

A photograph of a Black woman with glasses, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt, sitting at a desk. She is looking thoughtfully at the camera while resting her head on her hand. An open book lies on the desk in front of her. The background is a wall with various notices or papers pinned to it.

# THE BLAZER

CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE · WINTER 2009

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

With this issue of the Blazer, I am writing my last Editor's Note. In May I begin a new job as Director of Sales and Marketing for Mennonite Publishing Network.

As I leave, I do so with good memories of my time at CMU, and also with a firm belief in the value and importance of Christian university education—not just for students, but for the church itself.

I am absolutely convinced that if the church in Canada is to have a future, it will be because it has invested in the lives of its youth. The world is a complex place, filled with challenges and dilemmas on many levels—politics, ethics, poverty, war, the environment, health care, economics, and many more. A Sunday school or youth group education, as good as they are, simply won't be sufficient to prepare young people for the challenges they will face as adults. If the church is to have a relevant voice, it will need members who are educated, thoughtful and biblically literate, and who have developed a deep and knowledgeable compassion for a suffering, broken and needy world.

Where will these Christians come from? They will come from schools like CMU. As Dr. Earl Davey, Vice President Academic, so eloquently noted at the university's opening program, CMU is a place where students can cultivate their "intellectual capacity to understand, interpret, critique and constructively address complex issues," become "people who are rooted in the biblical text" and grow their ability to love and care for others, along with their trust and belief in God.

Do you know someone who is wondering where to study in September? Tell them about CMU. Are you wondering where to make a donation this year? Give a gift to CMU. In both ways you can invest in the future of the church.

*John Longhurst, Editor*

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President Gerald Gerbrandt addresses staff and students at an Oct. 31 celebration of CMU becoming part of the AUCC. See story page 3.

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On the cover: Alicia Mitchell of Winnipeg MB, in the Founders' Hall.





## A “Gold Seal” of Approval

### CMU BECOMES MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES OF CANADA

There have been a number of major milestones in CMU’s short decade of life: The passing of the Mennonite College Federation Act by the Government of Manitoba on June 29, 1998; the signing of a Memorandum of Association to create the university by Concord College, Canadian Mennonite Bible College and Menno Simons College on November 18, 1998; and the holding of the first classes in September, 2000.

Add one more significant item to that list—being accepted into the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) on October 22, 2008.

“Being accepted into the AUCC is another important step for CMU,” says President Gerald Gerbrandt. “It means we have achieved one of our key goals—recognition by other universities in Canada.”

For Gerbrandt, becoming a member of the AUCC—which represents 94 public and private universities and university-degree level colleges in Canada—is like getting “a gold seal of approval. It signifies that CMU is like other Canadian universities when it comes to quality of teaching, faculty,

scholarship, research and programs.”

Getting accepted into the AUCC is no small accomplishment. To qualify for membership, a university or college must meet stringent criteria that include having a highly qualified faculty; degree programs that are characterized by breadth and depth in the traditional areas of the liberal arts and/or sciences; a commitment to, and proven track record of, teaching, research, scholarship, academic inquiry and the advancement of knowledge; and service to the community.

“It isn’t easy to get into the AUCC,” says Gerbrandt. “The standards are very high. By being accepted, Canada’s other universities agree that we meet those high standards, and that students can expect the best possible university-level education at CMU.”

Speaking of students, they are the ones who will most immediately feel the impact of CMU’s acceptance into the AUCC.

“Students will find it easier to gain admission to graduate or professional programs,” says Earl Davey, Vice President Academic, adding that “some

Canadian universities have already told their registrars to streamline applications from CMU students for various graduate and undergraduate programs.”

CMU faculty will also benefit, Davey says.

“In addition to the sense of validation that comes of being accepted into the AUCC, they are now eligible for a much broader range of research grants,” he says. “Given this opportunity, many of our faculty will most certainly secure increased levels of funding. This will greatly enhance their ability to do research and advance their own scholarship, as well as the general level of scholarship at CMU.”

CMU’s recruitment efforts will also be aided by the decision, notes Gerbrandt.

“For many prospective students today, accreditation is key to deciding where to study,” he says. “Going to university or college is expensive, and they want to be sure their degrees are recognized by employers, and that they can transfer credits if they should choose to go on to further studies.”

But present and potential students and faculty aren’t the only ones who can feel good about AUCC membership, Gerbrandt adds—members of Mennonite Church Canada and the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba, the two bodies that own CMU, can also “look with pride on this development,” he says.

Getting into the AUCC “shows the wisdom of their decision to merge Concord College and CMBC with Menno Simons College to create CMU,” says Gerbrandt. “That decision has proven to be a good one, now that CMU has been recognized as a credible and reputable university by the highest body for universities in Canada.”

Some people might wonder if getting into the AUCC means that CMU is now a “real” university. Gerbrandt rejects that notion.

“CMU was a ‘real’ university before being accepted into the AUCC,” he says. “The quality of our faculty, teaching, scholarship and programs did not change the moment we were accepted into membership. In fact, it was the high quality of our academics that enabled us to get AUCC membership. Becoming a member merely recognized that CMU had already attained the high standards that the organization expects of its members.”

Others may wonder if AUCC membership will change the Christian character of CMU. For Gerbrandt, the answer is unequivocally no.

“We are the same Christian university today that we were before the AUCC extended an invitation to us to join them,” he states. “Our desire to educate students to be thoughtful followers of Jesus has not changed. Our mission to be a university that is rooted in the Anabaptist faith tradition, and moved and transformed by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, is the same. Our goal is still to inspire and equip women and men for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.”

Looking back on the five-year application and approval process, Gerbrandt notes there are many people to thank.

“Being accepted into the AUCC was the result of the hard work of many people—faculty, staff, students, board members and others. I am grateful to all who worked hard for this, and for those who prayed for CMU during this time.” **B**







Michael Bueckert with a friend in Kenya.

## PRACTICUMS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CMU EXPERIENCE

### LESSONS LEARNED SHAPE STUDENTS “FOR A LIFETIME”

Where is CMU located? In Winnipeg, of course. But it's also in Tanzania, Kenya, Ontario, Thailand, Nicaragua, Quebec, Ireland—any place students are doing their practicum assignments.

“It's like we have over a hundred campuses around the world every year,” says Werner Kliever, who directs the practicum program at CMU's Shaftesbury campus.

The practicum assignments—a requirement for graduating from CMU's Shaftesbury campus—are “a way for students to put their studies into practice and provide needed services,” he says, adding that they also “give students a chance to test their vocational choices.”

While students benefit from the assignments, so do the organizations that host them says Ruth Taronno, who directs the practicum program at Menno Simons College, CMU's campus at the university of Winnipeg.

“Organizations benefit by having knowledgeable, capable university students work in their

programs,” she says of MSC's practicum program, which is a requirement for the four-year majors in International Development Studies and Conflict Resolution Studies.

As for the students, while they “often enter their placement with the idea that they are going to ‘give back’ to the community or ‘help’ people—and they often do—they also inevitably feel that they have received far more than they have given,” she adds.

Both agree that practicum assignments are not an add-on for students, but an integral part of their education. “The lessons they take away from the experience can shape them for a lifetime,” says Kliever.

Last year, 126 students did practicums in Canada and around the world. Here are a few glimpses of some of their experiences.



Alissa Krueger's practicum in Tanzania helped her focus her career interests.

"I have always wanted to be a teacher," says Krueger, who graduated in 2008 from CMU's Shaftesbury campus with a B.A. in International Development Studies. Her time with Neema Crafts, an Anglican church-supported job creation project run for people with disabilities, confirmed that career direction. "This was reinforced to me during the practicum," she says.

Krueger, a member of the Caronport, Sask. Community Church, adds that "my vocational thinking has evolved to include going back to Tanzania to work in literacy education. I'm not sure at this point when or how, but it is something I am going to pursue and see how God opens doors in this direction."



Alissa Krueger in Tanzania.

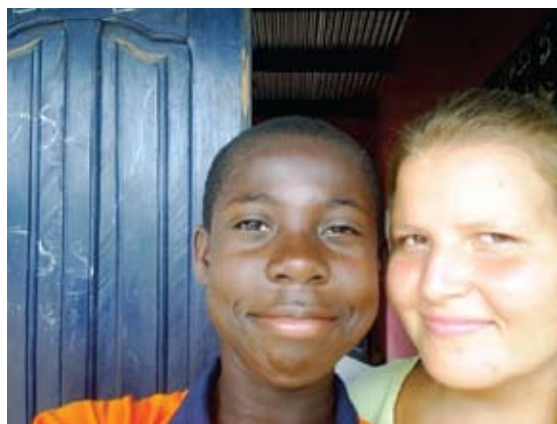
Jennifer Lynn Johnson, a fourth year International Development Studies major, did her practicum assignment at Global Refuge International in Uganda as an administrative assistant. She also ran an HIV-prevention initiative for men in rural villages.

Through the assignment, the member of the Northview Community Church in Abbotsford, B.C. learned "about the spiritual, political, and social issues surrounding the war that has affected northern Uganda for the past two decades," as well as about gender inequalities, the stigma attached to HIV/AIDS and the terrible effects of poverty.

The experience has made her eager to learn more about HIV-AIDS prevention and community education. "I have also fallen in love with Africa, and would love to return there longer-term," she says.

Thaya Moritz's practicum at the Good Shepherd Orphanage and International School in Ghana provided her with a "new outlook on development work."

"I feel what I learn the most was that development work is never clearly defined—it can take many



Thaya Moritz at the Good Shepherd Orphanage in Ghana.

forms," says Moritz, a Conflict Resolution Studies and International Development Studies double major at Menno Simons College.

Looking ahead, Moritz says the experience has "definitely solidified within me the desire to continue participating in development work. I enjoyed every aspect of the experience, and I was able to find value in the things that were difficult. It has widened the possibilities of what I feel I am able to do, and how I am able to affect change."



Kelly MacNab, Michael Bueckert and Joseph Naimodu did their practicum assignments together through Compassion International in Naimodu's hometown of Olepolos, Kenya. While there, the three did office work, needs assessments, worked on project proposals and other tasks.

For MacNab, a fourth year psychology major, with International Development Studies and Biblical and Theological Studies minors, the experience "gave my studies new meaning. I would like to return to Africa and work there for at least a few years."

The member of the Central Heights Mennonite Brethren Church in Abbotsford, B.C. also says she now sees life in Canada in a new way, and that it helped her gain "life skills that will help me to be more flexible and adaptable in a foreign context."

For Bueckert, a third year International Development Studies major with a minor in political studies, the experience provided an up-close look at the different ways organizations operate in Africa. He also was confronted by some of the challenges and dilemmas of doing development work.

"Sometimes it seems that intervention is necessarily a choice between the lesser of two evils," says the member of the Mount Royal Mennonite Church in



Kelly MacNab with children in Kenya.

Saskatoon. “How can you discourage unsustainable farming practices that pollute local sources of drinking water when the alternative leads to malnutrition? Is it justified to transfer exploitative, paternalistic and neo-colonial economic and social structures if it reduces the infant mortality rate?”

For Naimodu, the experience was an opportunity to work through his home church. “During my time in Kenya, my calling to serve in my community was affirmed,” says the third year Biblical and Theological Studies major, who is also minoring in International Development Studies. “I also learned that I have the potential to influence and help others.”



Lindsay Anderson, a Conflict Resolution Studies and International Development Studies major at Menno Simons College, served in Kenya with Change Agents Peace International (CAPI). Her practicum assignment provided first-hand knowledge about “the experiences people had with conflict, and the daily struggle they have to survive.” It also helped her discover that “even in countries torn by violence and poverty, there is hope.”

Anderson, who attends The Meeting Place, a

Mennonite Brethren congregation in Winnipeg, spent much of her time working on CAPI’s Kenya Alternatives to Violence Project, which offered workshops for people who wanted to learn to deal peacefully with conflict.

“I was able to teach others what I knew about resolving conflict and encourage them to use the skills they learned in the workshop,” she says. “I also analyzed the impact of the project through interviewing and surveying people.”

The experience enhanced her sense of “appreciation and respect for people of different cultures,” she adds, noting that it also confirmed her desire to pursue a career in conflict resolution in an educational setting.

“Conflict is inevitable in places such as in a school setting,” she says, noting that she wants to use her education and experiences to help resolve it.



Leah Buermeyer, who graduated last year with a general B.A., did her practicum in Thailand with Mennonite Church Canada. While there, she taught English and helped with local church outreach programs and other activities.

“I learned a lot about missionary work,” says Beurmeyer, a member of the Neepawa, Man. First Baptist Church. “It was a very interesting and eye-opening experience. I learned the basics of what it means to be a missionary, as well as how to go about sharing the Gospel with people in a different country.”

The practicum “really opened my eyes to the world,” she says. “I saw God from a new perspective. I also found a new confidence in myself with being in front of a group of people. It has broadened my horizons, and given me a new sense of energy and confidence for heading into the future.”



Not all practicum assignments take place in exotic foreign locations—some take place right here in Canada. Jessica Dyck, a third year Social Science major, did her practicum at the Mennonite Savings and Credit Union in Kitchener, where she worked in human resources, operations and marketing.

“My practicum assignment showed me that a job can be more than ‘just a job,’ says Dyck, a member of Poole, Ont. Mennonite Church. “I saw people live out their faith through their jobs every day. It was a privilege to work for a values-based organization and learn how its values affect all parts of the organization.”

Amanda Thorsteinson, a third year International Development Studies major, did her practicum at Refuge Juan Moreno, an emergency shelter in Montreal for vulnerable women, children and unaccompanied minors who are seeking asylum in Canada.

During her practicum Thosteinson, a member of Winnipeg’s Charleswood Mennonite Church, learned “about the difference one person can make” for women who were lonely and fragile as a result of being tortured or torn from family and friends in countries

far away. She also learned about how hard life can be for those who didn’t have the “good fortune to be born into white, middle class English-speaking households.”

Julia Wiebe, who graduated in 2008 with a B.A. with a major in Political Studies and a minor in Theology, did her practicum at the Public Interest Law Centre in Winnipeg assisting lawyers with research in the area of Aboriginal law.

“I learned about how the process of law works, and about how much work is involved in putting together a case for trial,” says Wiebe, a member of Winnipeg’s St. Margaret’s Anglican Church. “I learned a lot about Canada’s historic relations with First Nations, and the challenges that First Nations people face because of the patriarchal and paternalistic nature of the law.”

Her experience has inspired her to apply to law school. “There’s a need for more lawyers who specialize in social justice issues, and this is noble and rewarding work,” she says.



Reflections like these bring a sense of satisfaction to Kliewer and Taronno.

“It’s great to hear how their eyes have been opened to new possibilities, perspectives and relationships during their practicum experiences,” says Kliewer.

“It’s amazing to see how their perspectives have changed after their practicums,” adds Taronno. “So many have grown and changed as they put their studies into practice. There’s no doubt it totally enriches their academic experience, and gives them new ways of seeing the world.” **B**



# Menno Simons College: A Bridge To The Public University



*“Menno Simons College provides education flowing from Anabaptist-Mennonite understandings of faith, peace and justice, while engaging other religious traditions and intellectual perspectives. The College fosters a learning community that prepares students from diverse backgrounds for participation and leadership in local and global communities.”*

That mission statement is one of the first things you see when you walk into the door of Menno Simons College (MSC), CMU’s campus at the University of Winnipeg. Today, 20 years after MSC offered its first courses, those words are still key to the College’s purpose.

“Our goal is to reach out to diverse group of students who may not be familiar with the Anabaptist-Mennonite values of non-violence and service, and help them to see how they can apply those values in practical ways in the world today—no matter what their faith tradition might be, or even if they don’t have a faith background,” says Paul Redekop, CMU’s Dean of Social Sciences and Dean of Menno Simons College.

Over the past 20 years, thousands of students have had a chance to learn more about the mission and motivation of MSC, which offers the International Development Studies and Conflict Resolution

Studies majors for the University of Winnipeg. In 2008-09 a total of 1,060 students are taking one or more courses through the school, which is located across the street from the U of W in downtown Winnipeg.

“Students who come here want to learn how to make a difference in the world,” says Ruth Taronno, CMU’s Associate Vice President for MSC. “We offer them a program that is different from any other school, one that brings together issues of peace, justice and development. It’s an approach that enables them to believe they can change the world.”

## **Founding Vision**

The driving force behind the creation of MSC was Manitoba entrepreneur Dr. David Friesen, who passed away in 2007. It was his vision that led to the founding of the school in the 1970s, under the guidance of a group called the Friends of Higher Education.

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

In 1986, the Government of Manitoba passed legislation giving MSC degree-granting powers. It offered its first courses in 1989, under the direction of its first President, Dr. George Epp, and first full-time professor, Dr. Bernie Wiebe. In 1992 it formally affiliated with the University of Winnipeg.

Interestingly, Friesen's original vision was not to start a new school, but rather to merge the existing colleges into a new Christian liberal arts college—a dream that was fulfilled in 2000, when MSC joined Concord College and Canadian Mennonite Bible College in forming CMU.

"It was a good dream," says CMU President Gerald Gerbrandt of Friesen's vision. "It was just ahead of its time."

## Bridging The Gap

For Gerbrandt, an apt metaphor for MSC is that of a bridge.

"MSC is a bridge between CMU, the Mennonite churches and the world of the public university," he says. "It's a way for us to be in dialogue with the broader academic world on their turf."

At the Shaftesbury campus, says Earl Davey, CMU's Vice President Academic, CMU "engages in intellectual pursuit explicitly through the lens of Christian faith."

At the Menno Simons College campus, he goes on to say, "we engage the world of the public university, educating students about the values of peace and reconciliation which arise out of our Anabaptist Mennonite convictions, equipping them to be effective agents of peace and reconciliation, whatever their faith perspective."

Through this exchange, he says, MSC "contributes to, and enriches, the broader dialogue on subjects that are of vital interest to the Christian community" at the same time "building understanding and relationships with colleagues and neighbours in the academic world."

## A Valued Relationship

None of this would be possible without a good working experience with the University of Winnipeg.

"We have a good relationship with the U of W," says Taronno. "We're part of them, and feel welcomed by them."

In his remarks at MSC's graduation celebration

last June, University of Winnipeg President Lloyd Axworthy affirmed that sentiment. "I cherish our relationship with CMU," he said. "It shows we can collaborate and work together for the better good of giving students the excitement of learning."

He went on to express gratitude to CMU for "the way our two institutions meld and work together" to offer conflict resolution and international development studies through MSC.

"We appreciate and value our relationship with the University of Winnipeg," says Gerbrandt. "It has enriched us at CMU, and I trust they have benefited as well."



## The Future

Looking ahead, Redekop would like to see MSC as a place that is "at the cutting edge of thinking and doing when it comes to peace, development and social justice issues," as well as being a school that is "recognized in the wider academic world" and "sought out as a place that offers resources and reflection on these issues."

For Taronno, it's a vision of MSC as "a hub of peace and development work in Winnipeg and beyond, a place that comes to mind first when people think about peace, justice and development issues."

For Davey, it's about how CMU, through its Shaftesbury and Menno Simons College campuses, can share "an authentic message to the world in which it finds itself—a message of justice for the poor, the imperative to love one's neighbour, and a call to cherish this magnificent creation which is God's gift to all humanity . . . as we engage in the life of the public university, we both learn and serve together as we wrestle with issues that matter to God and that matter to us." **B**

# CMU HOME TO MAJOR ART WORK

## MURAL IN GREAT HALL PAINTED BY BRUCE HEAD



Students meet at the Blaurock Café beneath Bruce Head's mural.

Founders Hall, the classic stone building on the north side of the CMU's Shaftesbury campus, is considered to be artistic by many. But the building is also home to a significant piece of art by Bruce Head, one of Canada's premier visual artists.

In the 1950s, Head was one of a few young Manitoba artists whose work stimulated a dramatic surge in interest in contemporary art on the Canadian prairies. In 1960 he was commissioned to create a mural, titled *The Four Seasons*, for the dining room of the Manitoba Teacher's College—now CMU's Great Hall and home to the student-run Blaurock Café.

During an October 15 ceremony attended by staff and students, Head shared how the commission helped

him get started as an artist.

"It was a wonderful experience," he said of the creation of the oil on plaster mural, which was painted over the winter of 1959-60. "It gave a big boost to my career as an artist to take up something this big."

In his remarks, CMU President Gerald Gerbrandt said that while the university is "quite fortunate" to own such a historical building, it is also fortunate to be home "to a true work of art" like the mural.

Knowing more about the artist, he said, "will make us look at the mural a little differently."

The ceremony was held in conjunction with a retrospective of Head's work at the Winnipeg Art Gallery titled *Head Space: Five Decades of Bruce Head*.

Born in St. Boniface in 1931, Head graduated from the University of Manitoba's School of Art in 1953. Since then, he has pursued an active career as a designer, painter and sculptor. He is the recipient of numerous awards, and his works have been exhibited in galleries across Canada, including the National Gallery of Canada.

In addition to the mural, CMU's Shaftesbury and Menno Simons College campuses are home to *In God's Image*, a collection of art by 59 artists from around the world (curated by Winnipeg artist Ray Dirks). The Shaftesbury campus also houses *The Hand: Jesus' Way to the Cross*, a series of 14 prints by Winnipeg artist Betty Dimock. **B**



## NEW STAFF, FACULTY APPOINTED

A new Vice President External, a new Director for the Braintree Creation Care Centre and a new Communications and Media instructor have been appointed at CMU.

**Terry Schellenberg** of Kitchener, Ont. has been appointed Vice President External. Currently Principal of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Schellenberg will direct CMU's recruitment, communications and fundraising efforts.



Terry Schellenberg

"I am excited that Terry will be joining us at CMU," says President Gerald Gerbrandt. "His commitment to the church and to Christian education, along with his administrative experience and his experience in public relations and fundraising, will serve us well."

At Rockway, Schellenberg is responsible for the overall vision and mission of the school, for its academic programs,

and also been involved with promotion and fundraising for the school. He also was Principal of Menno Simons Christian School in Calgary.

"I believe that all schools exist first and foremost as moral communities," says Schellenberg, a member of the Breslau Mennonite Church. "At their heart, they plant seeds of identity and values, of right and wrong, of friendship and cultural awareness."

The special gift and role of Christian schools, and of Mennonite schools in particular, he says, is to "cultivate core Christian values and convictions," to foster "soul-fulness, or attention to the things of the spirit," and to be places that "nurture compassion, servanthood, and peace."

A university like CMU exists to help young people grow in faith and develop character, and to become "responsible, compassionate, globally minded and reflective learners, he notes, adding that "it's also a place that can strengthen the church, by providing leaders who can help it live out its mission in a secular and pluralistic society."

Schellenberg, who will begin his new role in summer, has an M.A. in Theology and Ethics from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, a B.A. from the University of Manitoba and a Bachelor

of Theology from Canadian Mennonite Bible College.

**Harvey Sawatzky** has been appointed Director of the CMU Braintree Creation Care Centre.

Sawatzky, a former high school teacher and long-time community environmental leader and outdoor education teacher, began his new half-time position last November. He holds a Master of Natural Resource Management degree from the Natural Resource Institute at the University of Manitoba, and is also employed as an environmental consultant with a private company.



Harv Sawatzky

In addition to leading the development of a number of initiatives at the Centre in East Braintree, Sawatzky will work with Dr. Glen Klassen, the Centre's Research Director, to create a Research Station dedicated to the study of the great peat bogs of southeastern Manitoba, as

well as studying the flora and fauna of the area.

"I am really very excited about this new initiative," says Gerbrandt. "For far too long we humans have forgotten God's command to take care of the earth. My hope is that the Braintree Creation Care Centre will inspire us to be more sensitive to our environment, and then teach us ways of taking care of that environment. Harvey has the skills and commitments we need to develop that kind of programming at Braintree."

Sawatzky is a member of the Fort Garry EMC Church.

**David Balzer**, a media producer with the Family Life Network (FLN), a multicultural Christian media outreach organization supported by the Mennonite Brethren Conference of Manitoba, has been appointed as an Instructor in the Communications and Media Studies program.

Balzer, who is also host of GodTalk, FLN's call-in radio show on Winnipeg radio station CJOB, did his undergraduate studies at Mennonite Brethren Bible College, one of CMU's predecessor colleges, and the University of Winnipeg, and has completed studies leading to an M.A. in New Testament at Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary. He

*New staff, cont...*

holds a Master of Arts in Speech Communication from California State University, where his thesis was titled “Towards an Understanding of the Function of Values in Communication.”

Prior to working at FLN, he served as Associate Pastor at the North Kildonan Mennonite Brethren Church in Winnipeg, where he is also a member.

For Balzer, joining CMU “means being part

of God’s grand enterprise of life-giving communication. When we foster our communication skills and



David Balzer

grow to understand the opportunities and peril of a mediated society, we become good stewards of God’s gifts.”

As for the study of communications itself, “I can’t think of a single life situation or career that isn’t enhanced by good communication,” he says. “I see the potential for a generation of students to love God and serve others through these skills.”

“I believe David has the experience, the training and the vision to help

this program to become a growing part of the CMU picture,” says Gerbrandt. “I am excited about the contribution he can make to our developing Communications program.”

The Communications and Media program has been made possible by the support of Elmer Hildebrand, owner of the Golden West Radio, which operates 28 radio stations across Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. **B**

## NEW SCHOOL OF PEACEBUILDING LAUNCHED

FIRST COURSES TO BE OFFERED JUNE 29 - JULY 10

Are truth and reconciliation commissions a good way to deal with painful experiences in the past?

Yes, says Piet Meiring, a professor of theology at the University of Pretoria who served on South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission. But he also offers a caution.

While acknowledging that the Commission was a vital part of “our healing” and “profoundly important in creating a new South Africa,” he also recognizes that it was an extraordinarily painful process for many South Africans—and not the perfect success story

that some have made it out to be.

“Forgiveness doesn’t come easily,” he says. “You can’t organize forgiveness and you can’t force someone to forgive. Microwave-oven forgiveness—where you just pop something in and bing!—that will never last.”

Meiring, who wrote about his experience in the book *A Chronicle of the Truth Commission*, will be in Winnipeg in June, 2009 to teach at the new Canadian School of Peacebuilding (CSOP) at CMU.

Meiring’s course, titled *Truth telling And Peace: An Insider’s Perspective On South Africa’s Truth*

And Reconciliation Commission, will focus on the experience of the victims and the perpetrators, the different reactions to the process from Black and White South Africans; the experience of the various faith communities; essential prerequisites for reconciliation and peacebuilding; and a comparison of truth and reconciliation experiences in Canada and South Africa.

“Piet’s course will be very informative for people who work in the area of mediation and conflict transformation, or who are interested in how truth and reconciliation commissions can

address issues like Indian Residential Schools here in Canada,” says Jarem Sawatsky, Director of the School and an Assistant Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at CMU.

In addition to Meiring, other courses at the June 29-July 10 School are *Poets, Prophets And Music Of Social Justice: Towards Holistic Worship*, with Scottish songwriter, social justice advocate, theologian and peacebuilder John Bell and Irma Fast Dueck, Associate Professor of Practical Theology at CMU; *Maintaining Health Teams: Insights*

*continued on page 14*

*continued from page 13*

From Organizational And Workplace Conflict Practitioners, with Winnipegger Janet Schmidt, one of Canada's leading experts in, and practitioners of, mediation and conflict resolution; and Frameworks and Foundations of Peacebuilding, with David Dyck of Winnipeg, who has been working and studying in the field of conflict resolution for more than 15 years.

For Sawatsky, the line-up will

provide students with "a wealth of information and insight into ways they can help build peace locally, and around the world. Through the School they will be able to participate in a collaborative learning community that will nurture and equip them for various forms of peace practice, and expose them to some of the significant ideas and teachers in the field."

The School, which is sponsored by CMU, is geared towards

practitioners, professionals, activists, students, non-profit organizations and faith-based groups that are engaged in peacebuilding. The courses can be taken for academic credit or for professional training purposes.

Cost for the School is \$555 per course for academic credit, or \$366 for training purposes only, plus \$150 in fees for credit or audit. Housing is also available at CMU.

For more information, visit [www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca) or contact the School at [csop@cmu.ca](mailto:csop@cmu.ca). **B**

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR BLAZER ALUMNI AWARDS

Do you know a CMU alumnus who has, through his or her life, embodied the university's values and mission of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society? If yes, then we want you to nominate him or her for the annual CMU Alumni Blazer Award!

These Awards, given to alumni from CMU, its predecessor colleges and Outtatown, will be presented at the September 25-26 Homecoming celebration. Last year's recipients were Joyce Schimpky, David Dyck, Esther Patkau and Gary Harder.

Nominations can be sent to CMU Church and Alumni

Relations, or use the nomination form on Alumni section of the CMU website. Please include the name of the nominee, information that supports the nomination and the nominee's contact information.

Theme for the 2009 Homecoming Celebration is Different Journeys, Common Ground. A special invitation is extended to people who graduated in 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, and 1999 from MBBC, Concord College and CMBC, and from CMU and Outtatown in 2004. Contact the Alumni Relations

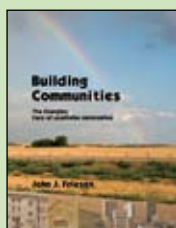
office for information about your class' reunion.

"We're looking forward to a great time of reflecting on the various journeys alumni have taken over the years, and celebrating the contributions they made during their life," says Church and Alumni Relations Coordinator Eleonore Braun of the annual celebration.

A special feature of this year's Homecoming will be a chance to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Outtatown program, which began life as the School of Discipleship (SOD).

For more information visit the CMU website, call 204.487.3300 or e-mail [elbraun@cmu.ca](mailto:elbraun@cmu.ca). **B**

## CMU PRESS

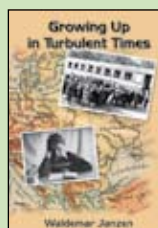


### Building Communities:

The Changing Face of Manitoba Mennonites

by John J. Friesen

2007; 240 pages; \$32.50



### Growing up in Turbulent Times:

Memoirs of Soviet Oppression, Refugee Life in Germany, and Immigrant Adjustment to Canada

by Waldemar Janzen

2007; maps & illustrations; 290 pages; \$29.00

To order, contact CMU Bookstore at: toll free **877.231.4570** | email [cmubookstore@cmu.ca](mailto:cmubookstore@cmu.ca)



# THREE STUDENTS FROM SAME FAMILY STUDYING AT CMU



Paul, Genevieve and Andre Forget: Happy to be together at CMU.

For the third time since CMU began in 2000, three students from the same family are studying at the university's Shaftesbury campus.

This time it's Andre, Paul and Genevieve Forget of Mount Forest, Ontario. They are among 27 sets of siblings studying at the school.

"Our parents always hoped we would be supportive of one another," says Genevieve, who is in her first year at CMU. "But now they now joke that since so many of their children are at CMU, maybe they should move here to join us," adds Andre, a third year English major.

Andre, 20, was the first to come, in 2006. He decided to study at CMU after visiting a friend at

the university.

"I really enjoyed the visit—the classes, professors and the people," he says. "No other school caught my interest after that."

His enthusiasm for CMU caught the attention of his siblings, who joined him this fall.

For Paul, 24, CMU is the third stop in his post-secondary journey. He started by studying electrical engineering at an Ontario college, but partway through his studies decided against pursuing it as a career.

After that, he tried a large public university in that province. He found it hard to fit in.

"Some classes had as many as 300 people in them, and the smallest class had 75," he says.

After hearing Andre talk about the smaller classes and friendly atmosphere at CMU, he decided to make a switch. He's glad he did.

"Here, all my professors know my name," he says. "That's huge. I can get so much more out of classes at CMU."

Genevieve, 18, also enjoys the smaller setting.

"I'm a people person, and I really like the community and the chance to get to know everyone," she says, noting that she last year following a visit to see her older brother.

The three are happy to be together at CMU. "We're a close family," Andre says. "We like being together."

Their parents—Peter

and Penny Forget—are glad they are there, too.

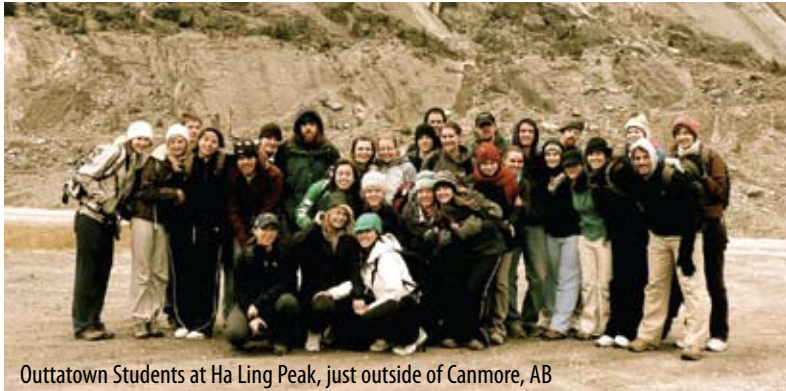
"We really like CMU," says Penny. "We like the sense of community there. It's very important to us that the staff are committed to more than academics. We appreciate how they are involved in other parts of our children's lives. We feel really comfortable having them there."

For CMU Dean of Student Life Marilyn Peters Kliever, the experience of the Forget threesome, and all the other siblings at the university, highlights the importance of family recommendation when it comes to choosing a university.

"So many students decide on a school because of what friends or family tell them," she says. "The fact we have so many siblings at CMU shows that students here are really enjoying their studies, and the community atmosphere, and telling their brothers and sisters about it."

Other sets of three students from the same family at CMU in the past were Emily, Sandra and Stephanie Dueck of Leamington, Ont., in 2006, and Adam, Kaelin, and Paul Beriault of Calgary, in 2005. **B**

# OUTTATOWN STUDENTS, LEADERS REFLECT ON FIRST SEMESTER



Outtatown Students at Ha Ling Peak, just outside of Canmore, AB

Learning about the reality of poverty and about the nature of Christian community—those are two of the themes that emerged for Outtatown students and leaders after their first semester with the program in Winnipeg, northwestern Ontario, Alberta and B.C.

For Emma Purser, with Site One (Guatemala), the first semester provided a chance to “learn about poverty in Canada—what it is, what causes it, what it looks like, and what is being done to help the people who are affected by it.”

Lynele Adams, with Site Three (South Africa), had a similar experience. During an Urban Plunge in Winnipeg he had an “opportunity to see the reality of poverty . . . we heard and saw stories of pain, hurt and sorrows. I believe we were all challenged by the experience we had, and all took something valuable away.”

Ricky Stephen, Site Two (South Africa), also found the Urban Plunge to be “an eye opening experience . . . not necessarily in opening my eyes to seeing poverty, but opening my eyes to the true solution for poverty: Love. As cliché as that might sound, it is true. It’s

obvious that throwing money at the problem can’t fix it; governments have done that for years. But if we can transfer our love of Christ to those who are impoverished, we can make a difference.”

When it comes to community, Kevin Brandt, Site Three (South Africa), found the first semester to be a time to form “friendships that may very well last a lifetime . . . getting to know everybody on such a personal level has been a great experience because we have realized many of us deal with similar struggles. We can relate to each other well and, more importantly, talk about these struggles and offer encouragement through prayer.”

The Site Leaders echo all these sentiments. “I am reminded that a life of faith is truly a journey and a process, and I am grateful for the privilege of being able to live and learn within such a community,” says Lindsay Kubassek, a Leader with Site One (Guatemala). “And even though all of my questions are not always answered, and sometimes our experiences create more questions than answers, I am confident that as I continue to seek that I will find—whether through

a teaching session in a classroom, while paddling in a canoe, eating with students, or by giving up a piece of clothing to someone who needs it more than I.”

For Paul Swanson, a Leader with Site Three (South Africa), a moment he will remember occurred during the canoe trip, when everyone was gathered around a fire.

“The stars peered out over our shoulders as we shared in the brokenness and beauty of our world and our lives,” he says. “I was humbled as the students held the tension of knowing that our world is hurting, and yet realizing that God is with us amidst the suffering. This moment, too, passed without much fanfare, but added to our collective story as a small community attempting to follow in the way of Jesus.”

Through the first semester experiences, “we were taught how to live in community: to listen, be patient, demonstrate love and challenge the other individuals on our site,” adds Laura Carmichael, a Site Leader with Site Two (South Africa). “We tried new things, and intentionally stepped beyond where we are comfortable, gaining insight into the strengths and capabilities that are within us all.”

Outtatown, she continues, “may do school differently than any other university, but as we travel, serve and ask questions, we are chasing after learning in the many ways that it presents itself.” **B**

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# NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY APPROVED

A new graduate-level program that will enable people to explore or strengthen their capacity for various types of church-related ministry will begin this fall at CMU.

Called the Masters of Arts in Christian Ministry, the program is designed to "give students both the intellectual and theological framework and the practical competencies they need to become involved in the ministry of the gospel," says Karl Koop, who directs the Biblical and Theological Studies graduate studies program at CMU.

"The goal of the program is to offer training for people already involved in ministry, as well as for those who want to test their call to ministry," he adds, noting that "it will give them a profoundly biblical and theological literacy, so they

can draw wisely on Scripture and on Christian tradition as the basis for Christian life, thought, and ministry."

Additionally, the program will help students develop their "love for God and God's mission in the world," he says, and provide a "holistic view of ministry that includes evangelism, peacemaking and fostering justice, all of which are at the heart of Christian faith and the mission of the church."

Although the program will appeal to those who want to work for the church, Koop says it can also help those who want to "strengthen their volunteer ministry in their congregation," and people involved in church-related non-profit organizations. People who are involved in the business world or other areas of work will

also benefit from a "solid underpinning of biblical and theological studies," he says.

"There is a clear need for this kind of program in Manitoba," says Earl Davey, Vice President Academic. "A significant proportion of students who have expressed interest in graduate studies at CMU wish to pursue ministry options, and Mennonite church conferences have indicated a keen interest in a seeing a professional ministry degree offered at CMU."

As well, he says, since the new program aims to create a centre for Anabaptist and evangelical graduate education in Winnipeg, it "fills a gap not only in Manitoba, but also in the prairie provinces."

He goes on to note that the program also is a response to the "increasing numbers of Manitobans who are unwilling, or unable, to move to other parts of Canada or the U.S. to pursue graduate studies. They want to complete a graduate degree at home."

The new degree, which will be offered in cooperation with Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, was approved by the CMU Board on January 31.

This is the second graduate-level program offered by CMU; the first, the Masters of Arts in Theological Studies, began a year ago.

Students interested the new Masters of Arts in Christian Ministry can contact Koop at [kkoop@cmu.ca](mailto:kkoop@cmu.ca), or visit the CMU website. **B**



Lexi Grambart of Alkmaar, The Netherlands and Noelle Koop of Winnipeg sign the Wall O' Thanks during the November 24 Tuition Freedom Day forum. During the forum students took time to say thanks to those who donate to CMU.



## **Proclaiming Christ In The Public Square.**

That's the title of a series of presentations by broadcaster and columnist Michael Coren, March 16-17 at CMU. Coren, host of the Michael Coren Show on CFRB in Toronto and a columnist in newspapers in Toronto, Calgary, Ottawa, Edmonton, London and Winnipeg, will speak on The Call to Represent Christ in the Public Square: In the Lions' Den; The Challenges of Proclaiming Christ in the Public Square; and Defending the Notion of Intrinsic Human Worth and Dignity in Canada today. Go to [www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca) for more information.

## **Milton Marathon.**

Students, staff and others read John Milton's Paradise Lost out loud for 12 hours straight on Jan. 17. "A poem like Paradise Lost rewards individual silent reading, but it really comes alive when it is read out loud, in a group," says Associate Professor of English Paul Dyck, who organized the marathon. "Its twelve hour span seems about right for the scale of the action that it describes—the fall of the human race."

## **Unique Final Exam.**

For most university students, writing final exams means sitting in a classroom and writing. But not for the 25 members of Kenton Lobe's Participatory Local Development course at Menno Simons College. For their final exam they put on a play about hunger. Called Unequal Harvest, the play was performed to a sold-out audience of 120 on Dec. 14 at Prairie Theatre Exchange. "It was a pretty unique learning experience," says class member Alison Ralph. "[Putting on the play] taught us practical things we can do to try to bring change to the world."

## **MSC To Host International Exchange Program.**

Menno Simons College will host an international student exchange program in June. Called Social Justice and Human Rights in an era of Globalisation, the program will bring students from Europe and Canada to Winnipeg for a summer course in the areas of social justice, restorative justice and human rights. For more information about the course, which is supported by seven universities in Canada and six in Europe, contact Paul Redekop at [predekop@cmu.ca](mailto:predekop@cmu.ca).



Photo caption: Braintree Creation Care Centre Director Harvey Sawatzky, Braintree donors Walter and Elly Loewen and Nature Conservancy of Canada Regional Director Ursula Goeres at the January 14 celebration of the signing of an agreement between CMU and the Nature Conservancy. See story below.

## **Students Hold Bake Sale for Kenyan Children.**

Students at CMU's Shaftesbury campus raised \$620 at a Nov. 5-6 bake sale to help build a school for children in Kenya. The sale also featured the sale of handmade Kenyan crafts.

## **Braintree Preservation Agreement.**

CMU has signed an agreement with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) to preserve 80 percent of the land at the Braintree Creation Care Centre. The agreement, which was formally marked at a Jan. 14 celebration, guarantees "that the land will be preserved in perpetuity," said Harvey Sawatzky, who directs the Centre. The remain-

ing 20 percent can be used for educational programs. The area has been identified by the NCC as a Priority Natural Area due to the concentration of threatened and rare species.

## **Student Places High in Opera Auditions.**

CMU music major Rebecca Woodmass placed fourth in the Jan. 17 regional finals of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in Minneapolis. Woodmass, from Steinbach, Man., received an Encouragement Award, which is given to singers who show great promise.

**Student Receives Scholarship.** Janelle Hume, a third-year Bachelor of Arts student at CMU, has been awarded a Millennium Excellence Award from the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation. Hume, a member of the Westwood Community Church (Mennonite Brethren), was nominated for the award because of her leadership on the women's basketball team, for her academic proficiency and for her service in the community and overseas.

**Political Forum Held.** Abortion, the plight of American war resisters in Canada, arts funding and food shortages—these were some of the issues that came up at an Oct. 8 Federal election forum at CMU's Shaftesbury campus. Candidates from the Liberal, Conservative, NDP and Green parties were in attendance. To help students from out of province vote in the election, a polling station was set up at the campus for the first time ever.

**Communication Conference To Be Held.** Mike Tennant, co-creator and co-producer of the popular CBC Radio One show *The Age of Persuasion*,

will be the keynote speaker at the May 15, 2009 Going Barefoot II conference for communicators at CMU's Shaftesbury campus. The theme of the conference is Reaching the Facebook Generation; it is supported by MC Canada, MC Manitoba, MCC Canada and the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. Go to [www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca) for more information.

**Iranians Want Better Relations With West.** That's what Harry Huebner, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Theology, found during an Oct. 4-10 visit to that country. Huebener was in Iran as part of an MCC-sponsored delegation of academics from U.S. and Canadian Mennonite universities and colleges. "The question they asked was "How can we foster more dialogue?" says Huebner said, noting that he hoped that CMU might provide further opportunities for exchange between people in the two countries.

## STAFF AND FACULTY NOTES

**Titus Guenther**, Associate Professor of Theology and Missions, spoke at the Fort Garry Mennonite Brethren

Church in Winnipeg for three Sundays in fall. His topic was "Proclaiming Christ in a Post-Christendom society." An article he wrote titled "Ältester Martin C. Friesen (1889-1968): A Man of Vision for Paraguay's Mennogemeinde," was published in *Preservings*.

**Abe Bergen** will end his teaching responsibilities in the area of youth ministry in April. Bergen, who also directs CMU's Enrolment Service's department, began teaching youth ministry at CMBC in 1977.

**Richard McCutcheon**, Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies at Menno Simons College, recently received his Ph.D in Anthropology from McMaster University. His dissertation was titled "Theorizing Violence to Illuminate War: A Case Study of the U.S. / U.K. - Iraq War, 1991-2003". In fall he gave a paper titled, "Theorizing Violence to Illuminate War" at the Peace and Justice Studies Association meetings in Portland, Oregon.

**Vaughn Rempel Snider** has resigned her position as Assistant Director of Athletics. She also coached the women's volleyball

team and founded CMU's summer day camp.

**Pierre Gilbert**, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies and Theology, had an article titled "Spiritual Warfare" published in the *Global Dictionary of Theology* and also contributed an essay titled "The Case of the Venus Flytrap: The argument of the Book of Job" for the Elmer Martens *Festschrift*.

**Paul Dyck**, Associate Professor of English, gave papers at the Renaissance Society of America in Chicago and at the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences in Vancouver. He also published an article titled "Toward an Electronic Edition of an Early Modern Assembled Book" in *Computing Humanities Working Papers*.

During his sabbatical, **Neil Funk-Unrau**, Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies at Menno Simons College, worked on a research project on the transformative and restorative potential of apology processes. An article arising out of his research has been accepted for publication in the journal *Research in Social Movements, Conflict and Change*.

**Len Ratzlaff** (MBBC `70) recently completed a five-year term as Chair of the Department of Music at the University of Alberta. On leave this year, he is compiling a collection of Canadian choral music for the Stuttgart-based publisher Carus Verlag. One of his choirs, the University of Alberta Madrigal Singers, competed in the Cork International Choral Competition in Ireland in May, winning the International Jury Prize.

**George Porter** (MBBC `76) works as the Youth Action Director for the Diocese of Fredericton and serves as the Anglican chaplain on the campuses of the University of New Brunswick (Fredericton) and St. Thomas University. George's wife, Nancy, works as a personal support worker for people with special needs.

After two years of sabbatical studies in the U.S. and Canada, **Werner** (CMBC 1982) and **Marlene** (CMBC 1979-82) **Franz** have returned to Paraguay. Werner was living at CMU while working on a Ph.D through the University of Wales in Great Britain and the Bienenberg Theological Seminary in Switzerland. He is now serving as president and professor of CEMTA (Centro Evangélico Mennonita de Teología

Asunción), a Mennonite seminary in Paraguay, affiliated with the Universidad Evangélica del Parguay.

**David Matthies** (CMBC `86) lives in Ladera Ranch, CA with wife Carolyn and two boys, Caleb (5) and Quinn (2). David is the music director of the Capistrano Valley Symphony Orchestra. He invites you to check out his website: [www.davidmatthies.com](http://www.davidmatthies.com).

The next project for **Keith Bolt** (CMBC `84) is singing the role of Lennie Small in the opera "Of Mice and Men", an opera composed by the American Carlisle Floyd in 1969 and based on the novel of the same name by John Steinbeck. There will be 11 performances in Hof and in Bayreuth, Germany from February 27-May 15.

Spending 30 days travelling by train isn't everyone's idea of a good time. But it's all in a month's work for **Bryan Moyer Suderman** (CMBC `90), a singer/songwriter from Stouffville, Ontario who is bringing his guitar, a backpack full of CDs, and a soul full of music for a coast-to-coast odyssey from Alberta to Boston by way of Seattle. More info and a performance schedule can be found



The CMU Men's Chorus sings at Christmas@CMU, held Nov. 29 at the university. About 1,000 people enjoyed Christmas music and a carol sing at the annual event, which helps kick-off the Christmas season.

on his website: [www.smalltallmusic.com](http://www.smalltallmusic.com)

**Karis Boetto** (Schmidt, CMBC `91) and her husband, Jeff, live in Bakersfield, CA where he teaches third grade and she works as a Recreation Therapist at a local Psychiatric Hospital. They have two boys, Rylan (5) and Jase (2), and are actively involved at The Bridge Bible Church.

**Korey Dyck** (CMBC `94) is currently in a Ph.D program at the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College, Dublin. The tentative title for his dissertation is A People's Peace Talks: The Converging Practice of Interfaith Dialogue for Peacebuilding in Deeply Divided Societies. While studying in Dublin, Korey and his wife, Wendy Barkman, became the parents of Gabriel Dyck on April 24, 2007.

**Geoff Harder** (CMBC `94) works as a librarian at the University of Alberta, managing digitization and digital library initiatives.

**Jeremy Bergen** (CMBC `96) and Rebecca Steinmann are pleased to announce the birth of Seth Peter Steinmann Bergen, born October 3, 2008. Jeremy and Rebecca have moved to Kitchener so he can teach theology at Conrad Grebel University College.

**Dan Wohlgemut** (CC `97) is working for TD Canada Trust as a Manager of Customer Service in Cambridge, Ont. while Jennifer (Stehr, CC `95) is the Library Director for Emmanuel Bible College in Kitchener.

**Jolene Friesen-Stoesz** (CMBC `00) & **Trevor Friesen-Stoesz** (CMBC `00) welcomed their



first child, Jacob William John Friesen-Stoesz, on March 20, 2008. They recently moved to Morden, Manitoba. Trevor is teaching high school in Altona; Jolene was also teaching until Jacob joined the family.

Last fall **Catherine Jahnke** (CMU `01) released a Christmas album, "O Night Divine"; more info is available on her website: [www.catjahnke.com](http://www.catjahnke.com).

**Kelli** (Downey, CMU `02) and **Jamie Rempel** were married on Aug. 23, 2008 in Saskatoon. Kelli is working as a Legal Assistant while Jamie works as the Assistant Foreman at a plumbing wholesale company.

**Heather** (Thiessen) and **Nathan Koop** (OT `02) were married on May 26, 2007 and have recently purchased their first home. Nathan works as a computer programmer while Heather is completing her studies at CMU. They attend Central Baptist Church.

**Ryan Schellenberg** (CMU `03) married Susan Kroeker on Dec. 27, 2008. Ryan is working on a Ph.D. in New Testament Studies at the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto. Susan is Director of Child, Youth, and Family Ministries at Walmer Road Baptist Church.

In October, 2008 **Ben Plett** (CMU 2002-04) and **Angela Bergen Plett** (CMU `06) graduated from the University of Manitoba; Ben received a Bachelor of Physical Therapy and Angela received a Master of Occupational Therapy; both are working in their respective professions in Prince Rupert, B.C.

**Shane Perkinson** (CMU `04) is pursuing an MA in International Affairs, with a concentration on Southeast Asian Studies and International Economics, at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. Most recently he was teaching English for an Australian University, RMIT, in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Congrats to the Liptonians, who were awarded the Outstanding Pop Recording Award at the 2008 Western Canada Music Awards in October. The band Members include **David** (Bucky) **Driedger** (CMU `07) and **Darren Grunau** (current CMU student).

**Aaron Epp** (CMU `07) is a national correspondent for the Canadian Mennonite and also acts as the Arts & Culture editor at *The Uniter*, the University of Winnipeg's student newspaper. Aaron also contributes

to *Geez* magazine and *ChristianWeek*.

**Alyssa Heidebrecht** (OT `07) is in her second year studying Music Education at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont. She is excited to have her sister Kathryn participating in Outtatown this year.

For the last number of months **Rafael Duerksen** (CMU `08) has been leading a missions team in Berlin, Germany as part of Mennonite Brethren Missions & Services International's TREK program.

**Naomi Lang** (CMU `08) has just returned from a few months of travel in South America. Naomi traveled to Peru, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay (to visit a fellow CMU Alumnus and friend Christel Wiebe) and Brazil.

**Eric Neumann** (CMU `08) is working as a Marketing Consultant at Ignite 107 (formerly Freq 107), a Christian rock station in Winnipeg.

**Sarah Quartel** (CMU `08) is working at Grant Memorial Baptist Church, Winnipeg as an Administrative Assistant.

**Emilee Smart** (CMU `08) and **Chris R. Thiessen** (CMU 2003-2005) were married on October

11, 2008 in Orillia, ON and are now live in Winnipeg.

## Passages

**Nick Willems** (MBBC `47) died October 1, 2008.

**Peter Klassen** (CMBC `57) died January 5, 2009.

**Elfrieda Nettie Nafziger** (Toews, MBBC `59) died September 2, 2007.

**Ernie Isaac** (MBBC `64) died August 31, 2008.;

**Myrna Friesen** (CMBC 1966-67) died October 8, 2008.

**Ruth Oommen** (Reimer, MBBC `70) died January 9, 2009.

**Lara Ens** (CMBC 1988-89) died May 10, 2008.

## New Monthly Prayer E-mail

Of the many ways people can support CMU, prayer is one of the most important. That's why the Student Life Department has created a new monthly prayer and update e-mail for parents of CMU students, and others. Each month during the school year prayer list recipients receive prayer requests for students and staff, along with updates about life at the university.

In addition to the prayer list, CMU has created a new page on its website for parents that contains information for parents and a parent's FAQ. You can find it in the Student Life section of the CMU website.

Will you join others from across Canada in praying for CMU? To sign up, send an e-mail to Hilda Nikkel at [hnikkel@cmu.ca](mailto:hnikkel@cmu.ca) or call 204.487.3300.

# Support CMU-Online

So you want to support CMU, but you don't have any stamps. Or maybe you've misplaced your chequebook. Not to worry; you can give to online!

By going to [www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca) you not only can give to CMU—you can also designate your gift to various aspects of university life. Want to support Athletics? It's just a click away. It's the same for music, facilities, Outtatown, Menno Simons College and other important programs at CMU.

CMU's budget this year is \$12 million. Of that total, only about 41 percent comes from tuition fees. The remainder comes from the Government of Manitoba, conferences and church support, student housing and rental income—and from people like you. This year, CMU needs to raise almost \$1 million to provide quality Christian university education to students.

Your donations don't go unnoticed; students are grateful. Said Nicholas Ewert of Winnipeg: "Thanks for supporting CMU. It has been one of the most significant and formative experiences of my life!" Added Stefanie Heide of Alymer, Ont.: "My time at CMU has been of inestimable value to me. I feel I've gained a wealth of knowledge, both from the classes and the community at CMU. Thank you so very much!"

By giving to CMU, you can help these, and other students, get an education that prepares them for leadership in church and society. With them I say: Thanks for giving to CMU!

*Abe Bergen, Director of Development*

## EVENTS AT CMU

All events at CMU unless otherwise indicated.

March 12-14: West Side Story, a musical by Leonard Bernstein. 7:30 PM, Laudamus Auditorium.

March 16-17: Proclaiming Christ in the Public Square, with broadcaster and author Michael Coren.

March 18: Classical Matters: An evening with Eric Friesen, formerly of CBC Radio Two. 7:30 PM, Laudamus Auditorium.

March 22: Choral Connections, 7:30 PM, Loewen Athletic Centre.

March 26: Verna Mae Janzen Vocal Competition finals, 7:30 PM, Laudamus Auditorium.

March 27: Campus Visit Day.

March 27: Envisioning Sound: Encounters with the Music of Olivier Messiaen. 7:30 PM, Laudamus Auditorium.

April 19: Outtatown Graduation, 2 PM, Loewen Athletic Centre.

April 25: Spring concert. 7:30 PM, Loewen Athletic Centre.

April 26: CMU Convocation, 2:30 PM, Loewen Athletic Centre.

May 4-8: School of Writing at CMU.

May 15: Going Barefoot II, a conference for church communicators.

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

**For more information, visit [www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca)**

## CMU ALUMNI BLAZER AWARDS

The CMU Alumni Office is now accepting nominations for the 2009 recipient(s) of the Alumni Blazer Award. Please send nominations to the Alumni Office by **March 31, 2009**.

The Alumni Blazer Award is presented annually to alumni who, through their lives, embody CMU's values and mission of "service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society."

Former students of CMU and its predecessor colleges can be nominated by using the online form or sending:

- Information that would substantiate the nomination
- The nominee's current contact information
- Your contact information

Send nominations to:  
Alumni Blazer Award

Mail: c/o CMU Alumni Office | 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. | Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2  
E-Mail: [alumni@cmu.ca](mailto:alumni@cmu.ca) | Web: [www.cmu.ca/alumni](http://www.cmu.ca/alumni)

Award recipients will be honoured at a special presentation at CMU's 2009 Homecoming, Sept. 25-26, 2009



## A “PERFECT STORM”

A “perfect storm.” That’s the phrase used in a recent article in *The Mennonite* to describe the combination of dwindling enrolments and financial turmoil negatively affecting Mennonite colleges in the U.S.

The situation is similar in Canada, for both Christian and public colleges and universities. The era of easy enrolment growth is over as the number of high school graduates levels off, and then declines. The challenge facing institutions is to maintain stable enrolments in the face of increasing competition for students.

And now, just as institutions are rethinking strategic plans in light of new enrolment realities, we are hit by a financial meltdown. Instead of generating much-needed revenue, endowments and investments are decreasing in value. At the same time, normally generous supporters are experiencing their own financial challenges. One Christian institution has already fallen victim to the storm; at the end of this academic year Taylor University College and Seminary in Edmonton will close its

undergraduate program.

As I reflect on these stormy conditions I think back to 1998, when Concord College, CMBC and Menno Simons College signed the Memorandum of Association creating CMU. Even as some were excited about the initiative, others wondered: Will it succeed? Providentially, that was a good time to start a new university—the Canadian economy was doing well and post-secondary enrolments were rising everywhere. With the vision developed for CMU, prospects looked good.

After ten years of operations, we can say that CMU has thrived. Student numbers grew dramatically and the university’s first decade ended with a zero operating deficit—plus we paid for the purchase of 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. and constructed a new environmentally-friendly residence. Our recent admission into the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada attests to growing recognition of the quality of the education CMU offers.

But CMU is not immune to the current post-secondary dynamics.

Like other schools, we face many challenges. But I believe we are well-positioned to weather the storm, for at least three reasons.

First, CMU is rooted in, and owned by, a particular faith community—the Mennonite church. We serve that community but, as is reflected in our motto of being “a university of the church for the world,” CMU reaches out much beyond the Mennonite community to serve those of other denominations and no denomination. We do this as an extension of the vision and mission of the churches that created the university. For CMU, thriving requires that we remember and foster this important relationship.

Second, the quality and character of the education offered by CMU is urgently needed in today’s world. In a world filled with violence, need, suffering, alienation, loss of meaning and spiritual hunger, CMU provides a unique Anabaptist-Mennonite perspective that emphasizes peace, service, dialogue, witness and thoughtful Christianity.

Last, CMU has a broad base of support. Unlike some organizations, which depend on a few people for most of their support, CMU’s support base is broad—more than two-thirds of the donations CMU receives comes from congregations and donors contributing \$1,000 or less. Larger donations are necessary and appreciated, of course, but our broad base of donors helps us weather these stormy economic times.

Over the past ten years an amazing number of wonderful, committed people have worked, donated and prayed to make CMU a reality. For this, we are thankful. Together we have created something marvelous that serves not only our Mennonite churches, but the church at large, and Canadian society. We trust God will continue to use these people and CMU to make a difference. **B**

*Gerald Gerhardt*



# Christian University Education



Doug and Ester Funk of Jordan, Ont. are thankful that all of their four children are following Christ, and also glad that two—Derek, who graduated in 2006, and Rachel, who graduated in 2008—chose to attend CMU.

“At CMU, our children explored and learned more about their personal faith in an environment where professors teach, challenge and mentor students,” they say. “CMU provided them with a nurturing environment, and prepared them for service in the church and the community.”

At CMU, we value excellent teaching, rigorous thinking and practical preparation. As a Christian university, we do this within a framework of faith in God, and with the conviction that this faith makes a difference in how we live, work and relate to others on this planet. It’s a great place to start life’s journey!



**CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY**

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