



THE BLAZER

CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE • SPRING 2008



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Shadows*

Editor's Note

Does your support for CMU make a difference? Do students appreciate your gifts? People can sometimes wonder if anyone notices when they make a donation.

At CMU, we do notice. Last fall students held a forum to thank donors for making their education possible. After the forum they were invited to write their thoughts on a Wall O' Thanks outside the chapel. Here's what a few of them said.

"Thanks for supporting CMU! CMU has shaped my life and faith in a way that nothing else could." *Emily Loewen, Fort Langley, B.C.*

"My experience at CMU has been invaluable. Thank you for supporting an institution that means so much to so many people." *Janna Bryce, Strathclair, Man.*

"CMU has really helped me define my values and beliefs and discover who I am." *Rachel Funk, Jordan, Ont.*

"My experience at CMU has transformed my life. Thank you from the bottom of my heart." *Jotham Penner, Kitchener, Ont.*

"Thank you for supporting a place that God has used as a guiding place in my faith and education." *Brandi Friesen, Osler, Sask.*

"CMU has given me eyes to see a good, yet broken world. I hope I can be a part of God's reconciling work in it. Thank you for helping us to learn what is most important in life." *Delayne Toews, Winnipeg.*

"Without a scholarship, I couldn't have come to CMU. That would have meant missing out on the most formative faith experience of my life! Thank you for making this possible for me." *Dorothea Toews, Winnipeg.*

Is your support making a difference in the lives of students at CMU? I think the answer is plain to see.

John Longhurst, Editor

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Students from Outtatown Site Two (South Africa) at their April 13 graduation ceremony. See story about how Outtatown takes students out of their comfort zone on page 18.

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On the cover: *Kelvin and Elaine Dyck of Winkler, Man. stand proudly with their son, Jonathan, who graduated April 20 with a B.A. with a major in English.*



“Live a Rich Life”

62 CMU Graduates Receive Degrees In Arts, Music, Music Therapy, Church Ministries; 78 Graduate From Outtatown



ive a rich life.”

That’s what commencement speaker Arli Klassen, Executive Director of Mennonite Central Committee, told 62 graduates of CMU at the university’s April 20 graduation ceremony.

For Klassen, a rich life is not just about getting a good career and earning a living. It is also one where graduates “joyfully accept the gifts” God has given them and “use them in service to others.” It’s a life that “reaches into all the places where God lives,” she said, reaching out to the “sick, the poor and the outcasts in society.”

The Valedictorian address was given by Jonathan Dyck of Winkler, Man., who received a B.A. with a major in English. He noted that studies at CMU

had helped him draw “connections between faith and life,” and “made me see what it means to be the church.”

“Our story does not end with our graduation from CMU,” he said. “It continues on through the life of the church.”

During the ceremony, students received degrees in Arts, Music, Music Therapy and Church Ministries. It capped a week of activity at CMU that included the Outtatown graduation on April 13, and the annual Celebration Dinner and Spring Concert.

Prior to the commencement, Harry Huebner, Professor of Philosophy and Theology, spoke at the morning Baccalaureate service on the theme verse chosen by the graduation class: “Be strong, vigorous, and very courageous. Be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)



2007-08 CMU graduating class.

Noting that many people today live in fear of terrorism, global warming, pandemic and other things, Huebner said that “our ability to overcome our fears rests in God, for God’s way with the world will not be thwarted.”

Huebner, who is retiring from teaching after 37 years at CMU and CMBC (one of the university’s predecessor colleges), went on to wish graduates the “courage of open hands, not clenched fists...if God is with us, who can be against us?”

Also sharing at the Baccalaureate Service was Kimberly Penner of Waterloo, Ont., who received a B.A. with a major in Biblical and Theological Studies. For her, CMU was a place where she could develop her leadership potential, get a university education and get a “more mature and well-rounded understanding of the Bible...God has worked through CMU to shape me in so many positive ways.”

At the April 19 Celebration Dinner, part of graduation weekend activities, speaker Dr. John Foerster noted that Christians must strive for excellence in all they do. “If we lose excellence,” he stated, “we lose the right to be heard.”

Foerster, a physician, former director of the St. Boniface Hospital Research Foundation and a member of Winnipeg’s McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, went on to say that “loving God with our minds” has sometimes been forgotten by evangelical Christians. This leads to “theological illiteracy,” he added, with a tendency to emphasize “feelings rather

than ideas.” The result, he stated, is that “nobody listens to us anymore.”

“I’m happy to see the advent of institutions of Christian learning that are pledged to loving God with the mind,” he said, adding that “our country is crying out for the kind of leadership you [CMU] are capable of producing.”

A week earlier 78 students graduated from the Outtatown adventure and discipleship program. Speaker Brian Larmour, pastor of Winnipeg’s Assiniboia-Charleswood Community Church, encouraged the graduates to be like dandelions whose influence, like dandelion seeds, “is carried around the world ... God’s vision for his people is to be like dandelions, spreading His love wherever we go.”

Outtatown Site Leader Heidi Peters of Abbotsford, B.C. noted that during the program students learned about injustice, homelessness and poverty, but also about ways they could be “part of the circle of giving.”

Student Jennifer Nickel of Delta, B.C. said that the program had “made Christianity real” and that she can now better see how “God reveals Himself in people around me.”

Another student, Adrienne Leitch of Toronto, Ont., spoke about how Outtatown put her in settings that pushed her to her limits, and which showed how much she could do.

“Thank-you, Outtatown, for putting me in those situations,” she said. “I learned that God is a steady and reliable source of strength.” **B**



FIRST HUTTERITE GRADUATE PREPARED FOR TEACHING CAREER

If your experience at CMU doesn't make you a better Hutterite, we've failed you!"

That's what one CMU professor said several times over the past year to Jesse Hofer, the first Hutterite to graduate from the university.

"Far from failing me, CMU has gifted me with a renewed commitment to my roots and new tools to both challenge and appreciate my tradition," says Hofer, a member of the Silverwinds Colony near Rosenort, Man. "My only regret is that I wasn't able to study here for my full three years."

Hofer's journey to CMU began when his Colony called him to become a teacher. He started his studies at Brandon University's special Hutterite education program. But when low-enrolment resulted in the suspension of the program, he had the option of choosing between CMU or a public university to continue his studies. He chose CMU.

"I chose CMU because I felt it would better prepare me for teaching in my local Hutterite setting," he says. "I wanted to learn not only the required content but, perhaps more importantly, the invaluable pedagogical skills from committed Christian educators. I also wanted to take courses in Bible and church history that were not offered elsewhere."

Of his time at CMU, Hofer says he "had many excellent opportunities both for experiencing and thinking about Christian education," adding that he was "especially grateful for how people showed interest in the story of my people."

Hofer, who has been accepted into the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba, says CMU prepared him well for teaching. "The wide range of courses helped me think about the goal and purpose of education, and how I want to teach," he says.

CMU FIRST STEP TOWARDS CAREER IN MEDICINE FOR GRADUATE

Claire Bergen never intended to graduate from CMU. The Crystal City, Man., resident only intended to come for one year. Her sights were firmly set on becoming a doctor.

"I was adamant about this decision," she says about her plans to study science. "My life plan was set."

But things worked out differently and, in April, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree from CMU.

But studying at CMU doesn't mean she has to give up her dream of being a doctor. "My studies gave me a good foundation to launch into a career in medicine," she says, noting that she was able to take science courses at CMU, and also at the universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg.

At the same time, she says, "I realized that my Christian faith and passion for science are closely connected." Classes in biblical and theological studies provided her "with a solid grounding for further education," she adds.

But, more importantly, she was able to move from asking "Does God really want me to be a doctor?" to asking "Am I allowing God to be the centre of my life as a doctor? I have realized that regardless of the career path I choose, what matters most is a willingness to work in partnership with God."

Bergen used to worry that not getting a science degree would put her at a disadvantage in becoming a physician. "Now I see that what I have learned at CMU goes far beyond what can be taught in a regular academic setting, and the breadth of my experience here has equipped me above and beyond my expectations."





OUTTATOWN CHANGES STUDENT'S CAREER PATH

David Attema thought he wanted to be a civil engineer. But after studying engineering for two years, he decided it wasn't the career for him. He took a year off to work, then joined Outtatown to see if it could help him learn what God wanted him to do with his life.

It worked. "Outtatown helped me discover my calling," he says. "It put the puzzle pieces together."



After spending time in South Africa, the member of Edmonton's Covenant Christian Reformed Church now wants to work in the field of international development. "I want to use my talents to help lessen disparity in the world," he says, adding that he will begin studies in International Development Studies at CMU in fall.

A significant learning experience for Attema occurred when his group was slated to do volunteer

work at an HIV/AIDS care centre near Soweto for three days. He expected to do exciting and important things like visiting people with the disease. Instead, staff at the centre had them weed a community garden and haul bricks for a construction project.

"I have to admit that it was a bit of a disappointment," he says. But that got him thinking about what it really means to serve people in need. "Was this supposed to be a week of personal satisfaction to do what I want, regardless of what is actually needed? Do I really know the community I'm trying to serve and the needs they face, or do I just assume that I have something to offer?"

Sometimes, he says, "what a community needs differs quite greatly from my 'ideal' service...I may not be able to serve as a doctor or a nurse, but I am more than qualified to haul bricks."



MENNO SIMONS COLLEGE GRADUATE READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

Most students wait until they've finished school to go traveling. But Menno Simons College (MSC) graduate Joel Marion went to Africa as part of his studies.

Marion went with CMU's Institute for Community Peacebuilding to the Congo in 2006 to observe that country's first-ever democratic election. It was a chance to witness first-hand a situation he had been studying for three years.

"I think what interested me about the situation in the Congo was mostly the complexity of it," says Marion. "It's not just a matter of economics, or of race, or any one thing. You can't say, 'This is the cause, here's the effect, now let's find the solution.' That complexity intrigued me."

His knowledge of the situation proved invaluable—he was able to brief the group on the Congo's constitution and electoral laws. His knowledge of French allowed him to act as the group's translator.

The trip "affirmed my idea that democracy is not an overnight kind of thing," he says, adding that it was also valuable to see how other people live.

Marion graduated May 31 from MSC, CMU's campus at the University of Winnipeg, with a degree in Conflict Resolution Studies and an Honours degree in Political Studies. Of his time at the College he says his studies gave him "a good foundation to move around to different kinds of positions, and be flexible." His time in the Congo also taught him to appreciate the things he has, and the value of hard work.

"I feel like I can make a difference in the world, and that if I try really hard, I'm capable of doing it," he says. "But, just wanting it isn't enough—you have to want to put effort into it."



Athletes of God

Athletics at CMU Balances Sports, Academics, Spiritual Life

A

thletae Dei—Athletes of God. That’s what some early Christians called themselves, taking inspiration from the Apostle Paul’s injunction to train themselves in godliness. (1 Tim. 4:7)

Paul himself was inspired by the image of the gymnasium, where ancient athletes trained

for games and feats of endurance. Christians, he said, should approach their spiritual lives with the same kind of dedication and discipline as athletes who dedicate themselves to sport.

Dedication to sports and faith is important at Canadian Mennonite University (CMU), too. Each year about 80 students take part in the university’s intercollegiate athletics program, playing sports such as soccer, volleyball, basketball and hockey. Many others participate in intramural or informal athletic activities.

“Athletics has grown to be an important program at CMU,” says President Gerald Gerbrandt. “It plays a significant role in shaping the reputation of the university.”

One way sports enhances CMU’s reputation is by winning championships—and CMU teams have won a lot of them. Since 2000, CMU teams have won 20 titles in the Central Plains Athletic Conference

(CPAC), made up of nine colleges and universities in Manitoba and Minnesota, and one in the Association of Christian College Athletics (ACCA), made up of 25 mostly U.S. teams. This past year CMU’s men’s hockey, women’s volleyball, and men’s and women’s basketball teams all won championships.

“Successful sports teams affect institutional morale, and engender pride among alumni and supporters,” says Gerbrandt.

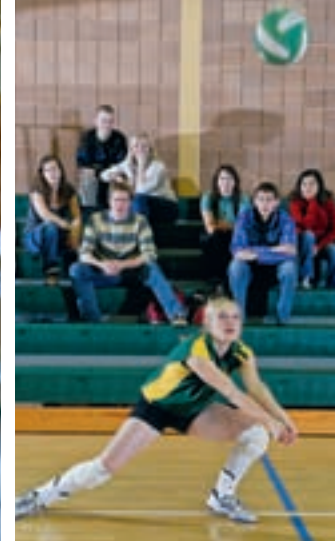
It also gets CMU mentioned in places it would never otherwise appear—like the sports section of local newspapers. This, in turn, helps with recruitment.

“Athletics is also an important part of CMU’s recruitment strategy,” says Director of Enrolment Abe Bergen. “It brings CMU to the attention of students who might otherwise not know about us, and who wouldn’t otherwise consider us as an option.”

Bergen knows that CMU isn’t for every student athlete; some students want to pursue sports at the highest level of intercollegiate athletics, and some don’t want to study at a Christian university. But it is proving attractive for those who “want to play competitive sports, and also get a good university education.”

BALANCING SPORTS AND ACADEMICS

While he’s proud of how well CMU does in sports, Gerbrandt says athletics should be kept in perspective. “Sports are great, but they should never dominate the



life of a student or the university,” he says. “It needs to be balanced with the intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual growth of the student.”

When it comes to academics and athletics, CMU is doing pretty well; this past year 39 percent of student athletes had grade point averages of 3.5 or higher. At this year’s ACCA basketball tournament in Bethany, OK, CMU had more Academic All-Americans—nine—than any other school.

“We are proud of the commitment our athletes show on the court and with their studies,” says Marilyn Peters Kliewer, who is responsible for athletics at CMU in her role as Dean of Student Life. “They are students who are committed to excellence in all aspects of life. The number of students with high grade point averages shows the quality and type of student-athletes we have at CMU.”

The importance of academics is regularly underscored by CMU coaches. “In terms of balancing sports and school, our coach is very specific,” says Rachel Parsons, a second year student and basketball player from Winnipeg. “School is number one.”

Women’s basketball coach Keith Michaelson laughs when he hears that comment. “My players hear that a lot from me,” he says. “For me, athletics is at the bottom of the list of priorities—family, faith and academics all take precedence.”

For Michaelson, who is semi-retired and part of a Roman Catholic house church in Winnipeg, it’s all about keeping things in perspective. “I’m proud of how well we do on the court, but I’m just as proud of how well the students do in class, and in the rest of

their lives,” he says.

Men’s soccer coach William Wiens feels the same way. “Soccer is important,” says Wiens, a member of Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church and a loan officer for Steinbach Credit Union. “But it’s not the only thing. Church, school, family, friends—these things are also important.”

Jonathan Wolfe echoes those comments. “God, family and academics all come before basketball,” says the men’s basketball coach, who teaches physical education at an elementary school in Winnipeg. “I really promote that.”

Wolfe, a member of the Morden, Man. Mennonite Church, tries to stay on top of how his players are doing academically. “I try to keep up with what the players are doing in class. I encourage them to stay on top of their studies and try to build the

practice schedule around their courses.”

It’s a scenario that works well for Janelle Hume of Winnipeg. “Coming to CMU has been good for me,” she says. “I have been able to take a full course load and play competitive basketball.” Adds Jaron Friesen, a volleyball player from Waldheim, Sask.: “I can balance my sports interests and my academic interests at CMU. It gives me pretty much the whole picture.”

SPORTSMANSHIP

Academics are important, and so is winning. But sportsmanship is also key at CMU. “We play to win each game,” says Wiens. “But good sportsmanship is equally important. We play to win within the rules.”

Wiens is proud of the fact that none of his players

“Each player is at a different place on his faith journey...At CMU they can be part of a community where they can explore faith, together with other team members.”



have been red-carded—ejected from a game—in the three years he has been coaching at CMU. “It’s a testimony to the good sportsmanship of the athletes,” he says. Adds Michaelson: “I’m proud that we had no technical fouls this year, and only two last year.”

Wiens also draws satisfaction from knowing that referees like officiating CMU games. “They say time and again how much they appreciate it,” he says. “They say we are not rough and undisciplined. I think that’s the highest compliment my players can receive.”

Jason Wicklund, assistant coach for the men’s hockey team, says that he encourages his players to stay controlled during games. “The teams that win are disciplined teams,” says Wicklund, who works in CMU’s Enrolment Department and attends Oasis Community Church. “The fewer penalties we get, the better our chances of winning.”

SPORTS AND FAITH

Keeping God in mind is also an important part of CMU athletics. Teams pray before games, and sometimes also before practices. Each team also does a service assignment, such as playing games with refugee and immigrant youth or at the local prison, or serving at a homeless shelter.

But it goes beyond prayer and service to include the quality of relationships between team members. “I’ve never played on a basketball team that’s been so close and so tight knit together,” says Hume. “It’s really been great.”

Kalon Bergen felt that warmth first-hand. The all-star volleyball player almost left the sport entirely following bad experiences with coaches on other teams. Her experience at CMU was just the opposite. “I had never played on a team where I felt so supported by my coaches and team mates,” she says of her first year playing at CMU. “I recovered

my enthusiasm for the game.”

She also appreciates the emphasis on faith. “Faith plays a big role in sports here at CMU,” she notes. “We’re always reminded that God should be in every aspect of our lives, including volleyball.”

One of Wicklund’s goals is to create a positive environment for athletes. “Most athletic environments are pretty raw,” he says, recalling his experience playing hockey at the university and junior B levels. “We try to promote a positive and healthy environment for the players.”

Not everyone who comes to play at CMU is a committed Christian. But that’s OK, says Michaelson, noting that one player who was not church-going when she began at CMU started going to church with her team mates as the season progressed. “Her involvement at CMU made her open to church and to faith in Christ,” he says. “I know her life has been changed.”

“Each player is at a different place on his faith journey,” adds Wolfe. “At CMU they can be part of a community where they can explore faith together with other team members.”

For Peters Kliever, it all adds up to showing the importance of athletics at CMU. “Athletics is part of our mission,” she says. “It contributes to an environment where students can develop leadership and athletic skills, and find enjoyment in athletic achievement.”

Or, as Hume puts it: “CMU is the best place you can go to play post-secondary ball, get a university education, play competitive sports and make good friends. It’s the best combination of them all.” **B**

Other coaches at CMU are Mark Kliever (men’s volleyball), Kevin Boone (men’s hockey), Mark Ozer (women’s soccer) and Andrea Charbonneau (women’s volleyball). You can learn more about CMU Athletics at www.cmu.ca



Demons, Lies and Shadows

*The World Isn't a Dangerous
Place For Christians*

By Pierre Gilbert

Throughout history, the church has vigorously believed that malevolent beings conspire against God and humans alike to bring about death and chaos. The early Church taught that the world is immersed in a spiritual struggle involving evil entities bent on the corruption and, ultimately, the destruction of humanity. Through the centuries, Christians have actively opposed demonic forces through public prayer and exorcisms.¹

Although the Church never actually ceased its campaign against demonic powers, there has been, at least in the last four decades, a remarkable renewal of interest in this area. Until about 1960, the concept that is now broadly known as spiritual warfare² was mostly identified with the Pentecostal movement. But then the phenomenon of spiritual warfare gained increasing acceptance in the broader evangelical community, first through the charismatic renewal in the early 1960s, and then through what is commonly known as the Third Wave Movement.

The teachings of the spiritual warfare movement are now found across the entire spectrum of Christian denominations and para-church organizations. This is not to say that all the proponents of spiritual warfare adhere to exactly the same beliefs. There are indeed variations, as evidenced in the controversy surrounding the concept of “territorial spirits,”³ yet surprisingly there has also been broad acceptance of

the Third Wave Movement’s core beliefs, at least in the way it portrays the relationship between the human and demonic spheres.

DEMONIC WARFARE TODAY

Most proponents of demonic warfare share a common set of beliefs about how demons interact with human beings. These include that people can be possessed (or demonized) by evil spirits with or without their consent; that some Christians have a special gift in discerning and exorcizing a demonic presence; there are “territorial spirits” who hold a special kind of domination over neighbourhoods, cities and even countries; that some Christians have a special ability to identify and challenge a territorial spirit’s control; objects or places can project evil influences and act as conduits for demonic oppression; and that traumatic events, either in our lives or in our ancestral past, can make us particularly vulnerable to demonic influence.

Are these beliefs true or false? And how can we know?

When it comes to understanding the spiritual world, one of the obvious problems—particularly as it relates to the relationship between evil spirits, magic and the occult—is the utter opacity of the demonic. By this I mean our inability to assess the spiritual world, directly and empirically. It would be very helpful if we could entice the devil or some of his demons to appear at a study conference and ask them questions about their origin, purpose, nature and their interaction with human beings. But it is not that simple. We

must use another source of information to construct a portrait of the devil and demonic beings: The Bible. It is the only assured source of data that we have.

DOES THE DEVIL EXIST?

But before going any further, we have to deal with an important question: Is there actually a devil at all?

There are some people today who believe in the idea of a supernatural evil force, but they define it in psychological terms as a projection of human evil, or as a symbolic force, or in anthropological terms as the expression of a primitive worldview.⁴ For true secularists, however, even the mere suggestion of the existence of evil spiritual beings is inadmissible; admitting to the reality of a personal being like Satan would lead to a collapse of their worldview—just as a secular worldview denies the existence of God, it must also deny the existence of the devil.



Much of what we think we know about Satan comes from unverifiable sources

In other words, the question of whether or not the devil exists depends on one's worldview. As a Christian, I view the Bible—both the Old and the New Testaments—as divinely inspired. I believe these texts, with due respect for their literary genres and their historical specificity, are foundational to a worldview that reflects ultimate reality. And since the Bible—in particular, the New Testament—offers plenty of evidence to support the reality of malevolent beings, I accept that they exist, too.

But how do they influence or affect us? Can we come under demonic influence by playing certain computer games or watching television programs that use occult images and practices? Can Satan or demons take control of human beings without their consent? Can demons occupy objects and inhabit certain places? Do we need people with special gifts to protect us from the influence of the devil and evil spirits? And if the devil has been vanquished, why is he still active?

These questions go beyond whether a person, Christian or not, can be demon-possessed. They also relate to our perception of God, of free will, and of the very nature of reality. I would even suggest that what

is at stake is our very understanding of evil and how it affects our daily life.

Unfortunately, many Christians do not get their view of the demonic from the Bible. They get it from other sources, like movies such as *The Exorcist* or the *End of Days*, where Arnold Schwarzenegger plays a washed out police officer who must battle the devil to avoid 1,000 years of demonic rule over the world. They get it from TV, from shows like *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and its spin-off *Angel*, where the main characters battle beings that appear to come from the very pit of hell itself.

Ideas about the demonic also come from computer games, such as *Doom*, where players must destroy the devil. There are numerous pentagrams in *Quake*, a game similar to *Doom*; pentagram symbols are also found in *Warcraft 2* and *Duke Nukem 3D*, while *Diablo* contains explicit occult themes. Much of the same could be said about *Mortal Kombat*, *Final Fantasy*, and *Dungeons and Dragons*.

Much Christian perception of the devil and his activities has also been shaped by Frank Peretti's books, such as *This Present Darkness*, a novel about a terrifying demonic plot to take over a small college town, and the *Left Behind* series, co-authored by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, which describes how a man named Nicolae Carpathia—in reality, the Antichrist—rises to world power after the Rapture to unleash satanic forces upon the world. In both, Satan and his minions are imbued with extraordinary supernatural powers that they use to thwart God's purposes. Much of the theology that is generally identified with spiritual warfare and the Third Wave Movement has been popularized in North America, in great part, by these books.

The Bible is the only assured source of data about the devil.

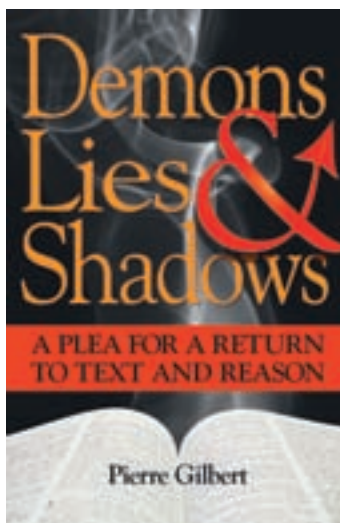
In other words, much of what we think we know about Satan and demons comes from sources that are essentially unverifiable. Much of what is written about Satan and the demonic only loosely reflects the biblical material,⁵ including the novels by Peretti and LaHaye and Jenkins. My personal assessment of these books is that too much of what the authors write about is seen through a grid that values personal experiences and anecdotes over the biblical text. It all leads to the age-old question: Do we interpret the Bible in light of our experience, or do we interpret our

experience in light of the Bible?

All of which leads to the question: What does the Bible say about this topic?

Scripture is remarkably sober and guarded in regards to what it teaches about Satan and demons. On the origin of the demonic, a few passages allude to a rebellion that occurred at some point in the far past (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 12:7-9). On their intentions, these beings are portrayed as standing against God and humanity. On their power, surprisingly—and against all expectations—my study shows that the New Testament, particularly the Gospel of Mark and 1 Corinthians, teaches that these creatures are virtually devoid of real power. Demonic beings derive their power not from themselves, but from the men and women upon whom they prey. The power of demons ultimately hinges on the belief system of the cultures in which they navigate.

How could it be otherwise? Whatever else demonic beings might be, they are by definition separated from God. Real power and substance are only found in God. Outside of him, there is only shadow, darkness, the



mere whisper of reality.

A study of demonic warfare needs to be more than just another study on demons. It also needs to address the puzzling loss of confidence by many Christians in the most basic tenets of the Judeo-Christian worldview, and to challenge the rise of pantheism and animism in our culture. But, most fundamentally, such a study needs to provide sound biblical theology, and an encouragement for Christians to think about their world from a biblical foundation. The truth of the matter is this: We occupy a friendly universe! It takes a biblical worldview to accept this fact.

We need, in other words, a return to text and reason.

Pierre Gilbert is Associate Professor of Biblical Studies and



Theology at CMU. This article is taken from his new book, Demons, Lies and Shadow. The book is available for \$18.95 from Kindred Productions. Visit www.kindredproductions.com

1 For a helpful historical survey of such practices, see Gerald Ediger, "Strategic-Level Spiritual Warfare in Historical Perspective," *Direction* 29 (2000):125-141. See also Jeffrey Burton Russell, *Mephistopheles: The Devil in the Modern World* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1986), 91.

2 According to Ediger, the expression, "spiritual warfare," was first formally used in print by Michael Harper, a leader of the British charismatic renewal, who wrote a book by the same title (see *Spiritual Warfare* [London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1970]).

3 See particularly Clinton Arnold, *Powers of Darkness, Principalities and Powers in Paul's Letters* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1992); *Three Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1997).

4 Russell discusses the shift from belief in the devil as an objective reality to that of a psychological construct in *Mephistopheles*, see particularly, pp. 262-264.

5 A notable exception to this general rule is Sydney Page's book, *Powers of Evil*. In his study of the demonic in the Bible, Page provides a very careful exegetical analysis of the Old and New Testament passages that pertain to the devil and demons.

Nature Preserve Donated To CMU



Walter and Elly Loewen. "The time has come for us to pass on what we hold very dear in our hearts."

"Dad, you have no idea of what's out here!"

That's what Walter Loewen's son told him 25 years ago after the family purchased some property at East Braintree, Man., about 100 kilometres east of Winnipeg.

It didn't take long for Loewen and his wife, Elly, to discover exactly what it was they had out there: A spectacular and undisturbed 700 acre nature preserve of forest, fields and peat bogs, bisected by the clear waters of the Boggy River.

At a March 12 ceremony attended by faculty, staff, students, friends and people from the community of Braintree, the Loewens formally signed use of the property over to CMU to create the Braintree Creation Care Centre of CMU.

"Our exposure to this setting has meant much to us," said Loewen, 79. "It has enhanced our faith journey as we marvel at God's good creation. But now the time has come for us to pass on what we hold very dear in our hearts."

In addition to the land, much

of which is protected by a Nature Conservancy agreement that will keep it in its pristine condition, the property contains a two-story lodge, three rustic cabins and a modern bungalow, along with other assorted buildings.

Along with the property, worth over \$2 million, the Loewens, members of the East Braintree Community Church, have donated \$250,000 over five years for operations.

Loewen, founder and former President of Yamaha Canada Music Ltd., said he hopes that the donation will "inspire students and others to commit themselves to the furtherance of

the Lord's work by learning how to look after His creation."

"This is an exciting and moving day," said CMU President Gerald Gerbrandt, adding that the university is "profoundly grateful to the Loewens for this donation."

By accepting the donation, "we are committing ourselves to look after that property," he said, adding that it "will be a symbol and reminder of our commitment to take care of God's creation, a resource and learning centre for students and others."

In addition to preserving the land, Gerbrandt said the Creation Care Centre will also serve as a place to do research about the environment and care of creation, and serve as a retreat and teaching centre.

CMU has appointed Glen Klassen, who teaches biology at the university, as Director of Research for the Centre. He will oversee the transition of ownership of the property from the Loewens to CMU, and work on refining and developing the vision and program for the Centre.

"Braintree has had a profound impact on our lives," says Loewen. "We hope and pray it will have a similar impact on many others. We are grateful to CMU for helping to make it a reality. Some day in the future the university will also say: 'You have no idea of what's out here!'" **B**



Main lodge at the Braintree Creation Care Centre.

Questions Christians Shouldn't Ask Topic of Apologetics Lectures

By Aaron Epp

If you want to share Christ with others, there are at least four questions you shouldn't ask. Do you know what they are?

John Stackhouse does. Stackhouse, a professor of theology and culture at Regent College in Vancouver, B.C. shared them March 17-19 during a three-part Apologetics Lectures series titled "Is He Saved? And Other Questions Christians Shouldn't Ask" at CMU.

"Is he saved?" is the first question Christians shouldn't ask, Stackhouse said. The reason: Because one can't know the answer.

"I can guess, and I can guess reliably," Stackhouse said, "but I can't know for sure because I am not privy to the [inner-workings] of his heart."

The second question Christians shouldn't ask is: "Does he need to hear the Gospel?" The answer, Stackhouse said, is "of course he needs to hear the Gospel—everyone does."

For non-believers, hearing the Gospel can lead them to salvation, he said. For those who already believe, hearing the Gospel is a reminder and reassurance. Christians need to hear the good news at all stages of their lives, he added.

"What can I do to convert him?" is the third question Christians shouldn't ask. The answer, he said, is "nothing." And not only is there nothing people can do to convert non-believers, there's nothing people can do to convert themselves, he stated.

"There are no surefire, snappy arguments to [make people] become Christian, or to make spiritually dead people alive," Stackhouse said.



John Stackhouse

"That's God's province."

The final question Christians shouldn't ask, Stackhouse said, is "How do I treat people?" Again, his answer was simple: "Love them."

"You care for them, you give them whatever good gift you can," he said, adding it may mean talking about the Gospel with them, and it may mean not talking about the Gospel with them—it depends on whether they're open to it or not.

Stackhouse illustrated his answer with the story about his uncle. He talks about everything with his uncle, except the Gospel. That's because his uncle doesn't want to talk about it, and Stackhouse said he doesn't want to be one more person trying to shove it down his throat. His uncle knows, however, that if he did want to bring it up, Stackhouse would gladly share about his faith.

"When we are commending the faith to people . . . we need to focus on what really matters," Stackhouse stated. First and foremost, that means loving your neighbour as yourself, because "love is the context in which anything else that's going to happen is going to happen."

People don't want to hear from someone who doesn't care about them, he noted; Christians need to genuinely love and care for the person they are witnessing to.

This is different than how some view apologetics—the practice of defending and sharing faith—he stated. For Stackhouse, apologetics is not a "bang-clash battle of the champions" or an "intellectual and spiritual blood sport." It's not supposed to be about "bagging victims. It's supposed to be about loving [our] neighbours."

Sharing faith has to be "I care about you, and I don't care so much about how I look in this conversation," Stackhouse concluded. "Let's win the friend, not the argument, by God's grace."

While at CMU, Stackhouse also delivered an evening public lecture on the problem of evil and spoke to pastors about dumb mistakes and brilliant strategies in evangelism.

A CD of Stackhouse's lectures can be ordered from the CMU bookstore for \$20 plus shipping by calling 204.487.3300 or e-mail rbogoya@cmu.ca **B**



Dr. Allan Ronald speaks to CMU class: Students encouraged to be good role models.

Students Encouraged To Be Active in Battle Against HIV/AIDS

In the battle against HIV/AIDS, Christians should be a “voice for the sick and the poor,” be good role models, and make and support “good decisions in sexual health.”

That was the message shared with students at CMU by Dr. Allan Ronald, one of Canada’s foremost physicians and microbiologists in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Speaking at the Essentials of Microbiology class at the university on March 25, Ronald added that Christians should “create a sense of belonging and hope” for people afflicted with the disease and “promote peace and justice” for people in the developing world who are at great risk of getting it.

Ronald, a member of Winnipeg’s non-denominational Assiniboia-Charleswood Community Church, also encouraged students to “advocate for good things and push back against evil—in your own lives and globally.” Sexual promiscuity, he added, “is one of those evils.”

In addition to his research, Ronald is a

leader in developing comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and prevention programs in Africa. Noting that 7,000 people on that continent die each day from the disease, he told students that the battle will require “action, advocacy, ideas, energy, leadership, finances and prayer,” and that universities like CMU can “develop courses and develop leaders” for that fight.

“Our generation will be judged by how we respond to this crisis,” he stated.

He went on to say that scientists today are still struggling to find a vaccine to treat HIV/AIDS, and that they know only about ten percent of how the immune system works.

“There is lots for you to do in your lifetime,” he told the class. **B**

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Farewell Len Sawatsky, Hello Diana Crosby

When a donor heard that Len Sawatsky was retiring from CMU, he said: “I’m sorry to see you go. I liked giving you money.”

A lot of donors will likely feel that way now that Len has left. Len came to CMU in 2001 to work as Senior Development Officer; his approach was



a quiet one, taking interest in the lives of donors and trying to match their goals for giving with the needs of the university.

Of his time at CMU, Len says that “the best part of the job was meeting the network of CMU supporters. It was my privilege to help connect them to the mission of CMU—a mission based on the life and teachings of Jesus, and which I always felt I could wholeheartedly support.”

Len has been replaced by Diana Crosby, who has transferred from CMU’s Communications & Marketing Department. Before joining CMU three years ago, Diana directed fundraising and marketing for St. Amant Centre in Winnipeg, and has worked in fundraising and marketing for various non-profit and business organizations.

We hope you will like giving money to her, too!

Students Spend Reading Week With MDS in Alabama

By Aaron Epp

Alexandra Ventura had a lot of expectations for her trip to Mobile, Alabama as a volunteer with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS). But one thing she didn't expect was to be discouraged.

Ventura, of Winnipeg, went to Mobile with eight other students from CMU during the February 18-22 university reading week to help repair homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. It was the third time CMU students have gone south during reading week to serve with MDS.

While some students took shingles off of the roof of the house they were working on, and others put up drywall, she was scraping dried mud off the floor. It didn't seem like very important work.

At first, she felt "very unaccomplished." But then she remembered something the homeowner, Angie Jones, had told



Jotham Penner of Kitchener and Noelle Koop of Winnipeg work on a roof in Mobile, Alabama.

the group.

"She said that each week she gets a new group of people that come to work on her house, and each time she keeps a part of them with her," says Ventura. "She said that even though we were there for just one week, she would cherish us. When I remembered that, it made those moments more fulfilling. What I was doing was putting the finishing touches to complete the house."

For Ventura, it's the

attitude of homeowners like Jones that stick with her.

"Angie had the most positive attitude and had such a passion for God," she says. "I thought to myself, 'how is it that they can be so happy with so little, and in spite of everything that's happened to them? Here are the rest of us, and it seems that we're always asking for more, like we're never happy.'"

After the trip, Ventura says she is "more thankful for the days that God gives

me. I've come back with a stronger passion to serve God through others."

Daniel Epp, also of Winnipeg, feels the same way. The trip, he says, "left me with a grateful heart, and a heart to serve others."

He was especially inspired by seeing people of different ages and stages in life "come together for a common goal" of helping people rebuild homes destroyed by the hurricane.

A key lesson, he learned, is that "love means doing."

For Cordella Friesen, who organized the trip on behalf of the Student Life Department, "volunteering with MDS is life changing. Working together for one week with a common goal and purpose has a way of bonding together the students and other volunteers. I am excited to think that this experience might lead these students to one day become long-term volunteers with MDS themselves, helping and teaching others about how to live their faith by walking with someone in their pain—and bringing hope."

Together with MDS, CMU is starting a new Disaster Recovery Studies program in fall to train people for leadership roles in responding to disasters. See www.cmu.ca for more information. **B**

CMU ON YOUTUBE

CMU is on YouTube, the popular video-sharing website.

Visitors to the CMU section of that website can find long and short versions of a general recruitment video and a video about the university's athletics program. A video about the music program will be posted soon.

The videos are made by Andrew Wall, owner of Bottle Rocket World Entertainment Corporation and a CMU alumnus, in collaboration with

CMU's Communications and Marketing Department.

"The goal of the videos is to let students get a snap-shot of what the university is like, and hear from students about life and studies at the school," says John Longhurst, who directs the Communications and Marketing Department.

The videos can be seen by visiting the CMU website at www.cmu.ca and by clicking on the CMU Advantage link on the home page. **B**

CMU Student To Intern with Manitoba Legislature

JULIA WIEBE ONE OF SIX MANITOBBANS ACCEPTED INTO PROGRAM

The first-ever CMU student to be accepted into the Manitoba Legislature internship program says the university prepared her well for entering political life.

“I feel that I am equipped to provide a voice that has the potential to question the status quo when necessary,” says Julia Wiebe, a Political Studies major who graduated in April with a Bachelor of Arts degree. “We must not silence the voices, needs and concerns of



Julia Wiebe.

the marginalized and disenfranchised in society.”

Wiebe, who attends St. Margaret’s Anglican Church, is just one of six Manitoba university

students accepted into the program.

As an intern, Wiebe will gain first-hand experience in the legislative process and work with Members of the Legislative Assembly and their caucuses in policy research. Other tasks include writing questions for Question Period and handling constituency matters. She will also travel with other interns to Ottawa and the U.S.

“CMU is very proud of Julia being accepted into the Internship Program,” says CMU Interim Academic Dean Harry Huebner. “Her

acceptance is a tribute to her hard work at CMU, and also to the hard work of our faculty members in developing Political Studies and other departments within our Social Sciences major.”

“CMU students can compete with the best from anywhere,” he adds.

The goal of the ten-month Manitoba Legislative internship program is to provide Manitoba university graduates with an opportunity to experience the legislative process and participate in all aspects of the governmental process. **B**

CMU Staffer Appointed To National Council Of Welfare

David Pankratz, who directs CMU’s Institute for Community Peacebuilding, has been appointed to the Canadian government’s National Council of Welfare.

The appointment was announced February 20 by the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development.

Pankratz’s appointment is the result of research he conducted for the Frontier Centre for Public Policy on how to help people earning minimum wage in Manitoba. His study showed that eliminating taxes on the incomes of people earning minimum wage would result in an

effective raise of \$1.50 an hour.

As a member of the Council, Pankratz will join others from across Canada in providing the Minister with feedback and advice on policy regarding poverty alleviation in Canada. The Council meets three times a year in Ottawa.

For Pankratz, it means being able to “share the values and perspectives on poverty alleviation coming out of the Mennonite church community”



David Pankratz

and also to be a “conduit for faculty at CMU, providing them with an opportunity to provide input into public policy aimed at helping poor people in Canada.”

The National Council of Welfare was created in 1969 to advise the Minister on the needs and

problems of low-income Canadians, and on social and related programs and policies that affect their welfare. **B**

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Outtatown Takes Students Outside Comfort Zones

One goal of Outtatown is to push students outside their comfort zones. This happens quite literally in the second semester of the program, when they spend three months in the developing world.

For Lynelle Unger of Olds, Alta., it happened while living with a host family in Guatemala.

“It was stretching to live in a different culture, and trying to speak a new language,” she says. “But God showed me that I wasn’t alone. I was thankful to have this unique experience; my host family was very kind and made me feel very welcome.”

For Lauren Sonnenberg of Oakbank, Man., it occurred while she was in South Africa. “Cape Town is home to one of the most beautiful beaches in the world,” she says. “Describing the beauty can’t even come close to actually seeing it. But as I experienced the beauty that country holds, I kept remembering how much poverty and hurt is there as well. It’s hard to understand why God would put so much poverty and wealth so close together.”

Despite the contradictions, it was clear to her that God had blessed people there, she says, adding that they gave her “love at times when I felt uncomfortable, and acceptance when I was unsure if I’d be welcome.”

Rachel Nafziger of Harrisonburg, Virginia, also found South Africa to be a challenging place, with plenty of hard-to-answer questions.

“What would I do if I was an Afrikaner and suddenly all the cultural and religious truths that had been



Rachel Nafziger with children in South Africa: “How would I feel if I was a child who was told there was no food today?”

passed down by my ancestors were suddenly denounced by the government and scorned by the world?” she asks. “How would I feel if I was a little child who was told there was no food today? How can I even put a dent in the issues in South Africa, issues that seem more grey than black and white?”

While confessing that “it’s easy to feel useless or helpless,” she remembers “all the signs of hope I saw in the faces of people who could throw up their hands in disgust—people with big dreams.”

For Justin Krushel of Winnipeg, a Site Leader in Guatemala, experiences like these are a valuable experience for youth—even if they are tough and challenging.

“There are so many competing perspectives that want to draw their attention today,” he says. “One powerful temptation is to see life as consisting of nothing more than the accumulation of material possessions and selfish ambition.”

By going to a developing country, he says, poverty cries out “to us, the privileged foreign observers, forcing us to reconsider many of our

perspectives in life and asking for our compassion.”

It’s an “ugly and haunting voice,” he adds. “But I am not concerned if it severely troubles them. The fact is that this may be the most accurate voice and perspective of the truth about the world—telling them that life does not consist of striving for wealth or possessions, but of love, compassion, and human life.”

Outtatown Director Paul Kroeker is also comfortable seeing students pushed outside their comfort zones—and he hopes they will never forget those experiences.

“As students graduate, we encourage them to move on to new adventures. But I always invite them to remember the things they have learned and the people they met along the way, in Canada and overseas. We pray that the ‘Outtatown experience’ will help to give shape to the rest of their life—that they will always be seeking to know themselves, know the world and know God.” **B**

Olympic Champion at CMU.

"When I go to the line, [my faith] helps me because I know this is where He wants me to be." That's what Olympic speed skating champion Cindy Klassen told high school students from across Canada at this year's Peace-It-Together (PIT) conference in March. "[Life] isn't about skating, it's not about sports—it's about more than that," she added, saying that young Christians should "stay close to God and make sure He's number one in your life. If you're listening to Him and you're praying, you'll be amazed with the things He'll do in your life." The 2009 PIT conference is March 6-8 with Tony Campolo. Theme: Face Your Fears.

Take and Eat is the title of the Oct. 3-5 Creation Care conference sponsored by CMU, Providence College, A Rocha and the Loewen Foundation. The keynote speaker will be Richard Cizik, vice-president for governmental affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals and a leading voice on creation care issues in the evangelical world. The conference will be held at Providence College in Otterburne, Man.

Student Off To Harvard. That's where 2007 graduate Jacob Quiring is headed. Quiring says that CMU prepared him for studies at Harvard Divinity School by being a "place that encouraged me to question and explore. It was a place that pushed me on the faith that I had inherited to a faith that I could make my own." He also attributes the "high professor to student ratio" for his academic success.

Students Win Music Awards. Three CMU students won major



CMU's 2007-08 Athletics Awards Winners: Janelle Hume, Winnipeg, Trail Blazer Award; Kathleen Vitt, Selkirk, Man., Female Athlete of the Year; Alex Leaver, Winnipeg, Male Athlete of the Year; Dara Friesen, Rosthern, Sask., Female Rookie of the Year; and Marty Siemens, Oak Bluff, Man., Male Rookie of the Year.

music awards this year. Vocalist **Kirsten Hamm** of Altona, Man., won the Jack Siemens Trophy at the Red River Valley Festival of the Arts. Hamm is a member of the Altona Mennonite Church. **Damaris Schmucker** of Winnipeg won the Long & McQuade Trophy for the most outstanding grade 10 woodwind and brass performance at the annual Winnipeg Music Festival. Schmucker is a member of Douglas Mennonite Church. **Katie Doke** of Regina won the Intermediate Division of the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers Association Vocal Competition. She is a member of Regina's Living Hope Alliance Church.

Refreshing Winds, 2009. Worship Come To Its Senses is the title of the Jan. 22-24 Refreshing Winds conference at CMU. Keynote speaker is Dr. Don Saliers, recently retired professor of Theology and Worship at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, who will speak on "The Sense of Awe," "The Sense of Delight,"

"The Sense of Truth," and "The Sense of Hope." Doug Gay, musician, worship leader and Lecturer in Practical Theology at the University of Glasgow, will speak about issues related to the Emerging Church movement.

Spirit of Generosity Recipient. Each year the Mennonite Foundation of Canada gives an award to students at Mennonite schools who have demonstrated a spirit of generosity in their personal lives. The year's winner at CMU is **Patrick Nickel**, a member of the Cedar Park Mennonite Brethren Church in Delta, B.C. Nickel received the award for volunteering weekly at The Edge, a skateboard park operated by Youth For Christ for inner-city youth in Winnipeg. "It's about relationships as much as it is about skate boarding," says Nickel of his volunteering.

Sports Teams Successful. 2007-08 was a great year for CMU Athletics. The men's and

women's basketball teams repeated as champions in the Central Plains Athletic Conference (CPAC), the women's volleyball team won the CPAC and Association of Christian College Athletics (ACCA) championships, while the men's hockey team was the CPAC champion.

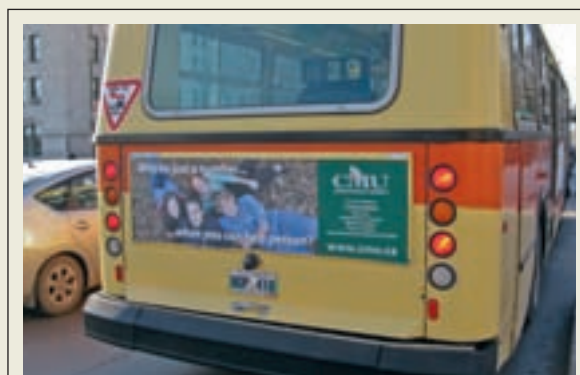
Athlete Receives Highest Award. Janelle Hume of Winnipeg is this year's female recipient of the David Terry Award from the Association of Christian Colleges Athletics (ACCA). The award, the highest honour given to an athlete by the ACCA, recognizes success on the court, along with academic achievement and service. Hume is a member of the Westwood Community Church (Mennonite Brethren).

Vocal Competition A Success. Winners of this year's Verna Mae Janzen vocal competition were **Jayne Giesbrecht**, of Winkler, Man. who won first place; second place went to **Justin Friesen** of Waldheim, Sask. and

third went to **DeLayne Toews** of Winnipeg. The first place winner received a prize of \$700, second was given \$500 and third received \$300. A total of 24 students participated in the competition, which was judged by internationally acclaimed opera singer Tracy Dahl.

Spring Literary Festival. David Bergen, Mary-Ann Kirkby and Sandra Birdsell were three of the authors who participated in the first Spring Literary Festival, held during the May 19-23 School of Writing at CMU. Other authors who participated were Victor Enns, John Weier and Margaret Sweatman. The Festival concluded with a special public address by poet Tim Lilburn, who spoke about the topic of place and faith.

Art Supplies Donated. A gift of raw canvas and stretcher frames is helping the CMU Community School of Music and the Arts provide art lessons to young students. The gift came from Jacob and Emily Dyck of Winnipeg. The materials are



CMU has gone to the back of the bus—literally. In April the university launched a month-long ad campaign on Winnipeg Transit buses called “Why be just a number when you can be a person?” The ads are placed on the back of 30 city buses, and also in the interiors of 260 more. The ads will run again in fall.

being used in children’s painting classes. This past year 176 students took classes at the School, which offers music and art classes.

Book Nominated for Award. *Building Communities: The Changing Face of Manitoba Mennonites* by Emeriti Professor John J. Friesen was nominated for a Manitoba Writing and Publishing Award in March. Commissioned by the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, the book is a comprehensive

and accessible history of Manitoba Mennonites. It was published by CMU Press.

CMU Choirs On Tour. The CMU Singers, a 43-voice choir under the direction of Janet Brennenman, visited churches and schools in Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana and Ontario in April. The CMU Chamber Choir, a 17-voice choir under the direction of Rudy Schellenberg, visited schools and churches in Saskatchewan and Alberta in April-May.

Job Fair at CMU. The City of Winnipeg, Concordia Hospital, The Fairmont Hotel, FaithLife Financial, Friesens Corporation, Golden West Radio, L’Arche, Manitoba Hydro and MCC were among businesses and organizations participating in the first-ever CMU job fair in February. The fair was a chance for students to learn about summer job opportunities, as well as future career possibilities.

Ways of Doing Worship Discussed. Mennonite Brethren, Anglican and United Church leaders participated in a panel in February about different ways of doing worship—things like using videos, Power Point, clowning, dramatic dialogue, bells and incense. The discussion was part of a Winnipeg Centre for Ministry Studies Master’s level class on Critical Issues in Worship.

For more information on these and other stories, visit www.cmu.ca

STAFF & FACULTY NOTES

Faculty on sabbatical in 2008-09 are **John Derksen**, Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies, **Delmar Epp**, Assistant Professor of Psychology, **Chris Huebner**, Associate Professor of Theology & Philosophy, and **Tim Rogalsky**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics.

Faculty promotions: **Paul Dyck** has been promoted to Associate Professor of English; **Dan Epp-Tiessen** to Associate Professor of Bible; **Chris Huebner** to Associate Professor of Theology and Philosophy; and **Sheila**

CMU CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Due to promotions and staff leaving for further education, Canadian Mennonite University has a number of job openings.

Development Assistant	Immediate
Assistant Director of Food Services	Immediate
Receptionist Menno Simons College	July 1, 2008
Director of Athletics	August 1, 2008
Outtown Administrative Assistant	August 1, 2008

If you have a passion for Christian higher education, and you possess the necessary skills, give us a call!

For more information, please visit www.cmu.ca or call Susan Warkentin, Director of Human Resources at 487-3300 ext. 663.

Klassen-Wiebe to Associate Professor of New Testament. **Ismael Muvingi**, who teaches Conflict Resolution, has moved from the instructor rank to the professorial rank.

New appointments: **John Brubacher** has been appointed to an initial three-year term as Assistant Professor of Biology; **Donald Benham** to a three-year, half-time position as Instructor of Communications;

Kenton Lobe to a three-year, half-time position as Instructor of Geography and International Development Studies; and **Justin Neufeld** to a one-year half-time position as Instructor of Philosophy. In the Facilities Department, **Tanya Suderman** has been appointed Hosting Coordinator and **Darleen Hidalgo** is Assistant Host. Over in Development, **Diana Crosby** has joined that department as a Development Associate.

She previously worked in the Communications & Marketing Department.

Administrative changes: With the arrival of **Earl Davey** as Vice President Academic, there will be a few administrative changes at CMU. **Paul Redekop** will become Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Menno Simons College; **Gordon Matties** will be the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and

Sciences; **Dietrich Bartel** will be the Dean of the School of Music; **Paul Kroeker** will be the Dean of the Division of International Programs (including Outtatown); **Karl Koop** will become Director of Graduate Programs for Biblical and Theological Studies; **Ruth Taronno** will become the Associate Vice President for Menno Simons College; and **Cheryl Pauls** will become Chair of the Shaftesbury Campus.

Events@CMU

All events at CMU unless otherwise indicated.

- June 9-11: **Never Call Them Jerks:** A workshop on healthy responses to conflict, with Arthur Boers.
- June 11-14: **Believers Church Conference.**
- June 17: **7th Annual CMU President's Golf Classic.**
- July 7-8: **Mennonite Church Canada Annual Delegate Assembly** meets at CMU.
- Sept. 4: **Classes begin.**
- Sept. 26-27: **Homecoming.**
- Oct. 3-5: **Creation Care conference** sponsored by CMU, Providence College, A Rocha and the Loewen Foundation.
- Oct. 21-22: **J.J. Thiessen Lectures** with Mark Noll, Professor of History, University of Notre Dame.
- Nov. 4-5: **John & Margaret Friesen Lectures.**
- Jan. 22-24: **Refreshing Winds, 2009.** Topic: **Worship Come To Its Senses.**

For more information, visit www.cmu.ca

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2nd Annual Alumni Blazer Awards

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

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

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

Nominations can be sent to:

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

2007 Winners:

Addison Klassen
Hedy Sawadsky

Dr. Paul Peters
Dr. Henry Schmidt



Gary ('80) & **Carol** (Dyck, '80) **Martens** would like to announce the marriage of their son **Jeremy Martens** (CMU '04) to Tamara Sawatsky in Calgary, Dec. 29, 2007. Jeremy & Tamara live in Calgary, where Jeremy attends the University of Calgary.

After three years in Australia, **Stephen** ('99) and **Heidi** ('01) **Nighswander-Rempel** now reside in Richmond, B.C. Stephen is in a short-term position at the B.C. Cancer Research Centre, while Heidi takes care of their son, Benjamin (born May 8, 2007). They worship at Peace Mennonite Church.

Trevor Wiens (84-85) and **Brenda Thiessen-Wiens** ('89) have recently relocated to Doha, Qatar; they plan to be there for three years. Trevor is working as an On the Job Training Instructor for Qatar Gas and Brenda is teaching English. Says Brenda: "We're enjoying this small, multicultural country—and have even met some fellow Mennonites already!"

Lilli (Janzen, '90) and **Stuart Williams** announce the birth of Adrian John on January 12, 2008. He is a much-loved little brother for James (7) and Ellis (3).

Carri (Derksen, '98) and **Steve Kroeker** announce the birth of Samuel Owen, on February 27, 2008, a little brother for Thomas (2). Carri is an Occupational Therapist, but is currently enjoying

staying at home with her boys. Steve works as a software developer. They attend Morden Mennonite Church.

Brenda Grunau ('00) completed an MBA from the Schulich School of Business (York University) with a specialization in Arts and Media. Brenda is the new Station Manager at CiTR, the campus and community radio station at the University of British Columbia.



Deanne Gladding (Reist, 97-99) and her husband Luke are enjoying life as new parents; Clara Ruth Helen was born on September 25, 2007. Deanne will resume teaching in the

fall at Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School in Waterloo, Ontario; Luke works from home in web development and software design.

Mbuga William ('00) recently came back from a two-year experience in Kenya working with the African Jesuit AIDs Network. Mbugua is currently in formation with the Jesuits at Regis College, Toronto, doing a Master of Divinity program.



Robyn Hiebert (03-05) received a B.A in History from the University of Winnipeg and a TESOL degree from the Global TESOL College in 2007. Robyn is now living and teaching English in Germany; she plans to marry Martin Schwebe in August, 2008.

Meagan Reimer ('07) is working on a post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Vocal Performance at the University of Manitoba. Meagan has been singing with Winnipeg's Camerata Nova, a 13-voice Renaissance music ensemble directed by Andrew Balfour.

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- Homecoming Banquet
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Growing a University



balance the two was the important question.

Faculty appointments this past spring reflected that balancing act. On the one hand, the appointment of Vonda Plett Martens in Psychology brings a second faculty member to that discipline. Psychology at CMU, as it is at many other schools, is our largest subject area after our traditional strengths. With the appointment of a second person, we now are able to offer a good range of courses.

Breadth versus depth is a challenge at CMU, as it is in much of life.

Growing a Christian university involves a tricky balancing act. Or, as it is often identified in internal discussions at CMU, there is the tension between “breadth versus depth.”

CMU began with strong programs in Bible and Theology, Music, Conflict Resolution and International Development, but even a small university needs more than that to attract students. We have responded to that challenge in the past number of years by appointing faculty in English, Psychology, Mathematics, Political Studies, History, Economics and Computer Science.

Each time it became possible to appoint a new person, the debate would re-emerge. Should the disciplines already started be strengthened, or should resources be allocated to broadening the overall program? To develop a strong university required both, but how to

Two other appointments reflect the need to broaden our program offerings. Craig Martin is our first appointment in Business and Organizational Administration. For some time we have been offering courses like Accounting and Organizational Behaviour. But without an anchor faculty member, it is virtually impossible to develop a program. And this program, we believe, will be attractive for students; it is also needed in the larger community—consider how many people you know who are either in business or are involved in administering a program for an organization.

This new offering has the potential to make a significant impact by providing students with the skills needed for these roles, all the while asking what it means to be involved in business or administration as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Another new faculty member

this fall is John Brubacher, our first biologist. The importance of Biology at CMU has grown over the past few years. It is a natural course for filling the general science requirement, and it is a great teachable for students planning to pursue an education program after completing a B.A. from CMU. It also is one of the courses needed by students wishing to study nursing or medicine.

Take Claire Bergen as an example. Claire graduated from CMU with a Bachelor of Arts degree, but her interest is in medicine. A year from now, after spending time doing her practicum assignment at a medical clinic in South Africa, she hopes to enrol in medical school. Our offering in Biology helped her move in that direction. With Introduction to Chemistry and Introduction to Nursing (offered on the CMU campus by the University of Manitoba) also available, more students can begin their studies in the health sciences.

Breadth versus depth is a challenge at CMU, as it is in much of life. With these appointments, we attempt to work at it.

Serald Gerhardt

Christian *University* Education

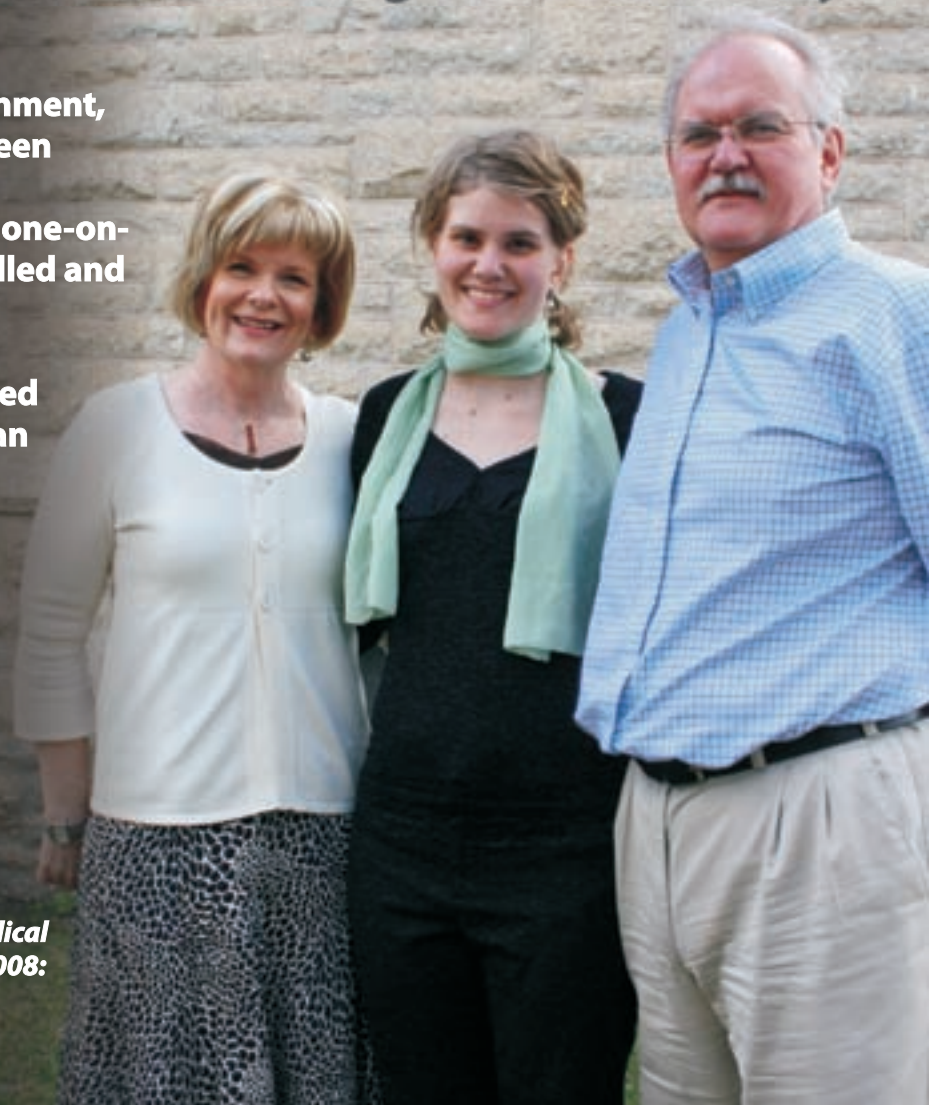
“We are proud to call CMU our daughter’s university.”

“We appreciate its emphasis on community life, its positive environment, its excellent academics. We have been impressed by Katie’s classroom experiences and opportunities for one-on-one interaction with the highly skilled and educated faculty.

“We are also excited and encouraged by CMU’s commitment as a Christian university. CMU provides many opportunities for students to live out their faith in everyday life. From retreats to small Bible study and prayer groups and daily chapels, God is invited into all aspects of university life.”

***Paula and Ralph Doke,
Regina, Saskatchewan***

Programs in Arts, Music, Music Therapy, Biblical Studies, Church Ministries. Coming in fall, 2008: Business and Organizational Studies.



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