



THE BLAZER

CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE • SPRING 2007

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Explored at Forum*

Editor's note

"These stories may sound corny," I wrote in an e-mail to a reporter when I sent him copies of the stories about CMU graduates contained in this issue of the Blazer. "After all, aren't university students today supposed to be cynical and hard? And forget about thinking about spiritual things."

But, I added, "these students are genuine. When they talk about how important and special CMU was to them, they really mean it."

Hearing what CMU means to students makes working at the university worthwhile. And one thing you hear them say a lot is that CMU "changed my life." Not only that it gave them skills for a career, or that it equipped them for graduate studies, but that they are different people because of studying here—their faith is deeper, their view of the world is broader, their commitment to justice is stronger.

In the CMU View Book, we tell prospective students that "if you just want to make a living, any school will do. But if you want to make a life, consider CMU." Changing lives, making a life—that's the goal of CMU. Reading the stories of graduates in this issue, I think you'll agree the goal has been accomplished.

John Longhurst, Editor

MOVING?

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Paul Schmidt of Winnipeg donates blood at the March 29 CMU blood donor clinic. The clinic, which was sponsored by the student-run Health & Well-Being Committee, saw 77 donors provide 67 units of blood—enough to save as many as 201 lives. Two blood donor clinics are held each year at CMU.

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On the cover: 2007 graduates Chris Lenshyn, Jessica Riddell and Steve Klassen.

CMU Home Away From Home For African Graduate



Through [CMU] I have learned to look within to find my strengths and to embrace them, and to face my weaknesses and accept them.

When people ask Tsungai Muvingi where she is from, the CMU graduate says “Winnipeg.” But if they ask where her home is—well, that’s a different matter.

“Home for me will always be Zimbabwe,” says Muvingi, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and business and organizational administration.

Although she enjoys living in Winnipeg, it’s clear that the soft-spoken student has a soft spot for the country where she was born and lived most of her life.

“I still really miss it,” she says, adding that most of her extended family is back in the capital city of Harare. “Things are pretty hard for people back there, especially for those who don’t have family outside the country who can provide them with support.”

One of the things she misses is the more relaxed approach to life employed by people in Zimbabwe. “The days seem longer back there,” she says. “Here it seems that I am always running out of time—there’s always so much to do and so much rushing around.”

In Zimbabwe, she says, people say *kana Mwari chida*—“If God wants”—when asked if they can do something or be somewhere. For her, that means people are not in control of their situations, so they might as well not worry so much.

“People seem much happier in Zimbabwe, no matter what hardships they face in life,” she says. “They don’t

seem to worry as much about things as people do here.”

Her goal is to return home to Africa to live and work. But first she wants to study business and law, and then use her skills to make a difference for poor people on that continent. “The corporate world has a tremendous impact on our lives,” she says. “It doesn’t have to be exploitative—it can also be used for good.”

For Muvingi, part of what it means to be African is to value community and relationships. That’s why she found CMU to be a great place to study—it made her feel at home. “CMU has a good community base, one that is both welcoming and diverse,” she says. “I appreciated the small classroom experience, and getting to know the professors, as well as having them get to know me. My time at CMU has been influential in forming friendships that will last a lifetime.”

Of her studies, she says that “CMU has motivated me to not only think of myself, and my immediate community, but to stretch my imagination a lot further. The classes have been sometimes tough, yet rewarding; insightful, yet influential. Through them I have learned to look within to find my strengths and to embrace them, and to face my weaknesses and accept them.

Through her time at the university, she has been reminded that “God is all around me, and I can’t wait to see it in the many different ways God will present in the future.” **B**



Graduates Want to Use Music to Help Others

Lora Braun and Lisa Solnik have a lot in common. They're both musicians—Braun is a voice major and plays flute, Solnik plays piano. They both studied psychology. Both want to use their musical gifts to help others. And they are the first graduates of CMU's music therapy program.

"It was exciting to be involved in the first music therapy program on the prairies," says Solnik. "I feel like a pioneer," adds Braun.

Braun, of Morden, Man., was working as a pharmacy technician when she "decided I wanted to do something different with my life." She had always enjoyed music, and wanted "to find a way to use music in everyday life to help people."

Music therapy fit the bill. "Music therapy is a structured way to help people use music to improve their quality of life," she says.

During her studies, Braun was able to see how music can make a difference as she did practicum assignments in local hospitals.

"For people with dementia, it can help them recover old memories when

they hear familiar songs," she says. "For people who have had strokes, it can aid with mobility and provide exercise as they play rhythm instruments."

For Solnik, of Winnipeg, music therapy is a great way to use her passions and talents.

"I enjoy music, but not performing," she says. "This allows me to use music in a way that involves and helps others."

During one of her practicum assignments at a hospital, she played piano with a woman with severe memory loss; as they played together, old memories of piano lessons and playing the instrument were re-awakened. "All those lost memories came back while we played," she says.

A very meaningful experience occurred when she led family members in singing at the bedside of a dying woman. "We sang a lot of hymns and choruses," she says. "It was a very powerful experience for everyone there."

Solnik and Braun received their Bachelor of Music Therapy degrees in April. Following graduation, both will do a six-month internship, after which they will receive accreditation as music therapists from the Canadian Association for Music Therapy.

"It's a limitless profession," says Solnik. "It's as wide open as the imagination of the music therapist." **B**



Lora Braun and Lisa Solnik: First graduates of CMU's Music Therapy program.



CMU Graduate Feels Like “Honorary Mennonite”

Although he comes from a Filipino family, Marvin Marcial feels like an “honorary Mennonite” after four years at CMU.

After high school, Marcial attended a local university before enrolling at CMU. He was pleasantly surprised by what he found.

“I was taken aback by the sense of community at CMU,” he says. “The professors seemed to have genuine interest in students, and students helped newcomers like me feel welcome. Even the support staff were friendly, and tried to remember your name.”

Marcial, who graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree, is just one of many non-Mennonites studying at CMU—about 45 percent of the student body at the Charleswood campus come from non-Mennonite churches. But not being Mennonite wasn’t a problem for Marcial, who grew up in St. Peter’s Roman Catholic Church in Winnipeg. “It didn’t take long to feel at home at CMU,” he says, although he admits he doesn’t always get the “insider” Mennonite jokes. “I felt completely accepted—I’ve made friendships that will last a lifetime.”

What also surprised him about CMU was the lack of conformity among the student body. “At CMU, people are not afraid to critique society,” he says. “At the university where I previously studied, conformity seemed the norm. I’m fascinated by how many people at CMU



aren’t afraid to be different and think differently.”

Of his music studies, he says that participating in choirs and other choral events have been highlights, as were close connections with faculty. “It all confirmed that this is where God wanted me to be,” he says, adding that he wants to become a high school music teacher and choral conductor.

“I appreciated being able to apply a theological and ethical perspective to my studies,” he says, adding that “it was great to be part of an astounding choral and music program, with excellent professors, and to make so many great friends.” **B**



Right Balance of Sports, Studies at CMU, Graduate Finds



Lucas Redekop: Liked balance between sports and studies.

As a high school student, Lucas Redekop liked to play sports. He wanted to do it in university, too. But he didn't want sports to take up all his time—he wanted to concentrate on studies, be involved in student leadership and have an active social life. At CMU, he found the right balance.

"Sports are competitive at CMU, but it's more relaxed, too," says Redekop, who played soccer and hockey at the university. "It didn't take up all my time."

Plus, he notes, while winning was important, "it wasn't the sole thing—playing fair, and getting to know others was also a priority."

Redekop, from Floradale, Ont., graduated with a Bachelor of Theology degree in April. During his time at CMU he was named the university's male rookie of the year in 2003-04, and was twice named as the athlete who made the biggest positive impact on his team or teams,

and on CMU athletics in general. This past year he was the leading scorer on both the soccer and hockey teams, and was also named to the Central Plains Athletic Conference All-Conference team in soccer.

"Lucas is not a tall person, but he stood above the crowd in regards to his contributions to CMU and to CMU Athletics," says CMU Athletic Director Curt Warkentin. "His quiet leadership and determination have made him a model student/athlete at CMU."

While Redekop enjoyed playing sports, other things, such as classes, participating in the Peace and Social Awareness Concerns committee and writing for the school newspaper, were just as important.

"I really enjoyed my studies," he says. "The classes were challenging, and helped me strengthen my faith."

He credits his home congregation—Floradale Mennonite Church—with planting in him a desire for learning that continued on at CMU.

"The language was different at CMU, but the goal was the same," he says. "My church helped me form my character by sharing their stories of faith, and by listening to my own, a process that continued at CMU. CMU helped me towards this goal of understanding Christ's story in my own life." **B**

Cancer, Lack of Education Couldn't Keep Graduate Down



Jacob Quiring: Proud to call CMU his Alma Mater.

Start by being born in another country. Add dropping out of high school. Mix in a bout with cancer. Put in a pinch of acute shyness and deep uncertainty. Stir and bake for four years. What do you get? You get Jacob Quiring, who graduated in April with a Bachelor of Arts in history, English and biblical studies.

Quiring was born in Paraguay and grew up in the Old Colony Mennonite church—an ultra-conservative group that placed a low priority on education. “I got a basic education in Paraguay—basic math and reading,” he says. “Going to school was not highly valued or encouraged.”

After his family moved to Aylmer, Ont. in 1998, he attended grades five to eight at a public school in the area. Then, at 16, he dropped out and went to work on a farm. But it didn't take long to realize that farming wasn't for him. “I enjoyed working on the farm, but I knew that there was no future there for me,” he says.

He began to take night courses at a local community college, and was able to get a high school equivalency certificate. After graduation, he took some community college courses. Then he learned about CMU.

“The idea of a Mennonite university was a contradiction, given my experience,” he says. “I thought it was cool.”

Being a shy person, the first few weeks were hard. “I didn't know anyone, and kept to myself a lot,” he says. But CMU's

active community life drew him out, and into friendships. He returned home to Ontario with great expectations for his second year.

A brush with cancer changed everything. A mole on his chest turned out to be melanoma, and it had spread to the lymph nodes in one armpit. He returned home for surgery; after the operation, he took daily injections of interferon and felt sick, feverish and nauseous. “It was not a great time,” he says.

Due to the cancer, he considered staying near home to continue his studies. “But the love I had experienced at CMU caused me to return, and pick up where I had left off,” he says. “I got cards, phone calls, e-mails and prayers from many people at the university, including those I didn't know very well. It truly was an example of love incarnate, and a major reason why I picked myself up and came back for a final year.”

Of his time at CMU, Quiring says that “my assumptions about God and religion changed as classes challenged me over and over . . . time after time I was confronted not by the sanctified Christ of suburbia but the Jesus of the first century who walked with the rabble, had lunch with embarrassing people and who talked to outcasts.”

After graduation, Quiring hopes to become a teacher—a career direction confirmed by his practicum assignment at a local elementary school.

“When I call CMU my Alma Mater, it will not simply be an empty nod to tradition,” he says. “The people at CMU have truly been a source of nourishing love for me in these years.” **B**



Seeing Poverty First-Hand Changes Student's Life



Rachel Dahl: Seeing poverty up close a life-changing experience

It's one thing to see poverty on TV, but quite another to see it close up.

That's what Rachel Dahl of Swan River, Man. discovered earlier this year while standing on the edge of a garbage dump in Guatemala City. From the top of the dump, the Outtatown student could see people scurrying down below, rooting in the garbage for anything they could salvage.

"It was weird to be standing high on the bluff in my expensive clothes and with my expensive camera, looking down on the dump," she says. "It felt symbolic of the gulf between the world's poor and rich."

Worse was the realization that while she could walk away and return to her life of comfort, the people who worked in the dump could not.

"I could smell the garbage a little, but they were sifting through it, living in it and even fighting the vultures to eat it," she recalls. "I have more food than I need, yet others starve for lack of it. I have a beautiful, secure house and yet some are forced to live in a garbage heap."

The impact of seeing the garbage dump is just one of the memories from Dahl's Outtatown experience. She also

remembers seeing church groups, both local and international, working to improve conditions for poor people in that country. She's also happy that she was able to make a small difference by building houses for poor Guatemalans through Habitat for Humanity.

Yet it's the memory of the garbage dump that stays with her. "The people in that dump are not different from me—they are human beings who God loves," she says.

Dahl has made a commitment to never forget that experience, and to live in ways that show her concern for poor

people. "God has called us to have incredible hearts for the poor and oppressed, not to just feel bad when watching from afar," she says. "When Jesus gave us instructions, he didn't speak of looking on with pity, but in incred-

ibly practical terms, like giving someone a cup of cold water or something to eat, visiting someone or clothing someone."

Before she went on Outtatown, "I just saw poverty on TV," says Dahl, who hopes to study at CMU in fall. "It was really important to see it for real. And now I know that God is working just as much in Guatemala as He is in Canada." **B**

"God has called us to have incredible hearts for the poor and oppressed, not to just feel bad when watching from afar."



Graduate Wants to Help People Caught in Poverty

For Chris Ewert, a trip to Honduras in 1998 after Hurricane Mitch was a life changing experience.

“It completely changed my life’s focus,” he says of his three months in that country helping people recover from the disaster. “It was a real turning point.”

The experience led Ewert to leave his home in Abbotsford, B.C. in 2003 to study international development at Menno Simons College, CMU’s campus at the University of Winnipeg.

Before coming to Winnipeg, he first studied business locally, and was on his way toward earning a degree in commerce. But then he decided his interest really was elsewhere—he wanted to help people escape poverty. But where to study? No schools in B.C. offered courses in development.

Then a relative in Winnipeg told him about MSC. “It was exactly what I was looking for,” he says.

Of his time at MSC, Ewert says he especially liked how the classes were a mix of “idealism and pragmatism. The professors really promoted the idea we

The professors really promoted the idea we didn’t just have to accept the way things are, and try to make things as good as possible for poor people.

didn’t just have to accept the way things are, and try to make things as good as possible for poor people. They emphasized that we can make a difference, and help to make things the way they should be. It was very inspiring.”

In order to graduate, all CMU students must do a practicum assignment. Ewert did his in Indonesia with Food for the Hungry International, helping people affected by the 2005 southeast Asian tsunami. “It was one of my single-best learning experiences,” he says. “It really helped me relate my classes to real-life issues on the ground.”

Ewert has finished his courses at MSC, but has one more class to finish at the U of W before he can graduate in fall with a double major in International Development Studies and Economics. After graduation, he and his wife, Heather—who is studying environmental studies at the U of W—plan to move to Sussex, England, where he has been accepted into a graduate program at the Institute of Development Studies.

“I really want to make a career of this,” says Ewert, who grew up in the South Abbotsford Mennonite Brethren Church. “I feel strongly about wanting to help people who are caught in poverty.” **B**



Chris Ewert during his practicum assignment in Indonesia.



Lands Becoming Green

By Dr. Henry Janzen

Dr. Janzen, a research scientist with the Environmental Health Program of Agriculture Canada, was the 2007 Commencement speaker.

An old novel by Jean Giono tells of a wanderer, a century ago, traversing a vast desolate plain—arid, barren, and bleak. He happens upon a shepherd, and finds him patiently and tenderly pressing carefully-chosen acorns into the dry, crusty earth, one at a time, a hundred a day. The traveler moves on, but years later, remembering, he wanders back again, and nearing that once-desolate land, already from afar, he senses subtle changes creeping in: the hills have a shimmer of green, the air a hint of expectancy, and rivulets of water burble here and there. Time passes; decades hence, the shepherd's work now done, the wanderer returns one last time. He says:

“On the site of ruins I had seen in 1913 now stand neat farms, cleanly plastered, testifying to a happy and comfortable life. The old streams, fed by the rains and snows that the forest conserves, are flowing again . . . On each farm, in groves of maples, fountain pools overflow on to carpets of fresh mint. Little by little the villages have been rebuilt. People from

the plains . . . have settled here, bringing youth, motion, the spirit of adventure. Along the roads you meet hearty men and women, boys and girls who understand laughter and have recovered a taste for picnics.”¹

I told that story at a climate meeting once, among scientists, august and grave. And that simple parable moved them more, it seemed, than any graphs or data I could muster. Why? Because even these experts—maybe they especially—are yearning, reaching, not just for answers, but for hope. They will testify, as it says in Romans 8:22, that the earth is groaning: Forests are burning and soils erode to the sea; glaciers are melting and water to drink grows precious; the songs of frogs fall silent, and fumes besmirch the skies. No wonder, then, amid this gloom, that images idyllic of lands becoming green evoke such yearnings.

But the re-greening of lands is itself just a metaphor for the re-greening of lives. It's not just wetlands and polar bears and Kilimanjaro snows that want saving, it's we ourselves who also need healing, redeeming, re-greening. For the look of the land just reflects the look of our souls, symptoms of plundering conflict, deluded amusements, squandering greed. And if scars on the land are from wounds in our hearts, then

technology won't save us; science can't rescue; politics will not deliver. We need not just healing of creation, but healing of humanity; not just greening of the land, but greening of the human spirit.

This ancient metaphor of lands becoming green re-appears throughout the Word. The Bible opens and ends depicting a tree of life (Gen. 2:9, Rev. 22:1,14). Jeremiah envisions a "tree planted by the water" whose "leaves are always green" (Jer. 17:8). And after Noah's tumultuous freshwater cruise, what was the first signal of hope? A sprig of green; an olive leaf. Both Joel and the writer of the Psalms envision pastures green, trees heavy with fruit. (Joel 2:22, Ps. 23:2)

Yes, God calls us home again to Eden green—where forgiveness blooms and peace exudes and joy twitters in the trees. We long for that new spring—a verdant new creation on this groaning earth, a re-greening of soils and souls. And here is my solemn plea to you, honoured graduates: You are the planters of trees in the New Creation; our prophets of green, purveyors of hope.

By hope I don't mean naïve giddiness, or just happy endings, ignoring the groans and despair. Hope knows suffering well—it was born there, in savagery upon a stump of tree. Hope is more than promise of miraculous fixes, of sudden escape from troubled lands. It is the persistent inkling of a Redeemer, a Resurrector—a Creator not yet done Creating. Hope is the faith that every moment, every decision is imbued with meaning eternal, that each acorn planted

now, in the Redeemer's name, may one day re-colour a land or a life.

What, then, are the traits of purveyors of hope, prophets of green for lands *and* for lives?

TRUST

First, a planter of hope has trust—faith in the potency of the imperceptible. The waft of a butterfly's wing, say theorists, can cause a hurricane far away. If that's true, then can a budding conifer one day cool a planet? An urban garden plot forestall a famine? A forgiving hug avert a war? A cup of water forever quench a thirst?

Who knows, graduates, what God may invest in your humble seedling, planted there in that barren ground? He may use not heroic feats of public acclaim, but your faithful stewardship of the trivial, the bold heroism of the inconsequential. We are not called to restore the whole world, only—using a phrase by the poet Wendell Berry—its "numberless places," the numberless faces, the numberless 'nows' that coalesce and stream into eternity. A planter of green has trust, foreseeing through faith the tree that is majestic in a trifling mustard seed.

PATIENCE

A planter of hope has patience. It asks: who is my neighbour? The lonely widower down the street is my neighbour, and so is the hungry peasant an ocean away. But my neighbour is also one still unborn, waiting silently, innocent and unprepared for the approaching wave



of consequence from what I do this day. She too is my neighbour.

Be patient with your planted gifts. How long before your loaves and fishes feed a multitude? Your gentle word disarms an enemy? Your hymn of praise unites a splintered people? How long before your seeded kindnesses sprout into an Eden? Who knows? Nurture them, give thanks for them now, even as you plant in faith for neighbours down the road, and down the ages.

PASSION

A prophet of hope is passionate, courageously inquisitive, exulting in the greening begun. God is Creator of dazzling extravagance; of far-flung stars, flashing tulips, trilling meadow larks—surely He would not camouflage His will for you in dreary drudgery. He leads, I think, through what excites us.

Do you wonder where to plant your trees? Do you wonder which of your gifts, your acorns, to choose? Listen and watch for what excites you, enthralls you—planting petunias, deciphering Greek, conducting Mozart, healing AIDS, igniting young minds or exploring history. These stirrings, unrelenting, may be the Voice Divine, pointing toward a sacred planting ground.

ALERTNESS

Finally, a planter of hope is attuned to the land, its wounds *and* its wonders, alert to the groans but also the hints of green. Richard D. Lamm, Co-Director of the Institute for Public Policy Studies at the University of Denver, dares to suggest that “we do not need better scientists and technicians but better poets and prophets.”² It’s true, I think: we do need poets and prophets, artists and minstrels;

we need story-tellers to listen in quiet for a Redeemer’s whisper, and to amplify for us its echoes.

Can you, prophets of green, do that for us? Can you show us the woundedness of lands eroding and hates exploding; of lives adrift, and dreams askew? Can you help us grieve, help us mourn, lead us in repentance song? But can you also alert us to the glimpses, there, off in the distance, of coming green? Of an apple tree, frozen brittle in Winnipeg winter, ecstatically resurrected in April sun? Of an Amish grandfather, after schoolhouse madness, refusing to hate, imploring forgiveness? Or of a massive wall dividing nations, crumbled somehow, by peaceful prayers in a Leipzig church?³

Can you show us the wonders of relentless re-creation, and lead us to worship? Can you, as Isaiah foretells, go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, so that the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands? (Is. 55:12) Can you, like Mary, tell us breathlessly of having seen, there, in the dawning, not just a Gardener, but *Rabboni*—Teacher, Lord?

Honoured graduates, you are light to the world, giving it colour, making it green again. One day, I pray, maybe lifetimes away, some wanderers will happen along behind you and, on a land once bleak, will see from afar a hint of a shimmering green. They will glimpse a verdant land long promised and, sensing a Redeemer’s hand, will bow to Him in grateful worship, reaching perhaps for their own acorns to plant. **B**

Dr. Janzen wishes to acknowledge Dr. Gerald Gerbrandt and the organizing committee of the 2007 Graduation Service for allowing him to address the graduates.

1. Jean Giono. *The man who planted trees*. 1985/2005. 20th Anniversary edition. Chelsea Green Publishing Company.

2. Richard D. Lamm. 2006. “The culture of growth and the culture of limits.” *Conservation Biology*, 20:269-271.

3. See Philip Yancey. *Prayer: Does it make a difference?* P. 120. Zondervan 2006.



CMU's class of 2007: Witnesses who point to God.

Graduates Told To Be "Planters of Hope"

53 RECEIVE DEGREES IN ARTS, MUSIC, MUSIC THERAPY, BIBLICAL STUDIES, CHURCH MINISTRIES, THEOLOGY

"Be planters of hope," Dr. Henry Janzen told 53 graduates at the April 22 Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) Commencement ceremony.

Janzen, a research scientist with the Environmental Health Program of Agriculture Canada, added that the world doesn't just need scientists to save the planet, but also "poets and philosophers."

He went on to say that the present state of the earth is a reflection of the human condition.

"The look of the land just reflects the look of our souls," stated Janzen, who specializes in helping to make farmland more sustainable in the face of global warming and climate change. "Scars on the land are from wounds in our hearts . . . [we need] not just a greening of the land, but a greening of the human spirit."

Noting that small, ordinary actions can have large, long-term consequences—a "hug might avert a war," or a "budding conifer one day cool a planet"—he made a "solemn plea"

to graduates to "be the planters of trees in the new creation, purveyors of hope . . . who knows what God will invest in your humble seedling?"

He noted that planters of hope need to recognize that future generations are also neighbours. "Be patient with your planted gifts . . . how long before a seed of kindness planted today sprouts into an Eden for neighbours down the road and down the ages?"

As to where to plant their seeds, Janzen told the graduates to "listen for what excites and enralls you. These unrelenting, may be the voice divine . . . God is the creator of extravagance and would not disguise his will in drudgery."

At the Commencement ceremony, a total of 53 graduates received degrees in Arts (three and four year and Honours), Church Ministries, Music, Music Therapy and Theology. As well, two students received certificates in biblical and theological studies.

Of special note was the awarding of CMU's first-ever degrees in Music

Therapy to Lora Braun of Morden, Man. and Lisa Solnik of Winnipeg. CMU is the only university on the prairies to offer music therapy.

Prior to Janzen's presentation, the valedictorian address was given by Tera Dyck of Vineland, Ont. Dyck, who grew up on a fruit farm, noted that trees had played an important role in her life. She especially enjoyed springtime, when "new shoots would come forward, offering new potential to an old tree."

To the graduating class, she said: "We are the new shoots on the CMU tree. Today could not have happened without the trunk and older branches on this tree—the generations before us have given us a strong support from which to grow. On the other hand, the tree, like the institution of CMU, could not grow and spread if not for the new shoots—we have a very important role."

Earlier that morning, at the baccalaureate service, International Development Studies professor Ray Vander Zaag spoke on the theme of Witnessing and Racing. Using the theme verses from Hebrew 11 and 12 that were chosen by the graduating class, he noted that "graduation is a witness event. You are surrounded by witnesses—your family, faculty and staff, those who have inspired you."

He went on to say that in addition to being surrounded by witnesses, the graduates themselves are witnesses who point to God. "You pay tribute to those who have inspired and been witnesses to you, and you celebrate and bear witness to God's greatness," he said.

Vander Zaag's sermon was preceded by sharing from two graduates—Rachelle Friesen of Swift Current, Sask. and Paul Schmidt of Winnipeg.

Friesen noted it was impossible, in a few short moments, to share about her years at CMU, which she

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described as “the most uplifting, inspiring, challenging and frustrating journey of exploring faith.”

The political studies major spoke about how CMU was a place where “those of us who question are welcomed, and those who don’t are welcome to do so.”

Schmidt noted the Apostle Paul’s encouragement to Christians to

renew their minds, adding that at CMU he “got to do a lot of thinking about thinking.”

The biblical studies major also spoke highly of his practicum assignment as a pastor at the Langley, B.C. Mennonite Fellowship, observing that it was a place to “get my feet wet” and “discover where I might fit after CMU.”

In addition to the undergraduates,

three students received certificates in biblical and theological studies and Christian ministries from the Winnipeg Centre for Ministry Studies (WCMS)—CMU’s seminary program—and three received Masters of Divinity degrees from the Winnipeg Theological Consortium, of which the WCMS is a part. **B**

Go to www.cmu.ca to see photos from the graduation weekend.

Outtatown “Purposeful Time,” Graduates Told

Was Outtatown *chronos* time or *kairos* time?

That’s what speaker Colin Chisholm asked 97 students at the April 15 Outtatown graduation celebration.

Chisholm, Outtatown’s Guatemala Field Manager, noted that the Greek word *chronos* is the passing of time, while *kairos* is time that is laden with a “sense of meaning and purpose.”

The Outtatown experience, he said, wasn’t just about passing time, but about “purposeful time,” adding that “you had awesome adventures, and opportunities to serve. You built homes, helped orphans and seniors, saw the faces of people in these countries. It wasn’t time that just happened. It was *kairos* time.”

But, he added, as exciting and important as the time with Outtatown was for each student, “you can’t live in that time. Don’t get trapped here—don’t get stuck in the last eight months. Come back to the



Graduates at the Outtatown celebration.

memories and remember the lessons, but then take them back to your home churches.”

He went on to say they should view Outtatown as an experience that “set a new foundation, a new place to build and launch from.”

Following Chisholm’s address, Outtatown site leader Heidi Peters of Abbotsford, B.C. spoke about how through

Outtatown students had experienced “the randomness of life but the constancy of God.” Student Danny Fast of St. Catharines, Ont. echoed that idea, noting that during his time in Guatemala he had seen many injustices, but that “in a world that is unjust

... God is constant, our rock of ages.”

“We learned about poverty and injustice. . . it’s something we will wrestle with in the future,” said Kate Schellenberg of Fredericton, New Brunswick. Added Alexandra Hiebert of Winnipeg: “We learned we all are broken—only God can make us whole.”

Outtatown director Paul Kroeker told the students that “20 years from now you’ll look back at this time as the most amazing year of your life . . . the foundations you built here will allow you to move on to even greater things in your life. Keep your relationship with Christ strong, and you will be renewed and move on.” **B**

Go to www.cmu.ca to see photos from the Outtatown graduation.

Looking for adventure?
There’s still room in Outtatown!
Go to www.outtatown.com



CMU Athletics award winners: Front row, Lucas Redekop, Rachel Funk, Christie Anne McCullough. Back row, Kalon Bergen, Jaron Friesen, Alex Leaver.

Another Good Year for CMU Athletics

It was another good year for CMU sports teams—both on and off the courts, fields and ice.

In basketball, the men's and women's teams were champions in the Central Plains Athletic Conference (CPAC), while the men's and women's volleyball teams finished fourth and second respectively. The men's and women's soccer teams finished second and fourth respectively, and the men's hockey team finished second. As well, the men's basketball team finished third in the Association of Christian College Athletics (ACCRA) tournament in Oklahoma City, while the women finished fourth.

"It was a great year," says Athletic Director Curt Warkentin. "Not just on the field or court, but also as our student athletes grew, developed and

played leadership roles on teams and on campus."

In addition to competing in various sports, teams also performed service in the community by playing sports with prison inmates, serving dinner at an inner city church, offering a gym night for an inner city youth organization and by preparing AIDS packages for Mennonite Central Committee.

At the end-of-year awards ceremony in late March, awards were given to athletes based on their performance with their teams and on their overall character and contribution to CMU Athletics. Receiving awards were Kalon Bergen of Beausejour, Man.—Female Rookie of the Year; Alex Leaver of Winnipeg and Jaron Friesen of Waldheim, Sask.—Male Rookies of

the Year; Christie Anne McCullough of Outlook, Sask.—Female Athlete of the Year; and Lucas Redekop of Floradale, Ont.—Male Athlete of the Year.

The Trail Blazer Award, which goes to the athlete who best exemplifies outstanding team leadership and leadership in the area of faith and service, went to Rachel Funk of Jordan, Ont.

In February, four CMU athletes were honoured at the Association of Christian College Athletics (ACCA) basketball tournament in Oklahoma. Charlie Brake of Winnipeg was named a 1st Team All-American; and Chris Thompson of Stonewall, Man., Christie Anne McCullough of Outlook, Sask, and Rachel Parsons of Winnipeg were named Honourable Mention All-Americans. As well, Janelle Hume of Winnipeg won the women's foul shooting contest, and Sara Braun of Winkler won the women's three point shooting contest.

In addition to the success of the various teams and players, a special honour was given to Warkentin, who was named Coach of the Year by the ACCA.

"The award is just a reflection of who we are as a team," says Warkentin, who coaches the men's basketball team. "We had a very good team, filled with very coachable players, and that made coaching even easier and more enjoyable."

For ACCA Commissioner Jim Poteet, Warkentin was a good choice for the award because of his "qualities as a person and as a leader . . . he is the kind of person we want to be a representative of the ACCA. He's done an outstanding job with the CMU program."

Dan Hovestol, coach of the men's basketball team at Oak Hills Christian College in Bemidji, Minn., plays against Warkentin every year. "Curt doesn't just care about the guys as athletes, but as individuals," he says. "I can tell when we play them that his players have respect for him on and off the court."

As well, he's noticed that over the years the CMU basketball program is "getting stronger and stronger . . . it's a testimony to Curt's coaching and recruiting abilities."

"Curt possesses the perfect combination of communication, interpersonal and basketball coaching skills," adds Keith Michaelson, who coaches CMU's women's basketball team. "He inspires his players to perform to the best of their abilities with sportsmanship, hard work and respect." **B**

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Meaning and Purpose of Life Explored at Forum

Is there meaning and purpose in life? About 150 people turned out to a forum at CMU in March to hear a Christian, a Buddhist and a humanist offer answers to that question.

The forum, which was sponsored by CMU and the CJOB GodTalk radio program, featured Joe Boot, Executive Director of Ravi Zacharias Ministries Canada and a full-time Christian apologist; Barrie Webster of the Humanist Association of Manitoba; and Sensei Frederick Ulrich of the Manitoba Buddhist Church.

The forum was moderated by David Balzer, host of GodTalk. The weekly radio program is part of the Family Life Network, which is affiliated with the Mennonite Brethren church of Manitoba.

Although the three panellists didn't agree on the nature of life's purpose, they all agreed there is one.

For Ulrich, it's the special role that humans have "in the community of living things to enhance life."

Webster said the purpose of life "is to make the world a better place," but without resorting to a belief in

God. "There is no supreme being at the head of the action," he stated. "We are responsible to make sure our lives have meaning."

For Christians, Boot said, meaning and purpose are bound up in "the claims of Christ, who said He was the way, the truth and the life." People don't invent purpose, he added. "We discover it in God."

In a question and answer period that followed their responses, the panellists dealt with a variety of queries, including one from a woman who asked: "Why does all this exist?"

Ulrich replied that there is "no ultimate answer" to that question. In Buddhism, he explained, "we never ask that question—we just experience life and deal with it. The only thing is to make life better here and now."

For Humanists, Webster said, evolution and natural selection explains why the world exists. "It's more important to figure out how, not why," he stated.

Boot said that the world exists "because God chose to create it." As for why He did it, "there are lots of

theological answers," he said, noting that he favours the idea that "God is a relational being, and he created the world so we could know Him."

The forum featured some debate over the exclusionary nature of Christianity. "I have a problem when Christians say that even good people are going to Hell for not believing in Christ," said Ulrich. "I don't think that the boundaries are that rigid."

Boot replied that "whenever a truth claim is made, there is always a point of exclusion." Even someone who says there are no exclusions—that everyone goes to heaven—is excluding people who think exclusions exist, he added.

The question of evil was also raised. For Boot, evil exists because "God valued the good of human choice," including the ability to make bad choices. "Coercion and virtue cannot co-exist," he stated.

Webster dismissed the idea of original sin, saying that humans are born "neutral." Evil also arises from things like inequality and lack of respect for each other, he said.

For Ulrich, evil exists because "human beings are limited, and being limited, we make mistakes. We can't help ourselves." He went on to say that evil arises from what Buddhists call the "three poisons"—ignorance, hatred and greed. "Much evil comes from these," he said.

Each panellist was given an opportunity for a closing comment. Ulrich said Buddhists believe that people "can never have complete and absolute knowledge—we cannot know everything about God. And in my ignorance about God, there is room for you."

Webster encouraged the audience to remember that although other cultures and beliefs may look "quaint,"

Cont'd on next page



GodTalk radio forum panellists: (left to right) Rev. Joe Boot, Barrie Webster and Sensei Frederick Ulrich.

Cont'd from previous page

they should try to remember that their beliefs look the same way to people from other religions. “We should try to turn things around, see things from others points of view,” he said.

Boot said that he enjoyed the evening, since it showed that people of

different opinions could “have dialogue and discussion without offending each other.” But, he said, “I would be remiss if I didn’t . . . encourage you to seek the person of Christ.”

In addition to participating in the Forum, Boot spoke at CMU on the topic “Believing is Seeing—Knowing

and Defending the Faith.” During the three-part chapel series he expressed his belief that it is still possible to promote and defend Christianity in today’s post-Christian and secular world, and that the church can challenge culture with the credibility of the gospel. **B**

CMU Gets \$120,000 Grant for Community Peacebuilding Work

WILL BE USED TO HELP NEWCOMERS TO WINNIPEG DEAL WITH CONFLICT

Working with newcomers to Winnipeg and addressing issues related to young offenders—these are things that will be possible now that the CMU’s Institute for Community Peacebuilding (ICP) has received a \$120,000 three-year grant from the Winnipeg Foundation.

“The grant will enable us to offer programs that address some real needs in the city,” says ICP director David Pankratz.

The funds will enable the ICP to help newcomers in three areas where they experience conflict: Within their communities, with the dominant culture they find themselves in, and between themselves and others in the city.

“We’ve received a request from one refugee community to help them resolve an internal conflict so debilitating that

they can’t even agree on who should receive funding from the government,” says Pankratz. “They’re leaving already-approved government money on the table, unused.”

Another community has asked the ICP for help in overcoming ethnic prejudices from their country of origin, and a third has asked for help dealing with conflict between youth from its community and youth from another community in the city, he adds.

For its work with young offenders, the Institute will use the funds to promote

ways to restore youth who commit crimes to the community.

The ICP was started in December, 2005. Its goal is to create strong, peaceful communities by promoting just and non-violent relationships and practices through research, public education, informed dialogue, and long-term projects.

In its first year of operation, the Institute did various projects, including sending 12 Manitobans to the Congo to participate in election monitoring; engaging in more than 20 educational and pro-

motional speaking and writing opportunities; organizing a workshop on conflict in the congregation; planning and implementing six community education events and forums; and working on projects for immigrant youth, Aboriginal people and inner city students.

“We are grateful to the Winnipeg Foundation for this support,” Pankratz says. “This gives us the ability to do some exciting things.”

The ICP is located at Menno Simons College, CMU’s campus at the University of Winnipeg. **B**



Looking for Volunteer Opportunities?

CMU has short and longer term openings in the bookstore, the development office, information technology, event organizing, maintenance, groundskeeping and other areas.

Interested? Call CMU at 487.3300 or 877.231.4560 or e-mail rloepky@cmu.ca



Ancient Stones, Living Stones in the Holy Land

Once again, CMU is offering this popular and highly-regarded tour of the Middle East with **Gordon Matties**, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies & Theology.

DURING THE THREE-WEEK TOUR YOU WILL:

- Walk into the world of the biblical texts.
- Visit the *ancient stones*, the important biblical/archaeological sites, and meet the *living stones*, the Jews, Christians, and Muslims who call the region home.
- Discover the complexity of conflict and the prospects for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.
- During the tour you will learn more about the wonder and complexity of the ancient and living stones, and see how they coexist side-by-side. When the tour is over, you will be able to say: *"I will never read the Bible or the news the same way again."*

Date: April-May, 2008. **Cost:** TBA. (Last time it was about \$4,000, including airfare, accommodations and transportation in the region)

For more information, visit www.cmu.ca or e-mail gmatties@cmu.ca



50 year reunion classes of MBBC and CMBC at the 2006 Homecoming Celebration.

Alumni Invited to Celebrate the Journey During Homecoming, 2007

Alumni from CMBC, MBBC/Concord and CMU are invited to "Celebrate the Journey!" at the Sept. 28-29 CMU Homecoming.

"It will be a great time for alumni to join the CMU community as we celebrate and give thanks for what God has done in our past, as well as invite God's continued guidance in the future," says Eleonore Braun, who directs Alumni Relations. "We hope that many alumni will come to get a glimpse into what CMU is like in 2007, enjoy remembering the past and celebrate our rich history."

The event begins with a Homecoming Recital on Friday evening, Sept. 28; the recital will feature CMU staff and alumni. The recital will be followed by a Homecoming Reception.

Saturday, Sept. 29 will feature an Alumni Volleyball Tournament in the Loewen Athletic Centre; a one-hour walking tour that will explore the architecture, history and art on CMU's Main campus; the CMU

Classic 10 kilometre Bike Race; lunch with Emeriti faculty; children's activities; class reunions; and a Homecoming Banquet. The event will be capped off with CMU's Opening Program—the traditional start to the school year.

"The lunch with Emeriti faculty should be fun," says Braun. "It will be a chance for people to re-connect with their old professors and classmates, and share stories about life at MBBC/Concord College, CMBC and CMU."

The Children's Activities, for kids 2-12, will feature crafts, games, and the annual Mystery Tour. For the class reunions, class years ending in '2' and '7' (1952, 57, 62, 67, 72, 77, 82, 87, 92, 97, 2002) are encouraged to plan reunions. **B**

For more information about Homecoming, visit the Alumni section of the web site, contact the Alumni Office at 1.877.231.4560 (487.3300 in Winnipeg) or e-mail elbraun@cmu.ca for more information.



Verna Mae Janzen vocal competition finalists: From left: Meagan Reimer, donor Peter Janzen, Delia Martens and winner Julia Kehler. Photo by Caroline Wintoniw.

U.S. students get aid.

Americans can get student loans to study at CMU, now that the U.S. Department of Education has added CMU to the list of approved institutions. "This is great news," says David Leis, CMU's Vice President for Advancement. "CMU was already an incredibly affordable option for Americans. Now it is even easier for them to come north to get a university education." A year of studies at CMU costs only about \$13,000 U.S., including tuition, room, board, books and fees, compared to paying between \$20,000 to \$30,000 to study at a comparable U.S. private college.

Spirit of Generosity Award.

Jolene Frattinger, a psychology major who graduated in April, is this year's Spirit of Generosity recipient at CMU. Since 2005, she has volunteered one day a week listening to people in distress on a crisis phone line—people contemplating suicide, struggling with anxiety or health issues, or just needing someone to talk to. The award is given annually by the Mennonite Foundation of Canada to students from

Mennonite schools in Canada who have demonstrated a spirit of generosity in their personal lives. Students are nominated by staff at each participating school.

Verna Mae Janzen Vocal Competition. Julia Kehler, a music education major from Winnipeg, was the winner of the 2007 Verna Mae Janzen Vocal Competition. The competition is made possible by Peter Janzen of Deep River, Ontario and named in memory of his wife, Verna Mae, a music lover who died of cancer in 1989 at age 53. The first place winner received a prize of \$700, second was given \$500 and third received \$300. Altogether, 14 students participated in the competition, with seven selected to go to the final.

Foundation donates instruments. Children taking music lessons at the CMU Community School of Music and the Arts now can use cymbals, drums, woodblocks and xylophones, thanks to a contribution by the Kuhl Foundation of Winkler, Man. "Their generous donation enables us to provide quality instruments for our Music for

Kids program," says School Director Arlene Kroeker. The instruments are also used by the CMU Music Therapy program, music education courses and by CMU choirs. The School of Music and the Arts was founded last year; it offers instruction in various instruments and voice lessons for all ages, along with art classes and workshops.

Student wins award at Model UN. Amanda Thorsteinsson, a second-year International Development Studies major from Winnipeg, won a Best Delegate award for her work on the International Press Forum at this year's Model UN event in Ottawa—the only person on that committee to receive an award. Also honoured was Nikole Poirier, a first-year International Development Studies major from Banff, Alta., who received a commendation for her work representing Rwanda on issues of globalization and the eradication of poverty. Twelve students from the university attended the event, where they represented the countries of Rwanda and Indonesia and served on various committees. CMU was the only Manitoba university at the conference.

Pandemic conference for faith groups. Helping Canadian faith groups get prepared for a possible pandemic is the goal of a June 20-21 Faith Community Summit on Pandemic Preparedness and Response at CMU. The Summit, which is co-sponsored by the International Centre for Infectious Diseases, will help faith group leaders make sure their groups are integrated into official pandemic

response structures; explore ways to serve members and neighbours affected by the outbreak; and find ways to work together to create proactive, responsible and meaningful pandemic strategies.

Sports and faith subject of youth conference. Michelle Sawatzky, who played with Canada's national volleyball team at the 1996 Olympics, once thought that God and sports didn't mix. But, as she told over 300 youth and young adults from across Canada at CMU's March 9-11 Peace-It-Together conference, she learned that "God wanted to be with me when I was on the court, and He wants to be where you are." Sawatzky was just one of a number of former athletes who spoke at the event; for Jodi Plennert, a Rosthern Junior College student from Fort Langley, B.C., the conference helped her see that "you can integrate Christ into sports—I can be competitive, yet still be a Christian." Next year's Peace-It-Together conference will be held March 8-10.

FACULTY NOTES

A Precarious Peace: Yoderian Explorations on Theology, Knowledge and Identity by **Chris Huebner**, Assistant Professor of Theology & Ethics, was named one of the best books of 2006 by *The Mennonite*. Said the magazine: "This is an important book worthy of much discussion."

Paul Dyck, Assistant Professor of English, has had two papers accepted for publication. The first, titled "Reading From the Margins at Little Gidding," will



CMU Emeriti faculty were honoured at a reception in February. (Back row) Bernie Neufeld (CMBC); John Martens (MBBC/Concord, CMU); George Shillington (MBBC/Concord, CMU); Abe Dueck (MBBC/Concord); John Friesen, (CMBC, CMU); Gerry Ediger (MBBC/Concord, CMU); John Neufeld (CMBC); Gerald Gerbrandt (President, CMU). Front row, David Schroeder, (CMBC); John Regehr (MBBC/Concord); Henry Poettker (CMBC); Waldemar Janzen (CMBC); Peter Fast (CMBC); George Wiebe (CMBC/CMU). Missing: Esther Wiens (MBBC/Concord); Bill Baerg (MBBC/Concord, CMU); Irmgard Baerg (MBBC/Concord, CMU); Sig Polle (MBBC/Concord, CMBC); Esther Wiebe (CMBC/CMU). Also honoured was Isaac Block (MBBC), who passed away in 2002.

be a chapter in a volume on the religious and cultural meanings of marginality published by the University of Alberta Press. The second paper, titled "Thou didst betray me to a lingering book: Discovering Affliction in The Temple," will be published in the next issue of the George Herbert Journal.

"Contemporary Fiction We Don't Have to Fear" was the title of a presentation given by **Sue Sorensen**, Assistant Professor of English, to the P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Sisterhood, Manitoba Chapter, in April.

Brian Froese, Assistant Professor of History, presented two papers at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Saskatoon at the end of May. He also presented a paper on Mennonites and farm labour tensions in early 1970s in central California at the Canadian Historical Association,

and a paper on Mennonite missions and cultural encounters in British Columbia in mid-twentieth century.

"Concerning the Prophets: True and False Prophecy in Jeremiah 23:9-29:32" was the title of a paper presented by **Dan Epp-Tiessen**, Assistant Professor of Bible, to the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies in Saskatoon in May.

Neil Funk-Unrau, Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies, presented a paper in February on "Legal Apologies: Redressing the Balance Between Speaker and Hearer," as part of a panel on court-based dispute resolution processes at the 16th Annual Symposium on Conflict Resolution in Ottawa.

During his sabbatical leave **Titus Guenther**, Associate Professor of Theology and Missions, taught courses on Missiology

and Radical Reformation at the Evangelical Faculty of Theology of Chile. He also gave a public lecture on "The Role of Scripture: A Look from the Perspective of the Anabaptist Tradition." A highlight of his time in South America was attending the

Southern Cone Conference in Uruguay, which brought together people from Hispanic/Portuguese Mennonite churches of Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay.

New faculty appointed: **Jarem Sawatsky** and **Jonathan Sears** have been appointed to a tenure-track positions. Jarem is completing his PhD from the University of Hull; he will teach Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies. Jonathan is completing his PhD from Queens University; he will teach International Development Studies. Appointed to half-time term contracts are **Janice Miller**, PhD, as Assistant Professor of Biology; **Kenton Lobe**, Master of Natural Resource Management, as Instructor of Geography and International Development Studies; and **Donald Benham**, MA, as Instructor of Communications.

Events@CMU

All events at CMU unless otherwise indicated.

June 19: President's Golf Tournament

Aug. 13-31: Blazers Multi-sport day and overnight camps

Sept 28-29 Homecoming

Sept.29: Opening Program

Oct. 15-16: J.J. Thiessen Lectures

Oct. 19: Going Barefoot: A Conference for Communicators

Nov. 6-7: John and Margaret Friesen Lectures

For more information, visit www.cmu.ca

BIRTHS

Janzen, to Henry (CMBC '95) and **Gina** Tsiapalis, a son, Hansel Cristo Tsiapalis, on December 29, 2005.

Unger McMillan, to Gina (CMBC '92) and **Jeff**, a son, Hayes, born at home, March 1, 2006. He is named after the Hayes River where Gina and Jeff canoed in July, 2005. The 600 kilometre canoe trip came to a halt three days before the end when their canoe was demolished in a set of rapids—leaving them stranded on an island for 17 days and requiring a search and rescue mission. The adventure was a life-changing experience, they say, and also one of spiritual growth.

Ogilvie, to Rachelle (Reimer, CMBC '95) and **Greg**, a son, Easton Robert, on May 16, 2006 in Edmonton, AB.

Isert Bender, to Hendrike (CMBC '94) and **Matthew** (CMBC '94) a son, Felix Peter, on July 13, 2006, a brother to Benedikt (6), Thomas (4) and Hanneke (3).

Wohlegmut, Daniel (CC '97) and **Jennifer Stehr** (CC '95), a

daughter, Addison Danielle, on December 9, 2006.

Wasilewski, to Sheri (Lohrenz, CMBC '91) and **Gary**, a daughter, Jori Ashe, on December 21, 2006, a sister for Kali Shaye.

Redekop, to Ted (CMBC '97) and **Patricia**, a son, Zachary Nicholas, on December 28, 2006 in Brandon, MB.

MARRIAGES

Isley, Nicole Rempel (OT '02) and **Dan Isley**, in Cochrane, Alberta, July 10, 2005.

Funk Detillieux, Laura Funk (CMBC '94, MSC '96) and **Gilbert Detillieux**, June 10, 2006.

Wiebe, Peter M. Wiebe (CMBC '67) and **Regina Picco**, in Spallumcheen, B.C., May 12, 2007.

NEWS



Albert Klippenstine (1958-59) and his wife, **Eleanor** (Kreutziger), live in Brandon,

Man. Albert retired as a Civil Engineer Technician for the Federal Government last year; he and Eleanor have two sons: Cory, married to Dee, and they have two children (Benjamin, 5 and Katherine, 3) and Kent is married to MaryEllen, and they have year-old twins (Abbie and Alexander).

Lorne ('67) and **Anne Brandt** left the prairies after 20 years in Brandon, MB for Richmond, B.C. Lorne is Medical Leader of the Richmond Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Program, on staff at Richmond Hospital and is a member of UBC Dept. of Psychiatry. They are members of Peace Mennonite Church and are active in leading small group and teaching Bible ESL. Lorne also sings in the choir, while Anne does volunteer hospital visitation.

Peter ('73) and **Elsie** (1970-71) **Rempel** are members of Charleswood Mennonite Church. Peter continues his work as Executive Director of MCC Manitoba, while Elsie is MC Canada's Director of Christian Education & Nurture.

Don & Louella Klassen

Friesen ('82) live on an organic farm in Waldheim, SK. They have two children at CMU this year; Rachelle is in her 2nd year, while Justin is in his 1st year. Louella was glad to discover that her 1st year roommate at CMBC also has a daughter studying at CMU; interestingly enough, their daughters are now room-mates. Writes Louella: "We are very grateful for the opportunity for our children to experience our schools. They have had, and continue to have, a place to find, nurture, and own their faith and bring that faith and lifestyle to their career choices and daily living."

James Funk ('92) ran in the 111th Boston Marathon on his 36th birthday, finishing the 42.2 kilometre course in 3:20. Says James: "This is something every runner dreams of, and was a once-in-a-lifetime experience." He finished 3,561 out of 22,000 runners. When not running marathons, James teaches for Saskatoon Public Schools.

Kelly Hearne ('95) has been living in the southern part of England since August, 1999. After 10 years as a

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September 28-29, 2007

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Werner (CMBC '67) & Susan (CMBC 1960-61) Froese
Cranbrook, B.C.

For more information, and to register, visit www.cmu.ca or call 877.231.4570

Project Manager in Website Development, she began working as Cabin Crew for the UK based airline 'easyJet' in March, last year.

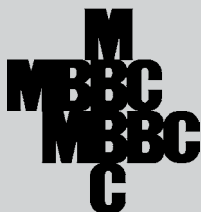
Melanie ('95) and **Jonathan C. Neufeld** ('95) are job sharing the position of Community Minister at the Seattle, Wash. Mennonite Church.

Juliane Schroeder Pauls ('96) and her husband, Luciano, live in Curitiba, Brazil where they work as youth pastors in the Mennonite church of Vila Guaira. Juliane sends out a "big Brazilian hug" to her former classmates and professors. The couple has two children: Karl (3) and Daniel (2).

Jonathan D. Zantingh ('97) runs the Second Cup on Corydon St. in Winnipeg and is working full-time with Springs Church as a worship pastor. Jonathan is married to Nicole; they have a daughter, Julia (23 months), and are expecting a second child in August.

Kim Neufeld (Goerzen, 1998-99) graduated with a B.Mus./B.Ed from U of M in 2003. Kim is married to Peter Neufeld and teaches

choir and drama at Linden Christian School in Winnipeg.



After close to 30 years of missionary work in Japan, **Reimer Clausen** ('72) and his wife, Nobuko, have taken early retirement. They served almost 23 years with the North American Baptist Conference then, after a period of time back in Canada, worked as independent missionaries in Japan from 1999 to 2006. They now live in Winnipeg and volunteer at Mission Baptist Church, concentrating on inner city outreach. Reimer & Nobuko also fellowship with the Japanese Alliance Church in Winnipeg. They also plan to spend two or three months a year in Japan to continue with their contacts there.

GOT NEWS?

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



Leanne Regehr ('99) has moved back to Edmonton after spending three years at Northwestern University in Chicago where she worked on a Doctorate in Piano Performance. Leanne is currently replacing a Piano Professor who is on sabbatical this year at King's College in Edmonton, and is looking forward to spending the summer at the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado.



Marja Hordern ('02) lives in Regina and works as Christian Education Coordinator at All Saints Anglican Church.

Natasha Hnydyuk ('02) is working at Agricore United and taking night classes at the University of Winnipeg in Public Administration. Natasha volunteers at Forum Ukraine & Welcome Place. Her husband, Andre Silva, is a student at University of Manitoba, where he is finishing a degree in Architecture.

After spending a year pastoring a church in Manitoba, **James Peters** ('04) found himself returning to his first love: broadcasting. James is currently working as a news anchor for two top radio stations in Kamloops, B.C. and making weekly TV appearances as a news commentator. James married Jennie Plesko in September, 2005.

Sam ('05) and **Annemarie** (Plenert, '05) **Sawatzky** currently live in Dawson Creek, B.C.



Erwin Warkentin ('01) is working as a flight instructor at the Brandon Flying Club. He is an active member of Richmond Park Mennonite Brethren Church in Brandon.

Kimberly Hartman ('06) is heading down to Goshen College, Indiana, to pursue a Bachelors degree in American Sign Language Interpreting. After college she hopes to go to a deaf school in Africa as a missionary.

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Bringing Healing to a Broken World



the fact that the real world is a broken world. That very same week—and with much less attention—some 200 Iraqis were killed by bombs in only one day, and countless more died of starvation and AIDS in Africa. The events at Virginia Tech may have dominated North American media, and unnerved us in our sheltered communities, but they represented only a small part of the larger painful reality.

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All graduation weekends generate excitement and celebration. Academic regalia, worn by faculty and grads alike as they process into the hall, add colour and pageantry to the ceremony. Students are relieved and pleased by their achievement, and parents and friends proudly look on. In addition to the celebration, it is a time of anticipation—what will this new class of grads accomplish once they have left CMU?

This year's grad celebrations were no different. And yet, it was not like previous graduations. Just a few days earlier our world was rocked by the horrific shootings at Virginia Tech. In an institution with the motto "That I May Serve," 27 students and five faculty were innocent victims of a student's hate. The real world had invaded the ivory tower.

But Virginia Tech is not an isolated tragedy. It is a terrible illustration of

When our students graduate, they go out into this world—a world that is sick and in pain. CMU doesn't have a medical program but, in one sense, all of our graduates are health care professionals—they go out into the world to bring God's healing as they live lives of "service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society," as our mission statement puts it.

At the annual Celebration Dinner on the evening before graduation, Dr. Allan and Myrna Ronald challenged CMU to nurture compassionate, critical minds so that our grads truly can make a difference. Giving their words context and colour was their extensive experience in Africa, researching and working with AIDS—Dr. Ronald is one of the world's leading researchers on this disease. Their words struck a chord; the needs of

the world call us to respond with compassion, conviction and competence.

The next day Dr. Henry Janzen addressed the graduating class. He called on them, and all of us at the ceremony, to be "planters of hope." The specific context he spoke out of was the contemporary environmental crisis. But his vision was much broader than that. The environmental crisis, like the events at Virginia Tech, is another sign of the condition of our world. But, he said, despair is not the only response—our Christian faith reminds us that there is hope. Each one of us, wherever we are, can plant a tree, literally and figuratively, as a sign of that hope, and make a difference here and now.

Our world is broken. None of us can fix it, or create a new one. But we all—faculty, students, alumni, wherever we are—can be beacons of light, planters of hope, people whose faith in the God of eternity empowers us to make a difference. If CMU can encourage and inspire people in that direction, then we have done well.

Gerald Gerbrandt

Christian *University* Education

"My time at CMU helped build a framework for my studies in medicine. It helped me discover what I believed, thought and valued, and pointed me in the direction of a helping profession."

Brian Grunau, 2003 graduate, now studying medicine at the University of Manitoba.

Brian is just one of many students who come to CMU to build a foundation for further studies in medicine, law, education, occupational therapy, nursing, social work and other professions.

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