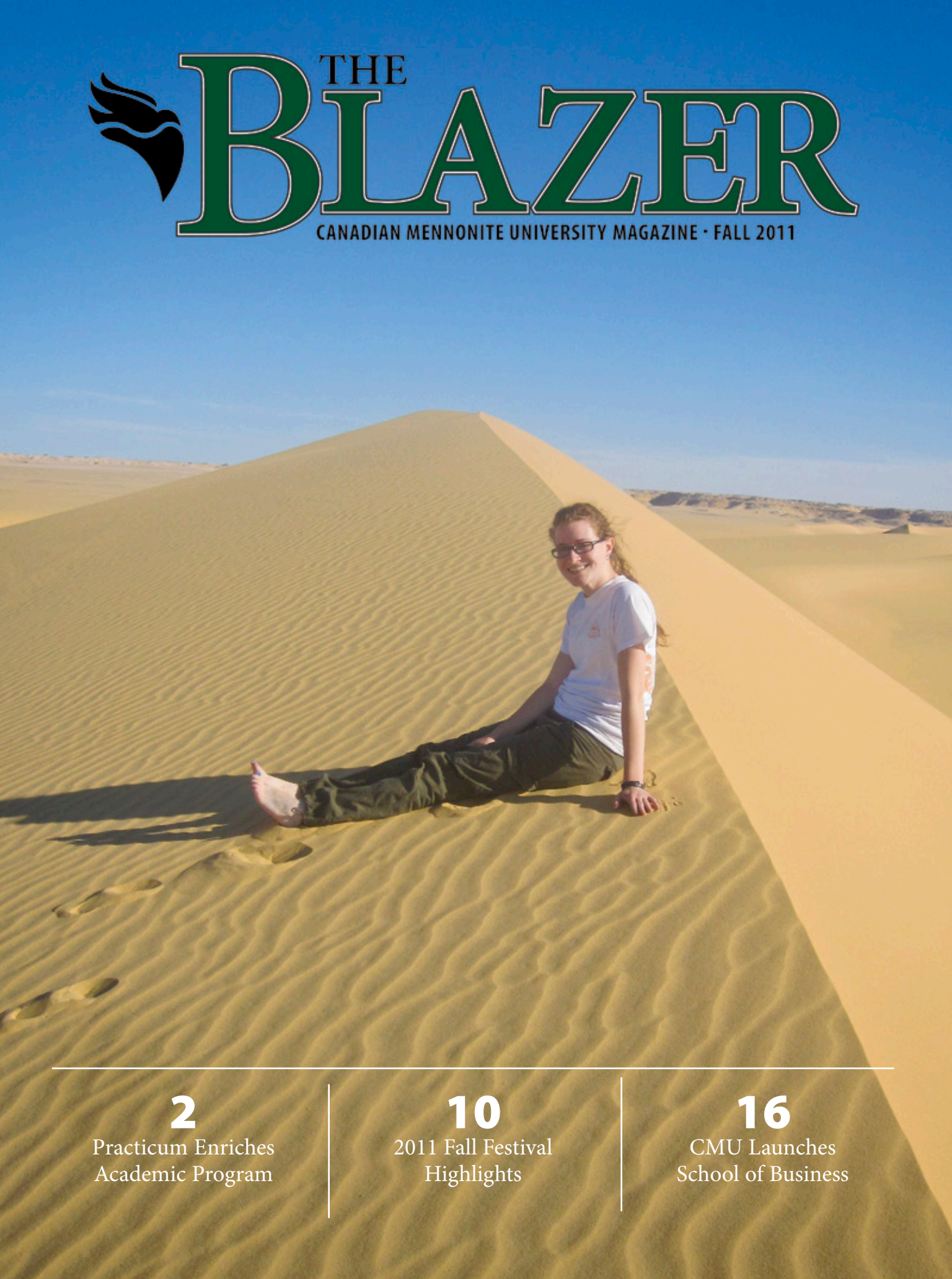




# THE BLAZER

CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE • FALL 2011



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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

What parent or grandparent has not lamented, when raising a family, over the stubborn tendency of youth to learn, not just by thinking, but by doing?

We all seek opportunities in life to learn through experience. We intuitively grasp the value of text-book learning paired with hands-on experience.

CMU understands, and is committed, to "learning by thinking and doing." CMU fosters learning by thinking and doing in many ways; a key aspect is a structured practicum program. Every CMU graduating student completes a practicum requirement.

"Doing" permeates CMU's culture and the curriculum. This benefits our students, and, ultimately, the larger community where our alumni work, live, and contribute.

In this issue, we share news about CMU's practica program. We recognize the important lifetime achievements of our distinguished award recipients; we recognize the achievements of CMU students whose actions have earned them leadership and merit awards; we salute recent graduates, like our 2011 President's Award winners.

We share news and stories to inspire, to inform, and to connect you with CMU. Learn about the remarkable generosity of the Redekop family of British Columbia and Alberta in establishing the Redekop School of Business at CMU. Read about the Christian Investors in Education, and about Menno Simons College Professor Kirit Patel's research project relating to international food security.

One of the great outcomes of learning is progress – towards reconciliation, forgiveness, mercy, and peace. We should all be engaged, lifelong, in this transformational process of "learning by thinking and doing."

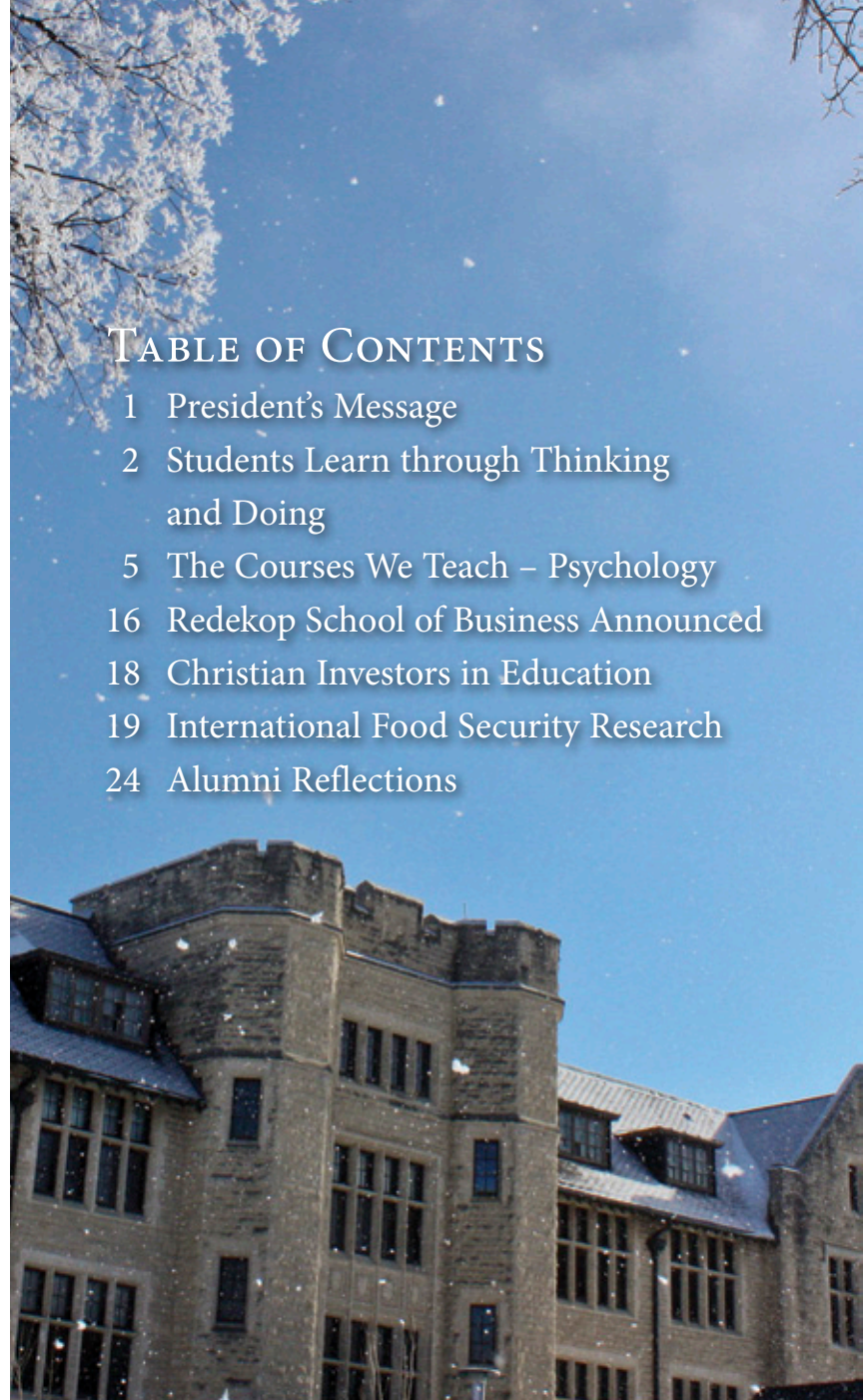
Enjoy your fall 2011 issue of *The Blazer*!

Love in Christ,

*Nadine Kampen*

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Cover: CMU student Melanie Kampen atop a sand dune in Egypt.  
See story on page 4

It is no secret that over time many Christian colleges and universities gradually shed their Christian underpinnings, raising the obvious question: “How can a Christian college or university ensure that it remains vibrantly faithful to its distinctive identity and mission?”

Robert Benne, a Lutheran theologian, examined six colleges and universities with this question in mind. Perhaps counter intuitively, he argues that to step away from a particular denominational identity and relationship is a step toward secularization.<sup>1</sup> He warns against the common temptation of church-related institutions to become generically Christian in an effort to be more inclusive as a way of responding to student market pressures.

An institution may be welcoming to any and all, but it must at the same time have a clear sense of its foundational identity. Indeed, it may be said that to be truly hospitable requires being comfortably at home in a particular tradition.

Some years ago, Richard Hughes suggested that for Christian colleges to mature into first-rate institutions, even as they live out of the faith tradition that gave them birth, they need to interrogate that tradition, asking, what about that tradition gives shape to the educational model of that institution? In other words, he emphasizes not shrinking from the particularity of an institution's identity, but rather understanding that tradition, and then developing an institution true to it.

I have at times suggested five themes I consider to be important in the Mennonite faith tradition, each of which plays a critical role in CMU:

1. that the Christian faith is not only a set of beliefs, but inextricably includes a way of living, a following of Jesus Christ;
2. that such a way of living must pay attention to the weak, the poor, the oppressed, and so service and justice are important;
3. that political states cannot have ultimate authority, or be the source of our primary identity, and so a global perspective is instinctive;
4. that violence can never be the solution to disagreement or difference;
5. that community and relationships and mutual support are fundamental.

In his study, Hughes goes on to describe what he considers

to be the particular genius of four different denominational traditions (Roman Catholic, Reformed, Lutheran, and Mennonite), and how that particular genius works itself out in a college or university. His take on the Mennonite approach to higher education is noteworthy. Its starting point, he suggests, “has more to do with holistic living than with cognition and more to do with ethics than with intellect.”<sup>2</sup> Whereas the Reformed approach is “fundamentally cerebral and transforms living by thinking, the Mennonite model transforms thinking by living.” This may not be the way we have traditionally put it, but is consistent with our historic emphasis on ethics and discipleship. Perhaps overly positively, he continues, “Mennonites prize the life of the mind, but they rarely divorce cognition from lifestyle commitments grounded in the Christian faith.”<sup>3</sup>

When CMU programming was shaped in the late 1990s, it included a somewhat atypical expectation, namely that all degree programs require a practicum (see the stories in this issue). This is not only where classroom learning is translated into life, but also where experience is the basis of learning. The CMU Vision Statement speaks of this commitment with the phrase “Learning through thinking *and* doing.” The Outatown program embodies this commitment in a wonderful way as students, together with mentors, learn from their travels and experiences.

The newly launched Redekop School of Business is a further example of this conviction and CMU's Anabaptist identity. Using both classroom and experiential learning, it will prepare future business leaders to serve their fellow humans and to make a beneficial impact on our world. An effective and vibrant future for CMU is dependent on remaining faithful to this identity.



CMU President Dr. Gerald Gerbrandt

1. Robert Benne, *Quality with Soul*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2001; pp. 20-23.

2. Richard T. Hughes, *How Christian Faith Can Sustain the Life of the Mind*, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2001; p. 76.

3. p. 78.



# CMU's Practicum Program Enriches Academic Experience

## STUDENTS LEARN THROUGH THINKING AND DOING

By Carla Lowe

CMU has long recognized that education involves more than just learning in the classroom; it involves the whole person – mind, heart, soul, and hands – and includes practical experience. One of CMU's four core commitments as part of its mission and vision is "Learning through thinking and doing." To help carry out this commitment, CMU requires a supervised, hands-on practicum component for all academic degree programs.

"Learning in a practicum happens by experiencing new things, doing new things, and reflecting on the learning that comes through that," says Sheila Klassen-Wiebe, CMU Practicum Coordinator.

Students must take six credit hours of practicum by either completing 60 hours over two semesters or enrolling in an intensive practicum, which involves immersion for a concentrated time (for a minimum of 12 weeks) in an experience-based setting.

"The intensive practicum allows students to spend significantly more time at a practicum placement, in many cases being immersed in a different country and culture," says Werner Kliewer, Director of Practica. "This option is also a vehicle for doing practica away from the city – meaning that CMU education happens in 'satellite mini-campuses' all over the world."

Practicum placements are discussed and arranged in consultation with



Megan Klassen-Wiebe looks in on the chicken coop at Cedar Lane Farm.

Kliewer and Klassen-Wiebe to suit both the student and practicum host. While some students come with clear ideas, others need more guidance.

Practicum assignments do not necessarily need to relate to the major, although some majors, like Communications and International Development Studies, require it. In fact, Klassen-Wiebe says this is one of the distinctive features of CMU's practicum program.

"Other academic institutions have practica, but they are usually linked to a particular degree and specific career," she explains. "But our practica are not necessarily so closely linked to a particular program of studies. It's not just

about putting into practice the theory you learn in a classroom in preparation for a career, but a recognition that learning by doing is, in itself, a valid and important way to learn."

Whether or not students choose a practicum related to their major, there is a wide variety of placements available. Practica have taken CMU students across Canada and around the world in many diverse settings, including schools, hospitals, churches, banks, radio stations, newspaper offices, music and art programs, legal programs, farms, food banks, social services, personal care homes, community centres, orphanages, refugee/



immigrant programs, prisons, environmental organizations, and international development agencies.

Kliewer says students have worked on all continents except Antarctica. “International practica provide the opportunity to learn in a new cross-cultural environment, which is huge in broadening life experience,” he says.

Alumna Megan Klassen-Wiebe’s practicum took her to Cedar Lane Farm, a small, mixed, family-run farm in Coles Island, New Brunswick for five months in 2009. There, she was involved in gardening; working with animals; collecting eggs and baling hay; making granola; and selling goods.

Klassen-Wiebe graduated from CMU in 2009 with a general BA and at first wasn’t sure about her professional future. “This experience gave me a chance to explore a passion in myself that I had only just discovered at CMU,” she says of her practicum. “It also helped me decide that I wanted farming to be a part of my future, and led me to studying Agroecology at the University of Manitoba.”

Kliewer says he enjoys hearing about students taking advantage of a practicum to do something they otherwise would not have had the chance to do.

“Practicum experiences can open up the world to students,” agrees Sheila Klassen-Wiebe.

While some students can find their calling through their practicum placement, others interested in or already on a particular career path can learn, through practicum, if they have what it takes.



Micael Duerksen

**“CMU and my practicum guided me along the journey of discovery within the world; I have developed a greater understanding of how to live and work as a disciple of Christ.”**

Micael Duerksen (CMU ‘10), who graduated with a three-year BA in Communications and Media, chose a local practicum and internship directly related to his major. In summer 2009, he worked as a news writer at Golden West Radio’s CHVN /Ignite stations and, after graduation, he interned in the Communications Department at Winnipeg’s Siloam Mission.

“I was surprised how well my studies at CMU had prepared me for my practicum,” says Duerksen. “But even

though a lot of my classes were hands-on, my practicum allowed me to test those skills and see if they would hold up in the ‘real world’—and they did.” His internship at Siloam Mission led to a job offer; he now works as the organization’s Communications Coordinator.

“I enjoy hearing about relationships between the student and the host agency that carry on once the practicum is done, including jobs that develop as a result,” says Kliewer.

For student Peter Dueck, who will graduate in 2012 with a four-year BA in Biblical and Theological Studies, practicum was also about growing personally and spiritually.

“CMU has taught me less about what I should do professionally and more about daily experience and how to work through that,” says Dueck, who completed his practicum assignment during 2010-2011 as a Grade 7/8 teacher aide. “CMU and my practicum guided me along the journey of discovery within the world; I have developed a greater understanding of how to live and work as a disciple of Christ.”

Sheila Klassen-Wiebe affirms that CMU’s practicum program can help foster personal growth.

“For students who really open themselves to a new experience, practica can be powerful, transformative, and life-changing,” she says. “When they’re thrown out of their comfort zones, students come to see the world and themselves through different eyes, learning things they could not have learned any other way. This brings confidence and maturity.”



See cover photo

CMU student Melanie Kampen taught English as a foreign language to non-Egyptian refugees during her practicum in Cairo, Egypt. Kampen is in her fifth year of studies working toward a Bible and Theological Studies major with a Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies minor.

“My studies at CMU consistently emphasized the ecclesial and ecumenical aspects of the church, in which the church reaches out to those at the periphery of society, and works to build relationships across cultural lines,” says Melanie Kampen. “My practicum experience in Cairo, Egypt elicited a greater desire in me for continuous ecumenical work across denominations, among immigrant and indigenous Canadians, and between various religions. My practicum has helped shape the way I pursue my academic vocation in graduate studies and beyond.”



## STUDENTS WORK WITH MDS

During CMU Reading Week 2011, nine CMU students under the leadership of CMU staff member, Rick Unger, put homework and rest behind them to participate instead in a Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) trip to Lyles, Tennessee. Their time was spent dry-walling, siding, and insulating. They honed their construction skills and their sense of service, allowing them to get to know people from the area. In May 2010, Lyles was decimated by flooding and three tornadoes.

# CMU COMMUNITY BREAKS NEW GROUND WITH ON-CAMPUS COMMUNITY GARDEN

Spring 2011 marked the first season of CMU’s new on-campus Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) Farm, a two-year collaborative urban farm project of the university and the CMU Farmers’ Collective.

“The farm is a place of learning in which emerging farmers can practice the craft of land stewardship while growing healthy, local food for sharers,” says Kenton Lobe, CMU International Development Studies (IDS) instructor and Farmers’ Collective member. “I am ecstatic with the level of commitment from the farmers working on the project.”

This project is the realization of a dream of Lobe and alumni DeLayne Toews and Megan Klassen-Wiebe, who are members of CMU Farmers’ Collective. Over several recent summers, Toews and Klassen-Wiebe worked on several small-scale farms in Manitoba and on the East Coast and imagined what an urban, campus farm might look like at CMU, bringing the idea to fruition. Other members of the Collective committed to farming this crop were alumni Karin Coleman Neufeld, Kurt Lemky, Corinne Klassen, and MSC practicum student Jeanette Sivilay.

“The farm provides a real place in which to engage the issues of food security, land stewardship, and project development—all areas that I teach,” Lobe says. “Having a place to experiment and imagine what the



The CMU urban farm allows students interested in agriculture the opportunity to learn by doing in a rich context supported by CMU’s academic curriculum.

work looks like provides a rich context for learning by doing that really supports the academic curriculum of the university.”

For this season, the CMU Farmers’ Collective sold 25 shares at \$450 each, providing each sharer with a weekly box of fresh, seasonal vegetables during the harvest period. The farm also grew a plot of corn to sell at a corn roast to support the work of Mennonite Central Committee, and hosted a fall harvest celebration. Next year’s work will involve clarifying linkages with university courses.

“The CMU Farm holds the potential to link the issues of global hunger with local and small-scale agriculture and to help us explore how the food we eat opens us to God’s creation and connects us with others,” says Lobe.

For more details, contact [cmufarm@gmail.com](mailto:cmufarm@gmail.com)



# The Courses We Teach

## QUALITATIVE INQUIRY: “DOING” RESEARCH

By Vonda Plett, Assistant Professor of Psychology

I wish “Qualitative Inquiry” had been offered when I was a student. It addresses the questions I struggled with during those years. For this reason, I view this course as a gift to my students.

As an undergraduate psychology student, I found that the more I learned in my classes the more questions I had. I eagerly anticipated the opportunity to conduct an honours

thesis, excited by the prospect of exploring some of my questions in more depth.

However, I quickly learned that my questions didn't fit well with the approaches to research I had been taught. How could I meaningfully explore

the richness and complexity of individuals' lived experience if it meant reducing it to numerical form and subjecting it to statistical analysis?

Thankfully, in the course of my studies, I came to see that the scientific approach to gaining knowledge was just one approach. I discovered research traditions that were rooted in foundational assumptions other than those of science. I identified a tradition that resonated with me and fit better

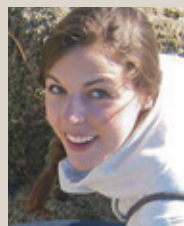
with the kinds of questions I was asking.

In Qualitative Inquiry, I invite students to retrace this intellectual journey with me and use it as a launching pad for discovering their own unique research niche – a place from which they can seek answers to the questions that most matter to them.

I love this course, because it blends theory and practice into a meaningful and cohesive whole. Students are engaged in philosophical discussions that demand critical analysis, yet at the same time, these discussions are clearly linked to the actual practice of ‘doing’ research. Furthermore, while the focus of the course is explicitly on how to conduct empirical research, students are encouraged to apply the tools they are given outside the parameters of the classroom, or even the formal research process.



Vonda Plett



### JAIME SEMCHUK

2<sup>nd</sup>-year student from Manitoba

Vonda Plett's Qualitative Inquiry course was an extremely valuable contribution to my CMU Psychology degree. It opened my eyes to an alternative perspective on psychological research and influenced the direction of my own independent research project. This course brought to light the underlying and often unmentioned assumptions that are inherent in conducting research. The idea that knowledge is not objectively discovered, but constantly negotiated socially, remains with me and will likely continue to influence my studies.

## HOPE AND FAITH AMID TRAUMA AND VIOLENCE

By Lois Edmund, Assistant Professor,  
Conflict Resolution Studies, MSC



Lois Edmund

In winter 2011, CMU offered the course “Traumatic and Violent Conflict.” The course explores violence and its enormous impact, with the primary goal to understand healing, forgiveness, and new life. Because the course was cross-registered with both Psychology and Peace and Conflict Studies, wide interests were represented – practical

and theoretical, personal, and professional.

The challenge was for everyone to keep a life-giving balance of hope and faith as we examined complex cruelty and evil, wounding and healing, and forgiveness.

It was a time of unexpected surprise. The students very quickly engaged. There was a palpable intensity as they listened, contributed, absorbed, and struggled with the material. I was impressed by the students' breadth of preparation in “real life,” and their willingness to share those experiences. Many students had worked overseas in areas of high conflict, and were attempting to make sense of their

*Continued on next page*

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experiences – both struggles and joys. For many students, this course raised memories of personal tragedy and trauma, and gave them an unexpected opportunity to process and find new insight. I was awed by the students' courage as they engaged in spiritually-emotionally challenging issues without clear answers.

Students showed determination to use their learnings in the present and into the future. I heard that much conversa-

tion was generated at home and over the dinner table, with outsiders who were not taking the course. Another surprise was the number of students who chose to express their learnings in a variety of beautiful, artistic ways (quilting, painting, film, and poetry).

It was inspiring to observe the students working together to accomplish the academic task, but also to come through the course work well and strong, and better prepared for their vocations.

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## FAITH AND DISCIPLINE BROUGHT TOGETHER

**“We explore questions that bridge such psychological issues and matters of faith, the effects of forgiveness, and choice versus determinism.”**

By Delmar Epp, Assistant Professor of Psychology

“Psychology & Christianity” epitomizes the joys and challenges I’ve experienced in teaching a wide-ranging and yet highly personal field like Psychology. The course offers students a specific opportunity to reflect on points of connexion between Psychology studies and a faith-based worldview.

Designing the course entailed a steep initial learning curve for me personally. Like many students, I’d believed that these aspects of life necessitated compartmentalization, with my academic study in one box, and the rest of life elsewhere. It has been inspirational to discover and to spread the news that not only is compartmentalization of faith and academic life unnecessary, but that the possibility exists for coherence and integration, and that many people are thinking and writing about these very issues.

I have been gratified to see students inspired by the course. Students lead discussion on topics and themes of special interest to them, embracing this role with great effort and enthusiasm, and with a careful, balanced approach to complex issues. I am regularly impressed by the sophistication with which they bring together ideas about faith and discipline.

Psychology was coined as “the study of the soul,” so it seems appropriate that we spend some time exploring the notion of soul, as it fits both biblical and scientific understandings. We explore questions that bridge such psychological issues and matters of faith, the effects of forgiveness, and choice versus determinism.

After the course, students report thinking differently about Psychology, recognizing assumptions and presup-



Delmar Epp

positions behind psychological principles and theories, and realizing more clearly some of their own. Some note that certain long-standing questions have been answered, at least in part. Some say that more questions have been raised than answered, which I hear as a positive outcome for our work together. I am hopeful that students are finding both a framework and motivation to serve in fields related to Psychology.



### TANIA FRIESEN

**2010 graduate from Manitoba**

Psychology and Christianity challenged previous assumptions and asked important questions intended specifically for psychology students. What is the difference between my soul and my brain? Where does moral decision-making occur within the body? I am thankful for the

opportunity to challenge my faith from a psychological perspective. This course prepared me to engage in dialogue about faith and psychology issues during studies after CMU.





Canadian Mennonite University in spring 2011 graduated 78 students at its southwest Winnipeg Shaftesbury campus. Menno Simons College graduated 66 Outtatown students, for a total of 114 graduates. An additional 64 Outtatown students completed international programs in South Africa and Guatemala.

## CMU SHAFTESBURY CAMPUS GRADUATES 78 STUDENTS

During Spring Convocation 2011, CMU celebrated the achievements of 78 graduating students. Graduate Michael Harms was the Class of 2011 Valedictorian, while graduates David Attema and Jill Siemens shared reflections with fellow students. Retiring professor Dr. Titus Guenther spoke on the theme *Living in Bold Humility*, based on 1st Timothy 1:7, the text chosen by the graduating class. CMU's Worship Band, Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, and Jazz Band contributed to the celebrations. "Graduation is a day of joyous celebration, a day of fellowship, a day of praise to God for what God has done. Graduation is an important milestone and a significant occasion in the life of our graduates," says CMU President Gerald Gerbrandt.

Distinguished Canadian author and CMU alumnus Dr. Rudy Wiebe (MBBC '61) gave the Graduation Address, "Working in Hope." Wiebe, in his remarks, issued a challenge to the Class of 2011. "Is there something specific that you feel within yourself that you are called to do?" he asked. "Find that, face that, dare to explore that gift, that intimation of calling that God has given specifically to you. Fan into flame the gift of God that is in you."

New this year was the presentation of the President's Gold Medals. Award winners are Rebecca Reesor and Erin Weaver (see story on p. 24).



CMU 2011 graduates



CMU President Dr. Gerald Gerbrandt



MSC 2011 graduates

## MENNO SIMONS COLLEGE CELEBRATES 66 CRS AND IDS GRADUATES

"We gather to acknowledge years of hard work, laughter, and friendship at this celebration of light and hope," said the Dean of Menno Simons College, Dr. Richard McCutcheon, in his remarks to graduates.

Dr. John Derksen, Associate Professor, Conflict Resolution Studies, gave the Invocation. CMU President Gerald Gerbrandt, in his opening remarks, expressed confidence in the Class of 2011 having "a passion for issues of justice and mercy, and skills to make a

difference in the world."

Guest speaker Lois Coleman Neufeld, Executive Director, Mediation Services, advised the graduates: "Take the best of what you have learned and use it for others."

Sharing student reflections were graduates (Roberta) Bobbie Whiteman, 4-yr. IDS and Human Rights graduate, and medal winner Zoë Gross, 4-yr. CRS graduate, majoring in Women's Studies.



CSOP students participate in an outdoor session.

## CANADIAN SCHOOL OF PEACEBUILDING WELCOMES PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE

By Carla Lowe

Diversity is a big part of CMU's Canadian School of Peacebuilding (CSOP), which has welcomed a diverse range of instructors and participants from around the world since it first ran in 2009.

CSOP offers a selection of five-day peacebuilding-related courses for professional and personal development or academic credit each June. Courses are open to any adult, regardless of age, race, country, profession, or faith.

Valerie Smith, co-director with Wendy Kroeker, says a highlight from the 2011 school was the diversity of participants. Students came from across North America and such places as Cameroon, Philippines, Palestine, and Australia; ranged in age from 19-76; and included CMU students and

staff, pastors, teachers, activists, retirees, farmers, and stay-at-home parents.

"CSOP is a place where peacebuilders from all walks of life can learn, share, and connect," says Smith. "It's energizing to see the depth of connection that can occur in just five days, especially between people who are often quite different from each other."

Instructors for the June 2012 CSOP include Ovide Mercredi, Karen Ridd, Stuart Clark, Ivo Markovic, and Ouyporn Khuankaew, teaching courses on topics such as Aboriginal peace leaders, citizen advocacy, faith and music, and women and peacebuilding.

"This year, we want to communicate much more broadly that the CSOP is valuable," says Smith, who notes there is a common misconception that because someone isn't a full-time peacebuilder or student, that CSOP

**"It's energizing to see the depth of connection that can occur in just five days, especially between people who are often quite different from each other."**



Salah Alajarma and Coreen Froese plant raspberries as part of a CSOP opening program.

isn't right for them.

"We welcome and seek diversity at CSOP," she says. "Anyone interested in learning about and working at peacebuilding, whether in the workplace, at home, or in society, will fit in here."

CSOP 2012 runs June 18-29. For more information, or to register, visit <http://csop.cmu.ca>



# OUTTATOWN ACHIEVES HIGH ENROLMENT

By N. Kampen

The mission of CMU's Outtatown Discipleship School is to inspire and nurture students in their life of discipleship with Jesus Christ. Outtatown opens students to a journey towards knowing God in truth and relationship; knowing themselves in personality, character, abilities, and gifts; and knowing the world in its beauty, diversity, and pain.

CMU's Outtatown program is resonating with today's Christian youth, attracting strong leaders and high enrolment, with 105 students participating this year in four Outtatown sites.

The majority of students are taking part in Outtatown's two-semester programs, with one site offered in Guatemala and two in South Africa. New this year is a one-semester French Africa program, with 12 students enrolled.

## CMU Welcomes New Director

Outtatown Director Cam Priebe, building on the commitment of former director Paul Kroeker, is excited with the positive start to this year's program.



Cameron Priebe

Brethren Biblical Seminary (MBBS), in Fresno. His previous experience includes serving at Bethany College and Ministry Quest at MBBS. As well, in his former role with the Mennonite Brethren National Conference, Priebe assisted young leaders and churches in developing their understanding of how they are uniquely gifted to serve and love God.

"We have a strong team of site leaders and a great group of students," says Priebe. "I am confident that this will be a meaningful and eventful year for our Outtatown program."

## Site Leaders Bring Their Gifts

Fifteen site leaders for CMU's four sites gathered at CMU in September

In taking on his new role, Priebe brings a strong background in pastoral care and leadership of students. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Christian Ministry from Mennonite

for fellowship and orientation before embarking with their groups. The final days of preparation created excitement among the leaders.

Gypsi Town, a South Africa site leader along with her husband Jesse, is thrilled to be serving with Outtatown. The couple from Barrie, Ontario came to CMU after working in disaster relief in Japan. "We appreciate living in community and making our faith real – surrounded by Christian believers, challenged to make faith a lifestyle and not just a weekly activity," says Town.

French Africa leader Jeff Tchadjeu, a McMaster University political studies graduate from Etibicoke, Ontario, embraced the opportunity to be an Outtatown leader in a French language setting. "Outtatown offers a place where I can live out and grow my faith," he says.

Former Outtatown student, Steve Klassen (OT '04, South Africa) returned for a second year as a site leader. "The highlight for me is watching students grow and trust in God in a deeper way." Klassen particularly appreciates the growth that comes from living in community. "Our focus is on people as the church."

Rafael Duerksen, who grew up in Paraguay, graduated from CMU in 2008. Duerksen served for back-to-back years as a leader in South Africa and returned this year as a leader in Guatemala. What he finds most rewarding is the change he sees in the students over the year. "Conversation becomes so much deeper as students change their world views, become less complacent, and seek to authentically walk with Jesus."

Myrielle Tremblay, serving in the French Africa program after two years as a leader in South Africa, sums up the shared vision of the Outtatown leaders. "We are sharing our love for Jesus," she says.



Front row (left to right): Jeff Tchadjeu, Bethany Bustard, Gypsi Town, Marie-Odyle Masse, Myrielle Tremblay, Natali Drake, Josh Dookhie, Randi Dookhie, Jesse Town. Back row (left to right): Lisa Frances, Steve Klassen, Sandy Town, Stefan Kliewer, James Cuthbert, Rafael Duerkson

Transforming Homecoming into the new Fall Festival event took a bit of extra effort, but it was all worth it, according to event organizer Eleonore Braun, Alumni Relations Coordinator.

“We enjoyed a great turnout with alumni and friends coming to campus from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and throughout Manitoba. From the feedback we received, people enjoyed our new events and the open house atmosphere this year. We plan to build on the momentum and look forward to seeing even more friends, parents, students and alumni participate next year.”

The September 30 to October 1 weekend event opened with a celebration to honour CMU’s 2011 Blazer Distinguished Community Service Award winner Ray Dirks along with winners of the 2011 Blazer Distinguished Alumni awards, Lois Coleman Neufeld (MBBC ’80), Judith Klassen (CMBC ’97), David Loewen (MBBC ’61), and Robert Wedel (CMBC ’69).

Following the award presentations, guests explored the issue of human rights in an evening presentation of words and music. Offering a thought-provoking lecture entitled “It’s Not Only about You” was faculty member Paul Doerksen, followed by a response

from faculty member John Derksen.

Woven into the presentation was the music, *Quartet for the End of Time*, by Olivier Messiaen, with CMU faculty member Cheryl Pauls on piano.

In the Loewen Athletic Centre, visitors were able to take in exhibition volleyball games.

Saturday got underway with the challenging MennoCross bike races, with racers riding a course that twisted and turned around CMU’s north campus. In addition to the competitive class, there were races for beginner and intermediate riders as well as kids.

Alumni gathered for reunions at



Fall Festival participant Jonah Huebner enjoys the potato sack race.

## FALL FESTIVAL 2011

Fall Festival 2011 this year from the CMBC ’61, MBBC ’61, CMBC ’71, and CMU ’10 classes.

Afternoon entertainment included a pie bake-off and auction, fair games, a children’s “bouncy house,” dunk tank, and tours of CMU’s student residences, campus buildings, and grounds.

A unique offering this year was a series of short classes, called “Faculty Samplers,” offering a taste of the passion and expertise of CMU’s faculty. Featured samplers were Dietrich Bartel’s *Music as Wellness*; Gordon Zerbe’s *Walking the Streets of Paul’s Philippi*,

*Virtually*; Candice Viddal’s *A Hymn to God’s Glory: Physics and the Spiritual Dimension*; Tim Rogalsky’s *Logic Unlocks Pauline Puzzles! Mathematics as a key to understanding the letters of Paul*; and David Balzer’s workshop, *The Art of Communicating in Church and Society or why I think our storytelling should be ‘pathetic.’*

The weekend closed with a free BBQ supper followed by a celebration service featuring the wonderful voices of CMU Alumni and Student choirs conducted by faculty members Janet Brenneman and Rudy Schellenberg. The program included an address by President Gerald Gerbrandt.





# CMU PRESENTS 2011 BLAZER DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD TO ARTIST AND CURATOR RAY DIRKS

By N.Kampen

Canadian Mennonite University on September 30, 2011 honoured artist and curator Ray Dirks as its 2011 CMU Blazer Distinguished Community Service Award winner.

“Through this award, we offer a gesture of appreciation to Ray Dirks for his artistry, vision, and commitment to bridging cultural divides and fostering respect, for all people, in all that he does,” says CMU President Gerald Gerbrandt. “He is a highly deserving recipient of this award.”

Dirks grew up in Abbotsford, British Columbia, graduated from Mennonite Educational Institute in 1973, then studied commercial art and design at Vancouver Community College. He married Winnipegger Katie Reimer in 1977.

In 1982, he and Katie accepted an assignment with Mennonite Brethren Missions and Services in the Democratic Republic of Congo where he worked primarily as an illustrator. “This resulted in a passion for ordinary folk and a lifelong pursuit, through my art and the art of others I promote, to reveal the decency and dignity of marginalized, stereotyped, misunderstood, forgotten people from around the world,” he says.

They returned to Canada in 1985, settling in Winnipeg. Dirks began doing freelance design work for *ChristianWeek* and MEDA. In 1990, wanting to counter stereotypes of Africa, he created an exhibition from four countries called ‘Africa: Art of the People,’ sponsored by CIDA, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, MCC, and Canadian Lutheran World Relief, among others. The exhibit toured in the United States and Canada.

“Its success led to my bringing together ‘Rise with the Sun: Women and



Gerald Gerbrandt presents Blazer Distinguished Community Service Award to Ray Dirks.

Africa’ in 1995,” says Dirks. Sponsored by CIDA and its partners, including MCC, the exhibition featured 44 artists from 12 sub-Saharan countries.

In 1998, the Mennonite Heritage Centre in Winnipeg became a full-time gallery with Dirks as its curator. Dirks’ wish and prayer was two-fold: That the gallery be a place that heralds artists from Mennonite churches as God-gifted, and that those gifts should be used and respected in the church; and that it be a place where people could meet one another in a respectful environment, recognizing that Canada is an increasingly multi-cultural and multi-faith society.

In 2000, Dirks began bringing together a project called ‘In God’s Image: A Global Anabaptist Family.’ This international touring exhibition featured art, stories, and photographs of ordinary people of the church from 17 countries circling the globe.

Working as an artist and curator in

approximately 30 countries around the world, Dirks has had solo exhibitions in Ethiopia, Cuba, India, the United States, and Canada.

Over the past few years, implementation of a school program called ‘In the Spirit of Humanity,’ funded through The Winnipeg Foundation, has been a chief commitment. Hindu artist, Manju Lodha, Muslim artist, Isam Aboud, and Dirks have joined in giving presentations to over 2,000 students across Manitoba.

Dirks says his Anabaptist faith and roots remain central to who he is. “I see my work with my own Mennonite story and the stories, lives, and art of others to be equally important, portraying and honouring all as created in God’s image.”

Dirks is the second recipient of the CMU Blazer Distinguished Community Service Award. The inaugural award was made in 2010 to Altona citizen Ted Friesen.



CMU recently honoured Robert Wedel, Lois Coleman Neufeld, Judith Klassen, and David Loewen as its Blazer Distinguished Alumni Award winners. The awards were presented on September 30, 2011 during CMU's Fall Festival.

## BLAZER DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS 2011

By Eleonore Braun

### Lois Coleman Neufeld (MBBC '80)

"I followed a high school friend to MBBC," Lois Coleman Neufeld recollects with a chuckle, "It was one of only a few Bible schools offering university credit at the time."

While at MBBC, Lois Coleman met her husband, Robert Neufeld. After graduation, the couple served with Mennonite Brethren Mission/ Services in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire). An initial three-year term grew into eleven years

learning and serving together with local churches and partner agencies.

Later, Coleman Neufeld served as Mennonite Central Committee's Country Representative in Zambia for six years, focusing on HIV/AIDS education for churches and peace, reconciliation, and community development projects.

After 17 years in Africa, the family moved back to Canada. Coleman Neufeld became the Director of National Programs for Mennonite Central Committee Canada, where for eight years she supervised a broad range of program initiatives. In her current role as Executive Director of Mediation Services, Lois appreciates

the opportunity to explore perspectives of how people deal with justice issues in the world beyond the church.

Coleman Neufeld, a self-proclaimed life-long learner, recently earned a Master of Arts degree in Leadership from Trinity Western University.

Coleman Neufeld worships with and volunteers alongside parishioners of River East MB Church. Her passion for the church and love for community are also evident in her eight years of service on CMU's Board of Directors, including service as Board Chair.

Coleman Neufeld and Robert Neufeld have three grown children, two of whom, together with spouses, have attended CMU.

*Distinguished Alumni Nominations for 2012 are now being received; more information can be found at [www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca)*



## Judith Klassen (CMBC '97)

The desire to study peace theology while also pursuing musical performance led Judith Klassen to study at CMBC. Klassen was impressed by how faculty and staff were “People who cared and took time for students. There was a holistic approach to education.”

Klassen went on to complete a PhD at Memorial University of Newfoundland in 2008, where she was awarded the Governor General’s Gold Medal in Graduate Studies. Her doctoral research explored faithful defiance in the musical practices of Mennonites in northern Mexico. Other research interests include music and creative protest in sites of conflict.

**“[CMBC faculty and staff were] people who cared and took time for students. There was a holistic approach to education.”**

Klassen is an ethnomusicologist and violist who has recently taken the post of Curator, Canadian Music at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec. She has worked as a freelance musician in chamber ensembles and orchestras across Canada, as a violin instructor in Canada, Mexico, and Paraguay, and as a lecturer in music at CMU and the University of Manitoba. More recently, she collaborated with the Mennonite Heritage Village in Steinbach, Manitoba on the exhibit *Singing in Time: Music and Mennonites*.

Klassen is active in her community, providing leadership on a number of boards and collaborating with musicians on various projects. One such project includes the folk duo, The Land, which Klassen co-founded with her husband Simon Neufeld. Judith and Simon are members of Covenant Mennonite Church.

## David Loewen (MBBC '61)

After graduating with a Bachelor of Theology from Mennonite Brethren Bible College (MBBC), Loewen began his career in camping ministries at Camp Arnes on Manitoba’s Lake Winnipeg.

With further studies at Manitoba Teachers College and Waterloo Lutheran University (now Wilfrid Laurier University), Loewen juggled school in winter and camp in summer for a number of years.

Apart from a few years in the mid-70s, when Loewen and his wife Elfrieda founded and directed Nativity Celebration (a 30-float Christmas parade in Winnipeg), Loewen provided leadership for Camp Arnes from 1967 to 1990.

During this period, he served terms as president of the Manitoba Camping Association, president of Christian Camping International/Canada, and secretary of Christian Camping International/Worldwide. In these undertakings, he benefited from and shared insights in camping ministry.

During the '70s and '80s, Loewen also got back in the classroom, teaching camping ministry classes at MBBC and Providence College.

In 1990, Loewen founded Kingdom Ventures Inc. to train Christian youth camp leaders in the former Soviet Union and manage the Christian Camping International initiatives in Russia, Ukraine, and Georgia.

Dave Loewen and Elfrieda Epp were married in 1959; they have three children and six grandchildren. For the past 40 years, the couple have owned and operated Miracle Ranch, a family recreational camp. They are founding and 30-year members of The Church at Pine Ridge, Manitoba. In 2000, they helped found Willowdale Fellowship.

## Robert John Wedel (CMBC '69)

Robert Wedel graduated from Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC) in 1969. He then studied medicine at the University of Calgary, graduating in 1974. After completing his residency in Family Practice at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Wedel settled in Taber, Alberta.

Feeling an affinity to serve people better at the end of life, Wedel completed a Fellowship in Palliative Care in 1997. With that, he became Medical Director of the Chinook Palliative Care Program and developed the first palliative care program in Alberta outside of Calgary and Edmonton.

Wedel has appreciated the opportunity to advance quality improvement initiatives within his practice as well as system-wide across the country.

A family physician for over 35 years, Wedel is past president of the National College of Family Physicians of Canada, recipient of the 2010 Alberta Rural Physician Award of Distinction, and recipient of the 2010 W. Victor Johnson Award recognizing his clinical practice and accomplishments in teaching, research, palliative care, and administration.

Recent involvements for Wedel include Medical Director for the Chinook Palliative Care Program, Associate Clinical Professor in the departments of Family Medicine at the Universities of Calgary and Alberta, and Chair of the National Advisory Committee on Family Practice with the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Wedel met his wife Marilyn Harder while they studied at CMBC. They have two adult children, Gina Wedel (CMBC '97), and Nic Wedel (CMBC 1996-1997). They are members at Coaldale Mennonite Church.

# PARTNERING WITH DONORS MAKES A DIFFERENCE

By Terry Schellenberg,  
Vice-President External

CMU is deeply grateful for support received from individual donors – younger and older alumni, parents and grandparents of students, and friends of the university – as well as from congregations and church conferences. This support is vital to our programs and it impacts the students we serve. Thank you!

In 2010-2011, over 1,800 people gave to CMU, with 1,200 donors contributing to our Annual Operating Fund, out of which CMU’s day to day life is supported.

Of these Annual Fund donors, 58% were from Manitoba while 42% came from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. 200 people (19%) generously gave \$1,000 or more. Money from our Annual Fund, together with funds from over 120 scholarship and bursary funds established by individuals and families, combined for \$375,000 to support the

“Having come to CMU with a commitment to stay for one year, I soon learned that my academic studies and the life of this community were drawing me close. CMU’s Church Matching Grant played a role in choosing to stay and complete my degree here. It helped make my choice affordable for me. But more importantly, the support of my congregation and the university together modeled the best of what community should be. Besides the money I’m deeply appreciative of the shared support and encouragement. Thank you!”

Josiah Brubacher, 2<sup>nd</sup> year,  
Bachelor of Music (Performance)

learning of 300 CMU students.

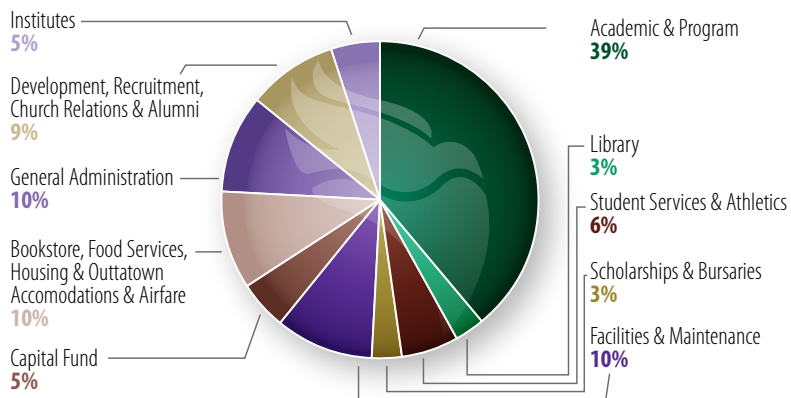
CMU’s Congregational Matching Grant Program offers an example of how partnering with donors helps students fund their post-secondary education. Given costs of university study, and our shared mission in Christian education, we invite congregations to help their students cover some of the cost of study at CMU. This past year, 52 congregations supported 97 students with amounts ranging between \$100 and \$1500 each, for a total of \$54,000. CMU matched these congregational commitments up to \$500 per student – a tangible symbol of support and shared mission!

“The money I receive from my church, Milverton Mennonite Fellowship, is important not only because it helps me financially, but because it means that my home church is supporting me in my schooling. I know that many people have kept me in their prayers during my years at CMU, but it is good to know that they also want to support me financially. This matching commitment tells me that both churches and CMU want to support young people in their educational pursuits. Thank you!”

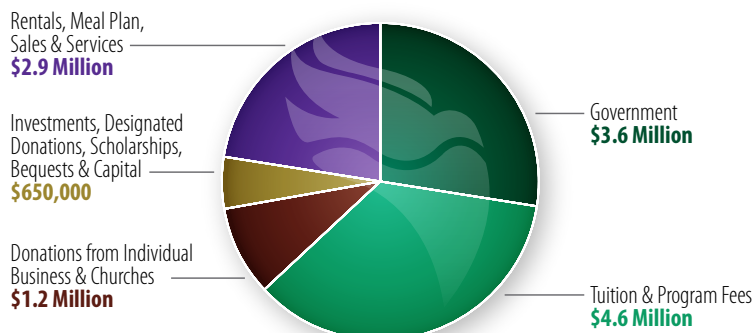
Chrissy Scheerer, 4<sup>th</sup> year,  
Bachelor of Arts (Business)

## EXPENDITURES 2010-2011

Percentage out of total \$13.1 million



## REVENUES 2010-2011





# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECOGNIZES ACADEMIC SUCCESS

By N. Kampen

A well-supported financial awards program is vital to the success of today's university students. Awards provide recognition and encouragement while also playing a critical role in attracting and retaining bright students.

Although students work at part-time and summer jobs, the costs of a full program typically exceed their earnings. Financial awards help students and families pay for higher education, and, by helping with tuition costs, give students the opportunity to focus on their studies during the academic term.

"Roughly 40% of our CMU scholarship and bursary program is funded directly by donors," notes Student Financial Advisor Stephen Redekop. "Many students need scholarships to even consider going to university. A great example of this is our interna-



Leadership Scholar Raya Cornelsen, 3rd-year Mathematics major, from Manitoba

tional student scholarship program, which provides a 20% to 40% tuition discount (the higher value applies when the student is recommended by a church agency). That amount can make a huge difference

as to whether a student can afford to study at CMU."

Attracting students and helping them attend CMU is a priority for both CMU and the church.

"CMU is unique in Manitoba and Canada as a Christian university rooted in the Mennonite Anabaptist faith tradition," says CMU Vice-President Academic Earl Davey. "As a

community of Christian scholars, we are committed to preparing students to think clearly and carefully about the world in which we live, and to engage in our communities in ways that honour God and each other by affirming human dignity and cultivating justice, mercy, and peace."

He adds: "We see the university as having a purpose that ultimately serves the world. We hope to instil in our students the understanding that critical thinking leads to critical action; the privilege of higher education bears with it the responsibility to act on behalf of others."

For students in financial need, CMU expects this year to disburse up to \$28,000 in bursaries, available for the winter term.

*For details on the new Redekop School of Business scholarships, visit [www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca).*

## CMU SCHOLARSHIPS 2011

### NEW STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

#### Academic Entrance Scholarships

Awarded to 63 students

#### Athletic One-Year Awards

Wyatt Anders                  Shawn Franz  
Corey Dueck                  Carrera Lamoureux

#### Music One-Year Awards

Hillary Devries                  Ara Ko  
Emily Lou Friesen                  Catherine Richard

#### Merit Awards, Athletics

Sean Baergen                  Nicole Ramshaw  
Darcie Donald                  Aaron Saint-Cyr  
Matej Juric

#### Merit Awards, Music

Catherine Richard                  Nathan Sawatzky-Dyck

#### Merit Awards, Program Specific

Alisha Maine- BTS  
Amanda Parsons- Humanities  
Abram Thiessen- Science

#### Merit Awards, Leadership

Matthew Baron                  Christopher Klassen  
Patrick Falk                  Michael Wiebe

#### Leadership Scholarships

Jonas Cornelsen                  Raven Nickel  
Kathleen Klippenstein

#### Outtown Leadership Scholarships

Rachel Chiarello                  Laura Hildebrand  
Natalie Hamm                  Alanna Johnson

Joshua Klassen                  Carter Whyte  
Natasha Peters                  David Wright  
Alexandra Siebert

#### Transfer Student Scholarships

Gabrielle Lemire                  Sheralynn Neff  
Rachel MacEwan                  Brock Peters

### AWARDS FOR RETURNING STUDENTS

#### Academic Excellence Scholarships

Awarded to 38 students

#### Merit Awards, Athletics

Heidi Epp                  Jodi Plenert  
Christina Janzen                  Mallory Shack  
Kathleen McCullough

#### Merit Awards, Church and

#### Community Service

Bethany Abrahamson                  Jonathan Muehling  
Danielle Bailey                  Lorianne Pauls  
Jennifer Bergsma                  Jenelle Plett  
Angelica Dyck                  Laura Radons  
Rachel Enns                  Nicole Richard  
Tanya Fehr                  Erin Sawatzky  
Brittany Kroeker

#### Merit Awards, Music

Heidi Derksen                  Jami Reimer  
Nicole Froese                  Rachelle Reinhart  
Markus Goertzen                  Lori Schroeder  
Rebecca Hill                  Gabrielle Wiebe

#### Highest GPA Scholarships

Bethany Abrahamson- Tie in BTS  
Gerald Ens- Tie in BTS  
Jacob Miller- Year One  
Angela Neufeld- Humanities  
Katherine Polle -Social Science or Science  
Rachelle Reinhart- Music

#### Leadership Scholarships

Amy Beckwith                  Krista Loewen  
Raya Cornelsen                  Paul Peters  
Rianna Isaak                  Justin Rempel  
Karen Jantzen                  Felicia Schmutz  
Joshua Krueger                  Helena Schroeder

#### Masters Scholarships

Chad Doell                  Frances Muehling  
Glen Klassen                  Robyn Thiessen  
Jose-Luis Moraga Diaz

#### Other Scholarships

Bradley Langendoen- Anne and Al Loewen Scholarship  
Daniel Bergman- Phillip and Anna Wiebe Scholarship  
Joshua Klassen- Rockway Diploma  
Timothy Wenger- Rockway Diploma

#### Returning Student Leader Scholarships

Jennifer Bergsma                  Adam Janzen  
Lindsay Braul                  Tracey Krahn  
Josiah Brubacher                  Todd Reimer  
Justin Fraser                  Lori Schroeder



Twenty-four members of the Redekop family travelled to Winnipeg from British Columbia and Alberta to celebrate the announcement of the Redekop School of Business at CMU. Seated nearest the banner are Jacob and Maria Redekop's sons: John (left) and Peter (right). Missing: Sibling Mary Bergen, who also resides in British Columbia, was unable to attend. Elder sibling Jake Redekop is deceased.

## REDEKOP FAMILY GIVES \$6.5-MILLION TO START BUSINESS SCHOOL AT CMU

### *Family's generosity born of suffering in Soviet Russia*

By J. P. Neufeld

The Redekop family has given a gift of \$6.5-million to a potential \$7.5-million to Canadian Mennonite University in memory of Jacob and Maria Redekop. The gift will establish the Redekop School of Business at CMU and is intended to nurture a new generation of generous, globally engaged Christian business people. It is the largest financial gift CMU has ever received.

CMU President Gerald Gerbrandt announced the creation of the school at a ceremony on October 19 and thanked the extended Redekop family for pledging this generous gift. Gerbrandt called the Redekops an exceptional family, "compelled by their vision for what a Christian university could do."

The story of Jacob and Maria Re-

dekop is indeed a remarkable one. Their son, Peter Redekop, still gets emotional when he describes the moment he first saw Canadian soil. He was 12 years old, standing on the deck of a ship entering the Halifax harbour. His mother wept. "We were so excited that Canada would accept us, because nobody else wanted us," said Peter at the announcement of the business school.

**"We were so excited that Canada would accept us, because nobody else wanted us."**

In 1947, Jacob, Maria, and their four children arrived in Canada, ending years of flight and fear. In the 1930s, Soviet officials arrested Jacob Redekop along with other men from every household in the Russian Mennonite village of Nieder Chortitza. Jacob was one of only two men who escaped deportation and death. When he arrived home, gaunt and haggard after

months of interrogation and solitary confinement, his own children didn't recognize him. Jacob said an angel had visited him in prison and told him he would survive.

Grandson Walter Bergen says the family cherishes this faith story.

During the Second World War, Jacob and Maria Redekop led a group of Mennonites who escaped through Germany, Yugoslavia, Austria, and Holland. At one point, the Redekop family had to break the windows of a train that was deporting them back to Russian lines and flee into the forest. By the time the family found refuge in the Netherlands, most of them were on the verge of starvation. In 1947, Canada accepted the Redekops and they sailed for a new home.

The Redekops established a farm on 21 acres of forested land in Abbotsford, BC. Since then, the children and grandchildren of Jacob and Maria have built successful careers in agriculture, construction, real estate, and engineer-



ing. They have also become dedicated philanthropists, expressing their Christian faith and love for the church by supporting charitable causes that include Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Columbia Bible College, Mennonite Central Committee, and Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) as well as supporting the start-up of business programming at CMU three years ago.

Twenty-four members of the Redekop family travelled to Manitoba from Alberta and British Columbia to attend the announcement of the Redekop School of Business at CMU. Jacob and Maria and their son Jake are no longer living, but John and Peter, two of the three remaining Redekop children, were present for the announcement.

“In the future, the Mennonite business community will be called upon to fund our churches and Christian institutions,” Peter said.

Gerbrandt said he hopes the business school will “inspire future leaders to create jobs, to be leaders in their communities, and, as MEDA puts it, to create business solutions for issues of poverty and justice, here in Canada and around the world.”

For Walter Bergen, the school represents an opportunity to foster generosity in a generation that hasn’t lived through the suffering and want his parents experienced. Bergen described how his grandfather Jacob taught his own children to give:

“The family would get a letter from some distant relative in Kazakhstan or central Asia or Siberia telling them of their hardships,” Bergen said. “My grandfather would invite his four children and their spouses to Sunday dinner. He would feed them, and he would read them the letter, and he would lay down \$200 cash on the table. He would expect every one of his children to match it. And it wasn’t, ‘Would you please give \$200.’ It was, ‘Here’s my \$200. Where’s yours?’”

When the distant relatives wrote back to tell the Redekops how they had survived the winter, thanks to their gift, Jacob would again read the letter aloud to his family.

“The last time Peter told me about this, he was choking back tears,” said Bergen. “He said to me, ‘We were helping our relatives, but we were learning to give.’”

**“In the future, the Mennonite business community will be called upon to fund our churches and Christian institutions.”**

Jacob, a resilient man who survived horrendous atrocities, believed fiercely in caring for those in need. He helped start a care facility for elderly Mennonites in British Colum-

bia and would raise funds for it with characteristic grit, said Bergen. With his own contribution in hand, Jacob would visit his friends and ask what they could give. If the person offered too little, Jacob would look them in the eye and say, “What? That’s an embarrassment!”

“He believed that grace was a blessing that we were meant to give to others,” said Bergen, “so that wealth is not just created for personal gain, but also for the community good.”

The gift to CMU to establish the Redekop School of Business speaks clearly to the Redekop family’s faith and commitment to the Mennonite faith community. “Their stories tell me that the human spirit can either be embittered or ennobled,” said Bergen, “and I think that the faith of Jacob and Maria Redekop ennobled the things they went through.”

## THE REDEKOP SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

- Established by the Redekop family as an expression of thanksgiving for God’s providential care for John and Maria Redekop and their children who came to Canada in 1947 as refugees from Soviet Russia
- Funded by a gift of \$6.5-million to a potential of \$7.5-million to be given over the next three years in cash and stocks
- Offers the following degrees:
  - Bachelor of Business Administration** (4-year with a 5-year Co-op option) with Majors in Accounting, Business, Human Resources, and Not-for-Profit Management
  - Bachelor of Arts** (3- and 4-year) Majors in Business and Organizational Administration
- Aims to explore business from a global perspective, seeking to build a foundation of business skills, generosity, service, and entrepreneurship

For more Redekop School of Business details, visit [www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca)

# PHILANTHROPIC GROUP FUNDING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS

By J. P. Neufeld

Erin Weaver remembers the stress of raising funds to pay for her practicum trip to Uganda last year. The trip would earn her the final credits she needed to graduate from CMU with a degree in International Development Studies. But as the departure date loomed, she was still short of her goal, despite the generosity of family and friends. “I was at the point where I was wondering how I would get another \$2,000,” Weaver recalls. Then she received an unexpected donation from a group of men she had never met.

Christian Investors in Education (CIE) is a group of philanthropic Mennonites who have been finding creative ways to fund Christian education for nearly 50 years. In 1962, nine men – farmers, businessmen, teachers, and other professionals – pooled money from their own pockets to help Heinrich Wiens travel from his home in Paraguay to Canada to study Canadian credit unions and cooperatives.

**“It’s a good way to hear about positive work happening in different parts of the world and to keep pace with what young Mennonite students are up to.”**

The experience motivated them to form a registered charity, funded by yearly contributions from its members, with the goal of assisting people in “educational development.”

None of the nine founding members are still living, but others have joined to take their places. Over five decades, the group has quietly and consistently assisted students from Korea, Nigeria, Paraguay, China, Uruguay, Brazil, Zaire, Uganda, and Germany to study



*CIE Members, back row (left to right): Henry Neufeld, Tim Dirks, Victor Dyck, Alvin J. Wieler. Front row (left to right): John G. Dueck, Henry Schulz, Henry Poettcker, Ron Doerksen. Missing from picture: Henry Borne, Arthur Driedger, John P. Dyck, Gerald Neufeld, and John H. Wiebe*

at Mennonite schools in Canada and the United States. It has enabled Canadian students like Weaver to travel and learn in other countries, supported the translation and publication of Bible study materials, started an after-school program in Winnipeg’s North End, and built and operated a general store in the northern community of Pausingassi. These are only a few among scores of projects the group has funded.

Christian Investors in Education offers scholarships to students at Mennonite elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools in Winnipeg and at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana.

CIE has contributed more than \$25,000 to CMU students since the university was formed in 2000. Before that, the group supported students at Canadian Mennonite Bible College, one of CMU’s founding colleges.

Last year, CMU students Erin Weaver and Megan Enns both received money from CIE to help them pay for overseas practicum studies. Both women spoke to the group when they

returned.

“It’s a good way to hear about positive work happening in different parts of the world and to keep pace with what young Mennonite students are up to,” says Arthur Driedger, the current chair. “We’re like a sort of mini-MCC, in a way.”

The group also supports each other socially and spiritually. They begin each meeting with a devotional and sharing time.

Len Sawatsky, who handled the CIE fund in his former role as Development Associate at CMU, says he has always been impressed by the men’s dedication to funding Christian higher education and their keen interest in global issues.

But the group is dwindling. Most of the current members are retirees and six members have died since 2005. Sawatsky feels it would be a “great loss” if Christian Investors in Education ceased to exist.

Anyone interested in joining the group can contact Arthur Driedger at [janzdri@mymnts.net](mailto:janzdri@mymnts.net)





*Front row (left to right):* Steven Fletcher, Minister of State (Transport), MP Charleswood-St.James-Assiniboia; Dr. Gerald Gerbrandt, CMU President; Dr. Digvir Jayas, University of Manitoba Vice-President (Research & International); Dr. Wolé Akinremi, U of M Professor and Principal Investigator. *Back row (left to right):* Dr. Earl Davey, CMU Vice-President (Academic); Dr. Richard McCutcheon, Dean, CMU Menno Simons College; Dr. Kirit Patel, CMU Menno Simons College Professor and Principal Investigator; Dr. Neil Besner, UWinnipeg Vice-President (Research & International)

Dr. Kirit Patel

## UNIVERSITIES AWARDED \$6.4-MILLION FOR INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY RESEARCH

At a joint news conference on October 13, Hon. Steven Fletcher, congratulated Dr. Kirit Patel (MSC) and Dr. Wolé Akinremi (University of Manitoba) for their combined awards of \$6.4 million from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), for projects supported through the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF). Project funding is shared among research partners from Canadian and international universities and NGO partners.

Thirteen research teams involving Canadian researchers and international partners are recipients of grants provided through the five-year, \$62-million CIFSRF. The project "Revalorizing minor millets in rain-fed regions of South Asia" was awarded \$3.5-million, with MSC's Dr. Kirit Patel as a principal investigator. The project "Better vegetable growing opportunities for Nigerian women" was awarded \$2.9-million with University of Manitoba's Dr. Wolé Akinremi as a principal investigator.

# BOOSTING FOOD SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA

By N. Kampen

Securing food sources remains a critical aspect of finding ways to feed starving people in developing countries. CMU's Menno Simons College Professor Kirit Patel and his research partners are determined to help resolve world hunger through ancient grains in South Asia, called "minor millets."

"Despite nutritional benefits, tolerance for difficult growing conditions, and ease of storage, minor millets have largely been neglected by government agricultural policy in South Asia, which has instead put the emphasis on cash crops and cereals like rice and wheat," says Patel. Minor millets, he says, have historically been an important and nutritious part of the diets in South Asia. "Our research will help to revitalize the development of improved millet species among small-scale farmers and indigenous groups."

"Under-nutrition among women and children in India is worse than much of sub-Saharan Africa," Patel says.

"Most of these under-nourished people are from socially-disadvantaged groups living in rain-fed regions with poor infrastructure and markets."

To address this, the researchers believe, calls for a shift in focus.

"Cereals provide the cheapest source of dietary calories. Our research project aims to promote small millets that have evolved in regions of South Asia."

The project has identified research activities and milestones in the areas of conservation, productivity, processing technologies, education and awareness, and public policy.

"Our project emphasizes participatory approaches to technology development, incorporation of indigenous knowledge, gender analysis, and empowerment of rural women and indigenous communities. Our project team is confident that lessons learned from this applied interdisciplinary project will generate long lasting solutions to food insecurity beyond South Asia," says Patel.

## NEW ROLES

CMU welcomed **Lois Nickel** as Director of Enrolment. Nickel is a graduate of Mennonite Brethren Bible College and holds a MA in Theological Studies from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart. For the past eight years, Nickel served in various leadership roles with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), including liaison and teacher at CMU with the Disaster Recovery Service program. Prior to her MDS work, Nickel worked in IT and as a camp director and program coordinator in Saskatchewan. Nickel replaces Abe Bergen who moved in fall to the CMU Development Office.

**Verna Wiebe** is the new Director of the Community School of Music and the Arts at CMU. Wiebe holds a degree in Piano Performance from Brandon University and is a Lecturer at CMU's School of Music. At CMU Wiebe teaches theory, keyboard skills, and solo piano. She is a member of the Registered Music Teachers Association of Manitoba and the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. Wiebe replaces Arlene Kroeker who, in 2006, started the CSMA program.

## EVENTS

### **The Mikado Filled Laudamas Auditorium**

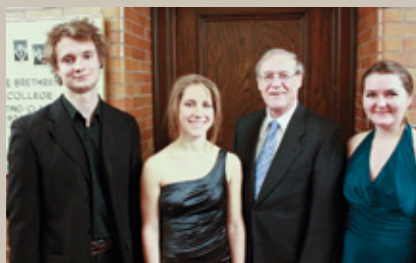
Audiences filled Laudamas Auditorium to capacity for nearly every performance to enjoy the CMU Opera Workshop production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado: The Town of Titipu*, performed March 3-6. *The Mikado* is a comic-opera about a minstrel, Nanki-Poo, who had banished himself from the town of Titipu because of his love for the already engaged maiden, Yum-Yum. For Nathan Thorpe, a CMU student and an audience member, it was difficult to remember that some of the cast members were his friends, not actually executioners and leaders of Asian towns. "I caught myself thinking, 'Wow, these actors are really good! Oh, wait... These are people I know,'" Thorpe said.

### **Blazer Sports Report**

Blazer men's and women's volleyball teams both took home silver medals at the MCAC Final Four Championships held March 4-5, 2011. The awards ceremony saw MCAC name four CMU athletes

to all conference selections: League MVP Evelyn Kampen (WVB), Clare Schellenberg (WVB), Josh Ewert (MVB), and Shawn Franz (MVB). In other sports news, 54 of 75 CMU student athletes achieved Scholar-Athlete recognition, improving from 69% in 2010 to 72% in 2011. The national average is 24%. CMU Director of Athletics Russell Willms noted, "This shows that CMU student-athletes are applying themselves whole-heartedly to their studies and finding success in the classroom. It is something that we are truly proud of." The Blazers formally recognized 11 student-athletes that achieved a GPA of 4.0 or higher – a true standard of academic excellence.

### **Verna Mae Janzen Awards**



*L to R:* Joel Peters, Becky Reesor, Peter Janzen and Rebecca Hill.

The 2011 Verna Mae Janzen music competition at CMU welcomed both vocalists and musicians to the stage. Previously a competition for vocalists only, this year the steering committee headed up by Henriette Schellenberg, Assistant Professor of Music at CMU, opened the competition to those with majors in instruments or voice. Becky Reesor (piano) won first place honours, claiming a prize of \$700, while competition jurors William Baerg and Irmgard Baerg decided that Rebecca Hill (soprano) and Joel Peters (organ) deserved to share the second-place honours and awarded them each \$400.

### **Choirs Tour Prairies and Ontario**

Choral music lovers in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario, and parts of the United States had an opportunity in April to participate in worship concerts provided by Canadian Mennonite University's talented choir ensembles during year-end performance tours. During its April 2011 tour, the 18-voice CMU Chamber Choir, under the direction of Assistant Professor of Music Janet Brenneman, visited churches and schools in North Dakota, Minnesota, Ontario, and Manitoba.

Cheryl Pauls, Associate Professor of Music, accompanied the tour as a guest speaker. The CMU Singers, a 37-voice choir under the direction of Associate Professor of Music Rudy Schellenberg, visited schools and churches in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Terry Schellenberg, Vice-President (External) accompanied the tour as a guest speaker. In 2011-12, CMU choirs will tour in Ontario and BC's lower mainland.

### **School of Writing 2011**

The School of Writing at CMU welcomed 32 promising writers to the CMU campus May 9 – 13. Presenting this year's writing workshops were Marina Endicott (fiction writing), Allan Rudy-Froese (writing sermons), Myrna Kostash (creative non-fiction writing), and Joanne Klassen, who again led her popular life writing course. Students attended from across the prairies, as well as from BC and Ontario. An exciting component was the series of free evening readings by twelve accomplished and celebrated authors, including Ian Ross, Warren Cariou, Barbara Nickel, and Charlene Diehl. In 2012, the School of Writing will be on hiatus. See [www.cmu.ca/schoolofwriting](http://www.cmu.ca/schoolofwriting) for news about the School in 2013.



Dr. Peter Widdicombe

### **J.J. Thiessen Lecture 2011**

CMU welcomed Dr. Peter Widdicombe, Associate Professor at McMaster University in the Department of Religious Studies, as the keynote speaker for the 2011 J.J. Thiessen Lecture Series, October 18 and 19. The theme was "Scripture and the Christian Imagination: Text, Doctrine, and Artistic Representation in the Early Church and Beyond." Using visual aids, Widdicombe



demonstrated how paintings, sculpture, and manuscript illustrations have been influenced by biblical text and understanding. "My research leaves me constantly amazed at the creativity of the Christian writers of the Patristic and Medieval periods," says Widdicombe. "Theirs was an imagination put to the service of thinking about the world through the eyes of the biblical text in conformity with what that text told them about God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

## Bike to Work Day

Forty cyclists 'pit-stopped' at CMU on June 24 for national BIKE TO WORK DAY. CMU helped out by serving as one of 20 Winnipeg Pit Stops. As well, CMU cyclists joined in with others to support Winnipeg's efforts for a cleaner environment by commuting to work on bikes. "The day is becoming an annual tradition in town," says CMU Assistant Professor of Biology John Brubacher. "It's a day to celebrate cycling as a means of transport, and to encourage us to commute on two wheels."



Ken Peters

## 2011 Pastor-in-Residence Ken Peters

Ken Peters, pastor at Saanich Community Church in Victoria since 2010, arrived on campus as CMU's campus Pastor-in-Residence, October 31 to November 4. CMU's Pastor-in-Residence program is designed to encourage out-of-province pastors to come live in residence, participate in the life of the CMU community, and share their faith experiences through CMU chapel sessions. Peters told his own faith story, and spoke about an intercultural missional context and the atonement during chapels and forum. Marilyn Peters Kliewer, CMU

Dean of Student Life, notes that the aim of the Pastor-in-Residence program is to encourage spiritual growth in members of the CMU community, while also helping to build and maintain stronger relationships with our churches. Peters appreciated observing and listening to how CMU students integrate shared convictions of Christian faith and the natural provocations associated with exploration of ideas. "I hope to bring encouragement to students that God is present in and through all experiences and uncertainties." Serving in his 25th year of pastoral ministry, Peters has had experience working in churches with a variety of denominations as well as in non-pastoral ministry positions that include banking, construction, and agriculture.

## FACULTY NOTES

**Paul Dyck**, Dean of Humanities and Science.

Dyck, Associate Professor of English, specializes in 16th and 17th century English poetry and drama.

Dyck was visiting professor of English at Kwansai Gakuin University near Osaka, Japan, from April to July.



**Jonathon Sears**, Assistant Professor International Development Studies, attended the African Educators Forum, 'Fostering Collaborative Relationships and

knowledge Exchange Among African and Canadian Scholars'. The forum was hosted by Nigerians in Diaspora Organization (NIDO) Canada, Manitoba Chapter, March 26.

**John Brubaker**, Assistant Professor of Biology, presented in a day-long seminar/discussion entitled "Biology and the Christian Tradition", at St. Margaret's Anglican Church, Winnipeg, MB, September 24.

Brubaker published an article, "Evolution and development of polarized germ cell cysts: New insights from a polychaete worm, *Ophryotrocha labronica*," in the September issue of *Developmental Biology*.

**Tim Rogalsky**, Associate Professor of Math, presented a paper, "Bezier parameterization for optimal control by Differential Evolution," at the 2011 World Congress in Computer Science, Engineering, and Applied Computing, July 19 in Nevada. The paper was published in the Proceedings of the 2011 International Conference on Genetic and Evolutionary Methods, CSREA Press.

Rogalsky presented his Portable CMU program, and preached at Mississauga Mennonite Church, Mississauga, ON, March 2-4.

**Sheila Klassen-Wiebe**, Associate Professor of New Testament, taught an evening seminar on the Sermon on the Mount to preachers and worship leaders at Springfield Heights Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, June 16.

**Irma Fast Dueck**, Associate Professor of Practical Theology, facilitated and co-taught a course on "Christian Understandings of Peace and Justice" to a group of Muslim women scholars from Iran, together with **Sheila Klassen-Wiebe**, Associate Professor of New Testament, June 6-10.

Fast Dueck was accepted as a member in Societas Liturgica: an International Society for Liturgical Study and Renewal in Reims, France.

**Paul Doerksen**, Assistant Professor of Bible and Theological Studies, published "Responding but Not Replying: David Bentley Hart and the 'New Atheism'" in *Direction*.

**Dan Epp-Tiessen**, Associate Professor of Bible, preached "Covenant: 'I Love You Forever,'" at Portage Avenue Church, Winnipeg, September 25.

**Kenton Lobe**, International Development Studies Instructor, initiated the first season of CMU's new on-campus Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) Farm, a two-year collaborative urban farm project of the University and the CMU Farmers' Collective.

**Brian Froese**, Assistant Professor of History, is on sabbatical this year working on his SSHRC-funded project, "American Evangelical Missions in the Twentieth-Century Canadian West."

Bryler Publications recently published *Mennonite Girl*, a work of creative nonfiction, by **Mary Ediger** (CMBC 1978-1979). It placed at the Atlantic Writing Competition. Mary's sister, **Stephanie Ediger** (CMBC '76), did much of the editing of the book. When not writing, Mary is kept busy substitute teaching and making sea glass angels, Saltwater Angels.

Over the summer, **Leanne Peters** (CMBC '93) worked with teachers in Ghana to provide professional development. This fall, she will begin as Assistant Superintendent of Lakeshore School Division.

**Andrew Plett** (CMU '04) and **Theresa Guderian** (CMU '05) announced the birth of twin girls - Ella Roslyn and Evelyn Ruth - born on August 21, 2011. They are sisters to big brother Will (18 months). Theresa is currently on maternity leave from her work as a Worship Coordinator at Mclvor Avenue MB Church, and Andrew just began working as the Work Skills and Inner City Racing Director at Inner City Youth Alive.

**Colin Redekop** (CC '93) received a Master of Music degree in organ performance from the University of Calgary in June 2011. He is the Music Director of Grace Presbyterian Church in Calgary, a Regional Director for the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and a free-lance accompanist.



Margaret Reimer and Bastian

**Christina Reimer** (CMBC 1995-1997) and **Mike Schmidt** of Toronto announced the birth of their son, Bastian Michael Reimer Schmidt, born June 25, 2011, a brother for Christof (4). Proud 'Oma,' **Margaret Loewen Reimer** (CMBC '68) in photo.

**Trishia Penner** (CMBC '96) and **Dennis Krahn** (CMBC '94) announced the birth of Lilith Sarah Penner Krahn. Lily was born August 7, 2010.

Dennis works as a Palliative Care Nurse, while Trish practices family medicine in Steinbach, MB.



Seth Bergen and little brother Eli

**Jeremy Bergen** (CMBC '96) and **Rebecca Steinmann** announced the birth of Eli Daniel Steinmann Bergen, born on September 23, 2011. Seth (3) is very excited to be a big brother.

**Kevin Stoesz** (CMBC '96) and **Lydia Parrott** were married in Portage Alliance Church in Portage La Prairie, MB on July 30, 2011. Kevin is starting his fifth year as the high school science teacher for Westpark School; Lydia serves as the Director of Education.



Grandpa Gerbrandt and Ruby

**Brad** (CMBC '99) and **Natalie Gerbrandt** announced the birth of their daughter, Ruby Clair Gerbrandt, born May 1, 2011. Proud grandparents include Gordon and Julianna Enns and **Gerald**

(CMBC '67) and **Esther Gerbrandt**.

**Heidi Schulz** (OT '00, CMU 2000-2002) and **Landon Clarkson** were married at the Vineland MB Church on July 3, 2010. Heidi has completed a BA in Child and Youth Studies at Brock University in 2005, and a BEd at the University of Wollongong in New South Wales, Australia in 2006. Heidi works as a nanny in Toronto.



Stephanie Epp

**Stephanie Epp** (CMBC '01) began an assignment with Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan last fall as an Administrative and Communications Assistant. She attends Nutana Park Mennonite Church.



Karin Kiewer and baby Adalyn

**Karin Kiewer** (OT '99, MSC '04) and **Daniel Leonard** announced the birth of their daughter Adalyn Margrit Kiewer Leonard, born September 9 in Nairobi, Kenya. Karin and Daniel are currently Country Representatives for MCC in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Their term finishes September 2012.



Leah Wight with brothers Benjamin and Luke

**Katherine** (Funk, CMU '02) and **Trevor Wight** announced the birth of their daughter, Leah Katherine Maya Wight, born January 4, 2011. Big



brothers Luke (4) and Benjamin (2) are excited to have a baby sister. Katherine is happy to be a busy stay at home mom, while Trevor teaches and coaches track and field at a local high school in Abbotsford. The family is active at Bakerview MB Church.

**Caralee** (Wall, CC '01) and **David Voth**

announced the arrival of Micah Nathaniel Voth, born April 27, 2011. Brielle (3) and Josiah (1) are enjoying their new brother.

Congratulations to **Nathan** (CMBC '02) and **Marla Janzen** (CMU '02) on the birth of Elliot Margaret, born April 28, 2011, a little sister for Asher (2).

**Andy** (CMU '04) and **Patricia Funk** announced the birth of their daughter, Piper Abigail, born March 19, 2011. Big brother Caleb (2) is happy to have another sister; his older sister, Morgan, passed away in 2009 at the age of two. Andy serves as Associate Pastor at Morrow Gospel Church in Winnipeg.

Congratulations to **Nicole Enns Fehr** (CMU '05 and '09) on completing a Masters in Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Nicole and **Jason** (CMU '04 and '05) are excited in their move to Calgary where they will be Co-Managers for the Ten Thousand Villages Crowchild store. Jason is concurrently working to complete a Masters in Non-Profit Administration at the University of Notre Dame.



Charlotte and Lucas Plett with Emma and triplets Aleksandra, Isabelle, Sienna

**Charlotte** (Volkers, CMU 2004-2006) **Lucas Plett** (CMU '06) make their home in Portage La Prairie, MB. Last year, their family grew significantly with the addition of triplets, Aleksandr Kane, Isabelle Dawn, and Sienna Joy Plett, born

August 14, 2010. Big sister Emma (2) has been a trouper with the addition of her siblings. Lucas is keeping busy with a new career and Charlotte is busy at home with all four kids. "This year has been the busiest and most incredible year of our lives," says Charlotte. "Never in a million years would we have thought we'd be having triplets, but we wouldn't change it for the world. God continues to bless us and stretch us beyond what we ever thought possible. And only by the grace of God have we gotten this far, and only by His hand will we continue to thrive." The family worships at Portage Evangelical Church.

**Diedre** (Reimer, CMU '04 and '05) and **Aaron Sportack** (CMU '04) announced the birth of their first child, Susannah Wren Helen Sportack, born April 26, 2011. Diedre is on maternity leave from her work running a youth leadership program at UrbanPromise Vancouver, and Aaron continues to work as a graphic design consultant.



Seamus Thiessen

**Laura** (CMU '06) and **Derek Thiessen** announced the birth of their second son, Seamus Nathaniel Thiessen, born May 4, 2011, a little brother for Luke (3).

**Damaris** (Braun, CMU '08) and **David Schmucker** (CMU '08) have begun two-year assignments with Mennonite Central Committee in Nuevo Casas Grandes, Mexico, as program managers.

**Dylan Tarnowsky** (CMU '08) and **Kimberly Penner** (CMU '08) were married August 20, 2011 at Wanner Mennonite Church in Cambridge, ON. They live in Winnipeg where Kim is continuing her education and Dylan is employed in the Development Office at CMU.

**Kristian Klippenstein** (CMU '09) completed a MA (Theology) at The University of Winnipeg in spring 2011. Kristian's paper, entitled, "The Impact of Jim Jones' Understanding of Jesus as Messiah on Peoples Temple," was judged as the best paper presented at the 2011 Graduate Students Research Colloquium. Kristian works at the United Church of Canada Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Archives.

**Cori Thiessen** (CMU '09) and **Ryan Braun** were married on February 26, 2011. Currently, Ryan works as a courier and hopes to begin studying to become an electrician soon. Cori is working as a receptionist at CMU.

In fall, **Michael Bueckert** (CMU '10) began a Master of Arts program in Political Economy at Carleton University in Ottawa.

## PASSAGES

**Elna Neufeld** (Friesen, CMBC 1950-1951) died March 29, 2011.

**Abe Poettcker** (CMBC '51) died November 9, 2010.

**Aaron Klassen** (CMBC '52) died April 18, 2011.

**Menno H. Epp** (CMBC '67) died August 2, 2011.

**Jacob Krause** (CMBC '71) died April 29, 2011.

**Jeff Warkentin** (CMBC 1997-99) died September 24, 2011.

**Laura Jean Thompson** (CMU '05, CMU '07) died March 21, 2011.

CMU's Alumni Office wants to stay in touch with you; we love to hear what you are up to. Stay connected by following us on [facebook.com/CMUwinnipeg](https://www.facebook.com/CMUwinnipeg) or [twitter.com/CMU\\_Alumni](https://twitter.com/CMU_Alumni). You are welcome to sign up for a regular e-newsletter by visiting CMU's web site at [www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca)



## EXPLORING FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

By Carla Lowe

**“I saw International Development Studies come alive right before my eyes. You can learn about these things, but they don’t sink in until you see them in action.”**

**Erin Weaver**

CMU alumnae Erin Weaver and Becky Ressor – inaugural winners of the CMU President’s Awards for the 2011 graduating class – are using their passions, talents, and CMU education to explore options for the future.

Weaver’s time at CMU helped her explore her interest in community and international development.

“We learned solid steps we can take and tools we can use as future development workers,” she shared at “In Gratitude,” a graduation weekend event held in April 2011. “We also learned humility; tools and theories are fallible, and not always applicable.”

For her practicum assignment, as part of her four-year BA in International Development Studies (IDS), Weaver volunteered for three months in Uganda with ‘Food for the Hungry.’ “I saw IDS come alive right before my eyes,” she says. “You can learn about these things, but they don’t sink in until you see them in action.”

Weaver is now back home in Red Lake, Ontario, working at a group home for people with disabilities. She’s looking for a development agency to which she can apply for an internship as well as considering pursuing a Master’s degree in International Development or working in community development in Ontario.

Ressor, a pianist and first-prize winner of CMU’s spring 2011 Verna Mae Janzen music competition, says her experience at CMU helped her explore the intrinsic value of music.

A Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance/Music Ministry graduate, Ressor completed her practicum in her Ontario home congregation, Listowel Mennonite Church, as a summer student interim pastor of music and worship. “Much of

my work explored trying out what I had learned at CMU musically, biblically, and theologically,” she says.

Ressor says CMU gave her not only a broad yet deep education as well as practical experience, but also a community of support. “I was able to leave feeling both confident and prepared.”

She completed a term position at Winnipeg’s Fort Garry MB Church as worship arts pastor in June 2011 and is now teaching in the CMU Music Department’s Community School of Music and the Arts, and playing for The Royal Winnipeg Ballet. She’s considering pursuing graduate school options – likely in Toronto or Montreal – and working at Scotland’s Iona Abbey as a music assistant or director.

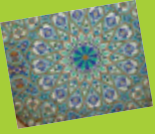


Erin Weaver, Dr. Gerald Gerbrandt, and Becky Ressor

**“Much of my work explored trying out what I had learned at CMU musically, biblically, and theologically.”**

**Becky Ressor**





# FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

visit [www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca)

## DECEMBER

18 | Vespers

## JANUARY 2012

4 | First Day of Class

15 | Vespers

## FEBRUARY

3 | Campus Visit Day

4 | Winkler and area Celebration Evening

19 | Vespers

## MARCH

4 | Mennonite Community Orchestra and CMU Choirs in concert

9 – 11 | Peace IT Together

12 – 13 | Proclaiming the Claims of Christ Lectures

18 | Vespers

16 | Campus Visit Day

## APRIL

12 | Winnipeg and area Celebration Banquet

15 | Outtatown Convocation

21 | CMU Spring Concert

22 | CMU Convocation

23 – 30 | CMU Singers tour to Ontario

23 – May 7 | Chamber Choir tour to BC

## JUNE

1-2 | "Youth Ministry as a School of Love" Conference

## SPRING COURSES

May 28 – June 2 | "Dynamics of Spiritual Transformation in Youth [PT]" with Michael Hryniuk and Mark Yaconelli (BTS-5310/3)

June 4-8 | "Pastoral Counselling: Clinical and Theological Dimensions [PT]" with Daniel Schipani (BTS-5311/3)

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