



The BLAZER

CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE - SPRING 2012

Editor's Note

This Blazer issue pays tribute to CMU President Gerald Gerbrandt, who retires June 30, 2012. Included is a final President's Message and a wide-ranging interview where Gerald reflects on CMU as "a university of the church for the world." In addition, Henry Paetkau, former President of Conrad Grebel University College, and other friends and colleagues, offer heartfelt tributes for Gerald's leadership and service at this young and vital university.

We invite you to send a greeting to President Gerbrandt, joining with faculty, staff, and students as we recognize his important legacies to CMU.

Convocation is a time of celebration. Enjoy notes on graduation and "in gratitude" highlights. Join with us in congratulating 2012 CMU and MSC Graduates and Outtatown program graduates – our present and future leaders – whose impressive and diverse skills equip them well for the future.

Meet Kenyan student Joseph Kiranto and his family, and learn about the vital community support that made further study in Canada possible. Also included are notes on new scholarships, made possible by friends of CMU.

Read about our new CMU President, Dr. Cheryl Pauls, who takes on her new role in fall 2012. We look forward to sharing more news in our fall Blazer.

Nadine Kampen
Communications & Marketing Director

**YOU ARE INVITED TO
PRESIDENT
GERALD GERBRANDT'S
RETIREMENT CELEBRATION**

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"There is nothing as permanent as change," a high school teacher of mine regularly repeated. I did not grasp the depth of the saying at the time, but its truth has become real to me as I observe passing fads and cultural patterns, one generation gradually succeeding another, and institutions like the church and college evolving.

Now I am experiencing the truth of that saying on a personal level. After spending my whole working life at CMBC, and then CMU, I will graduate from my role as President this summer. Perhaps understandably, I do have some apprehension about what lies ahead, but on the whole I approach this change with deep joy and confidence.

I am profoundly thankful for the amazing privilege of having worked in Christian higher education all these years. In the summer of 1968, I did a pastoral internship in Reedley, California. At my farewell evening, a senior member of the congregation

publicly encouraged me to consider pastoral work. I distinctly remember responding in the front of the congregation that I felt God was calling me to pastoral work, but that the congregation within which I felt called to work was the church college. A year later I began working at CMBC. I never lost that sense of calling for working with college or university students. Thank you, God, for that opportunity.

Now I leave my role, content and confident in the future of CMU. CMU is well positioned to continue to grow in size and impact, in relationship to the church that founded it, in service of the larger community. Four factors inform my confidence:

One - I believe God is at work at and through CMU. I say this somewhat hesitatingly, for I know the ease with which we often invoke God's blessing on our own agenda. Nevertheless, I say it because I have seen God at work at CMU, in worship, in the classroom, in informal student interaction, throughout the institution. I say this also to remind ourselves that without God at the centre, our venture cannot truly succeed, even if it may appear to be going well.

Two - I believe CMU has a "product" badly needed by the church and our world. Using a commercial term like "product" may sound strange, but responding to the needs of our world requires new ways of speaking and thinking. Our world needs a place where future leaders and role models combine skills with compassion, knowledge with vision, analysis with heart, forged in a setting where worship and the love of Christ

shape the community. Regardless of the program, CMU students have the opportunity to learn these virtues and qualities.

Three - Our times call for an institution that prepares students as change makers and mediators, representatives of the Kingdom of God who are not caught up in the simplistic polemics and culture wars of our day.

Four - As important as programs, numbers, and buildings, are, it is the faculty and staff who work here who give me hope for the future. One of the tremendous joys of working

at CMU, one which I will miss terribly in the future, is the group of people who work at CMU - unbelievably bright, dedicated, caring faculty and staff who work for mission and not merely money. The quality and commitment of our senior administrators makes this a good time for leadership transition. Now the CMU Board has wisely appointed Cheryl Pauls as the next President, someone




President Dr. Gerald Gerbrandt and CMU students

who knows CMU, someone who loves Christ and the church, someone who has a passion for students. CMU is blessed with a great staff, and that bodes well for the future.

Finally, I leave my role excited about CMU's future because of the large, loyal community which supports CMU, the thousands of you who "own" CMU. Throughout my time as President, I have identified CMU as a "university of the church for the world." By "church" I mean conferences with head offices, and congregations with their organizational structures.

But "church" means far more than that. It includes that body of people who recognize CMU as a university needed by the people of God today, used by God to make a difference in the church and in the world. In my travels, I have been struck by the number of people whose vision for the church includes CMU. CMU is so fortunate to have such a supportive body. Its future depends on this body continuing to own and support and love and help set direction for CMU.

Proverbs 29:18 says: Where there is no vision, the people perish (KJV). Vision is about a future different from the present, it is about change. May CMU, and the community owning CMU, embrace and embody such a vision, confident that God is leading us.



Q&A

with **PRESIDENT**
Gerald Gerbrandt

CMU: When did you become president of CMU?

GG: As president of Canadian Mennonite Bible College when CMU began in 2000, I became one of the three governing presidents. During the 2002 to 2003 year, when I was on sabbatical as a visiting scholar at Acadia Divinity College in Nova Scotia, CMU was looking for a single president. In 2003, through lengthy conversation, prayer, and reflection, I was selected as that person.

CMU: What did it feel like to be president of CMU in those early months?

GG: The years of working together as three presidents trying to build a new school were wonderful and also challenging. John Unger, one of the presidents, used the image that “building CMU was like trying to change the tire on your car while driving down the highway at sixty miles per hour.”

In some ways, by 2003, it had settled down a bit, but challenges remained. We didn’t want to force a particular model on CMU, so we negotiated as we went along, in a gradual process of bringing colleges together and developing what a Christian university might be.

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“We have a mission as Christians to be salt and light in the world...”

CMU: You describe CMU passionately as “a university of the church for the world.” What is it about the phrase that appeals to you?

GG: I love this phrase because it captures the three core elements that CMU is, or means, to be. The longer I use it, the more meaning it takes on for me.

We are a university. By that, I simply mean that we are a place where people are encouraged, freed, helped, to think carefully and systematically about any aspect of the world we are in: to raise questions about it; to not assume things too quickly; to think carefully and systematically about every aspect of the world. That is what a university is.

But we are a university of the church. As we do careful, systematic thinking about the world, we are asking ourselves, “what difference does it make” that we are thinking about nature, that we are thinking about human interactions, against a background that God made for us? We are always asking, “What difference does it make that God loves us, and sent Christ into the world for us, and is the creator of all?” We ask the same kind of critical, careful questions, about any aspect of the world, but always remembering who we are as followers of Jesus Christ.

We don’t do this asking of questions and careful thinking for ourselves, but for the world. We have a mission as Christians to be salt and light in the world. It is so easy to focus all our energy on what we want to become and how successful we might be, and students are of course studying because they

want to enter a career, and do well at that. That’s all good, but we always have to think that we are there for the world, and we are there to make a difference in the world as representatives of Christ, as agents of reconciliation.

I think the three terms in that phrase – university, church, and world – capture, for me, the essence of what CMU is and should be: a careful thinking place, a place of the church, with its eyes always beyond the church to the mission of the church in the world.

CMU: While firmly rooted as a Christian university, CMU has continued to grow in diversity. What have you have learned, as president, about navigating forward amidst “distinctiveness” and “diversity?”

GG: A university needs to be a place where people can do this careful, systematic thinking with people with whom they don’t agree. If you are in a setting where you only have people who think the same way, it’s not going to be very productive or very creative. A Christian university especially needs to welcome people who don’t necessarily agree, even as, I would argue, it is appropriate to do it in a setting where we ask – “what difference does it make that God made the world?”

CMU: Have there been surprises over the years, or things that were particularly enriching?

GG: One of CMU’s strengths has been to bring people from the Mennonite Church, Mennonite Brethren, and Evangelical Mennonite conference, and

many other denominations far beyond the Mennonites, together in one setting to work together. And it has worked well! I am not sure how surprising that is, but it certainly has been an enriching part of the CMU experience.

CMU: Would you attach the word “fun” to the years of your presidency?

GG: Working with faculty and staff who are as committed, and excellent, and skilled, as ours are, and working (by now) with thousands of students – yes, that has been fun.

CMU: Have you seen a change in the student culture at CMU over your time here?

GG: When I started as a student, I would regularly write letters, put stamps on them, and send them to my friends sixty miles away, because phoning was too expensive and there was no such thing as internet, or email, or Facebook, or Twitter. Clearly, elements of culture have changed dramatically. It is easy to highlight how students have changed. To me, though, it is far more significant in how they have not changed.

In my conversations with students, virtually without exception, I have been impressed by the desire to want to do what is right, and to make a positive impact, and to want to learn. Students haven’t changed in that sense.

But churches have changed, and they have changed tremendously, since I started teaching in 1969. Then, churches knew who they were. They were these separated communities, working at what it meant to be holy in their settings, sending money into the mission field.

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TRIBUTES TO PRESIDENT GERALD GERBRANDT

I have always appreciated Gerald's desire to develop leaders for the church. This focus was already present at CMBC, where I encountered him both as the instructor of my first year Psalms class and as a faculty friend on the choir tour bus. I became more aware of it when we worked closely together while I was Assistant Moderator to the Mennonite Church Canada General Board, before and during the formation of CMU. Gerald wanted to develop an education program that would enable students to contribute more fully to the church and the world,.

Joy Kroeger | Former Assistant Moderator, Mennonite Church Canada (2001-04)

I first met Gerald more than a decade ago through the annual gathering of Higher Education leaders of the Mennonite Brethren institutions in Canada. I enjoyed his energy – he seemed like a coiled spring, ready to pop at any time. Subsequently, our connection was maintained while my three children attended CMU.

Recently, I had the privilege of working closely with Gerald in my role as Director of ICOMB – the International Community of Mennonite Brethren. CMU hosted the global Higher Education

David Wiebe | Executive Director, International Community of Mennonite Brethren

As a relative newcomer to CMU, and a Lutheran, I rather expected that I would always feel a bit of an outsider. This has not, however, turned out to be the case. I belong, and a good part of that feeling is the result of Gerald Gerbrandt's personality.

He was, as far as I'm concerned, an ideal president. His mind is astute and his grasp of the myriad issues involved in running a university is nothing short of amazing. But, unusual in a leader of his stature, he is a patient listener and his diplomatic skills are

Sue Sorensen | CMU Associate Professor of English

As you complete your mandate, Gerald, you can be justifiably proud of CMU's accomplishments and of yours as President. I was honoured to serve as Chair of the Visiting Committee that recommended CMU for membership in AUCC. Our Committee was impressed by CMU's students, staff, and community, and by your capable and caring stewardship as President.

I was recently in southern China where I met Canadian Consul-General Weldon Epp (CMBC, BTh. 1991), who is an exemplary

H. Wade MacLauchlan, CM | President Emeritus, University of Prince Edward Island

This desire was furthered when a recommendation passed by Mennonite Church Canada delegates required all students at the new Mennonite university to complete the equivalent of one year of their degree in Bible-related courses. Gerald has continued to model that leadership as he has participated in national and provincial church assemblies, connecting with the broader church, and reconnecting with alumni. I will miss his extremely organized reports and the meals and laughter we have shared.

Consultation in 2011. Gerald was on the Steering Committee. I very much appreciated his creative involvement and his appreciation for the global community of leaders in our educational institutions. He and I also presented a paper in two halves: what we – as church and school leaders – hoped to see from each other in the school-church relationship. It went over very well and marked an occasion of working together both theoretical and practical. God's blessing in your retirement, Gerald.

outstanding. Any organization of this complexity, even one that strives to exemplify peace and reconciliation, will experience conflict. Gerald has created a space where diverse opinions are not only heard, but valued. And what is particularly heartening is that under Gerald's leadership I just knew that CMU was bound to succeed. There is something about him that assures us that the well-being of our lovely little Christian university is secure. No, not merely secure. CMU is flourishing. Thank you, Gerald.

representative of Canada and of CMBC/CMU. I told Weldon that I knew his *alma mater* well, and that I understood why he was so well educated. As you retire Gerald, you can do so knowing that thousands of CMU graduates will continue reminding the world of your good work.

Best wishes in the next rewarding phase of your life. Congratulations on everything that you and CMU have achieved.

In some ways, at least, it was simple. But the church is going through a massive shift. I'm not sure we know yet where that's going, and I'm not sure our students know where that's going, or where they are in relationship to this change. My hope is that we can foster the kind of atmosphere at CMU so that young people leaving here can contribute to that evolving church.

CMU: What are the hurdles ahead for CMU, and what hope do you have for its future?

GG: The challenge is simple: money and students. That was the challenge of the colleges preceding CMU, it is the challenge today, and it will always be the challenge: finding enough charitable money to make a dynamic insti-



Gerald and Esther Gerbrandt at Convocation 2012

tution possible, and attracting the right number of students to the place.

At one level, money and students are the simple challenges. I think a more

significant challenge is that we are living in a time of what I sometimes call homogenization. Even diversity is homogenous. That homogenization is especially true with post-secondary education. More and more universities are beginning to look alike. There is tremendous pressure and momentum to be like everyone else. You learn from each other, which is good, but the tendency is also to copy each other.

The challenge for a small Christian university is to exemplify academic excellence and careful systematic thinking, even as it continues to be particular in its commitment to asking, "What difference does it make that God made the world; that God loves us; that God sent Jesus Christ into the world; that we want to be followers of that Christ and

TRIBUTES TO PRESIDENT GERALD GERBRANDT (cont.)

Gerald was the right person at the right time to start CMU. He was very aware of CMU's dual heritage, and he was very good at making sure that all were equal partners. Gerald's key gifts are to listen, and to work as a team. He has the ability to think things through quickly, and he's very articulate.

Under his leadership, I have seen major change happen. There's a spiritual vibrancy here; chapels are full and Bible studies and fellowship groups abound. CMU has flourished under his leadership. And I have been very impressed at how the finances were managed. There have been no financial crises - that was part of his leadership. We did not spend above our means. We were very careful at how quickly we grew.

Thank you, Gerald, for your leadership. I am very excited about where CMU is now, and where we are headed.

Ron Boese | Former Director, CMU Maintenance Department (1983-present)

Families can be complicated. So it is and was with the Mennonite Brethren and General Conference Mennonite Church families and, in particular, two of their colleges, MBBC/Concord and CMBC. Relations were congenial and warm, but there were inexplicable differences that kept their relationships at arm's length.

The process in which three Winnipeg-based Mennonite colleges started to talk to each other about another paradigm was neither new nor unwelcome. Neither was it a foregone conclusion.

Gerald Gerbrandt's role in turning the dream into reality was absolutely critical. Gerald is a person of complete integrity. He brought a perspective which was refreshingly straightforward and non-political. His comments and his writing were always careful and clear, and he sought as hard to understand as to be understood. His commitment to a fair, above-board process that honoured the contribution of all was irrevocable. Gerald exemplified diplomatic trustworthiness which made us proud to be associated with him.

There are few people whom I respect more than Gerald, and I am quite convinced that his early leadership in the coming-together process, followed by years of committed presidency, were, and have been, indispensable to what CMU has and will become.

Al Doerksen | Former Concord Board Chair (1992-'99)

Gerald's ability to listen carefully to other perspectives and ideas and then articulate how to incorporate them into a plan of action and vision of the future was crucial to the development of CMU during the early years of planning. I experienced many times his willingness to incorporate other peoples' understandings into how we could move forward without being defensive about any position he had taken in the past. At the same time, Gerald's strong commitment to the core of what he believed the new institution needed to be helped to keep us moving in a positive direction despite many different understandings about the best

of Christ's work in the world?"

The biggest challenge ahead for CMU will be to remain committed to its mission in a time of homogenization of general post-secondary education.

CMU: So you see CMU's priority as holding to its vision?

GG: Yes. One of course has to add more programs that serve young people and help them in their careers later on. That's all a given. But one can still ask, when adding those programs, "In what way will this make a difference, and in what way will our being a Christian university make a difference?" That is a question being asked as we expand, for example, our Business program, or Theology program, or Music program.

CMU: What, or where, are your hopes

for this university?

GG: My hopes rest in the wonderful people that work here, and even more, in my conviction that an institution that brings faith and meaning questions to bear on the careful systematic thinking of the world meets a tremendous need.

Young people want to do well in their careers, but they also want to have a life that is meaningful, a life that is spiritual, a life that they can be satisfied with. CMU has huge potential to meet that need.

CMU: Do you have any 'what's next' plans in the immediate future?

GG: Next year, I want to finish a commentary on the book of Deuteronomy. My wife Esther and I want to do some travelling. Perhaps, in a year, I will return and do some part-time teaching.

CMU: What are you going to miss most in this transition to a different stage of working and living?

GG: Naturally, I will miss the structure of my day, doing work that I love.

But it is the people I will miss the most – the students, the faculty and staff, the friends of CMU. They have been my friends and my community. I consider myself to be one of the most fortunate people to have been able to be around young people all my life, and to have served as president of CMU.

It has been a wonderful journey.

Based on an Interview with President Gerald Gerbrandt by D.Balzer; text by N.Kampen

way to get there. His strong connection to Mennonite Church Canada and intentional connections to the Mennonite Brethren constituency were crucial to communicating the new vision for Mennonite post-secondary education. CMU has been blessed greatly by Gerald's tireless work and leadership and just as importantly by the people that he has invited and encouraged to be an important part in its development and growth.

Bruce Baergen | Former CMBC Board Chair (1997-'01)

As the only member of the CMU senior administrative team situated off the Shaftesbury Campus, working from CMU's Menno Simons College campus, I worked with Gerald in a rather unique way. We did not see each other every day, and some weeks we did not even talk to each other, and yet, I always knew that he was just a phone call away. Gerald usually answered his own phone and no matter how busy he was, or what kind of pressures he was under, he always gave his attention to me in a way that made me feel as if my question or issue was of utmost importance. This accessibility and open communication was especially important since Menno Simons College is not physically part of the rest of CMU. Gerald has done a wonderful job of walking the fine line between providing support and inclusivity to MSC, while at the same time allowing MSC to maintain its distinct culture and sense of place. I will miss his wise counsel and personal support.

Ruth Taronno | Associate Vice President, Menno Simons College

I was a young, impressionable, first-year CMBC student when I first met Gerald more than 30 years ago. He was my 240 "Intro to the Old Testament" professor, but he quickly became my sounding board for all things CMBC. When I was overwhelmed with theological issues, or confused about how to write a formal college-level paper, his office door was always open. He welcomed me, and everyone else, with patience, good humour, and infectious smile. Gerbie, as he was known to students, also always wanted to hear about dorm life. He was "all about relationships." He wanted to feel the pulse of the school, both academically and socially. For us, Gerald's office played a large role in strengthening the CMBC community.

Now, many years later, I realize how important Gerald's gifts have been in my life. One gift was his ability to interact with a wide variety of people, from presidents of public universities to people in the pew with no formal theological training. For Gerald, we are all on the same playing field, and in all people, he sees knowledge and wisdom, and the face of God.

Gerald is an inspirational and visionary church leader. But for everyone who has been fortunate enough to know him, most importantly, he is our friend. Thank you, Gerald, for this incredible gift. I am honoured to be called friend.

Charlotte Siemens | Principal, W.A. Fraser Middle School (Abbotsford, BC)



CMU's three founding presidents: (l to r) George Richert (Menno Simons College), John Unger (Concord College), and Gerald Gerbrandt (Canadian Mennonite Bible College) light the CMU torch in 2000.

A University of the Church for the World

By Henry Paetkau, Past President, Conrad Grebel University College

In the wake of turbulent times and traumatic experiences precipitated by social upheaval and change, Mennonites in Canada have often looked to schools as a means of preserving and perpetuating their distinctive religious beliefs and practices. Both Mennonite Brethren Bible College (MBBC) and Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC), founding partners of Canadian Mennonite University, were established in response to changes related to the Second World War, including the significant compromise of nonresistance among Mennonite young men.

These were schools of and for the church. They were intended to nurture and preserve the faith while preparing young adults for Christian service, both in the church and in larger society, in order to help the church fulfill its mission.

Over time, as more Mennonite young people pursued post-secondary education, these schools expanded their curriculum to accommodate broader academic interests. The challenge increasingly became that of keeping young adults in the church while equipping them for life and work in the world, a difficult balancing act to maintain.

“Gerald’s vision for CMU as a ‘university of the church for the world’ captures that essential truth clearly and concisely.”

world. Many challenged and ultimately abandoned the institutional church and its mission. True, CMBC was a comfortable and convenient place to live and learn, but primarily as preparation for further studies in a secular university in anticipation of a career outside the church. CMBC remained a school

of the church, to be sure, but no longer adequate to prepare us for the world. Or so we thought.

In time, many of us came to understand this as a false dichotomy. The church must be active in the world in order to fulfill God’s mission and God’s people participate in that mission wherever they live, work, and serve.

Church schools are vital to that mission in ways we may not always recognize. For example, CMBC connected me with students and church leaders from across Canada, people who would later become my colleagues in ministry, conference work, and academic leadership. It prepared me for and directed me into a life of ministry and service despite my best efforts to escape!

That’s a story I’ve seen repeated over and over again among our students – because that’s what our schools continue to be and do in the face of these rapidly changing and enormously challenging times. That’s why the mission of the church in the 21st century remains inextricably bound to its schools, and why the success of our schools, even as they grow and adapt, depends on a deep rootedness in and vibrant connection to the church. Each would be enormously handicapped without the other, and the wellbeing of our world would be significantly diminished.

President Gerald Gerbrandt’s vision for CMU as “a university of the church for the world” captures that essential truth clearly and concisely. It underscores the symbiotic relationship between church and school and reminds each of its responsibility to and for the other. It directs both school and church toward the world, into their shared calling as ambassadors of God’s mission in the world. And it invites the world into this shared experience of study and service.

Gerald, you have been a valued companion and colleague on this journey. Thank you for your compelling vision and your faithful service to the church as founding president of CMU!

The Mathematics of Chaos

By Tim Rogalsky, Assistant Professor of Mathematics



Tim Rogalsky

“Chaos Theory” is one of my favourite courses to teach. For the scientifically uninitiated, the story goes something like this. Until the 20th century, scientists were pretty convinced that nature obeyed the mathematical laws of physics, in a very deterministic way that left little room

“The mathematics of chaotic systems gives us important insight into real-world problems...”

for God. But in the 1960s, Edward Lorenz, a mathematical physicist studying weather patterns, discovered something rather unexpected: change today’s high by 0.000001 degrees, and the computer’s seven-day forecast might change from rainy and cold to sunny and hot! Many other natural systems have this same sensitivity. The laws of physics, it turns out, are mostly what we now call chaotic – deterministic, yes, but also unpredictable; knowable in broad strokes, yet utterly unknowable in their minute details.

The mathematics of chaotic systems gives us important insight into real-world problems like weather forecasting, turbulence, disease transmission, even snail brains! It’s also beautiful, both mathematically and visually – Google “Mandelbrot set,” for example.

But it’s the theology that makes CMU’s course unique. Chaos suggests that the natural world is more open, supple, and free than scientists used to think. Does this leave room for God to act within scientific laws? Has God created nature itself with some version of “free will?” Does God know the whole future, or only the knowable part? These questions, as you can imagine, engender lively debate among scientists and theologians alike, and it’s quite fun to dive into that debate as a class.

I sometimes say that our world needs more theologically literate mathematicians and more mathematically literate theologians. In Chaos Theory, it is my unique joy and privilege to participate with my students in becoming both.

Reflections on Chaos Theory

By Raya Cornelsen (Third-year Student, Mathematics Major)



Raya Cornelsen

As a mathematics student at a heavily arts-based university, it is always exciting to hear other students say, “Wow, I wish I could be in your class!” The math/theology integrative class Chaos Theory provided me with this experience numerous times over the winter 2012 semester.

In this class, we were challenged to think deeply about our faith in the context of an evolving world of science and mathematics, and invited to be awestruck at the incredible complexity and beauty that can arise from the seemingly simple or mundane. In the study of chaotic systems, repetitions of simple lines transform into a dragon in flight, the perimeter of a snowflake is infinitely long, and an inaccuracy in the fifteenth decimal place leads to a completely unexpected result.

Together, we students and our professor, Tim Rogalsky, reflected on articles from faith-based and other perspectives, solved complex mathematical systems by hand and by computer, and delighted in the many bizarre and wonderful real-world applications of this relatively new field of study. Perhaps the biggest challenge for me will be putting aside the literature associated with this class... at least for a little while.

Students of God’s Living Creation

By John Brubacher, Assistant Professor of Biology



John Brubacher

“**E**volution, Diversity and Function” is the second half of the introductory biology sequence at CMU. In it, we survey the major groups of organisms on the planet, touching on their ecology, evolution, interactions, and functional anatomy as we go. It’s a course that reg-

“...we can see an underlying unity, and take a step toward understanding the living world around as the creation of a consistent, reliable God.”

ularly reminds me why I enjoy teaching a broad-ranging course like introductory biology: no one person can be an expert in all biological sub-disciplines, and so in teaching, I also become a student of God’s living creation.

Of course, the first word in the course title can be slightly uncomfortable for a Christian institution. But evolution is there in the title, and woven throughout the course, with good reason. Evolutionary theory is the central explanatory framework of biology, in the same way that atomic theory is central to chemistry. These theories provide explanations of how things work. For example, a chemical reaction is a mindless process, born of random collisions between atoms. Nevertheless, when we understand reactions in depth, we see that they have predictable, reliable outcomes, and know

that without them, nothing in creation could exist as we know it. Evolution is much the same. Without evolution, biological phenomena are a disconnected set of arbitrary facts. With it, we can see an underlying unity, and take a step toward understanding the living world around us as the creation of a consistent, reliable God.

Oh, there’s pain and suffering implicit in the evolutionary story too, but cooperation and mutualism and laughter and glory are also part of that story. In any case, Christians have grappled with pain and suffering in creative, productive ways since long before Charles Darwin’s day. Challenging and helping tomorrow’s church leaders to integrate the living world with their theological worldview is one of the reasons this course matters.

Evolution and My Relationship with God By Danielle Bailey (Second-year Student, BTS Major)



Danielle Bailey

My “Evolution, Diversity and Function” class with John Brubacher stretched me, particularly in terms of my thinking regarding evolution. This class opened me to think about evolution and its relationship with a loving God who created the world order in which we live. Early on, I found myself wondering how I, as a Christian, might claim my convictions as I encountered Biology’s evolutionary premise. In taking this issue really seriously, I found myself opened to much personal growth in my life. I wrote a paper examining the Biblical creation story and trying to understand its context, in contrast to seeing this story primarily as an argument against evolution. What I found was a text rich with meaning and not concerned with matters of science as we understand them. John’s class helped me to begin bridging science and theology—two fields that I enjoy so much. I’m so grateful that John taught the course in ways that encouraged me to think and question and which helped me grow personally.



Elizabeth and Joseph Kiranto with son Joel

Kenyan Student Drawn to CMU'S Peace and Theology Studies

By J.P Neufeld

Joseph Kiranto, a first-year peace and theology student at CMU, almost didn't make it to Canada.

Kiranto hails from a small town near Nairobi, Kenya. There he worked supporting AIDS orphans and assisting people living with HIV/AIDS through a church-run program funded by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).

Kiranto made his first visit to Canada in 2008 as a volunteer with MCC's International Volunteer Exchange Program. He lived in Calgary and volunteered in the MCC Alberta office and as a pastoral intern at Foothills Mennonite Church.

After a year in Canada, Kiranto returned home brimming with new ideas. He also had a dream: he wanted to study at CMU.

"[In Kenya] you go to school when the opportunity comes," says Kiranto. He felt he could learn much about peace studies and theology that would inform his work in Kenya.

Five months after returning to home, Kiranto married his childhood sweetheart, Elizabeth. Kiranto continued his work with the church. He also began applying to study at CMU.

Foothills Mennonite Church and MCC Alberta organized a group of people who pledged to support the Kiranto family financially during their stay in Canada. Jake and Verdell Andres from Coaldale, Alberta remembered Kiranto's earnest desire to learn and eagerly agreed to help support him.

"He seemed to have a real heart for taking what he gleaned

here in Canada to his own people back in Africa," says Verdell.

Student cleared visa hurdles to study at CMU

But Kiranto's application for a study visa was denied. The Canadian High Commission in Nairobi told Kiranto they weren't convinced he would return to Kenya after his studies and they didn't think he had enough funds. All the pledges of financial support weren't enough.

"I was very, very frustrated," Kiranto says. He was afraid to tell anyone. He knew people would suspect his medical records had revealed something bad. "Right away people think of HIV/AIDS," Kiranto says.

Elizabeth encouraged him. "If God wants you to go, there will still be another opportunity, either now or in the future," she said.

Kiranto's Canadian friends hadn't given up either. Doug Klassen, the pastor of Foothills Mennonite Church wrote a letter to the High Commission to say that his church would make sure the Kirantos didn't run out of money. Bill Janzen, who worked for years with MCC in Ottawa, picked up the phone and made some calls.

Three days later the High Commission called Kiranto to say they had reopened his file.

"I thank God for this intervention," says Kiranto.

One year later, Joseph and Elizabeth Kiranto and their son Joel are living in an apartment on the CMU campus. Kiranto is finishing up his first year of a degree in Peace and Conflict Transformation with a minor in Biblical studies.

"Having worked with people with HIV/AIDS, I've seen them struggling with violence within themselves and with others," Kiranto says. Inner turmoil, fear, and anger can easily boil over into conflict, even violence, between people.

"If I can learn about that, then I can help them resolve some of those issues."

CMU Announces New Scholarships and Bursaries

Along with its existing scholarship and bursary awards, thanks to donors CMU has added new financial awards to assist CMU students.

The Camrose Mennonite Fellowship (Camrose, AB) has established a bursary with CMU with proceeds from the dissolution of the church. The purpose of the bursary is to encourage and support individuals preparing for congregational ministry at an undergraduate or graduate level of studies. It will be awarded to a CMU student with leadership interest and ability who is in a program concentration in ministry, bible, and theology. Preference will be given to an Alberta student. The first award will be given for the 2012-'13 academic year.

The CALMD Married Student Bursary was established by Darrel and Audrey Thiessen (Brandon, MB) for CMU students who are from a rural community or planning to make their livelihoods in rural communities. Consideration will be given to a married couple with children whose studies will enable them to work in pastoral care or ministry. The first award of \$3000 was given in fall 2011.

The Anni (Dyck) Wiebe Memorial Scholarship was established by Peter Wiebe and Family in memory Anni. Anni and Peter met while studying at CMBC. Anni had a keen interest in expanding and integrating her understandings of her Anabaptist-Mennonite faith and her psychiatric nursing career. An endowment fund will generate interest earnings of \$750 annually. This new award will be available to a student wishing to begin his or her nursing studies at CMU. Peter and



CMU Admissions Counsellors like Zach Peters and Sherry Funk, above, advise students applying for CMU financial aid.

Anni were active in the Ottawa Mennonite Church during their working years. Presently, Peter lives in Vernon, BC. The first award will be given for the 2012-'13 academic year.

The Jacob and Sara Schroeder Practical Theology Scholarship Fund was established by their children Kenneth Schroeder, Alvin Schroeder, Valery Braden, and Barry Schroeder in memory of their parents. It will fund scholarships of \$1500 for students enrolled in the MA in Theological or Christian Ministry Studies at CMU. This scholarship reflects the passion and life commitments of Jacob and Sara to Christian ministry, Christian education, building community, social justice issues, and peace initiatives. Jacob and Sara lived and worked in Manitoba and British Columbia.

Verna Mae Janzen Music Competition Showcases CMU Talent



(l to r) Rebecca Hill, Peter Janzen, Rebecca Klassen-Wiebe, Anna Bigland-Pritchard

The seventh annual Verna Mae Janzen Music Competition welcomed audiences for a public performance showcasing CMU's talented instrumentalists and vocalists. CMU awarded first place honours to Rebecca Hill, soprano. Rebecca Klassen-Wiebe, piano, won second place, and Anna Bigland-Pritchard, soprano, won third. The Verna Mae Janzen Competition is made possible each year through the generous contributions of the event sponsor and prize donor Peter Janzen, from Deep River, Ontario. Janzen established the competition in memory of his wife, Verna Mae, who died of cancer in 1989 at age 53 and who shared the joy of singing with her husband. "As founder of the Verna Mae Janzen Competition, Mr. Janzen takes an avid interest in the development of our students," says CMU competition organizer Henriette Schellenberg. "We are grateful for his interest and for his support for our student musicians and singers. This year's competition juror was distinguished conductor Henry Engbrecht, Professor Emeritus of Music, University of Manitoba.

CMU Commencement weekend concluded with the conferral of 84 degrees.

CMU Celebrates Class of 2012

By Nadine Kampen

On the weekend of April 20 to April 22, 2012, Canadian Mennonite University formally recognized the accomplishments of its students, awarding 78 Bachelor degrees and six Master of Art's degrees, and presenting program certificates to two recipients during its 2012 Graduation Exercises.

Graduates and families, along with CMU faculty, staff, and current students, enjoyed times of sharing through stories, songs, presentations, and meals together.

April 22, Commencement day, began with a Baccalaureate service with student reflections by graduates Joshua Krueger (BA, Four-Year: International Development Studies) and Lindsay Braul (BA, Three-Year: General) and a sermon, "Doing Something New," by Sheila Klassen-Wiebe.

The day's excitement culminated in the afternoon Commencement Exercises at Immanuel Pentecostal Church. Presiding over graduation ceremonies for the final time, retiring President Dr. Gerald Gerbrandt addressed the Class of 2012 with words of praise and appreciation for their efforts and accomplishments.

"We are extremely proud of the achievements of our 2012 graduates," said Gerbrandt, welcoming students and their families from a wide range of regions in Canada and the United States for the conferral of degrees and weekend festivities. In a weekend filled with both formal and informal gatherings, the CMU community honoured the graduating class and expressed appreciation to those whose supporting roles made it all possible.

The Valedictory Address was given by CMU graduate Helena Schroeder (BA, Four-Year: English Major). Schroeder, who during her student years enjoyed being a choir member and a varsity athlete on the CMU basketball team, likened the time of graduation to the moment of pause when a choral work has ended: "that space of time... in which the last note hangs in the air and the music is suspended in the collective memory of the audience..." The next song is imminent, she noted, but there is a time for closure that happens before the next song commences.

Continued on page 10

Dr. Susan Schultz Huxman, President of Conrad Grebel University College in Waterloo, ON, delivered the Graduation Address. Huxman spoke eloquently of “(Pro)visions for the Journey,” emphasizing that students seek a balanced way of “seeing” and envisioning a way forward.

“Today I want to share with you a set of provisions that you will need for the long haul, the journey of life after CMU ...the provisions of hindsight, foresight, and insight,” said Huxman. Of these, she said, if we do not have insight, “we have not captured the distinctive of Mennonite education, which says: knowledge is not sufficient; practice is not sufficient, unless it is connected



Graduates gather for a final time on the steps of Founders Hall.

to a witness grounded in Christ, committed to peace, and practiced in the community. It’s all about connecting received wisdom with visionary leadership in the context of relational and radical discipleship.”

Marlene Janzen of Calgary, CMU Board Chair, extended her congratulations to the Class of 2012. “My prayer is that God’s Spirit will lead you as you encounter new and unexpected adventures, challenges, and rewards in your life journey – and so that you might make a difference in our world,” said Janzen. “Go with the best that CMU has inspired you to be!”

In Gratitude Presenters

Melanie Kampen (BA, Honours, Four-Year, Major: Biblical and Theological Studies)

Daniel Paetkau (BA, Four-Year, Major: English)

Lori Schroeder (Bachelor of Music Therapy) and **Abigail Graff** (Bachelor of Music Therapy), sopranos, with Gabrielle Wiebe, piano

Paul Peters (BA, Three-Year, Major: International Development Studies)

Christina Scheerer (BA, Four-Year, Major: Business and Organizational Administration)

Nils Loewen (Bachelor of Arts, Three-Year, Major: Music) performing on guitar

Anna-Marie Janzen (BA, Four-Year, Major: Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies)

Cecilly Hildebrand (BA, Four-Year, Major: Psychology)

Rebecca Hill (Bachelor of Music, Concentration: Music Education-Early/Middle Years), soprano, with Catherine Richard, piano.



Daniel Paetkau



(l to r) Lori Schroeder, Abigail Graff, Gabrielle Wiebe

Graduates’ Talents, Skills Showcased at In Gratitude

CMU’s annual In Gratitude service was a highlight for parents and visitors during CMU’s Graduation weekend. Said Host Tim Rogalsky, Associate Professor of Mathematics, “This event is our way to say thank you: to graduates, for your hard work to get to today; and to family and friends, for the way you’ve supported them along the way. We are proud of our students. The presenters offer a representative sample of some the fine work that our students have done for us this year.”

“Several CMU graduating students spoke into the heart of the CMU mission,” noted Cheryl Pauls, CMU Associate Professor of Music and one of the event planners. “Each one offered a unique glimpse into how his or her learning at CMU was as life transforming as it was intellectually rigorous. The group as a whole represented the wide array of CMU’s disciplinary offerings, and of the many ways that CMU grads will contribute to church and society as they move on from here.”

Outtatown Grads Share Stories of Discovery

By J.P. Neufeld



Outtatown students enjoy Class of 2012 celebrations.

On April 14 and 15, 92 graduates from the 2011-2012 Outtatown program gathered on the Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) campus to celebrate their experiences in Africa and Guatemala. They shared their experiences through stories and music during their two-day graduation program attended by family and friends, site leaders, and Outtatown

and CMU faculty and staff.

CMU's largest-ever program for Outtatown featured four teams travelling to South Africa, Guatemala, or Burkina Faso. The many highlights from the different teams included a meeting with a conservation organization working among indigenous people in one of Guatemala's high-altitude rainforests, and a rare visit with South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Students participating in the new French West Africa program discovered historic and cultural connections linking the cities of Winnipeg, Montreal, Paris, and Ouagadougou.

"One of the highlights for me was hearing students talk about their experience of community," says Outtatown Director Cameron Priebe. In Burkina Faso, students encountered a culture in which one's sense of identity is deeply rooted in family, community, church, and nationality.

About a third of the graduates plan to continue their studies at CMU in the fall. Through participation in Outtatown, students may earn up to 18 university credit hours for the academic work completed during their programs.

A Rare Visit with Archbishop Desmond Tutu

By J.P. Neufeld

During their stay in South Africa, Outtatown students had the extraordinary experience of meeting with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, one of the giants of South Africa's struggle against apartheid.

"As soon as we saw him walk up, we all got quiet. You could just sense the respect people have for him," said Andrew Letkeman, an Outtatown student from Steinbach.

Not every Outtatown team has the privilege of a private audience with the Archbishop himself. This is the first time it has ever happened, said site leader Sandy Town. The father of one Outtatown student who was born in South Africa knew Archbishop Tutu and arranged the meeting.

Letkeman described the man who helped lead South Africa's Truth and



Archbishop Desmond Tutu, centre, with Outtatown students 2012

Reconciliation Commission as a "down-to-earth" person with a sense of humour. Archbishop Tutu spoke candidly to the group about the suffering and oppression his people had endured under apartheid.

"He began to tell us about terrible things," Letkeman said. "Fifteen or twenty years later, they still remember

so vividly what things were done to them and how that affected them."

Hearing accounts of "whites-only" benches, and people being imprisoned for merely holding hands with someone of a different skin colour, shocked the students.

Town was struck by the Archbishop's humility. "He said he was really just the vessel for change, and it was God working through him."

Students spent three months exploring South Africa, hearing the stories of different groups of people, working and serving with local organizations, and enjoying outdoor adventures, like skydiving, bungee jumping, and shark diving, all contributing to making the Outtatown experience so memorable.



Tara Craigen



Joel Gonske

MSC Graduating Class of 2012

By Lindsay Wright

More than 50 students were honoured at Menno Simons College's (MSC) June 7 graduation celebration. Dr. Julie Pelletier, Chair of Indigenous Studies at UWinnipeg, delivered the keynote address.

This year, 28 new, returning, and international students received awards – among the highest number of awards given in the history of MSC – including bursaries and scholarships.

Graduating student Tara Craigen shared that her time at MSC has contributed to a lifelong process of learning to translate Biblical teachings about justice, love, and humility into action. "My time at MSC gave me an opportunity to reflect on the theory and practice of international development, to learn to ask good questions, to explore how international development and my faith related to each other, and to really wrestle with what my role should be in working toward good change," said Craigen.

MSC graduate Joel Gonske agreed: "Graduation is a milestone, but it is also a beginning of learning to work and live to the fullest, with responsibility and commitment to impacting the world for good."

"We are very excited about this year's graduating class," said Dr. Richard McCutcheon, Dean. "Our students are already engaging in the next step. They are aware of world issues and events, and they want to do something to make a difference."



Caitlin MacHutchon

MSC Student Profile

Caitlin MacHutchon Attends National Conference

By Lindsay Wright

Menno Simons College (MSC) student Caitlin MacHutchon was chosen to attend the Baptist General Conference of Canada's 20/20 Summit for young adult leaders, February 23 to 26 in Canmore, Alberta.

"Though the conference was relatively short, I learned a lot – especially about our need for community. I don't think there is anything wrong with trying to find a church that works for you, but too often we are moving on after one bad worship time or one unsatisfying sermon, running away instead of staying and being a part of the solution. This creates an interesting dialogue about the type of churchgoers we are in this generation," said MacHutchon.

"But when we stay and we get involved," she continued, "community strengthens our understanding of love, our hearts, and our faith. It creates an environment where our needs can be met and we can be supported. I have seen this in my own life.

"Since the Summit, I've been working with others to create events that will encourage other young people to get involved and build relationships – and then move those connections outside the walls of the church."

"Caitlin is an awesome example of a MSC student who combines a compassionate heart with a scholarly mind," said Richard McCutcheon. "Caitlin is a developing student leader. I can really see her using these skills she's learning in the real world and making a difference."

McCutcheon continued, "We want all of our students to get out in the community – to be active and get involved beyond the walls of MSC."

NEW ROLES



Cheryl Pauls

Pauls Named as Next CMU President

Canadian Mennonite University's Board of Governors has announced the appointment of Dr. Cheryl Pauls as the university's second president. Pauls assumes her new duties November 1, 2012.

"Our Board is excited to welcome Dr. Pauls to this role," says CMU Board of Governors Chair Marlene Janzen. "Pauls is both analytical and visionary, with a strong commitment to the mission and core values of CMU. We are confident in her abilities to strengthen and broaden our student base, programming, funding structures, and constituent relationships."

A graduate of Mennonite Brethren Bible College (MBBC), a CMU predecessor college, Pauls holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of British Columbia. She has served as a faculty member at CMU since 2000 and as Shaftesbury Campus Chair since 2008. Pauls retires from her faculty role as associate professor of music at CMU on July 1, 2012.

Raised in St. Catharines, Ontario, Pauls grew up in Grantham Mennonite Brethren Church. She has lived in Manitoba since 1983. Pauls and husband Bryan Harder have two boys, Nicholas and William. The family attends River East Mennonite Brethren Church in Winnipeg.

CMU Board Names Interim Leadership

The CMU Board has appointed Dr. Earl Davey, Vice-President Academic, to the role of Interim President from July to November. He will serve in this capacity following the retirement of Dr. Gerald Gerbrandt, prior to Dr. Cheryl Pauls assuming her new duties November 1.

"We are confident that he, together with senior

administrators, will ably lead CMU through this transition," said CMU Board Chair Marlene Janzen.

EVENTS



Karl Koop, Harry Huebner, Paul Doerksen

Festschrift Honours Harry Huebner

Professor Emeritus Harry Huebner was presented with a Festschrift, a celebratory writing, on November 25, 2011. "Harry has been an inspiring professor and mentor, an influential scholar, a competent administrator, a valued colleague, and a theological leader of the church. Today, handing over this book to Harry is a way of giving thanks to God for his goodness to us," says Karl Koop CMU professor of History and Theology and Director of Graduate Studies and Festschrift co-editor. "Thank you for this rare and special gift," Huebner said accepting the book. "I am especially appreciative of the diverse group of colleagues and perspectives represented in this book – seven colleagues are from this beloved institution and eight from elsewhere."



Doug Klassen

Doug Klassen visits CMU as Pastor-in-Residence

Doug Klassen, senior pastor at Foothills Mennonite Church in Calgary since 2000, arrived on campus as CMU's Pastor-in-Residence, January 30 to February 3, 2012. "I hope that what I brought to chapels and discussions encouraged spiritual growth among students and staff and

built bridges to our churches," says Klassen. "I was blessed and challenged in return." Klassen has served on a variety of regional and national committees, has written for MC Canada's Season of Prayer, and is currently working towards getting his M.Div. degree through Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. A preacher and a teacher, Klassen is passionate about his work and loves meeting people and building friendships.

Jesus: The Peace that Matters

CMU Peace-It-Together (PIT) Conference took place on campus March 9 to 11, 2012. CMU welcomed 104 high school students from across Canada to discuss peace and justice issues with one another. The theme of this year's PIT conference was "Jesus: The Peace that Matters," and focused specifically on what the story of Jesus teaches about peacemaking. "It is exciting to host youth from across Canada coming together to discuss Christian peacemaking," says Harry Huebner, CMU Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Theology and conference organizer.



Robert Benne

Robert Benne Leads 2012 CMU Lecture Series

What are the extraordinary claims of Jesus Christ that resonate with us today? What do these claims mean for Christian practice and involvement in the world? Such questions were the focus of CMU's Proclaiming the Unique Claims of Christ Lecture Series, led in March 2012 by church-state relations expert Dr. Robert Benne, Director of the Center for Religion and Society at Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia. Says CMU's Dr. Pierre Gilbert, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies and Theology and event organizer: "These lectures offered a wonderful opportunity to hear Benne speak about the nature of the Gospel, how followers of Jesus Christ can make a real difference in the world, and how Christians can and should position themselves in relation to the political sphere."

CMU students inspire change through radio

CMU Communications and Media students produced a series of radio spots in unique formats to help inspire change in teens and young adults as part of a local radio station's "Ignite Change" campaign. The Golden West radio station broadcasted the radio spots from March 5 to May 20, 2012. Students worked in two production teams on their "Let's Talk" and "CMU Skylab" series, with the goal of igniting change through the act of listening to others and by interviewing people who actively gave of themselves to make a difference in the lives of those around them.

Ministry Quest attracts diverse student group

Sharing and hearing call stories in small groups became powerful experiences for a diverse group of 21 CMU students, gathered for CMU's Fourth Ministry Quest Retreat on January 20 – 22, 2012 at St. Benedict's Retreat and Conference Centre in Manitoba. Attending the weekend retreat were 10 students from Mennonite congregations and 11 from other denominations. "They quickly developed a level of trust with each other that allowed them to wrestle with life questions under the guidance of five gifted resource persons," says Abram Bergen, CMU's Director of Church Relations. Joining in the Retreat were CMU faculty, Irma Fast Dueck and Dan Epp-Tiessen; Pastor Dan Unrau, Frasersview MB Church in BC; Jon Isaak, Director of the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies; and Pastor Mary Anne Isaak, River East MB Church in Winnipeg. "My plans as a result of this weekend are to invest with confidence in places/things I feel called to," said student Gabrielle Lemire. "I would like to go into the future with confidence knowing 'Emmanuel' God is with me, regardless of where I go or what job I get."

Youth share perspective at interfaith conference

More than 80 students and other participants gathered at CMU for an Interfaith Youth Conference on March 4. The event aimed to bring young people of faith together to think about, discuss, and imagine ways to understand each other and work together for social change. Melanie Kampen, a student at CMU and one of the conference organizers, said, "I was impressed by how articulate and creative the youth were.

They are already leaders. We need to find ways to engage them, elicit their wisdom and imagination, and trust them with creating and organizing their visions for solidarity and justice."

FACULTY/STAFF NOTES

Paul Dyck, Dean of Humanities and Science and Associate Professor of English, presented "Tricks with Books: The Importance of the Small-Format Bible in George Herbert's Verse; or Joyes Handsell: Book as Gift," Gregynog, Wales, George Herbert Society, October, 2011

Irma Fast Dueck, Associate Professor of Practical Theology, **Kenton Lobe**, International Development Studies Instructor, and **Justin Neufeld**, Philosophy Instructor, spoke at PIT 2012, Jesus: The Peace that Matters, March 9-11, CMU campus.

Kenton Lobe directed the first season of the CMU Farm. The farm provided food for 20 households, local restaurants and community food bank programmes. The urban farm project is currently preparing for the 2012 growing season. cmu-farm@gmail.com

Deanna Loeppky (OT '00, CMU '01) joined the Outtatown team for a one year term as Program Manager.

Cameron Priebe, Director of Outtatown, helped organize SOAR Heartland, a Mennonite Brethren Mission 10-day discipleship and missions program connecting churches with Winnipeg ministries, March 22-30, Winnipeg, MB.

Jonathon Sears, Assistant Professor International Development Studies, attended a Prairie Defence and Security Consortium workshop hosted by the Centre for Defence and Security Studies (CDSS) at the University of Manitoba, December 9, 2011. The annual Prairie Workshop hosted by the CDSS brings together international experts to exchange their analyses of the issues around the workshop theme.

Through stories, music, photographs, artifacts and art, Sears is participating in a local community oral history project requiring him to document his life. The project focuses on Winnipeg's West End. <http://www.dmsmca.ca/>

Sue Sorensen, Associate Professor of English, received honourable mention for her poetry entry "On the Road to Golders Green", Prairie Fire: A Canadian Magazine of New Writing.

Publications 2011-2012 by CMU Faculty

Congratulations to faculty who have written or edited books recently:

A Large Harmonium by Sue Sorensen (Winner, Manitoba Book Awards for Best First Book)

Critical Aspects of Gender in Conflict Resolution, Peacebuilding, and Social Movements, eds. Anna C. Snyder & Stephanie P. Stobbe

The Church Made Strange for the Nations: Essays in Ecclesiology and Political Theology (Festschrift Honouring Harry J. Huebner), eds. Karl Koop & Paul G. Doerksen

Hard Choices: Financial Exclusion, Fringe Books and Poverty in Urban Canada, by Jerry Buckland

Introduction to Christian Ethics, by Harry J. Huebner

Jesus and Paul Before Christianity: Their World and Work in Retrospect, by George V. Shillington

Joshua, Believers Church Bible Commentary, by Gordon Matties

Peace and Justice: Essays from the Fourth Shi'i Muslim Mennonite Christian Dialogue, eds. Harry J. Huebner & Hajj Muhammad Legenhausen

Renewing Identity and Mission: Mennonite Brethren Reflections After 150 Years, eds. Abe Dueck (CMU emeritus), Bruce L. Guenther, and Doug Heidebrecht

Visit media.cmu.ca

CALENDAR

JUNE

18-29 Canadian School of Peacebuilding csop.cmu.ca

23 Retirement celebration for Gerald Gerbrandt

AUGUST

13-24 CMU Blazer Sports Camp athletics.cmu.ca

SEPTEMBER

6 First day of fall semester classes

28-29 Fall Festival cmu.ca/fallfest

OCTOBER

16-17 JJ Thiessen Lecture

19 Campus Visit Day

21 Vespers

NOVEMBER

18 Vespers

23 Campus Visit Day

Isbrand (CMBC '70) and **Martha Hiebert** have begun two-year assignments in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, as Low German program workers with MCC.

In fall 2011, **Weldon Epp** (CMBC '91) was appointed as Canada's Consul General in Guangzhou, People's Republic of China. He and his wife, **Kristi Dyck** (CMBC '90), have three children.

In February 2010, **Kathryn Penner** (Nass, CMBC '96) received certification as Specialist in Pastoral Care from the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care. She recently transitioned from a spiritual care position at St. Paul's Hospital to fulltime parenting of twins. Kathryn and Shawn are the proud parents of Lena Margarete and Micah Norman, born on September 25, 2011.

Brent (CMBC '98) and **Jill Falk** announced the birth of their first child, a son, Jonathan Levi, born December 16, 2011. Brent works as a software developer while Jill worked as an administrative assistant. They make their home in Winnipeg and attend Fort Garry MB Church.

Fr. Geoffrey Angeles (CC 1995-2000) was one of three composers across Canada commissioned by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) to set to music the new liturgy, the third English translation of the Latin mass.



Matthew, Adele, and Jennica Geddert

Jennica (Willems, CC '99) and **Matthew Geddert** announced the birth of their daughter, Adele Sophia, born December 27, 2011. They make their home in San Francisco, CA.

Judith (Rudolph, CMU '03) and **Christian Siebert** announced the birth of their daughter, Eva Christina, born April 12, 2011. The couple celebrated their marriage on July 1, 2011 and make their home in Leipzig, Germany. Judith is hoping to finish a Conference Interpreting degree this year.

Karla Reddekopp-Janzen (CMU '06) and **Matthew Janzen** (CMU '06) announced the birth of their daughter, Sophie Annabelle Janzen,

born August 5, 2011. Matthew works as a sales consultant while Karla is on maternity leave from her work as a nurse. The family attends Holyrood Mennonite Church in Edmonton.



Kari Enns

This spring **Kari Enns** (CMU '04) will begin serving as an Interim Pastor at Calgary Inter-Mennonite Church. She recently completed serving as Youth & Peace Coordinator with MCC Alberta.



David Nicholas Stehr

Colin Stehr (CMU '05) and **Jessica Noel** were married August 14, 2010 at The Meeting Place. They make their home in Winnipeg where Colin works as a chef. They announced the birth of their first child, David Nicolaus Stehr, born February 1, 2012.

In the fall of 2011, **Norm Dyck** (CMU '08) began serving as senior pastor of Listowel Mennonite Church. Norm, Rose, and their family have enjoyed the transition to life in Listowel, ON.

Ruth (OT team leader), Outtatown program manager, and **Fort Bruinooge** (OT Team leader 2001-03), announced the birth of their son, Isaiah Nicholas Bruinooge, February 24, 2012.

Stephen H. Deunk (CMU '10), is currently doing graduate studies at Queen's University working towards a M.A. in Global Development. Following graduation, Stephen hopes to get involved in agricultural politics to help realize 'alternative' models of rural development that tackle issues of global poverty and environmental degradation.



Bethany, Josh, Rose, and Solomon Paetkau

Josh (CMU '10) and **Bethany Paetkau** (CMU '11), Morden, MB, announced the birth of their second child, Rose Naomi, born October 8, 2011; a sister for Solomon (2).

Megan Enns (CMU '11) has begun an assignment with MCC Alberta, Calgary, as a service program coordinator. She attends Foothills Mennonite Church, Calgary.

PASSAGES

Bruno Epp (CMBC '50) died April 13, 2012.

Jacob Fransen (CMBC '52) died January 18, 2012.

John Froese (MBBC '61) died April 26, 2012.

Ramsy Unruh (MBBC '84) died September 29, 2011.

Vivienne Joy Wiens (Renaud, MBBC '85) died March 14, 2011.

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Worship + Imagination

a biennial symposium

February 7-9, 2013

formerly known as *Refreshing Winds*

A Church without Walls

By Lindsay Wright

Alumni from CMU are using their education in the real world – from Canada to Cairo – proving that today’s church is a church without walls.



Diana Epp-Fransen (CMU '03, BA) recently spent three years volunteering as a Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) service worker in Cairo, Egypt. While in Cairo, she taught English and assisted in a home for impoverished girls - bringing a very practical approach to being God’s church in the world. “My CMU practicum experience, serving with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Palestine, introduced me to the struggles of our sisters and brothers in the Middle East. I knew that I wanted to return to that region to continue to build bridges of understanding between our cultures,” said Epp-Fransen. “CMU took the faith I had grown up with at church, and pushed me further. My classes inspired me to search for opportunities to love and serve others - whether in Winnipeg or in Cairo.”



Since her time at CMU, **Angela Reed** (CMU '01, BA) has gone on to study at The University of Winnipeg and Princeton Theological Seminary. She is now Assistant Professor of Practical Theology and Director of Spiritual Formation at George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University in Texas. “I believe the Christian university has a responsibility to challenge students to think in new ways about the nature of the world and the possibilities for how the church might listen and watch for what God is already doing and get on board,” said Reed. “My education - including my years at CMU - has helped me to reflect upon the church’s role in the world in life-changing ways. My background keeps me rooted in the belief that the church is called to be a witness to God’s redemptive action in the world.”



Bridging the academic with hands-on service, **Michael** (CMU '11, MA) and **Tabitha VandenEnden** (CMU '11, MA) serve together as co-pastors at Grantham MB Church in St. Catharine’s, Ontario. They credit their time at CMU with giving them the tools of critical thinking, to better serve church and society. Michael VandenEnden feels this skill is vital to their roles as pastors. “Social issues are so important in today’s church. We are more in sync with culture than many other faith traditions. We need to be reminded of why the church is different. We need to be critical thinkers - and our time at CMU helped equip us to do this effectively.”

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