatown.

“Outtatown provides an amazing opportunity for young people to rediscover the joy of learning, grow in their faith and to have an adventure of a lifetime,” he says.

**Susan Pharaoh
Receptionist**

If you’ve ever called CMU, you’ve encountered Susan Pharaoh. Hers is the pleasant voice you hear welcoming you to the university. But she is much more than someone



who answers the phone: she also gives encouragement, advice and, when necessary, hugs to students.

“I want to treat everyone with respect,” Pharaoh says. “I want my work environment to be inclusive and friendly.”

A visit to the reception area shows that many people find it a friendly place to be; it’s often crowded with students who are looking for someone to talk to.

“Many students are living far from home,” she says. “Some of them need someone older to talk and relate to. I can be an older friend, providing a listening ear.”

For her, it’s all part of how CMU offers students a safe Christian atmosphere. “It’s not just about doing our jobs, as important as they are. It’s about being there for students, no matter what our jobs are,” she says. “That’s what makes the work at CMU so meaningful.”

**Bre Woligroski
Director of Student Services,
Menno Simons College**

Student Services, Recruitment, Student Life and Alumni Services—these are the kinds of things that keep Bre Woligroski busy.

“My job entails a lot of things—academic advising, academic and career resources, scholarships, student events, the *MSC Currents* newsletter, promotion and more,” she says.

She sees Student Services as an integral part of the MSC learning community, including the education that occurs outside of the classroom. “I love being present at that moment when students realize their abilities and gifts,” she says. “I often have the honour of walking with them to that point where they achieve something which they originally didn’t think was possible, whether that’s achieving a specific grade or an ambitious goal or project, or planning a large event.”

Woligroski says it is “great, and humbling, to be part of that process. I truly believe—and have seen—



our students change the world. I love that.”

Of MSC itself, Woligroski says: “It is so rare in this world to find a place where diversity is celebrated, where different perspectives are valued, where people can be so different, and yet unified by values such as human rights and human dignity. A place like Menno Simons College is so badly needed in this world.”

**Tim Rempel
Director of Residential Life**

It’s hard to know when Tim Rempel’s job starts and stops. Whenever there is a need in the residence, no matter what time of day, he is ready to respond.

It can make for some late nights, or no nights at all. But for him, it’s worth it.



"I really enjoy seeing students grow over their time at CMU," he says. "When they arrive as first-year students, they are such untapped reservoirs. Over the three or four years they are here I get to watch them grow and blossom and emerge as people who believe they can change the world."

He also enjoys being part of their journey of self-discovery.

"The most common concern students have is figuring out what they should do with their lives," he says. "They want to find their calling, and see how the Lord is going to lead them. I try to provide a context where they can seek what God wants them to do with their life."

Rempel also wants to provide a safe place where students can deal with the hard questions about life and faith.

"Together we are a community of learners, moving forward to find out what God wants us all to do to serve the world. Being part of those conversations with students is one of the things I like best about my job," he says.

**Adelia Neufeld Wiens
Coordinator of Student Advising**

Adelia Neufeld Wiens doesn't teach any courses, but her work impacts every student at CMU.



"Every single registration and course change form from every student crosses my desk," she says. "Through my work I help ensure that they are taking the right courses so they can achieve their educational goals."

But dealing with forms, as important as that is, isn't what gives her the most joy.

"I love helping students get a sense of what their future might look like," she says of the many hours she spends talking to them about their programs. "I love it when I can find a course that excites them and helps them get the degrees they want."

Of her work at CMU, she says: "I feel passionately that the church and society needs a school like CMU. CMU helps to create thinking Christians for the church. I'm glad I can play a role in that."

**Diane Hiebert
Assistant to the President**

Diane Hiebert's job is to assist Gerald Gerbandt—and she does that. But she also assists the Vice President of Administration and Finance as well as the Human Resources Director. And she is the person who makes sure that your registration for Refreshing Winds or the Church in Ministry Seminars is received and taken care of.

Plus, if you live in southern Manitoba, she makes sure you get to hear Sunday@CMU on the Golden West Radio Network each Sunday morning.

In her work for the radio program, Hiebert lines up guests and speakers, arranges for studio time and prepares the script for the on-air personality. "I really enjoy my work with Sunday@CMU," says Hiebert. "Not only is it a way to serve people by providing great music and inspiring meditations,



it's also an excellent way to showcase CMU."

She also finds it fulfilling when people find inspiration and regeneration at events like Refreshing Winds, CMU's biennial conference on worship and music.

"It was great to see people here in January who were obviously inspired and refreshed by taking in the conference," she says. "It was good to have played a part in making it happen." **B**



CMU SIGNS ON TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE INITIATIVE



The heads of Winnipeg's universities and RID 5550 sign the MOU for an international peace initiative. They are: (L-R) Harold Law, District Governor, RID 5550; Lloyd Axworthy, President & Vice-Chancellor, University of Winnipeg; Gerald Gerbrandt, President, Canadian Mennonite University; Raymonde Gagné, Rectrice, Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface; and David Barnard, President & Vice-Chancellor, University of Manitoba. Students representing the universities observe the signing.

CMU has joined hands with three other Winnipeg universities and Rotary International to invite students from countries around the globe to study peace and human rights in Winnipeg.

A Memorandum of Understanding for an international peace initiative was signed at a public ceremony on April 7 between Rotary International District 5550 (RID 5550), CMU, University of Winnipeg, University of Manitoba and Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface.

"A wise sage has said, 'It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness.' Today we are acting on that adage," said CMU President Gerald Giesbrecht at the ceremony. "Canadian Mennonite University is thrilled to join with other Winnipeg universities, and Rotary International, to make Winnipeg a world renowned centre for the study of peace and justice, a city which will become a magnet for students wanting to study how we can live together

on this globe in a way which respects the human rights of each inhabitant," he continued.

Rotary International is an international service club that has long been committed to advancing peace and international understanding around the world. The new initiative will see RID 5550 inviting students to Winnipeg to visit the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, which is slated to open in 2012. The students will also be offered other educational opportunities in peace and human rights at participating universities.

"We believe that peace is only possible when people know each other," said Wilfrid Wilkinson, the Immediate Past President of Rotary International. "We're laying the groundwork for Canada who has been a leader in these things to take an even greater role."

Educating for peace and justice is also paramount to CMU's foundational commitments. Currently, there are 16 faculty who teach in the

areas of international development, conflict resolution and peace studies at CMU's Shaftesbury Campus and Menno Simons College. More than 1000 students are taking courses in these areas at Menno Simons College alone.

"It's a very important opportunity for Menno Simons and Canadian Mennonite University to let the broader community know how much we do in terms of education for peace and conflict resolution," said Paul Redekop, who is Dean of Social Sciences and Dean of Menno Simons College.

Niki Enns Fehr, who spoke on behalf of CMU students at the signing ceremony, later said it was exciting to see the four universities cooperating on such an important initiative. "It will really diversify our institutions with international perspectives," said Enns Fehr, who graduated in April with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies.

"I think Mennonites shouldn't lose sight of the fact that we have a lot to bring to the table, but it's also important to include new perspectives," she continued.

Nöelle DePape, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Conflict Resolution at Menno Simons College in 2003, represented the University of Winnipeg at the ceremony. Now the executive director of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM), DePape said the only way to build lasting peace is for people, and institutions, to come together in a common goal.

"I think it's really exciting. It's fantastic to see universities, and the Rotary Club and non-governmental organizations like the Canadian Museum for Human Rights working together," said DePape. "I think there is a real vision." **B**

GRADUATE SCHOOLS INCREASINGLY OPEN TO CMU STUDENTS

Graduate schools across Canada, and around the world, are increasingly opening their doors to CMU students.

At least nine members of the graduating class of 2009 are going on to Masters level studies in a wide range of programs. "This is a testimony to CMU's quality of education, as well as the hard work and academic ability of our students," says President Gerald Gerbrandt.

Gerbrandt also credits CMU's

October 2008 admission into the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), the body that represents 94 Canadian universities, for making the admissions process easier for CMU graduates.

"We have a long list of CMU graduates who have previously moved on to graduate programs, but their admissions often required considerable negotiation and lobbying on our part," Gerbrandt explains. "The AUCC membership

means other universities are more quickly recognizing the quality of our degrees."

T.S. Christianson, who graduated with a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree, was offered academic scholarships for graduate programs at the University of Manitoba (U of M), Dalhousie University and the University of Alberta (U of A). He chose U of A.

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CMU STUDENT ACCEPTED INTO PRESTIGIOUS PROGRAM

A CMU student has been accepted into one of the most prestigious peace studies programs in North America.

Niki Enns Fehr, of Winnipeg, is one of 20 students from around the world accepted into the Masters of Arts in Peace Studies program at the Kroc Institute for International

Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.

"I was very pleased to be accepted," says Enns Fehr, who graduated in April with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies (PACTS). "It's a very dynamic program."

Enns Fehr, a member of the Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship, is especially looking forward to the international nature of the program; about three-quarters of the students come from outside the U.S.

"Niki is a compassionate soul, with a sharp mind who is unafraid to embody peace wherever she goes," says Jarem Sawatsky, Assistant Professor of Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies at CMU. "The Kroc Institute is the most prestigious Masters program in Peace Studies in the world, and they are lucky to get to her."

"She will be a wonderfully compassionate and disruptive presence, demanding that peace talk be incarnated in daily practice."

In addition to her B.A., Enns Fehr also has a Bachelor of Theology from CMU.

Enns Fehr is the second student connected to CMU to study at the Kroc Institute. Christine Braun, who graduated from Menno Simons College in 2004 with a degree in Conflict Resolution Studies, also went on to the Peace Studies program. She graduated from the Kroc Institute in 2008. She is currently working for the Canadian government at the Canadian Mission to the Organization of American States, in Washington, D.C.

The PACTS program at CMU's Shaftesbury campus provides students with an understanding of human conflict, and gives them alternative ways of dealing with conflict at the personal, institutional and international levels.

In addition to the PACTS program, CMU offers a major in Conflict Resolution Studies at Menno Simons College, its campus at the University of Winnipeg. **B**



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Music major Rebecca Woodmass has been accepted into a Masters in Opera Performance program at McGill University in Montreal. She has already achieved success in her chosen field, placing high in Metropolitan Opera auditions in Minneapolis in January.

Michael Alty, who graduated in the fall of 2008, has already started an M.A. in International Studies at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. He was also accepted into the National University of Singapore in a similar program.

Alongside Niki Enns Fehr (see box on page 12), the list of graduates

accepted into graduate programs also includes:

- Amanda Derksen, Masters in Library Science at the U of A;
- Dylan Tarnowsky, Masters in International Public Policy at Wilfred Laurier University after a preliminary year of study;
- Cordella Friesen, joint Masters in Public Administration at the U of M and U of W;
- Kelly MacNab, Masters in Rural Development at the University of Brandon;
- Darren Neufeld, clinical psychology program at U of M for pre-M.A. studies;
- Stephanie Penner, Masters

in Education at U of M, with a specialization in Adult and Post-Secondary Education.

CMU students are also finding greater success entering post-degree education programs.

In the past, U of M accepted CMU graduates but not the University of Winnipeg (U of W), while students achieved mixed success at other universities. Next year at least three CMU graduates will be entering the U of W's post-degree education program.

"The AUCC membership has been instrumental in opening these doors," says Gerbrandt. **B**

CMU STUDENT DOES PRACTICUM AT WINNIPEG'S CITY HALL

It's not easy to see or talk to the Mayor of Winnipeg—he's a very busy man. But that wasn't a problem for CMU student Cordella Friesen. She was able to see Mayor Sam Katz every week.

Friesen, who graduated this April with a degree in Political Studies, didn't need to pull any special strings to get access to the Mayor. All she needed to do was show up for work as an intern in his office.

"It was an amazing experience," says Friesen. "It was great to get an inside look at how city government works."

As an intern, Friesen spent one day a week at City Hall during the school year doing a variety of administrative duties such as research, responding to requests from residents and assisting with the Mayor's communications.

She also sat in on City Council meetings and the Executive Policy Committee (EPC)—also called the Mayor's "cabinet." The EPC formulates recommendations for City Council about policies, plans, budgets, by-laws and other matters.

Of her time in the Mayor's office, Friesen says she came away with the deep conviction that "people who work there really have the best interests of the residents of Winnipeg at heart."

She was disappointed, however, to discover how little interest people show in their city government.

"This is the level of government that is closest to people, but very few seem to have any interest in how it works, or in the decisions that affect their lives," she says.

"It's been great having Cordella with us in the office," says Mayor Sam Katz. "She has a tremendous work ethic and positive energy that was noticed by everyone on our staff. She brought a fresh and exciting perspective to the office, and fit right into the team."

Katz's Chief of Staff Sherwood Armbruster adds: "She is not just diligent and hardworking, but brings life and energy as well. Having a student from CMU in the Mayor's Office has been a terrific experience."

In addition to the great experience,



the internship provided Friesen with another benefit—she is working in the Mayor's office for the summer.

Practicum assignments are a requirement for all students who wish to graduate from CMU. They can be done part-time throughout the school year, or full-time over the course of the summer or a semester. The goal is to provide students with hands-on experience, provide needed services and enable them to test their career interests. In 2008, 126 students did practicums in Canada or around the world. **B**

TONY CAMPOLO CHALLENGES YOUTH TO FACE THEIR FEARS

Decades later, the memory still haunts Tony Campolo.

It happened many years ago, when the now 74-year-old former university professor was in high school. A boy at his school, named Roger, was gay. The other boys bullied him incessantly, heaping abuse after abuse on him.

One evening, Roger couldn't take it anymore. He went home and killed himself.

"As a Christian, I knew I should have stood up for Roger, but I didn't," Campolo told about 400 youth at Face Your Fears, the March 6-8 CMU Peace, Praise and Pray It Together (PIT) Conference. "I was afraid to be Roger's friend."

He didn't stand up, Campolo said, because he was afraid of what the bullies would think of him. "I didn't want them to think I was like Roger, that I was 'one of them.' I didn't do what I should have done."

A fear about standing up for what is right was just one of the fears Campolo spoke about at the annual event, which brings youth from Ontario to B.C. to the university for a weekend of presentations, inspiration, workshops and activities.

Other fears Campolo addressed included a fear of being seen for what we really are, of being rejected and being condemned by God.

"I'm afraid that people will find out what I am really like, that my Christianity is a pretend game," he said. "I'm afraid they will find out what the real Tony Campolo is like."

He also admitted that, as a younger person, he was afraid of being condemned by God.

"I was afraid that God would remember my sins and shortcomings and judge me," he said. "But Jesus has blotted them all out—he remembers my sins no more . . . we have a forgetful God. We should not fear condemnation."

One way he counters his fears is through prayer, he said.

He challenged conference-goers to not just believe in Christ, but "to be disciples."

"The church is full of believers, but few who are disciples," he stated, adding that "when Christ is in you, he empowers you to live out your life for others in the world."

Campolo also encouraged the group to not be afraid to go against the current.

"The world is going to sell you a bill of goods as you grow up," he said. "People will tell you to get a good education so you can get a good job and make a lot of money."

Young people should get "a great education," he said, "but you need to remember that the purpose of education is to learn how to be an agent of God in a world of need."

"Break out of conventional expectations," he said. "Surrender to a God who will ask you to do things that contradict what the world is telling you to do. Be fearless enough

"BE FEARLESS ENOUGH TO BE EMPLOYED FOR THE WORK OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD."

"When you pray, don't tell God what you want," he said. "God doesn't need to be informed. Be still, and don't ask God for anything."



to be employed for the work of the Kingdom of God.”

It isn't always easy, he noted. But, he said, “Christ in me empowers me, makes me courageous, helps me do what I can't do on my own. Love Jesus, invite him into your heart, because perfect love casts out all fear.”

In addition to speaking three times to youth at Peace, Praise and Pray It Together, Campolo also addressed youth leaders at the event, telling them that society is in a transition from modernity to post-modernity, and that “reason and science have exhausted themselves.”

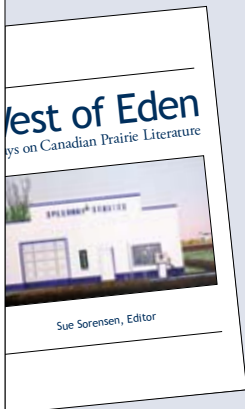
“Young people today are mystical,” he said. “They want to experience God and feel his presence.”

When asked whether there is a danger that this will result in an individualistic “Jesus and me” experience, Campolo replied: “The proof of whether this is a genuine encounter is whether we are involved in the lives of the poor and the oppressed.”

He went on to emphasize the danger of following a cultural Jesus, of “creating God in our image,” with the result that we “end up worshipping ourselves.” Campolo challenged youth leaders to nurture youth into a gospel that is countercultural and challenges the status quo, a life where the goal is “not found in simply becoming wealthy, but in loving others in the way Jesus did.” **B**

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West of Eden

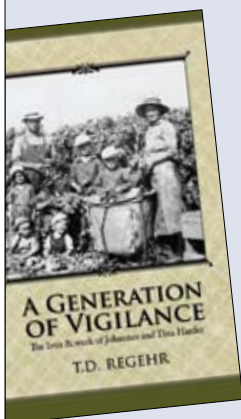
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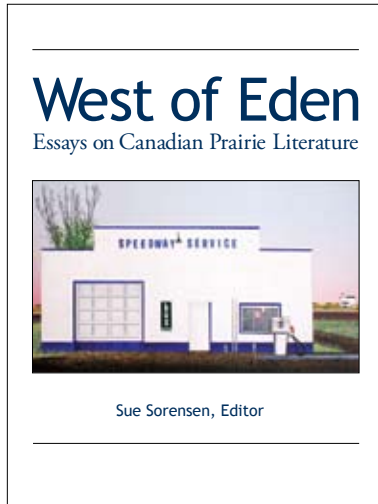
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NEW BOOK EXPLORES MEANING AND SHAPE OF PRAIRIE LITERATURE



If East of Eden is the place God sent Cain after he killed his brother Abel, then where is West of Eden?

For Sue Sorensen, Assistant Professor of English at CMU, it might be the Canadian prairies.

“It’s not paradise, but it’s not so distant from the garden,” she writes in her introduction to *West of Eden: Essays on Canadian Prairie Literature*, a new book that explores the meaning and shape of writing about the prairies.

“To be West of Eden is certainly not ideal: it is not the garden itself. Yet surely this western spot is not so distant from the glory of the garden,” she continues.

The question of just how close to or far from paradise the prairies are is the imaginative concept behind the book of essays, which is published by CMU Press.

In the book, which is edited by Sorensen, 17 scholars reflect on well-known prairie writers such as Rudy Wiebe, Frederick Philip Grove and Margaret Laurence, as well as

Winnipeg-born singer-songwriter Neil Young. There’s also an analysis of National Film Board depictions of the prairies, and a reflection on the gopher as a prairie icon.

“This collection aims to reopen or revitalize some of the debates about the identity of prairie people and what our literature looks like,” says Sorensen, noting that in recent years critics have turned away from defining and evaluating prairie literature and moved toward more trendy issues in cultural and literary studies.

“I wanted the scholars within the collection to revisit some of the basic questions,” she says. Those questions include: “How important is realism in prairie literature?” and “How influential is the landscape?”

Those “basic questions” provide a jumping off point for many of *West of Eden’s* noteworthy contributors. Pamela Banting of the University of Calgary works from the ground up in her essay, “Deconstructing the Politics of Location.” Debra Dudek from the University of Wollongong in Australia offers pedagogical insights gleaned from teaching Robert Kroetsch’s long poem, *Seed Catalogue*. And Dennis Cooley, well-known poet and professor at the University of Manitoba, offers a playful overview of the key critical issues facing prairie literature in the last few decades in his essay, titled “The Critical Reception of Prairie Literature.”

According to literary icon and Manitoba author Robert Kroetsch, “*West of Eden* takes us to a new stage in prairie writing,” with Sorensen leading “us in a multi-voiced celebration.”

“What makes *West of Eden* compelling, relevant, even necessary reading is its insistence that the culture of the Canadian prairies is integral to our understanding of living in this place,” adds Christian Riegel from Campion College at the University of Regina.

“I wanted to create a book that is engaging and accessible to those who have recently stepped into the field of Prairie Literature,” says Sorensen, adding that “I want *West of Eden* to be useful not only to scholars, but also to university and high school students, and to the general reading public.”

West of Eden can be purchased from the CMU bookstore by contacting cmubookstore@cmu.ca or from your local bookstore. The cost is \$28.95.



Sue Sorensen

CMU Press is an academic publisher of scholarly, reference, and general interest books at Canadian Mennonite University. Books from CMU Press address and inform interests and issues vital to the university, its constituency, and society. Areas of specialization include Mennonite studies, and works that are church-oriented or theologically engaged. **B**

ASKING HARD QUESTIONS PART OF OUTTATOWN EXPERIENCE

Two countries, 92 students, 12 site leaders. The questions? Endless.

For students participating in Outtatown, CMU's Discipleship School, the world is their classroom. After their first semester in Canada they head overseas to Guatemala or South Africa for three months, where they are immersed in a new culture and often confronted with harsh realities.

There they learn from their instructors, from host families, and from those they work alongside. They learn through experiencing heart-stopping adventure and from service opportunities, such as planting gardens and building homes for Habitat for Humanity. And they learn from asking questions—even when there are no easy answers.

In Guatemala, Christina Janzen saw a beautiful country still ravaged by the effects of a civil war, where distrust of government, quarrels over land, and hatred between ethnic groups still exists. "Many others still struggle with unemployment as traditional skills change and life is more urbanized," she says, reflecting on seeing hundreds of people scavenging for recyclables in Guatemala City's dump.

"As we gradually learn about politics, history and traditions, we have to wrestle with the appropriate response. What do we do? How should I be a witness for peace?" Janzen, from Winnipeg, continues.

"We ask questions and we don't always get the answer," says Kendra Matheson, from St. Mary's, Ont., also part of the Guatemala group. "I'm learning through questions."

For Scott McIntosh, from Arthur, Ont., learning about the social stigma of HIV/AIDS in South Africa, where people are often too scared to be tested, didn't come with any easy answers either. "AIDS patients often wait until it's too late to get treatment because they are afraid of the stigma of being diagnosed with HIV. Many die because they've waited too long," he reflects.

Still, he says his group learned much about the complexity of HIV/AIDS. "I was grateful for this opportunity to understand more about how the social and medical components of AIDS interact."

Outtatowners also learn from having their assumptions challenged. When Peter Isaak set off on his South African homestay with an Afrikaner family, he expected to meet a conservative, proper family who lived in an ostentatious home.

"To my surprise, I felt at home almost instantly. Their house reminded me of one I would find in my neighbourhood, their family reminded me of families from my home church, and their overall attitude was so familiar," says Isaak, from Fresno, Calif.

"I have learned that no matter the history of the country of origin, there are decent Christians on every corner of the earth."

Meanwhile, after a homestay in the comfortable home of an Afrikaner family, Ryan Caldwell's homestay with a black African family in Soweto raised disturbing questions. "Why is there a difference in affluence between the cultures of the Afrikaners and those who live in Soweto?" the Kingston,

Ont. native asked. The answer he received from a Soweto pastor—that Christian missionaries, and the European culture they imparted, were part of the problem—was equally troubling.

Amy Beckwith, of Gorham, Maine, also struggled with the poverty, with the legacy of Apartheid, and with the reality of HIV/AIDS. "How do we process all this? We haven't figured that out quite yet."

But Beckwith also had life-affirming experiences that gave her hope. "The last church we went to had a black man praying in Afrikaans, songs in Zulu, and the sermon in English," she says. "I have definitely been inspired that through God things can change. It is a learning process, but hopefully we can help change things too." **B**



Peter Isaak

Milestone Reached.

CMU reached a milestone in January when it passed the 500 student mark in its undergraduate programs in the arts, music, sciences and biblical studies at its Shaftesbury campus. A total of 506 students were enrolled for the winter semester, an increase of 18 students over the fall semester. "This is a significant achievement," says CMU President Gerald Gerbandt, noting that he was particularly happy to see the increase occur during the second semester—a time when many schools budget for a drop in enrolment. Altogether, 630 students studied through the Shaftesbury campus during the winter semester, including 32 graduate students and 92 students in the Outtatown adventure and discipleship program. Together with over 1000 students at Menno Simons College, CMU's campus at the University of Winnipeg, nearly 1700 students took courses at CMU last semester.

Rudy Wiebe Speaks at CMU. "Where the Truth Lies" was the title of a February 24 presentation by award-winning author Rudy Wiebe at CMU. At the presentation, a fundraiser for

the School of Writing at CMU, Wiebe asked whether fiction "lies," in the sense that it's the resting place of various ways of seeing the world, or whether it "lies" by creating worlds and characters that don't exist. "Some people are suspicious of fiction," said Wiebe, the author of nine novels, four short story collections and seven non-fiction books on Canadian subjects ranging from First Nations people to his Mennonite faith and background. "Since it isn't factual, they don't think it can tell the truth."

Spirit of Generosity Award.

First-year student Nicole Richard is this year's Spirit of Generosity recipient at CMU. Richard is raising money for a Benedictine nun's AIDS orphan project in Uganda. She also sponsors two high school-aged girls—one who lives in Uganda and the other in India. As well, Richard volunteers for Faith and Light, a gathering place for people with intellectual disabilities. The Mennonite Foundation of Canada gives the Spirit of Generosity Award annually to students from Mennonite schools in Canada who have demonstrated a spirit of generosity in their personal lives.

More than 240 students participated in **CMU's Community School of Music & the Arts** in 2008-09, representing a 33 percent growth over last year. The school, in its third year, offers individual voice and instrument lessons, Music for Kids, Art classes and Acting classes for kids. The school will add guitar ensembles and Master Classes this fall. "It's exciting to be able to promote a program that encourages excellence in music and the arts. We are young and growing," says Director Arlene Kroeker. Thanks to a donation from the Kuhl Foundation, modest bursaries are available for families with limited funds. Applications are available on the website at www.cmu.ca/csma/.

Athletic award winners.

Athletic ability, service,

leadership—and two championships—were celebrated March 17 at the annual CMU athletic awards ceremony. The event capped off another successful year of inter-collegiate athletics, which saw the men's hockey and the women's volleyball teams repeat as champions in the Manitoba Collegiate Athletics Conference (MCAC, formerly the Central Plains Athletic Conference). The major award winners this year were: Paul Peters of Winkler, Man. and Maraleigh Short of Rivers, Man. (Male and Female Rookies of the Year); Josh Ewert and Janelle Hume, both of Winnipeg (Male and Female Athletes of the Year); and Alex Leaver of Winnipeg, who received the CMU Trail Blazer Award, which is awarded to the athlete who best exemplifies



Members of the CMU women's volleyball team celebrate winning the MCAC Championships.

the mission and goals of CMU Athletics.

This first annual **Canadian School of Peacebuilding** will be held at CMU June 29-July 10. Two five-day sessions, each with two courses running concurrently, will be offered for academic credit or for training for practitioners. Courses include 'Truth-telling and Peace: an Insider's Perspective on South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Committee.' It will be taught by Piet Meiring, a professor of theology at the University of Pretoria who served on South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

CMU Volunteers Build Dike. Students, staff and faculty traded brain for brawn in early April as they slung sandbags as part of Winnipeg's flood protection efforts. Approximately 50 volunteers from CMU—comprising one in 10 students at CMU—heaved 5000 sandbags to build a 16-inch ring dike around a home just south of Winnipeg. This spring's flood was deemed the third worst in 100 years. "It was a great opportunity to take some time off from studying to do some active service," says Zach Peters, CMU student council president, who



Verna Mae Janzen Vocal Competition winners (L-R) Katie Doke, Melissa Remus and Amanda Bruneau-Schroeder.

helped organize the volunteer event.

Voices Soar at Vocal Competition. Top prize for this year's Verna Mae Janzen vocal competition was awarded to Amanda Bruneau-Schroeder, a third-year music education student from Dugald, Man. Second place went to third-year English student Katie Doke of Regina, and third place to Melissa Remus, a third-year music education student from Emerson, Man. In total, 15 students participated in the competition. Valdine Anderson, an internationally renowned soprano, judged the competition. The annual competition is made possible by Peter Janzen, and is named in memory of his wife, Verna Mae.

Classical Music Still Has A Future in Canada. That's what Eric Friesen proclaimed at the inaugural Friesens' Arts Café series at CMU on March 22. "Classical music still matters as much as it ever did," said Friesen, who spent 24 years with CBC Radio, including 11 years as host of *In Performance*, *Studio Sparks* and *Onstage* from the Glenn Gould Studio. "We as human beings need the transformational experiences it provides." Friesen defined classical music as "that which survives when all else falls away," noting that, in his view, music by people like Miles Davis, Oscar Peterson and Leonard Cohen is classical—along with the more traditional composers like Brahms, Beethoven and Mozart.

The new Friesens' Arts Café series is sponsored by the Friesen Family Foundation and David and Evelyn Friesen of Altona, Man. It will allow CMU to bring well-known artists to the university to perform and share about their art.

CMU Choirs on Tour.

The CMU Singers, a 42-voice choir under the direction of Rudy Schellenberg, visited churches in South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas in April and May. The CMU Chamber Choir, a 17-voice choir under the direction of Janet Brenneman toured Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C. in April and May.

STAFF & FACULTY NOTES

Donald Benham, Instructor in Communications & Media, made a presentation at a workshop sponsored by the Manitoba chapter of the Canadian Public Relations Society. His topic was "Smokers, Cyclists and Swine: Hits and Misses in Government Relations."

George Shillington, Emeriti Professor of Theology, launched *The New Testament in Context*, on April 2, at McNally Robinson.

Dean Peachey,

Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies, has been seconded to the University of Winnipeg's Global College as a Visiting Professor for an 18-month term.

Rudy Schellenberg,

Associate Professor of Music, prepared the Mennonite Festival Chorus (a choir of CMU students, alumni and friends of the university) for a performance of Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* and the *Ninth Symphony*. This sold-out concert took place together with the Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra on April 11. It was conducted by Maestro Alexander Mickelthwate.

Titus Guenther,

Associate Professor of Theology & Missions, has had a book of sermons, *Als neue Menschheit Gottes leben*, published (Winnipeg: Mennonite Church Canada, 2008). The sermons were first broadcast by Mennonite Church Manitoba on its radio program *Frohe Botschaft*.

Jarem Sawatsky,

Assistant Professor of Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies, has received a substantial grant from the

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for a program of research into the phenomenon of healing justice from the standpoint of communities which practice, or are said to practice, such a justice. In 2009, Sawatzky published *The Ethic of Traditional Communities and the Spirit of Healing Justice* (London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers). He also published the article "A Shared Just Peace Ethic: Uncovering Restorative Values" in *Mediation and Facilitation Training Manual, 5th Edition* (Akron, PA: MCC US Office on Justice and Peacebuilding). In 2008, he published *Justpeace Ethics: A Guide to Restorative Justice and Peacebuilding* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books).

Three CMU faculty members have articles in Isaak, J. (ed) (2009) *The Old Testament in the Life of God's People: Essays in Honor of Elmer A. Martens* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns): **Waldemar Janzen**, "Jethro in the Structure of the Book of Exodus;" **Pierre Gilbert**, "The Case of the Venus Flytrap: The Argument of the Book of Job" and **Gordon Matties**, "The Word Made Bitter: At the Table with Joshua, Buber, and Bakhtin."

Ruth Rempel,

Assistant Professor in International Development Studies at Menno Simons College, will be publishing a book, tentatively entitled *A History of Development in Africa* in 2010. It will be a short accessible overview of development trends and issues in the continent since 1970, explored with the eye of a historian. It will be part of Cambridge University Press's New Approaches to African History series.

Kenton Lobe, Instructor in International Development Studies, has had a chapter on the regulatory context of environmental assessment in Manitoba published in *Environmental Impact Assessment: Practice and Participation* (Oxford University Press, 2009).

John J. Friesen,

Professor Emeritus of History and Theology, completed a nine-week series of sessions with the Hutterian Brethren in March. The series dealt with the background and origin of the Hutterian Brethren churches in the 16th century. Most of the sessions were held at CMU, with approximately 60 people from 22 colonies participating.

Paul Dyck, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies and Theology, presented research entitled, "Picturing the Word: Antwerp Biblical Illustrations at Little Gidding," at the Flemish Society for Book History, University of Antwerp, on April 29.

Ismael Mvingi,

Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies, has had two papers published: "The Politics of Entitlement and State Failure in Zimbabwe" in *Peace Research, The Canadian Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies*, Vol 40 (1) (2008): 77-101; and "Transitional Justice Will Have to Wait" in *Oxford Transitional Justice Research Working Paper Series*, February 2009.

Faculty on sabbatical in 2009-2010 are **Jerry Buckland**, Professor of International Development Studies at Menno Simons College; **Lois Edmund**, Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies; **Dan Epp-Tiessen**, Associate Professor of Bible (Winter term); **Janet Brenneman**, Assistant Professor of Music; and **Pamela Leach**, Assistant Professor of Political Studies (Fall term).

Harold Penner (CMBC 1964-66) works at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank as the Manitoba Resource Coordinator. Harold's job takes him all over the province encouraging people—not just farmers—to be a part of ending hunger.

Pat (CMBC 1968-69) and **Ron** (CMBC 1967-69) **Boese** celebrate the birth of their grandson, Maxwell Camron Boese, born on February 25, 2009 to **Shawn** (CMBC 1995-96) and **Jessica** (Nisbet, CMBC '96) **Boese**.

The Old Testament in the Life of God's People: Essays in Honor of Elmer A. Martens, edited by **Jon Isaak** (MBBC '83), was published by Eisenbrauns in January 2009. Jon is an Associate Professor of New Testament at MBBS in Fresno, Calif. Mary Anne (MBBC 1990-92) pastors at College Community Church in Clovis, Calif. In April, Jon and Mary Anne celebrated their son Peter's graduation from CMU's Outtatown program and look forward to their daughter, Rianna, taking part in the program in fall 2009.

Anita Hein-Horsch (CMBC '84) teaches elementary music skills to small children and mentally handicapped youth

at the public music school of Koblenz and Neuwied in Germany. Anita's husband Titus Horsch works with MEDA as the European Director. Anita and Titus have four children, ages 9 to 20.

Willi (CMBC '88) and **Lotti** (Giesbrecht, CMBC '88) **Falk** send greetings from Loma Plata, Paraguay. Willi teaches at a private Mennonite high school and conducts several local choirs; he is looking forward to conducting Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise* with a local community choir and the Asuncion Symphony

in September. Lotti is teaching full-time piano and theory at home. Daughter Anneli, 5, is full of energy and can't wait to start kindergarten.

Brian (CMBC 1993-94) and **Jennifer** (Snyder, '96) **Unrau** welcomed their third child, Cassidy Lauren Snyder Unrau, born February 5, 2009, a sister for Owen, 4, and Leah, 2.

Jonathan Janzen (CC '98) is working part-time as a pastor at Highland Community Church in Abbotsford, B.C. while completing a Masters degree at Regent College in

Vancouver. In Jonathan's thesis he argues that Canadian Mennonites are ill equipped to deal with conflict at the congregational level because they have faulty understandings about peace. Jonathan and **Andrea** (Koop, CC 1993-95) welcomed their third child, Cohen, born February 28, 2009. His older sisters, Avry, 4, and Kendra, 2, are quite pleased with him.

Lucia Eitzen (CMBC '98) is currently working on an M.A. in Counselling Psychology at Trinity Western University; she plans to graduate by the end of the year.

ANCIENT STONES, LIVING STONES: THE HOLY LAND IN PERSPECTIVE; A CMU STUDY TOUR



Now for the sixth time, CMU is offering this popular and highly regarded tour of the Middle East with Gordon Matties, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies & Theology.

During the three-week tour you will:

- Walk into the world of the biblical texts.
- Visit the ancient stones, the important

biblical/archaeological sites, and meet the living stones, the Jews, Christians, and Muslims who call the region home.

- Discover the complexity of conflict and the prospects for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.
- During the tour you will learn more about the wonder and complexity of the ancient and living stones, and see how they coexist side-by-side. When the tour is over, you will be able to say: "I will never read the Bible or the news the same way again."

Date: April 29-May 21, 2010 (tent.)

Cost: TBA

For more information, visit www.cmu.ca/studytour/ or email gmatties@cmu.ca.

Scholarships & Bursaries at CMU

I recently went through the list of scholarships and bursaries that have been donated to CMU. As I read through the long list, I had three thoughts.

First, it is more than just a list of the amount of dollars being made available to CMU students. It is a record of faithfulness, going back many decades and encompassing many lives.

Second, along with being a way to remember and memorialize those who are now gone, it is also a way for them to keep on serving the church—even after death.

And, third, it is a sign of hope in the future—in the future of the church, in the futures of the students who receive them, and in the future of CMU. They are investments that reap rich rewards as students use their education at CMU to prepare for lives of service and reconciliation in the church and the world.

We are grateful to each donor. Through these scholarships and bursaries, they have given gifts that keep on giving. You can also make this kind of investment by contacting me at 1-877-231-4570, or by e-mail at agbergen@cmu.ca.

Abe Bergen, Director of Development

Cheryl Woelk (CMU '02) and Hong-Soek (Scott) Kim were married on March 28, 2009 in Seoul, South Korea. They are headed to Harrisonburg, Va. to attend the 2009 Summer Peacebuilding Institute at Eastern Mennonite University. In September, Cheryl plans to begin a M.A. program at EMU focusing on Education and Conflict Transformation.

Nathan (CMU '02) and **Marla** (Balzer, CMU '02) **Janzen** announce the birth of their first child, Asher Isaiah Janzen, born January 20, 2009.

Catherine Pak (CMU '02) is serving at Malvern Baptist Church, Toronto, as a children's pastor. She married Jimmy Chan in 2007. Her husband serves in the Far East Broadcasting Company as a technical and ministry support.

Katherine (Funk, CMU '02) and her husband Trevor **Wight** live in Abbotsford, B.C. where Trevor teaches at a local high school. They have two sons, Luke, 2, and Benjamin, born December 14, 2008. In addition to being a stay-at-home mom, Katherine finds time to teach seven piano students, serves as acting president on the Valley Festival Singers

Board, and is involved in a moms group at their local church.

Stephen Redekop (CMU '03) & **Katie Friesen** (CMU '07) were married December 6, 2008 in Winnipeg. Stephen is an Admissions Counsellor at CMU while Katie works as a receptionist and public workshop coordinator at the Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute.

Alicia Buhler (CMU '06) is studying at AMBS; she is currently pursuing an M.Div. with a pastoral care and counselling concentration.

Derek and **Laura Thiessen** (CMU '06) announce the birth of their first child, Luke Stanley Thiessen, born June 28, 2008; they have recently moved back to Winkler, Man.

In May, **Reece Retzlaff** (CMU '07) graduated

from AMBS with a Masters of Divinity in Theological Studies. Reece plans to return to Canada and pursue a pastoral position in the fall.

After graduation, **Aaron Purdie** (CMU '08) moved back to his hometown in B.C. Aaron works with adults with developmental disabilities as a Lifeskills and Community Access worker. Aaron also serves as the Music Director of St John the Divine Anglican Church in Squamish. In his community, Aaron is a director on the board of Howe Sound Performing Arts Association and participates as the assistant conductor of the Sea to Sky Singers (30-40 voices).

PASSAGES

David Friesen (MBBC '67) died December 14, 2008 in Abbotsford, B.C.

EVENTS AT CMU

All events at CMU unless otherwise indicated.

June 16: President's Golf Tournament

June 29-July 10: Canadian School of Peacebuilding at CMU

Sept. 10: Classes begin

Sept. 25 & 26: Homecoming 2009

Oct. 20 & 21: J.J. Thiessen Lectures

Nov. 17 & 18: John & Margaret Friesen Lectures

For more information: visit www.cmu.ca



THE ENTREPRENEUR NEEDED TODAY

A major US company recently made news when it revealed that it had paid \$165 million to its senior administrators in bonuses, even as the company floundered and required massive government support to survive. Not surprisingly, a massive outcry resulted.

Those who understand “business” and “service” or “business” and “ethics” as mutually exclusive may have felt their position vindicated. To be sure, greed has often been the motivation behind the more egregious business practices we hear about. But this need not be so.

CMU has recently inaugurated a

program in Business and Organizational Administration. Through this program CMU anticipates helping our future business people and administrators develop their theory of business, as well as their practical skills, within a framework of Christian faith and ethics. By doing this CMU affirms that business indeed can be a “calling,” as MEDA so fittingly puts it, and that service of our fellow humans can and does take place through business.

But that is not the only goal of such a program at CMU. Not only do we hope our business people will learn from the Christian commitment of

CMU, but we trust that all at CMU will learn from the experience and logic of business. And there is much to learn.

At the heart of business is the willingness to take a risk for potential gain. Successful business people are those who assess their environment—some systematically, others more intuitively—and then take the necessary risks. And more often than not these are the right risks, the risks that will bear fruit.

Students and faculty can all benefit from learning this skill of successful risk taking. After all, it is very much related to living the Christian faith in today’s world, regardless of occupation.

Scripture presents us with a vision for a world dramatically different from the world in which we live. Imagining such a world, a world in which violence and greed and fear do not dominate or determine how we treat each other, is radical. Living by such a vision and imagination requires taking a very real risk. For it means living in that world now already before it has fully come to be.

This is what Jesus did when he walked the earth 2000 years ago. And it led to his death. But he took that risk, nevertheless, with the conviction that taking it would produce tremendous gain. One might call him the entrepreneur par excellence.

CMU is about nurturing in students the aptitude to imagine such a different world, giving them the tools required to thrive in such a world, and then, inspiring them to take the risk of living in that world already. Whether one is preparing to be a business person, a professional, or to work in some other career, the church and the world need such entrepreneurs. **B**

Gerald Gerhardt

Different journeys. Common ground.



Class of 1998 at the 2008 Homecoming

September 25-26, 2009

Canadian Mennonite
University's annual fall
event for alumni, students,
parents and friends!

There is something for everyone.

REGISTER EARLY!

Things to do:

- ◆ Get back in the game - Blazer Volleyball & Soccer games
- ◆ Alumni Recital featuring the Friesen Family Band
- ◆ 3rd annual Alumni Blazer Awards
- ◆ Alumni & friends reconnect at class reunions & receptions
- ◆ Go back to the classroom with Gordon Zerbe
- ◆ Get acquainted with the campus by joining one of the walking tours
- ◆ CMU's choirs & ensembles will lead a Worship Service
- ◆ Memories of the Early Years celebrates the classes of 1959
- ◆ Liptonians in concert

Canadian Mennonite University

HOMECOMING

2009

Find out more by visiting
CMU's website: www.cmu.ca



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