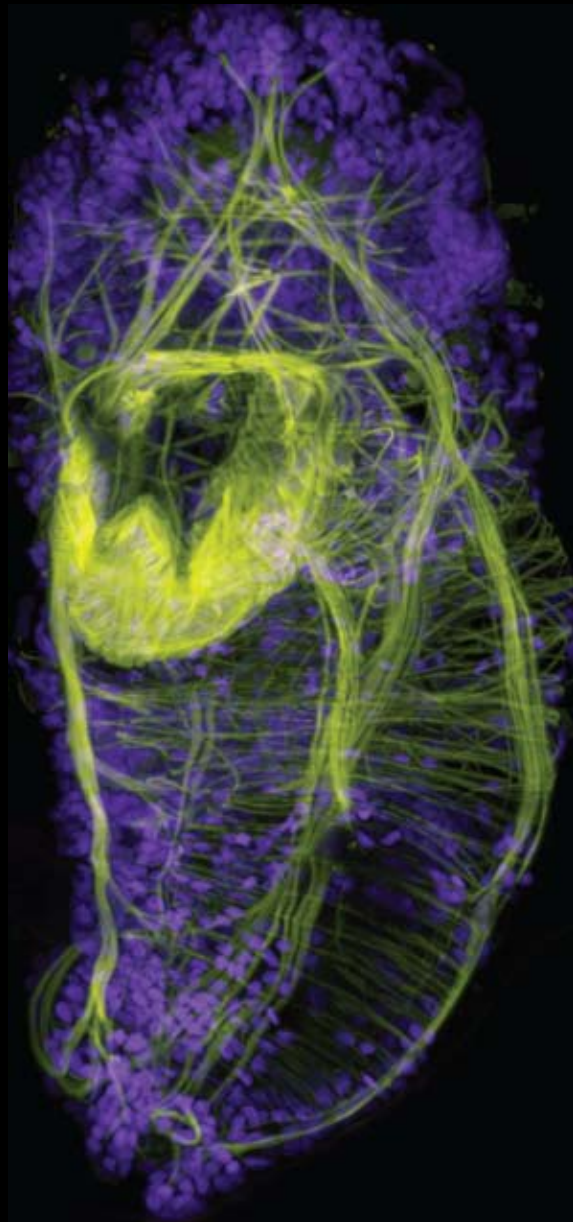


THE BLAZER

CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE • WINTER 2010



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EDITOR'S NOTE

People around the world were both heart-broken and uplifted by this year's Winter Olympics, from its tragic opening to its celebratory closing. We grieve for the loss of Georgian athlete Nodar Kumaritashvili. We commend Olympians, coaches and staff, volunteers, organizers, funders, sponsors, and communities. "Thank you, Vancouver 2010!"

Let me share some recollections and offer a "take home" message.

My favourite athlete is... every last one of them. I did try to pick a favourite, but my selection changed daily. From medal winners to competitors further in the ranks, what gifts of excellence and perseverance they each brought to the world. The individual stories were inspirational, in winning and in losing.

My favourite glitch was the delay at the ice oval when our "never fail" zamboni malfunctioned. It reminded me of the motor stalling while Queen Elizabeth crossed the river by boat in Winnipeg some years ago.

My favourite messaging was "own the podium" – and I laughed when I heard of the snowboarder's remark that while we might own the podium, his team would rent it for the month. No, I wanted to tell him, you don't buy or rent team spirit, you build it.

My favourite jersey is Team Canada's. Players from different communities across this big country put on their maple leaf jerseys, notwithstanding other loyalties, other histories, and different goals, and joined together to achieve extraordinary results.

My "take home" message is this: whether you come from Team CMBC, MBBC, Concord, Menno Simons, or CMU, you are the head, arms, legs, and body charged with reaching the dream. Show your colours. Put on your Team CMU jersey. Join us for 10th Anniversary celebrations throughout the coming year. Watch our website for news and events. Go, Team!

Nadine Kampen
Communications and Marketing Director

MOVING?

Drop us a line, fill out the web form at

www.cmu.ca/alumni or email alumni@cmu.ca

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Cover Photo: John Brubacher



TRAINING FOR THE OLYMPICS

The Olympics are an amazing spectacle. For two weeks, they dominate television and the interests of Canadians. Preparation by Vancouver and by Canadian athletes attempting to “own the podium” has been immense. Cindy Klassen and Clara Hughes, two local favourites, have devoted years in preparation for the event.

But they are not alone. What all Olympians have in common, whether they are spectacular winners or unlikely competitors, is a tremendous drive and dedication to succeed, a commitment to improve as reflected in a rigorous training program. One does not reach the Olympics unless one is driven to be there. The US has multiple campuses or training sites where athletes train for the Olympics as full-time jobs. Calgary has a centre of excellence for those training as speed skaters.

Perhaps CMU might be considered a unique training centre where students

spend a year or more preparing for the Olympics of life. Through dedicated effort, life athletes develop their skills with the goal of being successful in the game of life. The CMU training centre specializes in three sports.

The first CMU sport is knowledge and skills. Through first-rate courses and programs, students can acquire the knowledge and skills needed for careers or further study. Critical skills can be honed in subjects like Psychology, Music, Bible, and Peace studies. Disciplined work is required, but when exercised, students prepare for productive lives. In this, CMU is like other universities. If, however, students focus exclusively on this one sport, their preparation for life is incomplete. They have missed a golden opportunity.

A second sport, character development, thus is added. CMU does not concentrate only on what students know, or what they do, or even how well

they think. It is also interested in who the students are, or become. Character training is much more difficult than training in knowledge and skills. It does not come easily or automatically, nor are there simple rules to follow. But as in all athletic endeavours, disciplined practice is key. Faculty and staff are invaluable resources in this sport, as are the “saints” of the tradition, those people who demonstrated in their lives a consistency of character, commitment, and faith. The words of Colossians fit well: clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and forgive each other; above all, clothe yourselves with love, And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. And be thankful.

And thirdly, CMU provides imagination training. Imagination is the ability to conceive of a world different from what it is, to avoid being boxed in by experience and the givens of our society. CMU encourages students to strive to have an imagination that will inspire others, an imagination which conceives of a world in which peace and justice and love and caring dominate, a world in which violence is not considered effective, a world which supports the weak and despondent. CMU offers an opportunity to develop and train that imagination so that students are able to contribute to making our world different, for indeed they have become different people. Again the words of Paul are instructive: do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds (Romans 12:2).

CMU is committed to preparing Olympians for life, with minds shaped by the way and will of Christ, a way dedicated to love and service, a way characterized by peace and justice. What an opportunity!

Gerald Schubert



CMU IDENTITY & THE ACADEMIC PLAN

By N. Kampen

A clear and compelling sense of identity and mission is at the heart of a university. An Academic Plan can be instrumental in reflecting that identity.

According to Vice-President Earl Davey, who chaired the committee tasked with determining the Academic Plan governing the next 36 months and guiding CMU over the decade to come, this process is all about opportunity.

“Developing the Academic Plan gave us an opportunity to affirm our identity as a Christian Anabaptist University and all that that entails,” says Davey, who was joined in this effort by CMU President Gerald Gerbrandt, Registrar Wesley Toews, CMU’s five Deans representing the Humanities & Sciences, School of Music, Social Sciences, Student Life, and International Programs, and many others who shared valuable insights during the two-year consultative process.

“Building and implementing the new Plan,” Davey says, “lets us reaffirm our fundamental commitment to ensuring

that the CMU community retains its vigorous insistence on embodying Christian discipleship as central to its academic endeavor. For us, it is the commitment to these Christian values, and to thinking ‘Christianly’ about our intellectual lives and vocation, that make this place significant.”

The integration and blending of faith experience with biblical and theological understanding leads to what Davey describes as authentic engagement as both believers and academics. “The two things aren’t separable and then put together – it is not a binary construct,” says Davey. “It is this deep identity as Christians engaged in academic and scholarly endeavor that affects the way we go about our work as a Christian academic community.”

Articulating and launching a new Academic Plan has been engaging work. “It’s satisfying to be part of a process that re-commits us to the foundational ideas that make CMU unique and special,” says Davey. “Planning lets us think together as a

community about what we do, how we do it, and who we are intellectually and spiritually. It lets us reaffirm our commitment to core values.”

Identity and commitments not only characterize CMU’s work as an academic enterprise going forward but shape its most significant features as an educational institution. With its focus clearly articulated in the Academic Plan, CMU can grow and thrive in an intentional and visionary way.

A commitment to peace and justice issues colours all CMU programs. The biblical imperative to be salt and light, to love one’s neighbour as oneself, shapes the way programming is delivered, whether at the Shaftesbury campus, at Menno Simons College or through Outtatown.”

Reiterating the commitment to learning through thinking and doing, underlying CMU’s practicum programs and other practices, Davey notes that students at CMU are routinely confronted with the need to embody in their lives the values they assert; to mean what one says by the way one lives. Describing this culture of authenticity, Davey states, “It is an expectation that faculty and staff and students will evaluate the way they go about their academic endeavors and strive for coherence between what they believe and how they live.”

broad range of course offerings at CMU and is a particular iteration,” Davey says, “of what we do as do as a Christian university.”



Earl Davey, Vice-President Academic

“WE ARE A CHRISTIAN ANABAPTIST UNIVERSITY. THESE QUALITIES, PASSED ON TO US FROM OUR PREDECESSOR COLLEGES, ARE ESSENTIAL AND FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR IDENTITY AND TO OUR FUTURE. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL TO UNDERSTAND: THIS IS WHO WE ARE; THIS IS WHO WE INTEND TO BE.”

Earl Davey

Outtatown offers an example of how identity and commitments shape academic programming. The Outtatown gap year, with site destinations in Africa or Guatemala, offers Christian formation, adventure travel, study, and community service - learning through thinking and doing. “With a possible realization of 15 to 18 credits towards a BA program offered through Outtatown, it is a unique way for students to achieve a partial year one program. Outtatown illustrates the

Hospitality, dialogue, and community are other key commitment words at the forefront of the Plan. “What we need as a Christian community of scholars is the insistence on radical dialogue within the context of generous hospitality,” says Davey. “This gives critical witness to the values we espouse.”

How do the commitments to generous hospitality, radical dialogue, and welcoming community serve as the underpinnings for a vital academic plan? The academic approach taken as a result, Davey says, fosters an intellectually healthy community striving to be spiritually mature, enabling CMU to serve as a place of genuine dialogue and learning.

Says Davey, “The Academic Plan is one facet of a broader Institutional Strategic Plan that lets us anchor our identity and re-envision how we do our academic work in years to come. The process lets us define what we are and what we want to insist on bringing into our future. We are better able to serve our students and community, programmatically and academically, through new programs, major new initiatives, and new facilities, while remaining true to our core commitments as an Anabaptist Christian liberal arts university.”

THE NEXT THREE YEARS AND BEYOND

MOVING AHEAD WITH THE ACADEMIC PLAN

By N.Kampen

The Academic Plan calls for a strategic three-year focus centred on a variety of questions. How can our teaching practice support excellence in learning? How do we best encourage faith development and commitment among our students, and empower students to shape a coherent worldview? How can we integrate core commitments, and foster attention to creation care? Can we enhance technological capacity in our classrooms, along with robust mechanisms for assessing and further strengthening our programs? And what facilities and resources do we require to sustain a world-class university? Answers to such questions help shape our future growth.

Teaching, research, and service to the community are core elements of the life and health of CMU and its faculty. Our Academic Plan commits us to contribute to, and to partner with, church and community organizations where we can offer creativity, vision, expertise, and leadership.

This Plan commits CMU to comprehensive academic programs reviews within a seven-year cycle in order to ensure forward-looking and enriched academic programming. In addition, it commits CMU to expanded academic programming in a number of key areas.

Science students can fulfill pre-professional science requirements at CMU. CMU is committed to offering a science core which students require to apply for health-care professional programs including medicine, medical rehabilitation, physiotherapy, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing, for transfer into science-related degree programs, and to teach science on completion of a post-BA teaching degree.

Currently, CMU offers first- and second-year Biology and Chemistry courses, plus Computer Science and Mathematics courses from introductory to 3000-level.



In September, 2010, CMU will open its new Science Laboratory in readiness for first term classes.

By adding introductory Physics, CMU will offer a full "University 1" science equivalence program. In Fall 2011, CMU will further expand its course offerings to provide a full pre-professional program that includes full-year courses in Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry.

On March 22, 2010, CMU Senate approved in principle CMU's new Co-op Business and Organizational Administration 4-year degree program, which is designed to open study and career paths for students who discern a calling to be entrepreneurs, managers, and leaders in business and non-profit environments. Meetings with business owners and entrepreneurs are providing important counsel regarding how a co-op program might best serve the needs of both students and businesses.

CMU will continue to also offer a 3-year Business BA. Additionally, CMU has achieved course accreditation by the Certified Managerial (CMA) and the Certified General (CGA) Accountants organizations towards professional certification.



Course offerings expanding over next three years

Development of CMU's Communications and Media Major is a priority in the three-year Plan, offering students an understanding of social, cultural, persuasive, and aesthetic aspects of media and communication. CMU will combine strong theoretical dimensions with practical applications in radio, video, film, and new media. It will also explore the feasibility of a co-op track and joint programs to deliver a solid training component and create exciting opportunities for CMU graduates.



Craig Martin, Assistant Professor of Business & Organizational Admin.

Biblical and Theological courses, which form a core of CMU's program, will undergo careful review. Particular attention will be given to strengthening the area of youth ministry along with present and future course offerings and partnership models in pastoral leadership development.

The Academic Plan highlights exciting vision and program elements across of the breadth of studies at CMU. Under review, with an eye on program enhancements, will be all CMU courses in the Humanities and Sciences. The Social Sciences, including Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies, International Development, Disaster Recovery, Psychology, Politics, Geography, and Economics, remain central to our program development, and we'll also look to new program areas in Environmental Studies and Fine Arts.

Music Education, Music Therapy, and Music and Worship, all vital elements of programming at CMU, present unique opportunities, and the possibility of a string performance program is generating interest. CMU's housing of the Community School of Music and the Arts continues to afford an important service to our community.

Graduate Studies recently saw the introduction at CMU of a new Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, effective September 2009. CMU will continue to refine its MA in Theological Studies to achieve our mission of "inspiring and equipping women and men for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society."

Menno Simons College will continue to establish itself as a global centre for peace and conflict studies and international development. This requires an ongoing commitment to partner with national and international institutions and agencies.



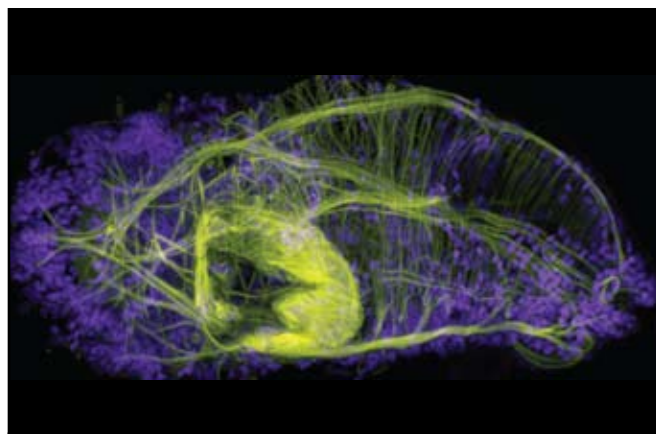
John Brubacher, Assistant Professor of Biology

MSC's co-hosting of the October 2010 international Peace and Justice Studies Conference in Winnipeg, along with the continued production of the *Peace Research* journal, are but two examples of such partnering.

CMU's international programs, with Outatown School of Discipleship at the forefront, will explore possibilities for new study programs, including new site locations for Outatown, and programs that enable CMU students to study abroad as part of their degree programs, with reciprocal opportunities for international students coming to Canada for study.

CMU's future is brimming with possibility. But it takes vision, focus, and a strong sense of direction to enable a small university to navigate a course that achieves its mission in the lives of students, our church, and in the broader community and world.

Your ongoing engagement helps us to envision the future and implement a plan that will help us achieve our vision of a vital and thriving Christian Anabaptist liberal arts university.



COVER PHOTO:

The image on the cover is of a worm, photographed by CMU science instructor John Brubacher, whose love of creation embraces all things great and small. The worm on the front cover has been stained, so that its muscles are fluorescent yellow, and its cell nuclei purple. "I don't want people to go looking for fancy, two-colour glowing worms out in their backyards!" laughs Brubacher, adding that the photo is of a larva of a polychaete worm from the Mediterranean Sea, about half a millimeter long.

MSC FINDS A HOME

MAJOR DONATION HELPS MENNO SIMONS COLLEGE FIND PERMANENT HOME

By Carla Lowe

For the first time in its 20-year history, Menno Simons College (MSC) has a permanent home.

A substantial donation in Fall 2009 from the David and Katherine Friesen Family Foundation paved the way for the College to purchase the first two floors of 520 Portage Avenue as part of The University of Winnipeg (UWinnipeg) campus where it has leased space since 2005.

Menno Simons College plans to renovate the 16,500 square-foot area beginning May 2011 to create new and improved faculty and administrative offices, classrooms, student facilities, and a centre for peace and social justice. MSC estimates the renovations to be completed by Fall 2011.

Since its inception in 1990, MSC had been leasing available, and sometimes inadequate, space at UWinnipeg. In the ten years since CMU was established, both CMU and MSC have “expressed the goal to provide MSC with a permanent home—a place where its identity can grow and where it can more ef-

fectively serve its students,” says CMU President Gerald Gerbrandt.

The purchase of space in 520 Portage Avenue provides this permanent location.

“We finally have a long-term home,” Gerbrandt continues, “that will serve our faculty, staff, and students more effectively and allows us to develop a stronger identity at The University of Winnipeg.”

“This purchase gives MSC greater flexibility in terms of how the total space within the building can be used,” says Dr. George Richert, former President and Dean of MSC.

Arrangements are in the works to make the enhanced teaching and student space available to UWinnipeg’s Global College, which offers a program in Human Rights and Global Studies.

Says Ruth Taronno, Associate Vice-President of MSC: “This development will increase the natural synergy between the programs offered by MSC, which is considered a pioneer in International Development Studies

and Conflict Resolution Studies, and UWinnipeg’s Global College.”

“We are particularly excited about the opportunity to provide both MSC and Global College students with a quality space that will promote a true learning community and increase MSC’s profile and identity with UWinnipeg,” Taronno adds.

The Dr. David and Katherine Friesen Family Foundation has supported MSC since its inception. This significant legacy gift adds to the Foundation’s longstanding tradition of supporting MSC as well as Mennonite university education in Canada.

“A permanent home for Menno Simons College was the wish of Dr. David Friesen, and the Friesen Family Foundation has made this possible,” says Richert.

Menno Simons College strives to foster a learning community that prepares students from diverse backgrounds for participation and leadership in local and global communities in the areas of faith, peace, and justice.



REFLECTIONS ON OUTTATOWN

PSALM 17 : 4-5 (THE MESSAGE) I'M STAYING ON YOUR TRAIL; I'M PUTTING ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER. I'M NOT GIVING UP.

By N. Kampen

With Outtatown investing time and energy in the development of a one-semester French Africa program for Fall 2011, Paul Kroeker, Dean of International Programs and Director of Outtatown Discipleship School has had an exciting and busy term at home and abroad as he shapes a meaningful new program. "It seems as if the semester is just rushing along, with the Winnipeg debrief just around the corner," says Kroeker in a letter to his site leaders. "May every day be an opportunity," he encourages his team, "for a fresh understanding of the goodness of the Lord."

Recently returned from a research and planning journey that included Paris, Morocco, and Burkina Faso, Kroeker says that he felt what a first year site leader must feel. "This time was very rich and rewarding for me personally. Every day on this journey I was meeting people I had never seen before and I never knew what things would look like around the next corner. The trip went very well and confirmed for me that this can become a remarkable Outtatown program with richness and depth like our programs in Guatemala and South Africa."

As he worked to create new friendships and understanding to make the French Africa program meaningful, Paul notes that there was one exercise that brought strength to his soul and that was his daily reading of five Psalms (reading from *The Message*). "Some of the passages create a connection to people and places where God was good to me. For example, I remember reading Psalm 17 near the start of this journey when the logistics seemed challenging and many things were unknown - "I am not trying to get my way in the world's way. I'm trying to get Your way, Your



Outtatown students in Guatemala

Word's way. I'm staying on Your trail; I'm putting one foot in front of the other. I'm not giving up." It was such a clear statement of my intentions on this journey and in life."

In writing to encourage his leaders at their Guatemalan and South African sites, Kroeker tells them that at times when he saw the challenges others faced, and the inequities of life in this world, he says, "I became acutely aware that the Psalmist frequently mentions God's concerns for those who are poor, suffering injustice, and feeling abandoned in life - and those Psalms spoke to me about the purpose of our program and the need for each one of us to be sensitive to God's call in our own lives, moving us toward compassion, kindness and acts of justice."

In bringing the leaders and students home from their travels and studies

abroad, Paul encourages his leaders and the families and friends of CMU in Canada: "May you enjoy the journey, putting one foot in front of the other, but with the eyes of your soul open to the goodness of God in the faces, sunsets, and issues of each day," writes Paul. "God is traveling this road with you. You need not be afraid. God has given us a pathway and we need to be faithful all along the way. God will give you strength, wisdom and joy for the journey. May you (and I) be open to His presence every step of the way."





DEVELOPING AND PROTECTING BRAINTREE CREATION CARE CENTRE

By N. Kampen

CMU has announced the appointment of Kenneth Reddig as Director of its Braintree Creation Care Centre in southeast Manitoba.

Given as gift to CMU from Walter and Eleanor Loewen on March 12, 2008, Braintree Creation Care Centre (BCCC) protects a remarkably diverse wildlands area, which the Loewens so deeply cherish, and also serves as a Christian centre of learning and reflection around creation care and protection of the environment.

“We are very grateful to the Loewens for this wonderful gift,” says Gerald Gerbrandt, CMU President. “In managing this unique property, Ken brings significant project management experience and a capacity to develop the exciting future envisioned for the Centre.”

“We aim to connect with students, faculty, the public school system, and church constituencies. We want people to develop an awareness of how to take care of creation and the environment,” says Reddig, whose initial plans include mapping the region and creating opportunities to access select areas of the property. “We hope that people will feel free to visit, to learn about this



Ken Reddig, and his wife Willa

specific environment, to be spiritually refreshed, and to take a perspective for looking at the world back to their own environments, be that city, town, or farm.”

The Braintree Creation Care Centre features over 800 acres of mixed forestlands bounded by Provincial forests and parklands. Two rivers – the Birch and the Boggy – and several smaller creeks flow through this transition property that straddles both prairie and Canadian Shield landscapes.

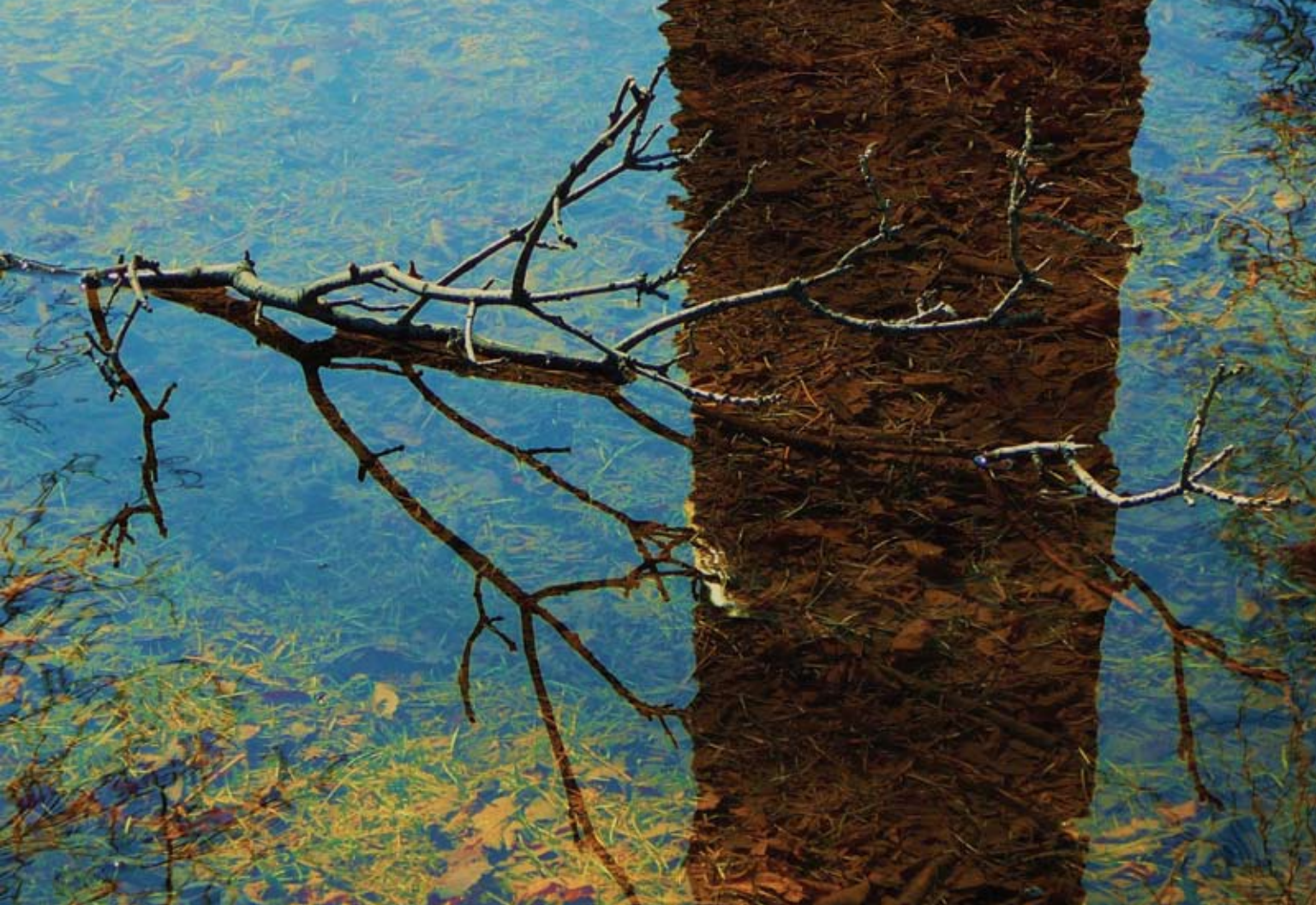
“You can’t help but love the property for its pristine forest with tall, tall pine trees, its great variety of soil and plant life, and its abundance of animal and bird life. This Centre,” Reddig adds, “is right under the major flyways for a great number of North American songbirds and other birds as well. The flyway is quite incredible, and it’s part of the uniqueness of this extraordinary place.” Reddig notes that the Braintree Creation Care Centre has nine different species of wild orchids on the property.

Braintree Creation Care Centre, managed through its start-up phases by former Director Harvey Sawatzky, recently achieved classification as a heritage site by Nature Conservancy Canada. Under an agreement reached in November 2009 between CMU and Nature Conservancy, the site is protected in perpetuity as a heritage environment area under the protection and land use policies of the Nature Conservancy organization.

A self-described student of nature, Reddig holds his Master of Arts in Canadian History and Master of Divinity from AMBS, Elkhart, Indiana. Besides his half-time employment with BCCC, Ken also serves as the Director, also half-time, of Eden Foundation.

“Education, reflection, and protection – those are our inter-generational goals,” says Reddig.

“Braintree Creation Care Centre is really an incredible place, and I’m very pleased to help guide this process as we develop and share and protect this heritage site and wonderful gift from the Loewens.”



RUSKIN'S POOL INSPIRES DEEPER REFLECTIONS

SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF PROFESSOR, PHOTOGRAPHER, AND POET
PAMELA LEACH

By Rachel Bergen

CMU Political Science Professor Pamela Leach unintentionally became an artist when she became “obsessed with a puddle” and subsequently turned to photography to create dozens of works of art from the captured images.

Leach portrayed the idea of water in its variety of forms in her digital photographic series, “Ruskin’s Pool,” which was exhibited to the public from January 22 to March 6, 2010 at the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery on the CMU campus.

“Ruskin’s Pool,” as she named the puddle, was located in Peanut Park in the Crescentwood area of Winnipeg.

The changing images not only inspired the artistic side of Leach but also became a “serendipitous spirit moving” that allowed her to explore her own spirituality and to inspire others.

Leach hopes to communicate to those who view her digital photographs on metallic paper and read the poems she wrote to correspond with them that “love can extend to all, even when we least perceive it.”

In the midst of “lush green, ice storms, blossoms, and hoarfrost... living beings sprouted against harsh adversaries. Yet, as the pictures show,” says Leach, “there is perverse beauty – even

in the pollution.”

Alongside Leach’s works exhibited at the Gallery were the works of Sam Baardman, presented through a series along the same theme, titled “Water’s Edge.”



Pamela Leach

ANNIE JANZEN

80 YEARS OLD AND STILL HELPING STUDENTS

By Rachel Bergen

International students who come to Canada for university often have a difficult time adjusting to the new culture, an unfamiliar language, and different social norms, not to mention the financial aspects of coming to a university in a foreign country.

Caring about the international students who choose to call Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) their university home, one of our donors has made it her legacy to help them out.

The Annie Janzen Endowment Fund is a bursary fund set up by Canadian Mennonite Bible College's former head cook, Annie Janzen. After she retired in 1984, she established the endowment fund and since then has bestowed one bursary per year, currently set at \$460, to an international student. As a result, Janzen has helped more than 25 students from various countries. Janzen was a vital part of daily life at CMBC for 27 consecutive years and she continues to offer important support to international students at CMU today.

Shota Yoda is a third-year student at CMU majoring in Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies. Yoda comes from Handa in the Aichi province of Japan.

Recently, he became the beneficiary of a bursary from the Annie Janzen Endowment Fund, which provided him with encouragement and lightened the financial load of his education.

All of this was from a complete stranger.

Before coming to study at CMU, Yoda lived in Vancouver, British Columbia. Coming to CMU was a shock - "I didn't know it was so cold!" he said - but being involved with the international student committee on Student Council, playing



Annie Janzen with Stu Clark, Grain of Wheat Church Community

on the CMU Blazer soccer team, working in the kitchen, and living on campus have been a blessing.

Yoda believes that the support from Janzen helps him make a "step towards his dream." He is hoping to go into ministry in Japan and also other Asian countries and integrate education about pacifism into the ministry after he graduates.

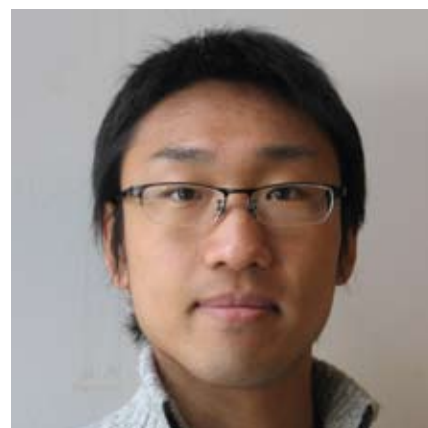
"This bursary is, in a good way, a responsibility for me to do ministry overseas... it is very important to me and will help me reach my goal," Yoda said.

According to Abe Bergen, CMU's Director of Enrolment Services, CMU in the coming year will award over \$300,000 in financial aid to students. Over half of this sum comes from individual donors like Janzen.

Janzen has helped CMBC and CMU students from places like South Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Paraguay, and Mexico and she has visited students from many of these places herself.

Now 80 years old, Janzen continues to help students through her annual bursaries. She has also invited friends and others interested in supporting international education to help her legacy continue by donating through the Annie Janzen Endowment Fund held with the Mennonite Foundation of Canada.

For information or to make a contribution, contact Dori Zerbe Cornelson at Mennonite Foundation (1.800.772.3257).



Shota Yoda



Competition winners (L-R): Melissa Cole (3rd), Jorge Hidalgo (2nd), and Katie Sawatzky (1st)

VERNA MAE JANZEN COMPETITION 2010

By N. Kampen

The fifth annual Verna Mae Janzen Vocal Competition held at Canadian Mennonite University's Shaftesbury campus was a tremendous success again this year, both in terms of the calibre of the competitors and the enjoyment of the audience. The sizable and appreciative audience of the final round on Thursday, March 25, was treated to a beautiful evening of singing by eight of CMU's most talented voice students, with each singer performing three songs together with Verna Wiebe at the piano.

"The adjudicator, Dr. Karen Jensen, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Professor of Voice from the University of Manitoba, was most complimentary of the event in general, and specifically the artistry, professionalism, and overall fine calibre of music making," says CMU's Assistant Professor of Music - Vocal Studies, Henriette Schellenberg. "Our singers truly sang their hearts out!"

The Verna Mae Janzen Vocal Competition sponsor and donor of the prizes, Mr. Peter Janzen from Deep River, Ontario, was present at the concert, as he has been each year for all five competitions. Janzen established the competition in memory of his wife, Verna Mae, who died of cancer in 1989 at age 53 and who shared the joy of singing with her husband.

"Mr. Janzen loves to come out to experience the excitement

of the evening and to see the progress of the singers from year to year," notes Schellenberg. She says he appreciates connecting with the students, their parents, CMU faculty, and friends and relatives who come out to support this project.

"Mr. Janzen has committed himself to continuing his generous support for the music program at CMU and we are thrilled at this news," says CMU's Vice-President, External, Terry Schellenberg. "We extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Janzen."

Following preliminary rounds held in the preceding week, vocalists chosen for the final competition were Melissa Cole, Craig Friesen, Justin Friesen, Chelsea Froese, Jorge Hidalgo, Rocio Martinez, Kelsea McLean, and Katie Sawatzky. CMU extends congratulations to these performers and to all participants for their excellent performances.

The Verna Mae Janzen Vocal Competition 2010 winners are: first prize (\$700.00) to Katie Sawatzky, from Regina, Saskatchewan, an English major graduating this year; second prize (\$500.00) to Jorge Hidalgo, from Argentina, a conducting major, graduating and going into a Masters' program at the University of Manitoba; and third prize (\$300.00) to Melissa Cole, from Emerson, Manitoba, graduating this year and going into Music Education.

BLAZER WOMEN CAPTURE BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL GOLD

By N. Kampen

Women Take Gold, Men Silver in Basketball



Spectators packed the Loewen Athletic Centre on March 6 to witness **CMU Women's Basketball Team** defeat Red River College 70-26 to win the 2010 Manitoba Colleges Athletic Conference (MCAC) title.

Regular Season and Tournament MVP **Christie Anne McCullough**, a fifth-year point guard, produced more than just points for the Blazers. "Christie Anne spread the ball around and really helped balance our scoring," said first-year head coach **Alex Leaver**. "It is hard to stop us when we have lots of players scoring."

CMU had just that, with McCullough, **Tamara Andjelovic**, **Jaime Semchuk**, **Mallory Shack** and **Anneke Hildebrand** making strong contributions. The championship was sweet for returning players as CMU fell to Red River in the conference final a year ago. Hildebrand and McCullough were named to the All-Conference Team.

A highly successful **Men's Basketball** season under new coach **Darcy Coss** took a heartbreaking turn as the top-seeded CMU team

ended its season with the Red River Rebels taking a 70-65 victory. Forward **Paul Muns** led CMU scorers and was selected CMU's Player of the Game. CMU point guard **Kevin Quirante** was selected to the All-Conference Team.

Women Win Third Consecutive Volleyball Title



Good things came in threes for the **CMU Blazers Women's Volleyball Team** who defeated Red River in championship play 3-1. Middle **Allison Driedger** was selected CMU Player of the Game in the semi-final. Left-side **Evelyn Kampen** led the Blazers in total kills and kill percentage this season and was selected 2010 league MVP and Player of the Game in the conference final. **Dara Friesen** was recognized for her outstanding performance and was named with Kampen to the All-Conference Team. The victory makes it three championship titles in a row under third-year coach **Andrea Charbonneau**.

In **Men's Volleyball**, the 2010 MCAC semi-finals saw St-Boniface emerging the victor in a tie-breaking fifth set, sending coach **Mark**

Kliwer's CMU Blazers over to the Bronze match. CMU setter **Brynden MacTavish** took honours as Player of the Game. CMU knocked out the host institution, Assiniboine Community College, 2-0 in the February 28 third-place match. **Todd Reimer**, who led the Blazers in total kills this season, was selected to the All-Conference Team as was second-year middle **Paul Peters**.

Blazers Just Shy of Hockey Three-peat

The ice rivalry between the CMU Blazers and Assiniboine Community College Cougars dates back to 2005 when the Cougars joined the Central Plains Athletic Conference. In 2007-'08 and 2008-'09, CMU defeated ACC with 2010 posing similar possibilities for CMU Blazers, coached by **Jason Wicklund** and Assistant Coach **Tom Ewert**. Despite strong play by the Blazers and trading scoring chances

throughout the game, ACC scored on a power-play in final minutes to take a 5-4 lead. Two empty net goals gave ACC a 7-4 win and their first conference championship since 2006. Scoring for CMU were **Geoff Reimer**, **Marty Siemens** (2), and **David Epp**. Geoff Reimer was selected as CMU's Player of the Game, and goalie **Josh Ewert**, Siemens, and **Ethan Heidebrecht** were named to the All-Conference Team.

CMU Blazers Close 2009-2010 with Seven Medals

Women's Athletics won championships in soccer, volleyball, and basketball and the men's teams brought home silver in basketball, soccer, and hockey and a bronze in volleyball, for a total all-sport medal count of three gold, three silver, and a bronze. Congratulations, CMU Athletes, Coaches, and Director **Russell Willms**.



CMU student athletes earned top honours at MCAC celebrations, with 69% of the athletes – highest in the conference – receiving the Scholar Award for GPAs above 3.0.

SERVING THE WORLD THROUGH CMU PRACTICA

By Rachel Bergen



While not all CMU practicum assignments involve international travel, for students in International Development Studies, it's a perfect fit. Over the summer months, most university students do what they can to earn a wage and enjoy weekend trips with family and friends when they can. But for Paul Peters, like many of his CMU peers, completing his practicum work makes his summer job both a journey of faith and an expression of community service.

Peters, an International Development Studies (IDS) major at CMU, has spent a month of his summer in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 2007.

"The practicum is a requirement for all students who wish to graduate from CMU," says CMU Practicum Director Werner Kliewer, adding that the credit hours can be earned in Winnipeg, throughout North America, or around the world. "The practicum assignments enable students to put their studies into practice while letting people test their career interest and provide needed services for others."

All CMU undergraduate programs require a six credit-hour practicum, as in Peters' case, related to his major in IDS. During the school year, Peters spends six hours per week at his practicum with Mennonite Brethren Mission Service International (MBMSI), an organization committed to "holistic church planting that transforms communities among the least reached."

At MBMSI, Peters works with an Action program for different countries, focusing especially on coordinating the trip for the Congo. He gets to visit there twice a year to organize



short-term missions and to encourage the Congolese church.

Peters appreciates the fact that the churches are not North American made, but pure Congolese. MBMSI offers encouragement. "We get to be their hands and feet for four weeks in the summer," he says.

Not only is the Congolese church supported, but Peters personally feels encouraged every time he goes there. "It gets me through the year," Peters says.

Peters also helps facilitate a ten-day program for high school students in the inner city of Winnipeg. "The program opens their eyes to prostitution, poverty, and gangs in Winnipeg... it gets them out of their little bubble," he says.

Peters says his practicum has taught and continues to teach him what faith is and what it means to be a follower of Christ.

CMU's ARISNEL MESIDOR

By Rachel Bergen

When Haitian-born CMU student Arisnel Mesidor received the devastating news of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti and learned that his family members - including his wife - were missing, he made his way to the site of the destruction, Port au Prince, as soon as he could.

Given the magnitude of the loss in Haiti, it was with great relief and thankfulness that Mesidor found his wife, Syvelie, and all of his other family members alive and unharmed with the exception of one cousin.

In leaving Winnipeg, he had the prayers and support of the CMU community behind him all the way. Mesidor's program advisor and close personal friend, Biblical and Theological Studies Professor Pierre Gilbert, was deeply concerned about Mesidor and his family and offered his prayers and immediate support.

"Physically, we couldn't do anything about the earthquake," said Gilbert, "but when someone prays for you... that gives strength."

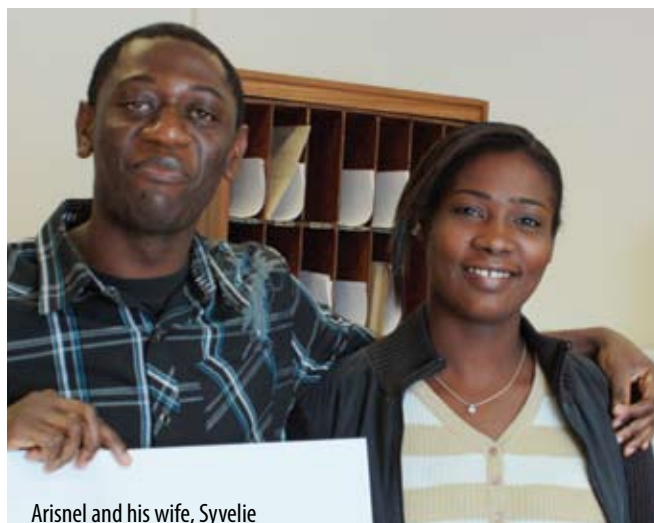
As well as offering prayers, the CMU community pledged financial support, with staff, faculty, and students contributing to a fund for his use, for which Mesidor was deeply grateful.

"I was mainly concerned with getting food and supplies to bring down to Haiti," Mesidor said, determining that this was the most important need and best use of the donated funds. In lending aid in support of Mesidor's plans to help his home country, Dana Petker, CMU's Coordinator of Commuter, Disability and International Programs, and students Anna Braun and Jordan Braun facilitated campus-wide fundraising.

"There were so many donations, I couldn't bring it all down myself," said Mesidor of the response of cash and supplies, through an effort in which CMU students and faculty donated \$1,765 in support of Mesidor and his efforts for Haiti. "People were very, very supportive," said Mesidor, who also received countless e-mails and notes of prayer and encouragement.

Although money was offered for Mesidor's personal use as a graduate student with a family and a home country in crisis, Mesidor decided that the money could best be put to use through a not-for-profit organization that he set up, called Samaritan Partners for Shelters in Haiti (SPSH). The SPSH, Mesidor says, is working to build decks to situate under tents so that they don't get flooded during the rain. Mesidor started this organization shortly after the earthquake hit Haiti.

Many of the displaced people, Mesidor says, are sleeping on the streets without any tents, like Mesidor's 90-year-old grandmother, his aunt, and his younger brother. "They have



Arisnel and his wife, Syvelie

only a few blankets to protect them from the sun and nothing to protect them from the rain," he says.

In the SPSH mission statement, Mesidor notes that "shelter is a basic need" and one that is especially important for the poorest country in the western hemisphere where 80-90% of the population live below the poverty line—and that was before the recent damages and loss of lives.

While working with SPSH in Haiti, Mesidor also spent time at the Canadian Embassy arranging for a visa to bring his wife to Canada; previous attempts to do so had failed. Although Mesidor has permanent residency status in Canada, he and Syvelie were only able to obtain a six-month visitor visa for her at this time.

Back in Canada, Mesidor hopes to continue the work of SPSH and to reunite his family in Canada. He hopes, through his experiences, to help other Haitian-Canadians bring their families to Canada as well.

For the strong support he received through this time of turmoil, Mesidor expresses his special thanks. "The whole CMU community contributed," he says.

On March 2, Student Council's Witness Through Service Committee held its 2010 BID FOR HAITI fundraiser, featuring Winnipeg talent Anthony Sweet and Waterfront Drive, with a silent auction that raised \$900 for MCC's Haiti earthquake relief effort. Alisha Ewald and Jenny Hiebert helped organize, along with Bethany Abrahamson, Hannah Burkholder, Abby Craig, Felicia Schmutz, and Jodi Thorsteinsson. Tall Grass Prairies at the Forks donated baked goods for the event.

HOT PURSUIT 2010

TEAM CMU RACES FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

By Julie Derksen

This coming summer, a team of five cyclists, made up of faculty members Chris Huebner and John Brubacher, along with Kevin Kilbrei, and alumni Craig Penner and Jon Guenter will race from Vancouver to Winnipeg to raise money for international student financial assistance and international practica.

Team CMU will race in pursuit of ultra marathon cyclist Arvid Loewen, who is cycling to raise funds for the Mully Children's Foundation.

Hot Pursuit 2010 begins on July 17, 2010 with Team CMU racing in shifts around the clock, attempting to cover 2400 kilometres in three and a half days.

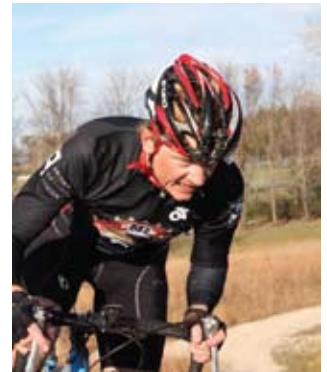
"I'm looking forward to the challenge," says participant Chris Huebner. "Arvid has incredible endurance and can cycle 20 hours a day. We are not in his league. But we will be working as a team, cycling day and night, trying to catch him."

International student bursaries are an important

resource for international students who wish to study at CMU.

"Currently, we have students from these countries who wouldn't be here if it weren't for our bursary program," says Huebner. "There are always more students who are interested in coming, and our goal is to help make that possible."

For more information about this exciting event, or to pledge support for your favorite Team CMU participant, visit



Chris Huebner

www.cmu.ca/hotpursuit, call 204.487.3300, or email Team CMU at hotpursuit@cmu.ca.



Jon Guenter



John Brubacher



Kevin Kilbrei



Craig Penner

CMU'S INTERNATIONAL VISION

"The church is a global body," remarks CMU Vice-President External Terry Schellenberg. "CMU, as a university of the church for the world, is committed to teach and learn in ways that reflect this reality and which prepare students to become active participants in that world-wide body. Our campus is one in which the global face of the church is present with students from many countries," he says.

"Through our Outtatown program, classes, and international practicum assignments, North American students also learn about and serve within this larger world."

Increasing the diversity of its student body and broadening the opportunities for students to engage their world is

a vision to which CMU is committed. Realizing that this vision requires increased resources, Schellenberg notes that proceeds from the "Hot Pursuit 2010" fundraiser will support the following initiatives and programs:

- Bursaries for international students, especially from developing countries
- Enhanced on-campus services and supports for international students
- Increasingly focused international recruitment strategies and efforts
- Bursaries for CMU students engaged in international practicum assignments in developing countries

The **CMU Student Council Creation Care Committee** has been active throughout the winter months. CMU students joined churches all over the world in December 2009 in ringing church bells for climate justice. The invitation was made by the World Council of Churches and KAIROS. In addition, they joined an ecumenical public witness at the Legislative Building and walked to Central Park listening to speakers, such as CMU Biology Professor **John Brubacher**, address various topics.

On March 26, 2010, the SC-CCC teamed up with MCC to support The MCC Water Project. The students hosted an obstacle race on the CMU soccer pitch to raise money for African and Indian communities without access to clean, safe water.

Congratulations to CMU Student **Christy Anderson** who was one of 76 recipients of a Helen Betty Os-

borne Foundation award presented on December 15, 2009. The Helen Betty Osborne Memorial Foundation recognizes deserving Aboriginal post-secondary students with financial awards to help them complete their chosen fields of study.



Several CMU students spent their reading break in California – and they weren't spending their time surfing and sunbathing. Instead, students volunteered again this year with Mennonite Disaster Service. Nine students accompanied CMU's Dana Petker, Coordinator, Interna-

tional Programs, and Rick Unger, Maintenance Assistant, who went to Dulzura, California February 14 – 20, 2010. The CMU team served at the Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) site where the 2007 Harris fires destroyed 250 houses. Student volunteers were **Dave Attema, Daniel Paetkau, Blair Mirau, Jennifer Dijk, Laura Radons, Nina Schroeder, Lori Schroeder, Genevieve Forget,** and **Jami Reimer.**

MDS offers Disaster Management Studies at two universities in North America: the US program, now five years old, is offered at Hesston College in Kansas; the other Disaster Recovery Studies program is in its second year and is offered at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg.

In response to the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti on January 12th, 2010, CMU offered its aid to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). CMU

REMEMBERING ARTIST BRUCE HEAD

On December 29, 2010, at age 78, renowned Canadian painter and sculptor Bruce Head, RCA (Royal Canadian Academy) passed away.

In the 1950s, Head was one of a few young Manitoban artists whose work stimulated a dramatic surge in interest in contemporary art on the Canadian prairies. Over the winter of 1959-'60, he created the mural, titled *The Four Seasons*, for the dining room of the Manitoba Teacher's College - now CMU's Great Hall and home to the student-run Blaurock Café.

CMU welcomed Head on campus for an October 15, 2008 ceremony in his honour in conjunction with a retrospective of Head's work at the Winnipeg Art Gallery titled *Head Space: Five Decades of Bruce Head*. CMU President Gerald Gerbrandt remarked on how fortunate CMU was to be home "to a true work of art" like the mural.

In addition to the mural, CMU is home to other significant works of art, including: *In God's Image*, a collection of art by 59 artists from around the world (curated by Winnipeg artist Ray Dirks), and *The Hand: Jesus' Way to the Cross*, a series of 14 prints by Winnipeg artist Betty Dimock. The CMU Shaftesbury campus is also home to the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery.



volunteered to be one of the city-wide drop-off locations for contributions from the public. CMU continues to collect funds and bedding and blankets for MCC at its North Campus reception area.

Hats off to our CMU neighbours! A highlight for CMU was the delivery of 32 boxes of donations for Haiti from neighbouring **Shaftesbury High School**, the result of a volunteer donations campaign by the school's students, teachers and staff.

Graduate recital season began with fourth-year music student **Joel Peters** from Waldheim, Saskatchewan, hosting a graduate recital on January 29. At this event, he played the organ in partial completion of his Bachelor of Music degree. Featuring music from Dowland, Bach, and Handel and accompaniment including **Dietrich Bartel**, **Nils Loewen**, and **Tatiana Friesen**, among others,

Peters' recital was a huge success. In the following months, many other graduate recitals were held to the delight of faculty, family, and friends.

The **2010 Church in Ministry Seminar, "Mapping the Way"** held January 25-26, 2010 addressed tough issues in the church while entering into a worship frame of mind through "rest, time, and renewal," says the worship services coordinator, **Becky Reesor**. Reesor is a fourth-year Bachelor of Music Ministries major who coordinated the services in partial fulfillment of her degree.

Caleb Wiens, one of our MSC 09 graduates and son of CMU's Coordinator of Student Advising **Adelia Neufeld Wiens**, has been accepted by The Coady Institute for a CIDA-funded international youth internship. Wiens will be in Kenya for a six-month work placement.

Winter 2010 CMU student **Marcus Siemens**, a Sanford Collegiate graduate in June 2009, was awarded the Travis Price Spirit Award by the Winnipeg High School Hockey League. The award applies for future full-time studies. The Travis Price scholarship was created by Travis' friends and family after he passed away in January 2004. Siemens also received the Chad Erb Graduating Hockey Player Award, named to honour the Sanford native, who is a WHL graduate and Manitoba Bison defenceman.

Other Sanford Collegiate graduates at CMU – **Rebecca Ens**, **Jarrett Friesen**, and **Jonathon Woytowich** – all earned CMU Entrance Scholarships towards their 2009-2010 study terms. Woytowich was the most honoured student at his high school graduation, receiving 11 awards in total, one of which was the Governor-General's Bronze Medal.

REFRESHING WINDS 2011 TO WELCOME BRIAN McLAREN

By Abe Bergen



Every second year CMU sponsors a conference on worship and music called Refreshing Winds. Through speakers and seminars church workers are inspired and empowered to lead worship relevant in our culture.

The Refreshing Winds Committee has announced that the theme for next year's event, scheduled for Febru-

ary 3-5, 2011, will be "Here in This Place," with Brian McLaren the plenary speaker.

Inspired by the title of a well-known hymn based on Genesis 28:16-17, the theme reminds us that God is found in surprising places. "This place" is many places, and any place on our planet, wherever people are open to being surprised by God's presence. And wherever that place is, we are called to live our faith mindful of the culture in which we are located.

"Our goal is to recognize the importance of context and culture in our worship, to explore and understand how culture impacts us, what culture means in our theology and how worship is embodied in location," says Abe Bergen, Committee Chair.

McLaren is a popular speaker and author concerned about this agenda. Among his numerous publications

are *A New Kind of Christian* (2001), which explores issues of Christian faith and post-modernity; *A Generous Orthodoxy* (2004), and most recently; *A New Kind of Christianity* (2010) which sketches a picture of how he thinks we need to change. McLaren has been profiled in *Christianity Today* and *Christian Century*, *The Washington Post*, and many other print media. *Time* listed him as one of the twenty-five most influential Evangelicals in America.

At times McLaren can be provocative in the way he confronts tradition, but the planning committee anticipates that he, together with the other conference speakers, will challenge contemporary followers of Jesus Christ as they prepare to lead the church in worship. The conversation should engage and inspire participants on many levels.

At their spring gala, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra will honour **Irmgard** (Braun, MBBC 1960-61) and **William Baerg** (MBBC '61). The Baergs will receive the WSO Golden Baton for their work in music in the city over the past number of decades.

Menno Wiebe (CMBC '61) was awarded a Doctor of Divinity (Honoris Causa) at the 143rd Annual Convocation of St John's College, November 2009.

Erika and **Bob Sukkau** (MBBC '73) are once again back in Canada. After ten years in Peru planting a church with MBMSI, Erika has a ministry with international students at the University of the Fraser Valley. While exploring next steps Bob has taken a welding course and is building a recumbent bike.

Jaine Klassen Jeninga (MBBC '87) lives in Baltimore, ON with her husband, Bruce, and son, Jacob (11). Jaine's roots have stayed with her musical and church background as she owns and operates Northumberland Mobile Music and serves as director of Music at St. John's Anglican Church in Port Hope, ON. Together with her husband and son, Jaine helps to run their family operated upland game farm: Bird's Eye View Game Farm and Hunting Preserve.

Nathan Loewen (CMBC '94) and **Tammy Schmidt** (CMBC '95) send greetings to CMBC friends. On November 27, 2009, Nathan received a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from McGill University. Nathan is teaching in the Humanities department at Vanier College and in the International Development Studies program at McGill. Tammy is in her final year of studies with Dominion Herbal College, after which she will be a clinical herbal therapist.



Gina Unger (CMBC '92) and Jeff McMillan welcomed Marin Faith Unger-McMillan to their home on June 10, 2009. She is a little sister for brothers Hayes (3) and Hudson (2). They live in Winnipeg. Proud grandparents are **Ivan** (CMBC '58) and **Marge Unger** (Zacharias, CMBC 1960-'61) and Cliff and Eleanor McMillan.

Pam Albrecht (CMBC '95) and David MacLaren were married on October

10, 2009 at Wellesley Mennonite Church. They are living in Kitchener, Ontario.

Nicholas (CMBC 1996-'97) and Susan (Galbraith) **Wedel** welcomed their first child, a son, Niam John Peter Wedel, on October 19th, 2009. Nic works as a nurse in the Emergency ward at Health Science Centre. Proud grandparents are Marilyn & **Robert Wedel** (CMBC '69).

Shoshanna and **Thomas Reimer** (CMBC 1998-'00) of Waterloo, ON announce the birth of their daughter, Serafina Tamsin, born October 6, 2009. Proud grandparents are **Margaret Loewen Reimer** (CMBC '68) and **Jim Reimer** (CMBC '63).

Vivian Unger (CMBC '99) and **Jeffrey Thiessen** (CMBC '97) announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Matea Marie Thiessen Unger, born on October 10, 2009 in Winnipeg.

Josh and **Jocelyn R. Plett** (Reimer, CC '99) are pleased to announce the newest member of their family, Asher Jon R. Plett, born on November 22, 2009; a younger brother for Judah (4). The Pletts continue to make their home in Madagascar where they work with Mission Aviation Fellowship.



Do these bring back memories?

MBBC 1975-'81 REUNION WEEKEND

JULY 30 - AUGUST 1, 2010



Carl (CMBC '98) and **Christy** (CMBC '99) **Martens-Funk** are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Lanae Ellen Martens-Funk, born October 6, 2009. Big brother Braden (3) is very proud of his little sister. Carl is a farmer near Hague, SK and Christy is a Chartered Accountant in Saskatoon. They live in Osler and are members of the Osler Mennonite Church.



Patricia and **Ted Redekop** (CMBC '99) are happy to announce the birth of their son Samuel Ted Redekop, born January 29, 2010. He joins Zachary

(3) and Zoe (2) in the Redekop Brood. They live in Brandon, MB, where, when not on maternity leave, Patricia is an EAL teacher at Crocus Plains High School, and Ted is a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Brandon Fire Department.

Katherine Shantz (CMU '02) is working on a Masters of Arts in Environmental Education at Goshen College. Her research is focused on how volunteers (citizen scientists) can be effectively used to monitor the health of wetland ecosystems. She plans to graduate in June 2010. While in Indiana, she is attending 8th St. Mennonite Church in Goshen.

Reg Wiebe (CMU '02) and **Allison Peters** (CMU '03) were married in August 2008. Reg is completing a PhD in Canadian Literature at the University of Alberta in Edmonton while Allison is finishing a journalism program.

Chris Thiessen (CMU '05) and **Jessica Loeppy** (CMU 2001-'03) were married on May 30, 2009. Chris is working as a firefighter, while Jessica is a Landscape Designer. They have made their home in Abbotsford, BC are attending Emmanuel Mennonite Church.

Micah (CMU '05) and **Erin Braun-Reimer** (CMU 2004-'05) welcomed to their family a son, Wesley James, born on January 13; a brother for Evelyn (4). Proud grandparents are **Margaret Loewen Reimer** (CMBC '68) and **Jim Reimer** (CMBC '63).

Hector (Chino) **Argueta** (CMU '09) and Rachel Bergen announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Hazel Lucia Bergen Argueta, born January 17, 2010. Proud grandparents are **Elaine Bergen** (Gerbrandt, CMBC 1970-1972); **Abe Bergen** (CMBC '72) and Harriet Hamer.

PASSAGES

John B. Dick (MBBC 1945-'46) died August 8, 2009.

Edmond Dyck (MBBC '52) died November 26, 2009.

Lena Froese (Funk, CMBC 1959-'60) died December 26, 2009.

Allen Guenther (MBBC '62) died December 23, 2009.

Henry K. Friesen (MBBC 1962-'63) died January 9, 2010

Alumni are looking forward to a great time together this summer at the MBBC 1975-'81 Reunion, great for catching up with old friends and remembering old times. The Reunion Committee of Val Falk, Christine Longhurst, John Longhurst, Brian Plett, Gerald Regehr, and Sara Jane Schmidt have made special plans, including:

- Friday evening ice cream social
- Saturday lunch followed by an Elmwood MBBC Campus Tour
- Saturday afternoon choir rehearsal with Bill and Irmgard Baerg
- BBQ Supper and Saturday evening recollections with "That 70's Show"
- Sunday morning worship service with guest speaker Dr. Vern Ratzlaff

Registration is \$25 by June 20; \$35 after that date. Accommodations are available at CMU.

Call the CMU alumni office at 877.231.4570 or write alumni@cmu.ca.

Visit www.cmu.ca/alumni for details.





SUE SORENSEN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH *in*CONVERSATION

CMU is pleased to feature an excerpt from SUNDAY@CMU produced by David Balzer. This **inConversation interview is condensed (and varies slightly) from Sorensen's live interview. Visit www.cmu.ca/inconversation*

Sue, the book *West of Eden: Essays on Canadian Prairie Literature*, published by CMU Press, is your first book. Where did the idea of pursuing prairie literature come from?

I grew up on the prairies on a little farm in Saskatchewan. Through my youth, I actually didn't want to read Canadian literature. I thought that the prairies were a rather dry and dusty and not very exotic place, so I read British literature and that's really my specialty. But I'm a prairie person, and I've always read about and reviewed prairie literature. When I was teaching Canadian literature a couple of years ago, I realized there still wasn't nearly enough analysis and criticism of Canadian literature out there, especially the prairies.

What is it that makes prairie litera-

ture prairie literature? Is it different from what people write in BC or in the Maritimes? What language do we use? And what kind of stories do we tell? There's been some work on that but I thought not enough, so I put out a call for essays from scholars across Canada.

Is this a spiritual book? Where does Eden fit in to this book?

When this place was settled by European settlers in the 19th century, some of them were lured here with the idea of Eden; that this was a very lush place, and that it was practically paradise. It was a little drier, a few more mosquitoes, but to a certain extent some of them did find something - not paradise, obviously, but something very beautiful and lovely.

There is the notion that we have a little foretaste of paradise, that we have been given this gift of the prairies, and that we are the stewards of this gift. That was behind my thinking. It wasn't necessarily behind the thinking of the other writers in the book.

When I wrote the introduction that situated myself as a Christian scholar against prairie literature, I thought a lot about our relationship to the land, our responsibility for the land, and this thing that God has given - which is not perfect, and neither are we perfect. It is, nevertheless, quite an extraordinary place.

Did you revisit childhood feelings about the place?

Although I wish I had been born in France or England or in a castle, this is who I am and where I live. This is a place like no other place, particularly because of the people. The people here are absolutely solid and real. And the literature that has come out of this place... is very real. The voice of the people comes through.

Thanks, Sue, for telling some of your story and giving voice to a people that we haven't heard in this way before.

Thank you, David, it was a pleasure.

Join us September 24-25, 2010 for

Canadian Mennonite University

HOMECOMING

2010

A CMU 10th Anniversary Event



Friday, September 24

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 5:30-6:30 PM | Official Opening & Dedication of CMU's New Science Laboratory, South Campus |
| 6:30-10:30 PM | Volleyball Games, Loewen Athletic Centre |
| 7:00-8:30 PM | Homecoming Recital & CMU Faculty Lecture—Science & Faith, Laudamus Auditorium |
| 8:30 PM | Reception, Great Hall |

Saturday, September 25

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 12:00-4:00 PM | Men's & Women's Soccer Games and Ultimate Frisbee Event, South Campus Soccer Pitch |
| 12:00-4:00 PM | Menno Cross Bike Race, North Campus |
| 1:30-3:30 PM | Family Festival, North Campus |
| 3:00-5:00 PM | Class Reunions: 10, 20, 30, 40 & 50 years, North Campus |
| 3:00-4:30 PM | Campus Tours. Departing from North Campus
Rehearsal, Volunteer Choir |
| 5:00 PM | President's Alumni Dinner & Blazer Awards, Great Hall |
| 7:30 PM | Evensong, Loewen Athletic Centre |
| 9:00 PM | Student Entertainment, Great Hall |

Details at www.cmu.ca/homecoming2010



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