



THE BLAZER

CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE • WINTER 2008

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for support*

Editor's Note

The transition from high school to university is a challenging time for Christian youth. It is a time when they ask: "Who am I?" "What do I believe?" And "Why do I believe it?" If they don't take time to wrestle with those questions, they run the risk of having someone else supply the answers.

It's also a time for finding out what they should do with their lives. In his book, *After Virtue*, philosopher Alasdair MacIntyre writes: "I can only answer the question 'What am I to do?' if I answer the prior question: 'Of what story do I find myself a part?'" For Christians, the story that gives meaning and shape to life comes from the overarching narrative of God's work in history.

CMU is a place where students can take time to wrestle with life's big questions. It's a place where they can learn—as CMU's theme verse for the year puts it—to love God with all their heart, soul and mind, and their neighbours as themselves.

CMU is embarking on a process of finding out how it can best help students in the future—how it can help them develop their God given talents and minds so they can serve the church and the world more fully. At the same time, the university is seeking its place in God's grand story for the church in Canada. Your prayers and support in this important endeavor are greatly appreciated!

John Longhurst, Editor

MOVING?

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Kirsten Hamm of Altona, Man. writes a note of gratitude on the "Wall 'O Thanks" during the November 26 Tuition Freedom Day at CMU. See story page 9.

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The Blazer is a publication of CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY, published three times a year.

Editor/Communications Director: John Longhurst | Alumni/Constituency Relations Coordinator: Eleonore Braun

Printed in Canada by Friesens, Altona, MB | Made with recycled paper (30% recycled, 20% post consumer).

Publications agreement number 40686550 | Vol. 3, number 2. ISSN-1715-5843

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: Canadian Mennonite University, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2

Ph. (204) 487.3300 | Toll-free: 1(877) 231.4570 | Fx. (204) 487.3858 | magazine@cmu.ca | www.cmu.ca

On the cover: Michael Friesen, Jonathon Dyck, Zach Peters, Dylan Tarnowsky and Jessica Dyck at the Manitoba Legislature.

A Vision for CMU

In 2007 CMU initiated a visioning process, called “Seeing 2020,” to imagine where the university might be 12 years from now. As part of the process, a dozen or so people, both internal and external, wrote short papers on key elements of the larger environment within which CMU finds itself. Then, in October, last year, over 70 people gathered for a retreat to reflect on how CMU might most effectively advance its mission within that context. In the interview below, President Gerald Gerbrandt reflects on the process thus far, and on what CMU might become in the future.

Blazer: Why conduct a visioning process now?

Gerbrandt: CMU is at a critical juncture in its development. We have come a long way since our founding in 2000, in some ways surpassing the original vision, in other ways falling short. The goal of “Seeing 2020” is first of all to develop a vision statement, and then secondly a strategic plan which will inspire faculty, staff and friends of CMU, as well as guide the next decade or so of growth and development.

This vision statement will spell out

how we intend to work at our mission, keeping in mind the unique dynamics and realities of CMU, along with the particular challenges and opportunities that we face.

Blazer: What is central to CMU’s vision?

Gerbrandt: CMU has been called into being to serve the church and the larger society. It is, as I frequently say, “a university of the church for the world.” Our success is not measured solely by student numbers and balanced budgets, critical as they are, but more significantly by how well we serve the church and society. Students, of course, are important since it is primarily through them that we have our impact. But the vision of CMU always looks beyond itself.

The draft vision statement we now are testing speaks of our vision in two ways. First, that the church—most especially the Mennonite churches that support CMU, but others, too—see CMU as providing intellectual, emotional and spiritual leadership as the church in Canada transitions into post-modern context. This leadership





*CMU is at
a critical
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is needed both when Christians are gathered together as a church community, as well as for when they scatter for mission.

This leadership is reflected especially in how we inspire and educate students, and also through the contribution of our faculty and staff, and through special events, conferences and lectures.

Second, we hope that the larger society—even if it does necessarily understand CMU’s Christian faith orientation—will nevertheless recognize CMU as a place which prepares students not only to succeed in their vocation—which it does—but also to make a difference for good in whatever context they find themselves.

This is an ambitious vision. But I believe that the needs of the church, as well as society, call out for an institution like CMU.

Blazer: How can CMU accomplish this vision?

Gerbrandt: The detailed planning will take place in the next stage of the process, but we have already identified a few general areas.

First of all, CMU needs to grow its reputation as a university. This will require us to expand academic programs so we can offer the breadth and depth of programming typical of institutions of our size, while continuing with a solid core in the classic areas of knowledge.

Second, we need to grow in student numbers. Despite demographic and other challenges, we believe such growth is possible. This is not based on blind faith in growth, but on the conviction that CMU’s particular character and strengths have the potential to make a greater impact upon church and society.

Third, we need to do some capital expansion. For example, Menno Simons College needs better space, and the Main Campus needs a new library and classrooms.

In all of this we need to continue our commitment to excellence in everything we do, along with fostering a rewarding workplace experience for all faculty and staff.

Blazer: What do you mean by “particular character and strengths”?

Gerbrandt: As our mission statement states, CMU is a Christian university, rooted in the Anabaptist faith tradition. When I look at the world in which we live I see stories of war, terrorism, injustice and fear. But I also see a spiritual hunger among many young adults, even as they say they are disenchanted with the institutional church. I believe that CMU's Anabaptist faith tradition has much to say in this climate today.

We can provide a message of hope out of this tradition in at least four ways.

First, there is our commitment to educating for justice and peace, a commitment that colours all of our programs.

Second, we believe learning takes place through thinking and doing. Practica requirements, internships and a co-op program represent this emphasis.

Third, we are committed to generous hospitality and radical dialogue. CMU welcomes all, fostering dialogue across the many chasms which divide people today.

And, fourth, we strive to model community at a time when individualism is rampant. At CMU we want to be a nurturing community where people learn together, support each other, foster compassion and promote hope.

A key element of our identity, which I believe serves us well, is our distributed nature. The campus at Grant and Shaftesbury is home base for CMU. But we also have Menno Simons College, our campus at the University of Winnipeg, with its Conflict Resolution and International Development Studies programs. And our reach extends around the world through our Out-tatown adventure and discipleship school, which finds students dispersed across Canada and in South Africa and Guatemala, and through our practicum program, which finds students doing internships in other countries. This distributed nature of CMU provides both missional and practical advantages for CMU.

Blazer: What does this visioning process mean for programming?

Gerbrandt: We will develop detailed plans later, but we already know that we need to strengthen the arts and sciences core at the Grant and Shaftesbury campus. We need to do this in a way that gives students a well-rounded education—one that prepares them for life as part of the people of God, and that at the same time gives them skills they need to thrive in a career.

We also need to strengthen our programming at Menno Simons College, and continue to grow the Out-tatown program. We will also want to look at ways to increase the diversity of our student body, of implementing a co-op program, and of finding ways of using technology more effectively.

The next stage of the process will be an exciting one. Our task is to work together to respond to that need and opportunity. And when I say “work together,” I mean not just those of us who work for CMU, but also that amazing body of supporters who believe in this mission.

I recognize that we face some challenges. Student demographics in Canada are projected to decline, so enrolment is definitely one thing we need to take into consideration. Finances are another challenge—although we receive some government support, we remain very dependent upon the generosity of the church and friends. The general decrease in denominational loyalty also affects the dynamics of a school like ours.

But I feel there also is tremendous opportunity. I believe that the needs of the church, as well as the world, call out for an institution like CMU. **B**

What is your response to CMU's vision for the future? Send your thoughts to President Gerald Gerbrandt at ggerbrandt@cmu.ca

CMU has been called into being to serve the church and the larger society



CMU—A Modern Day Miracle

By David Leis

Is CMU a modern day miracle?

I believe it is. Of course, I'm biased—I work for CMU. But I wonder if many other people also agree that that the creation of CMU was nothing short of miraculous, and that it plays a vital role not only in the lives of students, but for the life of the whole church.

But first, what is a miracle, anyway? For Christian theologian and philosopher Thomas Aquinas, a miracle is something “done by divine agency beyond the order commonly observed in nature.” In other words, it is more than just something that is really extraordinary, or which seems like a beneficial coincidence. A miracle is a divinely caused event, something that is different from what would have occurred in the normal course of events.

I think that something like that happened to create CMU. I believe that God moved in a special way, through the prayers and actions of people of vision, to make this new university. For the normal course of events prior to CMU's creation was decline—both CMBC and Concord College were struggling.

Enrolment was down, enthusiasm for those enterprises was dropping and support was falling off. Without divine intervention, the two schools would have failed, eliminating a key way of providing Christian higher education from a Mennonite and evangelical perspective in Canada.

What a loss that would have been! I am convinced that healthy, vibrant Christian schools are key to the success of the church. The Bible repeatedly calls us to pass faith along to the next generation. One way we do that is through church itself. But many Christians today go to church only once a week, and Sunday school attendance is falling—a recent study of Mennonite Church USA found that only eight percent of Mennonites in that country attend church services more than once weekly, and that just over half attend Sunday school. I suspect that the figures may be similar for Canada.

If this is the case, how can the faith be passed on if people get together so infrequently? How can people—especially youth—find opportunities to strengthen their Christian convictions in our increasingly secular world? The forces of our post-modern culture are

very powerful; the challenge facing the church to offer an alternative to the broader culture is more important than ever before.

I grew up believing in the saying that “as goes the school, so goes the church.” A more blunt way of saying it is that those who capture the minds of young people, capture the future. I cannot think of a more urgent time for Christians to realize that, without strong Christian schools, people of faith may be unprepared to thoughtfully and critically deal with the thorny ethical, political, social and economic issues that face us today.

In his book *The Fabric of Faithfulness*, Steven Garber notes that the university years are extremely formative for youth. During those years, he says, decisions are made “that are determinative for the rest of life. In the modern world, the years between 18 and 25 are a time for the settling of one’s convictions about meaning and morality: Why do I get up in the morning? What do I do after I get up in the morning? One then settles into life with those convictions as the shaping presuppositions and principles of one’s entire life.”

That’s why Christian university education at CMU is so important. We exist to help Christian youth develop strong convictions during these important and formative years—convictions that will sustain them throughout their lives and careers.

For CMU, these convictions about meaning and morality don’t come out of thin air. They are based on the overarching narrative of God’s work in history and in our lives. In their article “Navigating the College Transition,” Derek Melleby and Susan Den Herder write:

God moved in a special way to make CMU

“It is important for Christians to think about the biblical story and the proper place of education and learning within that story. The Bible presents to us a true story of a Creator God who made us in His image and who placed us in this good earth to live and move and have our being in Him. God created us with minds to think, and skills to serve Him.

“Higher education, for Christians, is about developing our God-given minds, and deepening our wisdom about the world in order to serve God more fully ...college is the place in which we develop a Christian mind and skills

in order to worship God and love others more completely and faithfully.”

Helping students develop their God-given minds and become thoughtful Christians is our goal at CMU. According to Dr. Allan Ronald, a dedicated Christian and one of Canada’s foremost microbiologists, it’s a very important task. Speaking at CMU’s annual Celebration Dinner last April, he stated that while many people today know about the church’s



charitable activities, they assume “that Christians don’t think...it is assumed that we can’t deal with the world’s problems.”

But, he said, through CMU the church can change that false assumption. Through our courses and other activities we can show that “Christians can be critical and compassionate” as we help students to participate in the “great conversation” of politics, philosophy, science, literature and other subjects.

We can, he said, help students become aware of the “great debates in the world,” become biblically literate and be “critical thinkers of the culture offered to us.”

Our goal at CMU is to prepare students to participate in those great conversations and become thoughtful Christians. We want to help them find their place within the larger story of God’s work in the world. We want to help them deal with life’s big questions, and

develop skills so they can enter a variety of careers.

None of this would be possible without God’s miraculous intervention. Miracle after miracle enabled CMU to be created, beginning with the prayerful and dedicated work of people of vision; the granting of a charter by the province of Manitoba; the provision of a generous annual operating grant from the provincial government; and the inclusion of Menno Simons College and the Outtatown School of Discipleship into the CMU family.

At each step along the way, God’s hand has been evident.

Do miracles happen today? You bet! If you need evidence, you don’t need to look further than CMU. **B**

David Leis is the Vice President for Advancement at CMU. This article is based on a presentation he gave at Bethel Mennonite Church.

Helping students become thoughtful Christians is our goal at CMU



Students Mark Tuition Freedom Day

TAKE TIME TO SAY THANKS TO CHURCHES, DONORS, GOVERNMENT

On November 25, last year, students at CMU stopped paying for their education.

No, they aren't going to school free for the rest of the year. Someone still has to provide funds to keep the university open. It's just that they aren't paying the bills anymore.

November 25 marked the day in CMU's fiscal year, which runs April 30 to May 1, when tuition fees paid by students no longer covered the university's expenses. After that date, funds from the provincial government, church groups and individual donors take CMU through to the end of the year.

During a special Tuition Freedom Day forum on November 26, students expressed their gratitude to those who give to keep CMU going—and enable them to get an education.

"We want to say 'thanks,' because we want to go to school and we want to graduate," said Student Council President Dylan Tarnoswky.

In response, Dan Block, Executive Director of the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba, spoke about why he believes it is important for churches



Jessica Dyck, Dylan Tarnoswky, Zach Peters, Jonathan Dyck, Gabrielle Plenert and Michael Friesen show Diane McGifford, Minister for Advanced Education and Literacy (third from left), the "Wall 'O' Thanks" at the Manitoba Legislature.

and conferences to provide support for the university.

"We believe in students who willfully opt to embrace a Christian worldview, and intentionally integrate faith into their educational pursuits," he said. "We can't help but remain engaged with CMU and you."

Curt and Buetta Warkentin, who graduated from CMBC (one of CMU's predecessor colleges), spoke on behalf of donors. They said that their experience as students motivated them to give back to the university.

"My time at CMBC helped develop pieces of myself that I can now give back to the world at large," said Buetta, who now teaches social work

at Winnipeg's Booth College. "It had a lasting impact on my life," added Curt, who is an Assistant Director of Athletics at the University of Manitoba.

After the forum, students were invited to write a word of gratitude on a "Wall 'O' Thanks" outside the chapel.

For CMU President Gerald Gerbrandt, the event was an opportunity to "highlight that paying for higher education involves a partnership among students, the government, the church and generous supporters, and then to thank the government and others for their participation."

On January 25 six students had a chance to express their thanks to the Manitoba government in person when they met

Diane McGifford, Minister for Advanced Education and Literacy, at the Manitoba Legislature.

McGifford told the students she was touched that they would take time to say thanks. "Usually the only time I hear from students is when they are complaining about how high their tuitions are or asking me to enforce another tuition freeze," she said.

CMU's total budget for the year is around \$12 million. Of that amount, 38 percent comes from program fees and tuition, approximately 25 percent comes from the Manitoba government, and roughly 16 percent comes from churches and donors. The remainder comes from student housing income and facilities rentals. **B**

Oldest Canadian Peace Journal Finds New Home at Menno Simons College

Canada's oldest continuous publication devoted to the study of peace has found a new home at Menno Simons College (MSC), CMU's campus at the University of Winnipeg.

Peace Research: The Canadian Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies, originally founded in 1969 as a newsletter of the Canadian Peace Research Institute, is Canada's foremost and oldest scholarly journal about issues of conflict, violence, poverty, peace and human well-being. From 1984 to 2006 it was edited, managed and shaped into a peer-reviewed professional journal by Dr. M.V. Naidu and his wife, Prema, of Brandon, Man.

When illness required the Naidus to relinquish their responsibilities, two years ago, MSC was chosen to take it over. Rick McCutcheon and John Derksen, both Assistant Professors of Conflict Resolution Studies, will serve as editors. A ceremony marking the transfer was held at the College on Oct. 26.

"There was a time when peace was not deemed a credible academic subject," said Dean Peachey, former MSC Vice President and Academic Dean, at the event. The Naidus, he



New *Peace Research Journal* editors Rick McCutcheon (left) and John Derksen (right) with the Journal's founders, M.V. and Prema Naidu.

said, kept the journal going during those tough times. "For them, it was a labour of love."

In his remarks, McCutcheon noted that, for the Naidus, taking on the *Journal* was a "catalyst moment" that "changed their lives." The best way to honour them, he stated, was not only to keep the *Journal* going, but to "take it even further as a publication."


Naidu, who retired in 2005 from the political studies department of Brandon University, thanked MSC for taking over the *Journal*. He noted that when he started out in peace

studies in the 1960s, peace research was not supported or encouraged in academic circles. "But I made a personal commitment to keep it alive," he said.

Peace Research Journal is published twice a year and is distributed internationally. Its mission is to publish scholarly articles on the causes of war and conditions of peace, with a special interest in the intersection between peace, conflict and international development.

More information about the *Journal* can be found at www.peaceresearch.ca **B**

NEW FROM CMU PRESS



Growing Up in Turbulent Times:
Memoirs of Soviet Oppression, Refugee Life in Germany, and Immigrant Adjustment to Canada
 by **Waldemar Janzen**

\$29 paper | 290 pages | maps & illustrations

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 Visit CMU Press at www.cmu.ca/publications

New Book Published About Growing Up In Turbulent Times

Waldemar Janzen grew up in turbulent times.

Born to Mennonite parents in the Ukraine in 1932, his father was arrested and died in a Stalinist concentration camp. In 1944 he and his mother were refugees, fleeing west ahead of the

Russian army. In 1948 they immigrated to Canada.

Now the former theology professor and church leader has chronicled his life in a new book titled *Growing Up in Turbulent Times: Memoirs of Soviet Oppression, Refugee Life in Germany and Immigrant*

Adjustment to Canada.

The book, published by CMU Press, provides a boy's-eye view of times and places of great historical upheaval. In it Janzen recalls that refugee life was not an unmitigated state of hardship—he has some good childhood memories, as well as disturbing ones.

Through the book readers will encounter his loneliness due to loss of family, his longing for “the holy,” his faith struggles and decisions,

his love of nature, and an inclination to academics that would lead to his life as a respected scholar and teacher at CMBC, one of the colleges that merged to form CMU.

Janzen launched his book November 14 at CMU. At the launch, he said that the book is an effort “to try to present what I experienced, felt and thought at various stages of my story.”

Growing up in Turbulent Times can be ordered from the CMU bookstore. **B**

Remembering David Friesen

When David Friesen, founder and owner of Qualico Developments Canada, died last April at the age of 95, CMU lost one of its key supporters. But his vision lives on.

Together with his wife, Katherine, he created a rich legacy in the world of Mennonite education. He was instrumental in starting Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary School, Menno Simons School (Calgary), and was the driving force behind the founding of Menno Simons College. Previously he had been a supporter of Canadian Mennonite Bible College and Mennonite Brethren Bible College/Concord College. His gifts made possible the start of a Practical Theology program at CMBC, as well as the construction of a residential facility, now called the Katherine Friesen Apartments. And, in the 1980s, he dreamed about the creation of a Mennonite university.

“David had a real vision for Mennonite education,” says Dean Peachey, former President at MSC. “He had a passion for how education could be used to preserve and strengthen the Mennonite community.”

For David Leis, Vice President of Advancement at CMU, Friesen “was an inspiration. He had a vision for a Christian university. He is a compass for us at CMU, and is a powerful reminder of what our mission is about—not just to be a quality university, but to be

a school that honours the Christian worldview. I was inspired by his profound heart for the mission of the church.”

Gerald Gerbrandt recalls how, shortly after becoming President of CMU, Friesen stopped by one morning to visit. He told Gerbrandt that his dream in the 1980s for how CMBC and MBBC might work together create a liberal arts college was ahead of its time—but that CMU now fulfilled that vision. “We continue to benefit tremendously at CMU from what he made possible,” Gerbrandt says.

In 1981, Friesen received an honorary doctorate from the University of Winnipeg. On that occasion he was described as “that rare man who regards success in business primarily as an opportunity for service to the community, to help others by supporting educational and social services. Dr. Friesen cherished his Mennonite heritage and faith, and did much to foster and preserve it.”

In his later years, he never lost his interest in education. Peachey recalls that whenever they got together for coffee, Friesen's first question always was: “How are things going at Menno Simons College?”

At his funeral, mourners were invited to donate in his memory to Menno Simons College. It's not too late to still honour and contribute to his legacy; use the envelope in this issue to send your contribution for MSC, or for any other CMU program, to CMU, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Man. R3P 2N2.



David and Katherine Friesen.

Course Combines Theory, Practice

HANDMADE QUILT DELIVERED TO PRIME MINISTER

University students expect to read books and write papers and exams in classes. They don't usually expect to be tested on how well they put their education into practice. But that's what happened last fall in Kenton Lobe's Participatory Local Development class.

The purpose of the course is to examine how the failure of large scale development efforts to eradicate poverty in the developing world and Canada have led to a search for alternative ways to work for change at the community level.

Through the course students examined historic and recent efforts at participatory development, and then were asked to try their own hands at mobilizing people to affect change.

"I wanted them to see that they had the power to impact change," says

Lobe of the assignment. "I wanted them to not only reflect on how change happens, but to be able to see how it can happen."

Through a process of collaborative discernment, students chose to work on the issue of climate change, with a special focus on how it is affecting small farmers in Africa. They decided to hold a morning workshop on the topic at CMU on December 8, following it up with a rally at the Manitoba Legislature that afternoon.

They also decided to present their concerns directly to the Prime Minister by creating a quilt that identified things they would give up to reduce their carbon footprint. Each of the 240 squares contained handwritten declarations by students and faculty about things like driving less, eating less meat, turning off



CMU students Nancy Shore, Jessica Buhler, Ashely Cole, Corinne Klassen and Nicole Poirier with the quilt delivered to the Prime Minister's office.

lights and, on one more memorable square, reducing water consumption by not showering for a week.

The quilt, which was 1.8 by one metres, was delivered personally to the Prime Minister's Ottawa office by Lobe on December 5 as a way of encouraging Canada to take a leadership role in addressing climate change.

The course "was exciting because it was practical," says Michael Bueckert, a second-year International Development Studies major from


Saskatoon.

Bueckert learned that "reflection and action go together," and that "if you are concerned about something, you can do something to change it."

Of the experience, he says that it's "easy to assume that it's not possible to do anything to change the world, but we can do something." Organizing the workshop and rally "was surprisingly easier to do than one would think," he adds.

For Nicole Poirier of Banff, Alberta, the class was a chance to think about "what citizenship means, and how we can bring change."

The second year in International Development Studies major says she "had never done anything like that before. I learned it was very attainable. If we put our minds to it, we can create an event and we can be heard." **B**



CMU CD RELEASE

Featuring **CMU Choral Ensembles** including: the Chamber Choir, CMU Singers, Women's Chorus and Men's Chorus of 2007, and the Chamber Choir and Men's Chorus of 2005.

Available from the CMU bookstore at 204.487.3300 or 877.231.4570 or Mennonite Publishing Network at www.mph.org.

Outtatown Students Learn From The Poor In Canada

COMPASSION CAN BE “SMALL, SIMPLE ACT”

CMU’s Outtatown adventure and discipleship school is known for putting students in exciting and challenging situations in poor countries like Guatemala and South Africa.

But before students go to the developing world, they first spend time learning more about themselves, God, and about poverty in Canada, through educational and service opportunities in Winnipeg and Vancouver.

For Ben Robson of Winnipeg, one of the most moving learning experiences occurred during an urban plunge in Winnipeg’s inner city.

During the plunge, his group of Outtatown students befriended a homeless woman named Sharon, inviting her to join them for lunch at a downtown mall.

“After talking a bit we learned that Sharon had lived on the streets of Winnipeg for over four months since moving from Calgary,” he says. “We learned that she had family and children, and had had a career. But a crisis, and a few poor decisions, had led her to where she is today.”

Despite her circumstances, Sharon was “gracious and grateful,” he says, adding that the experience reminded him that “everyone, homeless or not, has a past and a history . . . talking to her opened my eyes a bit more to the world that God sees. It made me realize how much God values each one of us.”

The experience also taught him that “compassion could be a small,



Ben Robson during the urban plunge in Winnipeg.

simple act. It made a difference in Sharon’s life that day.”

For Ben Pavey of Dwight, Ont., exposure to different kinds of ministries during the urban plunge affirmed his interest in doing work with poor people in Canada, and showed him ways he could be of service later in life.

“I learned a lot in regards to my career,” he says. “It taught me that I can use the creativity God has given me.”

David Young of Saskatoon was moved by a visit to a homeless shelter, where he and other Outtatown students were invited by a staff member to trade some of their own clothing for used clothing at the shelter’s clothing ministry.

“At first, we thought she had to be joking,” he says. “But when we realized she was serious, each of us gave up a few of our personal things.”

Young found this to be “a very powerful exercise.” As Christians, he says, “we say we are willing to serve others, but when we are actually asked to give up something personal it shows how far we are really willing to go to show God’s love to others. I was excited to see everyone make an

honest sacrifice in order to improve someone else’s life.”

For Site Leader Dana Honderich of New Hamburg, Ont., watching the students grow through experiences like these brought to mind what writer William Faulkner described as the difference between monuments and footprints. A monument, he wrote, only says “at least I got this far.” A footprint declares “this is where I was when I moved again.”

“Outtatown is full of footprint moments,” says Honderich, herself a graduate of the program. “For some, these steps may have been made as they canoed away from civilization, further into the wilderness than they ever thought possible. Or maybe it was when they sat down to have a cup of coffee with someone of their own age who calls the streets of Winnipeg home. For others the biggest footprint may have been packing a bag and leaving home, friends, family and all things familiar to embark on a journey with a group of strangers.”

As a leader, “I, too, continue to take steps in my own journey as a disciple of Jesus,” she says. “I look back and see the many ways that God has been faithfully present in my journey. My prayer is that we, as a community, will continue to take steps in this journey that God has for each one of us.”

For Outtatown Director Paul Kroeker, these experiences “may have an impact on those we meet, but more often it is we ourselves who are changed. It is our prayer that students will learn to become selfless, giving of themselves to God as they see and respond to the needs of others.

“We want our students to grow in faith and character, and, as Jesus indicated in the gospel, we want to see them respond to the needs of others so they can find a larger purpose and meaning in life.” **B**



Students, staff and speakers at the Ministry Quest retreat.

Students Learn About Ministry Opportunities

SECOND SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY QUEST RETREAT

Over the next ten years, over half of Mennonite Church Canada's 349 pastors will reach retirement age.

In the same time frame, Mennonite Brethren churches in Canada and the U.S. will need 500 new church leaders to replace retiring pastors and keep up with growth.

Meanwhile, Mennonite Church USA says it needs 120 new pastors every year just to keep up with the number that are retiring.

It's the same for other denominations. The

Christian and Missionary Alliance church in Canada expects it will need 1,000 more church workers of all kinds over the next ten years to meet the needs of new churches, and to replace retiring clergy. Over at the United Church of Canada, over 50 percent that denomination's 3,500 clergy will turn 65 in the next ten to twelve years. Other church groups report similar situations.

"Leadership—the ability to inspire, motivate, discern and envision in a faithful quest to follow God's will—is the most critical issue facing churches today," says the Fund for Theological

Education, an organization that helps congregations and denominations find ways to nurture young men and women for ministry and teaching.

"Most major Christian denominations face a looming shortage of clergy to serve congregations and parishes as today's clergy retire," it goes on to say.

But being a church leader isn't for everyone. That's why CMU offers a weekend retreat called Ministry Quest to help young people determine whether they are being called into church ministry.

The program, in its second year, is co-sponsored by Mennonite

Brethren Biblical Seminary (MBBS). This year 18 CMU students from various denominations and majors met January 11-13 at Camp Nutimik in Manitoba's Whiteshell Provincial Park to consider whether God is calling them into church ministry.

For Gerry Ediger, who teaches Biblical and Theological Studies at CMU, and who was one of the speakers at the retreat, the event was an important way to help students determine if God is calling them to church leadership.

"The retreat was focused on speaking frankly about being called to ministry," he says, adding that they studied stories of call from the Bible and heard candid first-hand accounts of being called from present-day leaders in the church.

"The centrepiece of the process was sitting down to write one's own call story and present it to peers for feedback and discernment," he says.

For Delayne Toews of Winnipeg, the retreat was a time to discern "whether my skills, abilities, and passions would make me suitable as a congregational leader."

Toews, who will graduate this year with majors in math and theological studies, appreciated being able to "hear the stories of other congregational leaders, and spend time discovering our own stories of calling."

The River East Mennonite Brethren Church member came away from the retreat with a “new understanding of the role of pastors in churches,” and also a “better understanding of my own skills as a communicator.”

Mikaela Villalobos of Quarryville, Pa., cannot see herself being a pastor right now. But, she says, “I don’t want to close all doors.”

Villalobos, a fourth year Biblical and Theological Studies major who attends the Mount Vernon Mennonite Church, appreciated “the honesty that each person brought and offered” during the retreat.

“Through each activity, exploring of scripture, foot washing and testimony, I experienced some God-defining moments,” she says, adding that “I

am presently in a place where I am waiting for the Lord.”

Jessica Rempel, a psychology and biblical studies major and member of the Squamish, B.C. Baptist Church, found that the retreat “was a great way for me to meet people who are interested in a similar career, and together come to understand more about what that career means in our lives. It was a very

intimate time of sharing and learning.”

Other speakers at the retreat were Marilyn Muller, Pastor of Children’s Ministry at Forest Grove Community Church in Saskatoon; Tim Geddert, Professor of New Testament at MBBS; and John Neufeld, a coach for emerging leaders for the Canadian Mennonite Brethren Conference. **B**

Habits Of Defective Sermons Described At Workshop

OVER 160 TAKE IN MINISTRY SEMINAR

What are the seven habits of highly defective sermons?

The first bad habit is “not taking enough time with the biblical text,” said Tom Long, Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, GA at CMU’s bi-annual Church in Ministry Seminars.

Other bad habits, he said, are “not paying enough attention to the needs of listeners;” not having a strategy for using illustrations; being afraid to use theological language for fear that people won’t understand it; not taking seriously the collision between the Gospel and culture; not giving people “attainable ethics”—practical things they can do after hearing the sermon; and not “proclaiming the presence of God in the world.”



Tom Long: Preacher’s task complicated today.

Long was the keynote speaker at the January 14-15 event, titled “The Witness of Preaching.” Over 160 people attended one or both days, with participants coming from a variety of denominations and from as far west

as Kelowna, B.C. and as far east as Ottawa.

Long went on to say that a preacher’s task is not capture the congregation’s interest. “At the beginning of the sermon you already have it,” he said. “The goal is not to lose it.”

Preachers should also make sure the sermon has a focus and is easy to follow, he said, adding that they should also have a clear goal for the sermon.

He suggested that preachers also need to provide “turn signals” when making a transition from one section to another.

“You don’t need them,” said Long. “You’re driving—you know where you are going. But the people who are following you don’t know.”

The preacher’s task is complicated by the fact that culture today does not support religion, Long noted.

“The grand certitudes have been called into question,” he said. “People don’t automatically give assent to everything they hear. We have to be seeking a hearing each time we speak.”

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During a question and answer time, Long, the author of several books on the art of preaching, was asked how he judged the success of a sermon.

“The excellence of preaching is measured by the discipleship of the congregation in the world,” he said.

Other topics addressed by Long included “Engaging the Biblical Text in Preaching;” “Preaching

in a Windstorm: Speaking Gospel in Today’s Culture” and “The Promise and Peril of Narrative Preaching.”

In addition to Long, other sessions at the bi-annual event included an address by CMU professor Dan Epp-Tiessen titled “What Is God Doing Through Our Preaching?”

Other workshops at the event were: “Fusing God’s Grace and Christian

Ethics,” by Allan Rudy-Froese; “Preaching as an Act of Worship,” by CMU professor Irma Fast Dueck; “Preaching that Engages Young Adults and Youth,” by John Neufeld of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches; “Preaching the Psalms,” by CMU professor Pierre Gilbert; “Preaching from Paul,” by CMU professor emeritus George Shillington; and “Preaching from Luke,”

by CMU professor Sheila Klassen Wiebe.

The event included a chapel for students with Ruth Preston Schilk, pastor of the Lethbridge, Alta. Mennonite Church, and Marvin Dyck, pastor of Crossroads Mennonite Brethren Church in Winnipeg, who talked about what keeps them in pastoral ministry.

The next Church in Ministry Seminars is in January, 2010. **B**



CMU women’s volleyball team: ACCA and CPAC champions.

Blazer Women Win Volleyball Championship

Unlike the New England Patriots, who lost the Super Bowl, the CMU women’s volleyball team capped off their undefeated season by winning the annual Central Plains Athletic Conference (CPAC) championship.

The women defeated Brandon’s Assiniboine Community College February 9 in Winnipeg. Kathleen Vitt of CMU was named the tournament MVP, while Kalon Bergen and Dara Friesen were named to the women’s all-star team.

On the men’s side, the Blazers finished fourth. Josh Krueger and

Jeordie Ker of CMU were named to the men’s all-star team.

In November the women won the inaugural Association of Christian College Athletics (ACCA) volleyball championship in Oklahoma. The team defeated Dallas (Texas) Christian College. The Tournament MVP was CMU’s Dara Friesen. Nikki Mercier of and Kalon Bergen of CMU were named Tournament All Stars.

Members of the women’s team are Dara Friesen, of Waldheim, Sask.; Nikki Mercier, Vanessa

Wiens and Hannah Pratt of Winnipeg; Allison Driedger and Ashley Miller of Saskatoon; Kirsten Hamm of Neuberghal, Man.; Heather Schellenberg of Kitchener, Ont.; Kalon Bergen of Beausejour, Man.; and Rachel Funk of Jordan, Ont.

The ACCA promotes athletic competition for Christian colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada. CPAC is made up of nine colleges and universities in Manitoba and Minnesota. **B**

Business Program Appoints First Professor

Craig Martin of Elmira, Ont. has been appointed the first faculty member for CMU's new Business and Organizational Administration program.

Martin, who is a Ph.D candidate in agricultural economics and business at the University of Guelph, was a Research Associate and Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Business at that university from 2001 to 2003. His dissertation is an economic analysis of the demand for dairy products in Canada.

For Martin, "business is a part of life," and so is his Christian faith. "We can operate businesses and take our beliefs to

work with us and still make a profit," he says. "A strong moral and ethical background is an important part of how we do business."

Martin's interests and research include the challenges facing family-owned businesses. "I grew up in an entrepreneurial family," he says of his parents, who owned a hardware store when he was a child. "I have a special appreciation for small family-owned businesses."

He is also interested in the dynamics of non-profit organizations. "The same principles that govern businesses apply to non-profit groups," he says. "Non-profit groups measure outcomes differently

than businesses, but both have to use sound business and organizational practices to ensure they are meeting their goals—whether that's making products or serving needy people."

In addition to his studies and work in agricultural economics, Martin has also done consulting and market surveys and analysis for business and government, along with work on international trade issues. He is especially interested in how business, finance and government policies affect international development.

Martin, a member of the Elmira Mennonite Church, says he is

looking forward to teaching at CMU because "it's a place where I will be able to more openly talk about Christian beliefs and how they influence the way we approach our lives at work."

"Craig's experience in business, economics and international trade and development issues is a perfect fit for the new program," says David Leis, Vice President for Advancement. "Our goal is to provide students with a sound education that prepares them to work and be leaders in business or non-profit groups."

The new Business and Organizational Administration major will begin in fall, this year. **B**

Alumni Invited To Homecoming, 2008

Alumni from CMU, CMBC, MBBC/Concord, and Outtatown can embrace the past and anticipate the future at Homecoming, 2008 at CMU.

People who graduated from or attended those schools are invited to gather in Winnipeg Sept. 26-27 for reunions, concerts, the Blazer Awards, a banquet and other activities. A special invitation is extended to the classes of 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998 and 2003 from the four schools.

"Homecoming is a time to look back and remember the past, but it's also a time to look ahead to what CMU is becoming," says Eleonore Braun, who directs Alumni Relations.

"We hope that many alumni will come to remember the good times they enjoyed as students, and to get excited about where CMU is going."

The event begins with a Homecoming Recital on Friday evening, featuring CMU staff and alumni. The recital will be followed by a Homecoming Reception.

Saturday activities include an alumni volleyball tournament, a walking tour of the campus, lunch with former faculty and staff from the various schools and class reunions. The day will end with the

Homecoming Banquet and awarding of this year's Blazer Awards for alumni.

"We are actively soliciting nominations for this year's alumni award," says Braun, adding that nominations can be sent to her via the CMU web site or by contacting the university.

For more information about Homecoming, visit the Alumni section of the web site, or contact the Alumni Office at 1.877.231.4570 (487.3300 in Winnipeg) or e-mail elbraun@cmu.ca **B**

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Winter Lectures Explore Art, Incarnation

By Aaron Epp

“We are hardwired to experience things visually. Images form us, they exert a formative pressure on us. I think we ignore that at our peril.”

That was one of the messages shared by Erica Grimm-Vance during the January 29-30 Winter Lectures, titled “Reflections of Art, the Incarnation and the Way of Unknowing.”

Grimm-Vance, an artist and the assistant professor and visual arts coordinator at Trinity Western University in Langley, B.C., rejected the “flesh-denying, spirit-affirming tendency” in the church in her first lecture, titled “Made Flesh: Embodiment and Materiality.” She pointed out that since God became flesh through Jesus Christ, “the material realm is infinitely good and can, in the words of Martin Luther, ‘bear the infinite.’”

Drawing on the work of Plato, Thomas Aquinas, Julia Kristeva and others, she explored how art can reveal the body as a bridge between people and God. The body, she said, is inseparable from a discussion of the spiritual because the world is mediated through the body—our bodies are at once a barrier between us and God, and at the same time, the only way through to God.



Erica Grimm Vance at the CMU Winter Lectures.

“For the artist and the Christian,” she stated, “no dualism will do.”

She began her second lecture, titled “Post-Ironic Search for Meaning: Beauty and Affliction,” by saying that “I think it’s safe to say we live in an age of disbelief.”

Prior to terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre on Sept. 11, 2001, ironic disaffection was the prevailing tone, she suggested. But 9/11 ushered in a “post-ironic search for meaning,” she went on to say, as people were no longer content to hide behind disaffection and sarcasm.

“My work contains no irony,” Grimm-Vance said, showcasing a number of her paintings on the screen in the auditorium. Irony, she said, can be a good tool for things such

as cutting through inflated claims—but it can also be overdone.

“The problem with irony is that it diminishes much of the human experience and is insufficient in times of suffering and in the face of affliction,” she stated.

Affliction is “the flip side of beauty,” she added, noting it’s easier to portray suffering in art than it is to portray beauty—without being saccharine, at least. She then contrasted the portrayal of beauty in a number of recent works with beauty as it is portrayed in today’s popular culture.

“Beauty in an older vocabulary was connected to truth and goodness,” she said, suggesting that’s not the case in today’s world. “Both beauty and affliction are

God’s way of forming our souls,” she added.

The final lecture in the series was titled simply “Silence.” Quoting a musicologist friend, she suggested that “silence isn’t even possible” in our world today. Or maybe, she added, people don’t want to allow for the possibility of silence since the voice of God can be frightening and fearful.

She went on to speak of the silence that occurs before and after a work of art is created, and how being attentive and listening are key. She also called drawing “a way of seeing,” relating the story of one of her art students who, after having to draw a human as part of a class assignment, came to see the beauty in everyone. “Now everyone is beautiful,” the student said. **B**



Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz talks to CMU Student Council President Dylan Tarnowsky after a January 14 student forum at the university. "My goal is to give back to society," said Katz, adding that the future of the city depends on its youth.

Enrolment up. Main Campus enrolment increased by 24 full-time students in the second semester; full-time numbers exceed 400 at the Main Campus for the first time in CMU's history.

Students hold fundraiser. Students at Menno Simons College, CMU's campus at the University of Winnipeg, hosted a Rock-Social fundraiser for UNICEF's "Spread the Net" campaign in September. Over \$800 was raised to buy mosquito nets that will save the lives of up to 400 African children.

Food for Fines. In December the library allowed borrowers to pay off fines by donating non-perishable food items. The donated food was given to Siloam Mission, a homeless shelter in downtown Winnipeg.

Over \$25,000 has been donated to the Carole Louise Sawatzky Graduate Studies Bursary at CMU. The bursary

was created to honour Carole, a young woman whose dreams of studies for church ministry were dashed by illness. The bursary will provide financial aid to female graduate students who are preparing for church ministry.

Rare book workshop. Fifteen people learned about old and rare books and Bibles at a January 11-12 Rare Book Workshop led by Paul Dyck, Associate Professor of English. During the workshop participants examined a range of medieval and renaissance books from the CMU and University of Manitoba collections, including a 1611 edition of the King James Bible.

Students pray. Students held a Week of Constant Prayer January 20-25 to pray for needs around the world, as well as for the church and CMU. During the week students signed up for slots to pray alone or with

a friend at home or at school. The event included an all-night hymn sing on January 24.

Over \$40,000 was raised at CMU's annual fall Dessert Celebration Evening, including over \$11,000 through an auction of desserts donated by local restaurants and individuals. The October 27 event featured soprano Sharla Nafziger, a CMU alumnus from New York City.

Students receive awards. **Andrea Dick**, a second-year psychology major from Kandern, Germany, received a Millennium Scholarship from the Canadian government. Dick attends the Westwood Community Church in Winnipeg. **Becky Reesor**, a second-year music major from Listowel, Ont. received the Abner Martin Music Scholarship from the Menno Singers of Waterloo, Ont. Reesor is a member of the Listowel Mennonite Church.

Sarah Little, a second year general arts major from Winnipeg,

is the recipient of a Horizons Scholarship from FaithLife Financial. Little is a member of the St. James Lutheran Church in Winnipeg. **Robin Bryan**, who is majoring in environmental studies and international development at the University of Winnipeg and Menno Simons College, received a Sustainable Development Scholarship from the Manitoba government. He will use the award to further his work of promoting environmental awareness.

Graduates serving in churches. Five recent CMU graduates have begun serving in churches. Stephanie White is Youth Program Coordinator at the Waterloo, Ont, MB Church; Chris Lenshyn is Assistant Pastor at Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church in Winnipeg; Steve Klassen is Youth Pastor at South Park MB Church in Altona, MB.; Paul Schmidt is Youth Pastor at the Carman, MB. Mennonite Church; and Corey Hildebrand is Youth Pastor at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler, MB. Since CMU began in 2000, at least 25 graduates have gone on to work as pastors in churches in Canada and the U.S.

The Church Made Strange is the title of a May 24 symposium to mark the retirement of CMBC/CMU professor Harry Huebner. The symposium, which runs from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the CMU chapel, will be followed by a banquet at Bethel Mennonite Church. The symposium is free; cost of the banquet is \$25. To reserve a place, contact Shirley Thiessen at sthiessen@cmu.ca or 487,3300. More information can be found at www.cmu.ca

Amish forgiveness presented. About 500 people came out November 1 in Winnipeg to hear Donald Kraybill, author of *Amish Grace*, speak about how the Amish were able to forgive the man who killed five girls in 2006. "The Amish are uncommonly prepared to respond with graciousness," he said. The event was sponsored by CMU's Institute for Community Peacebuilding.

Social Justice Fair. Where on earth do you get a job in line with your beliefs and values? That's a question raised at the February 6 Social Justice Fair at Menno Simons College. The Fair featured speakers, a panel discussion and displays by non-profit groups like MCC, Mediation Services, UNICEF and Siloam Mission. "It's inspiring to find out what all of these organizations do," said Jenna Sparling, 23, a fourth-year Conflict Resolution Studies student at MSC. "It gives you something to aspire to."

Forum on same-sex attraction. Can Christians talk about homosexuality without ending

up in conflict? A January 28 forum at CMU showed they can. The forum featured Tye Gamey, a former openly gay man who believes that homosexuals can change, and Val Warkentin, who runs a Christian support group for gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and trans-gendered people. Asked about the old saying, "love the sinner, but hate the sin," Gamey replied: "I tell people never to say that. It doesn't communicate love and hope. It just passes judgment on their behaviour." Warkentin agreed, saying "hate is such a strong word. The person is always more important."

Missiologists gather at CMU. Christians need to rethink the way they present the story of salvation if the church is to successfully reach people in other cultures. That was the message Mark Baker presented to participants at the conference of the Association of Anabaptist Missiologists in October. Baker, a professor at Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, said that the Bible contains a variety of ways of viewing Christ's death on the

cross, and these various views need to be used to reach out across cultures.

New CMU video. What's the CMU advantage? Strong academics, community and faith. That's what four students talk about in a new CMU recruitment video, available on the CMU website.

More information on these and other stories can be found at www.cmu.ca

STAFF & FACULTY NOTES

James Wiebe has resigned as Assistant Professor of Music Therapy. Under Wiebe's direction, the program was started and has grown to 16 students formally enrolled in the program, and nine others taking the introductory course. A search for a new Music Therapy professor is underway.

This year's Esau Distinguished Visiting Professor at Menno Simons College is **Dr. Iqbal Khan**, a director and researcher

from PROSHIKA, one of Bangladesh's largest development organizations. During his time at the College Khan is teaching courses in rural development and Asia-Pacific issues.

John Derksen, Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies, led workshops on understanding Islam in Sudbury, Ont. and Winnipeg last spring and fall.

"Blaise Pascal: Mathematician, Mystic, Disciple" was the title of an essay by **Tim Rogalsky** in the Journal of the Association of Christians in the Mathematical Sciences.

Phoebe Burns has been appointed coordinator of the Institute for Community Peacebuilding's new Youth Peacebuilding Project. She will be looking for ways to address conflict between youth from different racial backgrounds in Winnipeg's inner city.

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Events@CMU

All events at CMU unless otherwise indicated.

Mar. 14-19: Is he saved? And Other Questions Christians Shouldn't Ask. Speaker: John Stackhouse, Regent College. Part of the Proclaiming The Claims of Christ Series.

Mar. 26: Jazz at CMU, 7:30 PM.

Mar. 28: Campus Visit Day.

April 12-13: Outtatown graduation weekend.

April 19: Annual Celebration Dinner, Great Hall. Speaker: Dr. John Foerster.

April 19: Spring Concert.

April 20: CMU Graduation.

April 21-27: CMU Singers tour Iowa, Indiana and Illinois.

April 22-May 4: CMU Chamber Choir tours Saskatchewan and Alberta.

May 19-23: School of Writing at CMU.

May 24: The Church Made Strange, a symposium to mark the retirement of Professor Harry Huebner.

June 11-14: Believers Church Conference.

June 17: 7th Annual CMU President's Golf Classic.

For more information, visit www.cmu.ca



Andrea Moses ('97) married Dustin Cooper on October 7, 2007 in Edmonton. Andrea completed her apprenticeship in 2005 to become a licensed Journeyman Hairstylist; she works at the Men's Room Hair Salon in Edmonton. Dustin works as a Pharmacist at the University of Alberta Hospital.

Jennifer (Beatty, 98-00) and **Jordan Haaksma** announce the birth of their son Colin, September 3, 2007, a brother for Luke (2). They attend Riverwood Church in Winnipeg.

Cam Regehr (95-98) recently completed a law degree from the University of Manitoba. Cam and Christine welcomed their first child, Anna Lorraine, on September 13, 2007. They live in Winnipeg and are part of St. Margaret's Anglican Church.



Ben Hoepfner ('54) died Dec. 29, 2007.

Henry Dueck ('56) died Nov. 4, 2007.

Frank Peters ('57) died Oct. 10, 2007.

Jan Minty (Wanamaker, '80) is working as a music teacher and vice-principal in Mission, B.C. Jan is married to Bob, who is also a

music teacher. She sends "A fond hello" to all friends and faculty from her years at MBBC, and a thank you for the "sound musical training which has continued to aid her career."

Melvin Toews (80-82) died Dec. 7, 2007.

Matthew (92-94) and **Betty-Anne** (Penner, 92-93) **Siebert** welcomed their son Josiah, a brother for Amy (3). Matthew has recently completed a Masters in Philosophical Theology program at the University of Oxford, England.



Walter Franz ('64) died Nov. 7, 2007.

Pat (68-69) and **Ron** (67-69) **Boese** announce the birth of a grandson, Benjamin David, born March 10, 2007 to Angela (Boese, CMBC '98) and Stephen Waters.

Lynne Martin (80-83) completed an ESL course from the University of Winnipeg's Division of Continuing Education. Lynn works with Acorn Gardens, a ministry with war-traumatized immigrant children. Brian works as a freelance co-manager and consultant with First Nations communities in northern Manitoba and Ontario. Lynn and Brian Brown were married in December, 2006 and live near Anola, MB.

Cheri Patrick (Berg, '93) and her husband Steven announce the birth of Julia Cathleen on September 19, 2007. She is a

much anticipated and adored little sister for Devlin (5) and Nathan (3).

Jeff ('98) and **Amanda** (Fehr, 96-97) **Toews** welcomed their first child on November 7, 2007, a daughter, Isabella Rae; proud grandparents are Leonard (75-76) & Tina Doell.



Caralee Good ('02) completed a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing at the University of Toronto in 2006 and is now working as a paediatric cardiac RN at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. She attends the Meeting House in Toronto. Of her time at CMU, she says "out of all my undergraduate education, I count my CMU degree as most

MARK YOUR CALENDAR | SEPTEMBER 26 & 27

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CMU *Homecoming*
2008

...anticipating the future!

A time for CMU Alumni & Friends of all ages to connect, engage and celebrate. Join us for a variety of events:

- Homecoming Concert
- Lunch with former faculty & staff
- CMU Alumni volleyball
- Homecoming Banquet
- Class reunions
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valuable. It was during this time that I learned who I was, what it meant to be a Christian, and experienced the absolutely awesome grace of God."

Paul Moffett ('04) and **Jan Oatway** ('03) were married August 28, 2004 at Forest Grove Community Church, Saskatoon.

Jan is making use of her CMU English degree by working at the Fort Garry Public Library in Winnipeg, as a Children's Reference Assistant. Paul is pursuing graduate work in English at the University of Manitoba. They attend St. Margaret's Anglican church where they also lead the youth program.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2nd Annual Alumni Blazer Awards

The Alumni Office is now accepting nominations for the 2nd annual Alumni Blazer Awards. With this award, CMU celebrates alumni who, through their lives, embody CMU's values and mission of "service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society."

If you would like to nominate an alumnus from CMU, CMBC, Concord or MBBC, simply complete the online nomination form at www.cmu.ca or send the following to the Alumni Office.

- Information that would substantiate the nomination
- The nominee's current address (Incl. phone number & e-mail)
- Your name, address and when you graduated from or attended CMU, CMBC, Concord or MBBC, or worked at those schools.

Nominations can be sent to:
Alumni Blazer Award
c/o CMU Alumni Office
500 Shaftesbury Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2
or e-mailed to alumni@cmu.ca

2007 Winners:

Addison Klassen *Dr. Paul Peters*
Hedy Sawadsky *Dr. Henry Schmidt*

GOT NEWS?

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

Dustin Wiebe ('04) has been studying at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. He has completed a MM in classical guitar performance and has recently received a grant from the university to finish his thesis in ethnomusicology. He plans to finish the MA in spring, this year and then begin a doctoral program in fall.

Melissa (03-05) and **Terry Lesser** ('04) announce the birth of their daughter Natalia Lynn, on November 6, 2007. Terry works as a pastor at Springridge

Mennonite Church. Melissa is a Customer Service Associate at the Movie Gallery. Proud grandparents are Judy (CMBC 82-83) and Barry Lesser (CMBC '83).

Katherine Krehbiel ('06) married Peter Goerzen on June 16, 2007 at Tabor Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS. Katherine is enjoying her work as a Youth Pastor at Grace Hill Mennonite Church in Whitewater, KS.

Are you on Facebook? Join the CMU (CMBC/MBBC/Concord) Alumni group!

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Stephanie Stobbe, lecturer in Conflict Resolution Studies, was in Laos last summer conducting research on indigenous conflict resolution processes. She is currently on leave to pursue her Ph.D in Peace and Conflict studies.

Demons, Lies & Shadows is the title of a new book by **Pierre Gilbert**, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies and Theology. The book, is described as "an excellent treatment of demonic warfare."

"God's Suffering: A Challenge for Biblicalists" was the title of an article by **Gordon Matties** in the fall issue of Vision.

On sabbatical: **Gordon Zerbe**, Main Campus Academic Dean, and **Dean Peachey**, Vice President and Academic Dean at Menno Simons College, both began sabbaticals in January. **Harry Huebner**, Professor of Theology and former CMU Academic Dean, and **George Richert**, formerly President of MSC, are filling in for Zerbe and Peachey until **Earl Davey**, the

new vice President Academic, arrives in summer.

Transitions: **Rudy Friesen** has been appointed Controller. **Rachel Dueck** is filling in as Assistant to the Director of Enrolment Services while **Gillian Doucet Campbell** is on maternity leave. **Candice Thiesen** has accepted a position as Accounting Assistant in the Business Office. **Aaron Epp**, a 2007 CMU graduate, has been hired two days a week to work in the Communications & Marketing Department. **Kirtit Patal** has been given a two-year term in a tenure track position in International Development Studies.

New faculty: **Vonda Plett Martens** has been appointed to teach psychology; she has a Ph.D in psychology from the University of Saskatchewan. She attends Nutana Park Mennonite Church. **Craig Martin** has been appointed to teach Business and Organizational Administration. He has a Ph.D in Agricultural Economics and Business from the University of Guelph. He attends the Elmira Mennonite Church.

CMU: A Particular University



Richard John Neuhaus suggests in a recent article that “there is no such a thing as a university pure and simple . . . Every university is, whether by careful deliberation or by accident, a university of a particular kind.” In other words, there is no such thing as a generic university. Every university has the responsibility to think carefully about what kind of a university it wishes to be.

CMU speaks to this directly in the first part of its mission statement: “CMU is a Christian university, rooted in the Anabaptist faith tradition.” As a university, CMU is committed to clearly and carefully thinking about the world in which we live as we pass on to the next generation the wisdom and knowledge of past generations, and as we participate in and contribute to the larger communal search for truth. As a Christian university, we do this

through careful thinking and participation in the search for truth, within a framework and imagination shaped by the church’s understanding of God.

We believe that it makes a difference that there is a God who made the world and all people in it—a God who loves all humans despite our tendency to go our own way, a God who sent Jesus Christ into the world, a God who remains interested and active in the world, using the church as an instrument to consistently work towards reconciliation and peace.

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But just as there is no such thing as a generic university generally, there also is no such thing as a generic Christian university. All Christian universities are set within a particular tradition, framework and set of emphases. Whether consciously or subconsciously, they view the Christian faith and the world through a particular set of glasses. The term “Mennonite” in our name not only represents the accountability relationship we have to a particular denomination, but also the imagination from within which we are Christian.

During a visioning retreat last October, students, staff and

supporters of CMU identified four commitments that are true to the Anabaptist faith and, at the same time, which have the potential to speak powerfully to our world today. They are justice and peace; thinking and doing; community; and generous hospitality and radical dialogue.

It’s easy to see how the first three flow out of the Anabaptist faith tradition. Our commitment to generous hospitality and radical dialogue may be less apparent. And yet, I believe that it is critical—for the church, for a university, and for our world.

There is an all-too-frequent tendency today to divide into opposing camps: Christian versus Muslim; right versus left; evangelical versus liberal/mainline; pro-choice versus pro-life; and so on. Each camp devotes its most creative energy to a combination of building a rationale for its own position, and of rallying supporters to remain true in the face of opposition. It is like a sporting event, where defeating the opposition is more important than arriving at truth. Often, justice and peace, as well as community, are sacrificed in the battle.

CMU is committed to fostering a community that shows generous hospitality by welcoming all students to participate in this radical dialogue. In this, Christ is our model—he had a clear position, yet entered into genuine dialogue with others. Our church and our world needs more of this kind of dialogue and hospitality.

Gerald Gerber

Christian *University* Education

“CMU helped me discover my gifts, challenged me academically and helped me learn how to think. It set me on my career path.”

*Lori Franzmann
Teacher, 2005 graduate, B.A. English*

Lori is just one of many students who go on to further studies after graduating from CMU. “CMU laid the foundation for future studies and for my profession,” she says. “It taught me to work hard and to be ready for anything. My time there was well worth it.”

What do you want to do with your life? Start your journey at CMU!

Programs: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Therapy, Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Church Ministries. **Coming in fall, 2008:** Majors in Communications and Media, Business & Organizational Studies and Disaster Recovery Studies.

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Publications agreement number 40686550

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