

The BLAZER

CONNECTING ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF CMU, FALL 2012



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Editor's Note

In this issue of *The Blazer*, we are delighted to introduce our readers to CMU's Connect campaign. But let me first share a few notes about some of the everyday ways we connect with our constituencies.

Fall has been an exciting and dynamic time at CMU. We were pleased to welcome and connect with 618 new and returning students to our undergraduate and graduate students on CMU's Shaftesbury campus, including 73 Outtatown students who were heading out on the road in Canada and to their site destinations, later this year, in South Africa, Burkina Faso, and Guatemala.

At CMU's Menno Simons College in downtown Winnipeg, faculty and staff are connecting with 957 students taking Conflict Resolution or International Development Studies. Menno Simons College opened the doors this fall by welcoming students and friends to its beautifully refurbished campus space, providing important new teaching and gathering places.

Fall is a time of connection for our alumni, many of whom were able to visit and meet with old and new friends during Fall Festival 2012. Also joining us were representatives of supporting churches who were able to join in and enjoy the rich array of activities and re-connect with their university at CMU's annual opening program.

In November, we will begin to connect with our communities through the vision and initiatives of new CMU President, Dr. Cheryl Pauls, as she offers her gifts, wisdom, and energy, and begins her leadership of this special university.

And in the everyday life and rhythm of the university, we connect with people through prayer and actions arising from our faith foundation.

Join with us this fall as we embrace the mission and vision of CMU, collectively growing opportunities to connect with one another, helping extend God's peace and grace in our world.

Nadine Kampen

Director, Communications & Marketing

*Installation of CMU President Dr. Cheryl Pauls takes place Sunday, November 25, 2:30 PM
River East Mennonite Brethren Church
755 McLeod Ave., Winnipeg*

Fall 2012

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“Only Connect!”

Perhaps those who haven't delved into E. M. Forester's *Howards End* quote it most often. I'll admit that I haven't patiently traversed the novel's pages, yet “only connect!” was the first thing to flash through my mind when I heard that CONNECT had been selected to focus CMU's Library/Learning Commons and Bridge campaign. I hear the phrase's imperative expression like a call, an engaging, enabling, freeing sort of call that makes us want to be more trusting, generous, wonder-filled and faithful in relation to God, to one another, and to all the created things with which we've been entrusted.

Such a call has sustained and compelled me while teaching at CMU; I've heard it in the hopes and concerns of students as much as in the university's program designs and mission. And, through this call, I assume the honour of connecting with the hopes and concerns of you, the friends of CMU, as I begin my tenure as CMU's president.

The tie-ins between the term CONNECT and CMU's capital campaign are relatively straightforward.

CMU needs a library and learning commons to help it achieve its primary task as a university – that of building understandings that engage both the world and one another. That said, in the midst of today's high-tech flow of information, it's not always obvious why a university still bothers with a library at all – until one considers how much libraries are keeping up with the times.

A library continues to be a vital connector. Today's libraries provide critical access not only to volumes of invaluable hard copy materials, but also to vast online storehouses of online research and resources that aren't available without cost or

experienced navigation skills. It is a library that offers the necessary time, expertise, and shared spaces to sort, sift, assess, discern, and open new insight and wisdom from all that has been collected and remembered.

It is a library and envisioned book and resource centre and public café that can resource and help connect our larger community and constituency to CMU. And, as anyone who has seen our cramped basement library site will attest, it is a new library that will most effectively enhance CMU's work going into the future.

As well, CMU needs a bridge at its divided Shaftesbury campus so that students, staff, guests, and the public have a way across Grant Avenue that is safe, accessible, and, on short winter days, a little less windy and cold.

Still, the CONNECT campaign on which CMU has embarked isn't only about a library or crossing the street. It goes much deeper and draws attention to the church bodies, businesses, individuals, and government whose partnering and ongoing generosity enable this university to thrive. This support is vital to CMU. Thank you!

I look forward to being in conversation with you about new ways that CMU might “only connect” to the reconciling forms of inventiveness, wholeness, and transformation to which we together are committed and called.



CMU needs a library and learning commons to help it achieve its primary task as a university – that of building understandings that engage both the world and one another.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Dubs".



CONNECT

BUILDING FOR LEARNING AND SERVICE

By N. Kampen

Every now and then, an opportunity emerges with the potential to make a significant impact. CMU today faces such a prospect. A long-cherished dream for a new library, learning commons and bridge – and the impact they will make - is coming true thanks to visionary founders and leaders, generous supporters, a strong campaign fundraising team and the commitment of CMU Board, Council, faculty and staff. At this time CMU’s broader community of alumni and friends has the oppor-

tunity to bring this important capital project to completion.

“This bold venture commits \$11-million of new capital to ensure that CMU is well positioned to meet its commitments to scholarship, faith, community, worship, experiential learning and service. These new facilities will provide CMU with an essential and vital resource,” says CONNECT Campaign Chair Elmer Hildebrand, CEO of Golden West Broadcasting. “One of the things that really excites me about this Campaign is the project’s ability to impact the future of our church, by equip-

ping young people to live out their faith and make a difference in a challenging world. With the commitment and support of many alumni and friends, I am confident that we can bring this project to its successful completion.”

“The new library and learning commons and bridge will greatly enhance the learning experience at CMU,” says CMU Board Chair Marlene Janzen. “This project will create a wonderful space for students, faculty, and the community to connect. The Board is one hundred per cent in support of this venture!”



Early Campaign Gifts Set the Bar

Working with a strong CONNECT Campaign Cabinet, Elmer Hildebrand chairs a group whose members are well known for their generosity and commitment. This Cabinet includes Art DeFehr, Philipp R. Ens, Bill Fast, Janice Filmon, Bert Friesen, Charles Loewen, Jake Rempel, and Tamara Roehr. On September 30, Hildebrand released news that progress towards the final goal had already passed the \$5.5-million mark thanks to leadership gifts from the campaign executive and support by key donors and CMU faculty

and staff.

“We are deeply grateful for the leadership team that is driving the CONNECT campaign, for the great work of our development staff, and for the tremendous support from the CMU community,” says CMU President Cheryl Pauls. “We are also very pleased with the work of the architects, ft3, in designing a highly functional yet exciting project, along with the experience of our contractor, Concord Projects. Together they have been working closely with us to carry this exciting project forward,” says Pauls.

In the 12 years since 2000, CMU has established itself as a dynamic Christian university. Membership in the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and an expanding and solid array of program and degree offerings, have become increasingly attractive for a diverse and growing student body. The launch of both the Redekop School of Business in 2011 and the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry this fall, are among significant new initiatives. “We’re thrilled”, notes CMU Dean of Student Life, Marilyn Peters Kliever, “with both our enrolment



The Library will serve as a learning commons at the centre of the Shaftesbury campus, offering services and resources to classes and for individuals, along with prime study spaces that draw students and visitors. The design also includes a new CMU Bookstore, Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre, and a Café, providing the broader community with helpful resources and with a gathering place for interaction and dialogue.

numbers and the quality of students attracted to this university.”

Now, CMU is building on its momentum, putting in place the building blocks for increased future impact.

“CMU’s Christian and Anabaptist commitments provide the foundation for a truly unique Canadian university serving both church and community,” says Pauls. “At its core, this library project is about a bold spirit and a transformational vision for CMU students, faculty, and the broader community. Through the CONNECT Campaign, we are building the capacity to strengthen our core commitments to inter-disciplinary learning, collaboration, com-

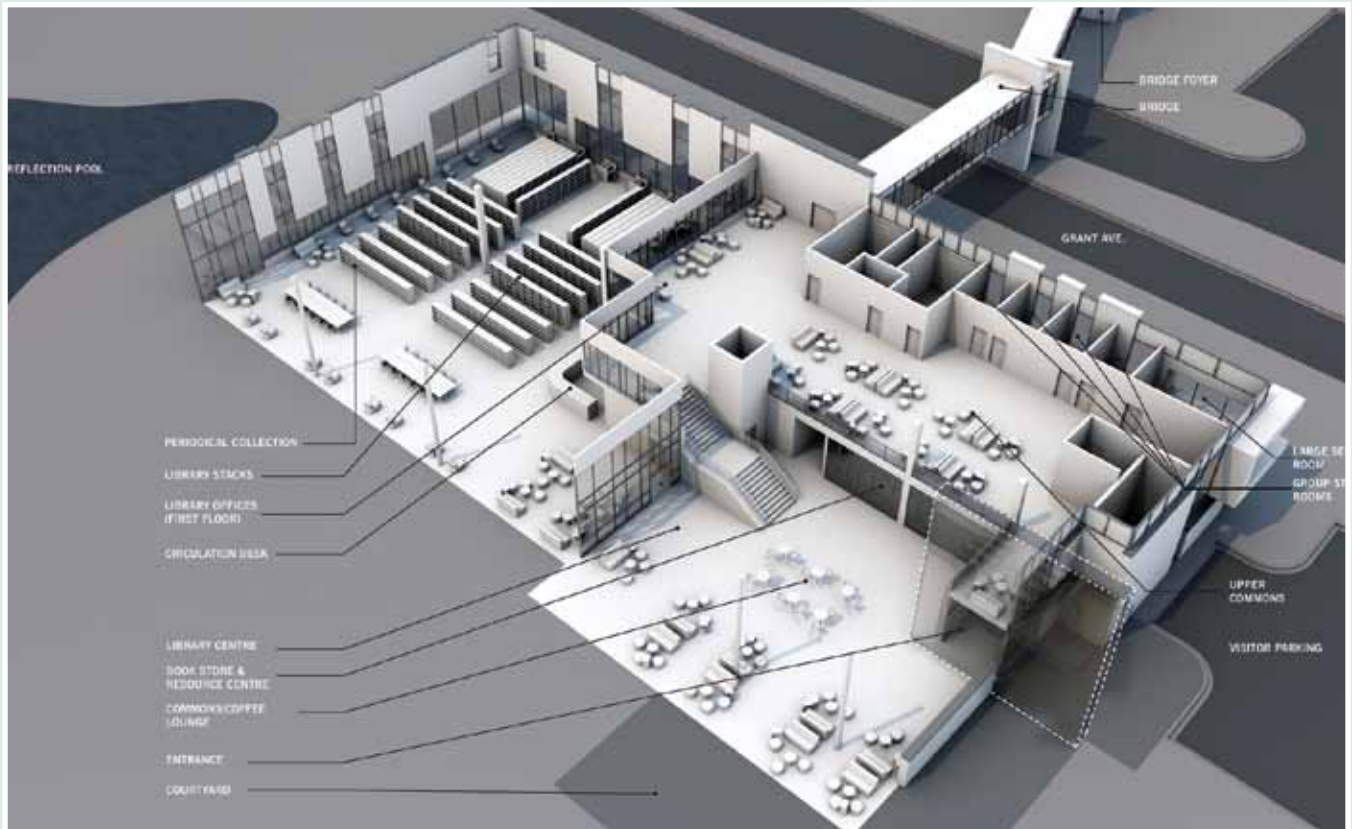
munity, and service.”

“Students in a university learning community are hungry for places to gather,” comments Vice-President External Terry Schellenberg, who is leading the Campaign in partnership with Director Abe G. Bergen and CMU’s Development team. “They are looking for spaces in which they can discern, imagine, collaborate, and struggle with questions and issues that matter. Our hope is that this new library and learning commons will be a place where ‘learners’ of all kinds – students, faculty, staff, church, and community members – can encounter stories, insights, and truths gathered from the past and today. That kind of encounter is

at the heart of active, ongoing learning as we look to the future.”

Reflecting on the impact of the new library and learning commons for faculty as well as for students and the community, CMU’s Dean of Humanities and Sciences Paul Dyck comments, “University libraries have never been about only books: they have always been places of learning, where people gather to remember and reflect, learning from those before us.”

He notes that technology is often only associated with electronic and digital media. The ‘word’ itself, Dyck points out, draws on the term “techné” – the art and craft of making something, and of applying a reasoned method to producing an object or realising a goal. “Technologies of memory – of what has been remembered and recorded in some form – include books along with rare and archival materials in their original forms, as much as digitized media,” says Dyck. “In a sense, a library is a primary place of encounter with what we call



‘technologies of memory.’ This has been true in the past and continues to be true as we move into the future.”

One of the chief goals in building a future-oriented university library is to explore and create healthy balances for learning and engagement.

“We need to bring together the great potential that e-books, e-journals, and new technologies hold for learning and research, which we can provide in our new library, with the possibilities that thousands of books and volumes hold – many of which will never appear in e-book form,” says CMU Library Director Victor Froese.

University education, Froese notes, requires at least two sorts of places: classrooms and study spaces. Learning in the classroom involves the interaction of professor and student peers together with course materials and resources. “Learning in diverse study spaces in a new Library & Learning Commons,” says Froese, “will allow students to locate primary and second-



Joining in the CMU CONNECT Campaign Project announcement on June 15, 2012 were: (front row, l. to r.) CMU President-Elect Cheryl Pauls, CMU former President Gerald Gerbrandt, Premier of Manitoba Greg Selinger, CONNECT Campaign Chair Elmer Hildebrand, Acting Deputy Mayor Paula Havixbeck, Councillor for Charleswood Tuxedo; (back row, l to r), CMU Vice President External Terry Schellenberg, and Campaign Executive Members Tamara Roehr, Bill Fast, Jake Rempel, Bert Friesen, Charles Loewen, and Janice Filmon. (Missing: Campaign Executive Members Philipp R. Ens and Art DeFehr)

ary resources and interact with them in greater depth, to draw on the expertise that librarians provide, and to discuss and debate together with peers.”

Design Includes CMU Bookstore

and Mennonite Church Canada’s Resource Centre

“CMU’s library also signifies a commitment to extend itself in invitational and accessible ways to the broader community and the constituencies which



undergird our mission and work,” says Cheryl Pauls.

The Library and Learning Commons will include CMU’s Bookstore and Mennonite Church Canada’s existing Resource Centre, together with a gift shop, all sharing integrated space to support a vision for resourcing the university and broader church. The Mennonite Church Canada Resource Center presently serves individuals and congregations across Canada with access to a 15,000 item online catalogue of unique resources that support individual and congregational life and worship, faith formation, and discipleship. Presently the Resource Centre has partners with a variety of producers, publishers, and distributors of Christian resources involving the wider Anabaptist community.

The book, resource and gift centre will be adjacent to a café and meeting area and will complement access

to CMU’s Library holdings. Together they will help grow the number of community and constituency borrowers of Library holdings which presently includes 800-plus external library users and 7,000 unique online resource centre visitors every month. Our commitment is to employ the combined synergy of a book and resource centre to draw diverse Mennonite and Christian bodies into further cooperation and strengthen CMU’s capacity to serve, lead, and support the life, worship and health of the Anabaptist and broader Christian church.

“This unique resource collaboration of CMU with Mennonite Church Canada is poised to serve the respective constituencies and the church at large in an unprecedented fashion, with some of the rich gifts of the Anabaptist faith tradition,” stated Dave Bergen, Executive Minister, Formation, MC Canada.

“These features offer a strong signal that CMU is a resource to the Church and communities beyond our physical walls,” says Pauls. “We want to invite our surrounding constituency and community into the dynamic life of this university.”

Campaign Ramps Up

Launching the CONNECT: Building for Learning and Service Campaign more broadly means that active fundraising among many donors, alumni, and church constituencies is also underway. Together with the Campaign Cabinet, CMU’s President Cheryl Pauls, and the University’s Vice-Presidents’ Terry Schellenberg and Earl Davey, join the Development Team in moving towards a successful culmination of the project.

“We will be contacting our alumni and friends through a variety of means



Features of CMU's New Facilities

The Library and Learning Commons will greatly enhance the CMU learning environment for students, faculty, and the general public. Study carrels, worktables, and lounge seating in an attractive setting will stimulate students to connect with ideas and thinkers from around the world. Small group rooms will invite students to work together in teams at important questions and issues. Computer, wireless, and peripheral technologies will support study, research, and collaboration. A seminar room will enable small classes to meet in proximity to necessary library resources. Significantly increased space with natural light and controlled temperature and humidity will allow future expansion and growth. The Library and Learning Commons will include a prominent and welcoming entrance and gathering area, inviting students and the general public to make use of its resources. It will feature a Book and Resource Centre with an extensive selection of theological and congregational resources. An inviting café will welcome university and community

Environmental Standards

The entire project will model CMU's commitment to environmental care, qualifying for LEED Silver (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

– personal visits, phone, and mail and email contact, and to attend special events,” says Abe G. Bergen. “Based on past experience with our committed constituencies, we anticipate a strong response to this key initiative.”

“This Library and Learning Commons and Bridge project,” says Bergen, “will be among the important gifts we can offer to present and future students, as well as to our supporting churches and the general public. We hope this campaign “connects” us all together now and into the future.”

Project construction is expected to begin in 2013.

For Project and Campaign information, visit www.cmu.ca or contact CMU's Director of Development Abe G. Bergen at agbergen@cmu.ca



Pedestrian Bridge

An attractive pedestrian bridge will link the two sides of CMU's campus, currently partitioned by a busy thoroughfare, providing a safe, accessible route across Grant Avenue. This bridge will also signal the presence of CMU in the community, serving to symbolize an institution that connects people at the centre of our campus.

New Builders' Circle

Young Alumni Give Back

By Lindsay Wright

Students are at the heart of Canadian Mennonite University's (CMU) existence – so it's fitting that the university's alumni play a significant role in giving back, allowing a high quality of education to be delivered for current and future students.

"CMU relies on the generosity of our supporters to sustain and build the programs that make such a difference in the lives of our students," says CMU's Development Director Abe G. Bergen. "CMU Builders are vital to the future of our University."

CMU Builders are alumni who support the school with their donations of \$120 per year or more, making a minimum donation of \$10 each month. "These former students share a vision and appreciation for CMU out of their own experiences, and 'pay it forward' for the next generation of students," says Bergen.

Luke Klassen graduated from CMU in 2008 and began supporting the school as a CMU Builder shortly after. "CMU played a major role in shaping who I am and what I believe," says Klassen. "I attribute a lot of my core beliefs to the things that I learned and discussed – formally and informally – at CMU. Being a CMU Builder is a way to give back to the place that significantly shaped who I am."

Cordella Friesen, a 2009 graduate, agrees. "I had an amazing experience at CMU. I know that I benefitted from my time there – I grew as a person and made lifelong friendships, while also being challenged through my studies."

"I absolutely believe that everyone's journey through CMU is unique, but I also think that it is a collective journey," Friesen explains. "That journey didn't end the day I received my parchment. CMU alumni have an opportunity to continue participating in the journey – and although our role has evolved, I still think our participation today is just as important as the day we arrived on campus, ready to start our classes."

"I'd encourage all CMU alumni to join us in supporting the school by becoming donors. It's an easy way to give back, and it gives you a new connection to the place you went to school while allowing other young people the opportunity to have the same experiences we were able to have," says Klassen.

The financial support of CMU Builders helps keep CMU strong and viable, and in turn, Builders experience satisfaction in empowering students to lead, serve, and be reconcilers in church and society.

CMU's donor community provides approximately \$800,000 in annual funding to directly support students in their academic learning, chapel and faith experiences, athletic and leadership opportunities, practicum experiences, and much more.

"The collective support of many individuals makes a genuine impact," says Bergen.



Luke Klassen



Cordella Friesen

Donations to the Builders Circle are tax-receiptable and are acknowledged in CMU's Annual Report.

To become a CMU builder, contact agbergen@cmu.ca



Associate Professor Jeff Huebner instructing a first-year business class

Exciting New Opportunities at Redekop School of Business

By N. Kampen

CMU has opened the doors to its new Redekop School of Business, welcoming new and returning students into an expanded business program made possible through the generosity of the Redekop family of Fraser Valley, British Columbia.

"CMU's business programming uses an inter-disciplinary approach to prepare students for a global business environment," says Associate Professor Jeff Huebner, who recently joined CMU's business school faculty.

"Our goal is to prepare students to become engaged in business and not-for-profit organizations, with a worldview and character shaped within a Christian university community," says Huebner. "We want our students to be able

to see and experience first-hand how their business knowledge and skills can be applied overseas. We encourage our students to apply their business skills to positively impact others, both locally and globally."

Ethan Heidebrecht, fourth-year business student from Crossfield, Alberta, looks forward to new elements in the CMU business program. "The area of microfinance intrigues me," he says, "and I am particularly interested in the Latin American tour at the end of the year. I like having opportunities to take what we learn in the classroom into the real world. This will be a whole new experience for me."

"The upgrades to the business programming and facilities this past year are fantastic," says Jordan Reimer, a Redekop School of Business third-year

Redekop Business School Attracts International and Local Business Students



Dyson Smith

After graduating from Vincent Massey High School in Winnipeg, Dyson checked out Christian universities

and decided to enrol in the Redekop School of Business at CMU. He likes having small classes that are interactive, and he likes how the program is set up: "I'm seeing things that I'm excited to learn about," says Smith, who wants to gain skills in business management. "I'm aiming towards working alongside my dad - he is a business owner. I'm also interested in entrepreneurship, in maybe starting a business eventually."



Sara Froese

First-year student Sara Froese takes a keen interest in International Development Studies (IDS). After consulting with

her family, she decided to combine her passion for IDS with a business degree. "I'm very excited about getting a business education within an IDS context. I think this will be a great experience," says the Westgate High School graduate from Winnipeg, who decided to live in residence to be close to and enjoy campus life. Froese, who is a member of the CMU basketball team, also sings in two CMU choir ensembles. "I liked those things in high school, so I'm very comfortable here," she says.



Wilhelm Bohender

In Canada for his third year, German-native Wilhelm Bohender is a transfer student to CMU. "It's clear to me that my inter-

ests are in international development and business, and that is what is driving my education," says the former journeyman welder, a transfer student from Alberta's Prairie Bible College. He and his new wife, Alison, made the decision to live in residence at CMU. Like Wilhelm, she is also a student in Winnipeg, taking courses at UWinnipeg towards a UBrandon psychiatric nursing degree. Wilhelm chuckles over one further factor that played into this decision to come to CMU. "I play soccer," says the European-raised student, "and CMU has a soccer team. It was perfect."



Assistant Professor Craig Martin with Ethan Heidebrecht (l.) and Jordan Reimer

student coming from a family-run business background. Remarking on the new classroom technology in use at CMU, Reimer notes: "To have current technology integrated into our program at this level gives us tools we will be using in the workplace. And, because of the smaller classes, we get to interact with our professors." There is also the additional benefit, he says, of shared values. "I like the Christian aspect of the Redekop School of Business. I plan to bring a Christian perspective and way of doing things into the workplace, and it is good to learn alongside like-minded people. That's a real plus."

Redekop Business School students benefit from a generous awards program, excellent professors, a supportive student-to-faculty ratio, and opportunities for a term of study in an international setting. Students have opportunities to interact with business and not-for-profit leaders worldwide through multimedia, using interactive touch screens in the classrooms. CMU provides the option of extending learning through a business co-op experience.

"We're delighted with the expansion of our program as well as the quality of students we are attracting," says Assistant Professor Craig Martin, noting representation from several Canadian provinces along with international students from the United States, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Germany, Paraguay, Hungary, and Taiwan. "We are excited to offer new opportunities this year, including a case competition in Ontario in November and regular presentations from guest speakers from around the world, speaking directly to our students using digital technology in our business classrooms."

CMU's Redekop School of Business program offers a Bachelor of Business Administration degree (4-year, with a 5-year Co-op option) with majors in Business Management, Not-for-Profit Management, Accounting, and Human Resources Management. Students can also earn a Bachelor of Arts degree (3- and 4-year), with a Major in Business and Organizational Administration.

View Redekop School of Business program details at www.cmu.ca

CMU Opens Graduate School of Theology and Ministry

By N. Kampen

Building on the vision of its founding colleges and the church bodies that undergird it, Canadian Mennonite University on September 19, 2012 opened its new Graduate School of Theology and Ministry, celebrating a significant moment in the university's history of service to God's mission and the teachings of the Church.

"Through its predecessor colleges, CMU has been involved in theological education for a long time," says Graduate School Director Karl Koop. "In launching this School, CMU is demonstrating its resolve and commitment to being a university of the church for the world, moving forward in creating a special place and distinct entity for theological education."

The Graduate School continues to have significant connection with various inter-Mennonite denominations. It will serve uniquely as a teaching center of Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary Canada (MBBS Canada), and is a member of the Winnipeg Theological Cooperative and a partner with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (Elkhart, Indiana) and Steinbach Bible College.

"We are excited to partner with MBBS Canada, and look forward to welcoming new faculty member Dr. Andrew Dyck to campus in the new year," says CMU Interim President & Vice-President Academic Earl Davey.

Dyck's appointment as Assistant Professor of Ministry Studies at CMU, announced in June 2012, is jointly funded by MBBS Canada and the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba. Dyck will teach and give leadership in the area of spiritual formation, worship, preaching, ministry supervision, evangelism,



Speakers at the CMU Graduate School of Theology and Ministry opening event included: (from left) Elton DeSilva (Executive Director, Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba), Willard Metzger (Executive Director, Mennonite Church Canada), Dan Nighswander (Chair, Winnipeg Centre for Ministry Studies), Karl Koop, Director, CMU Graduate School of Theology and Ministry, Earl Davey (CMU Interim President & Vice-President, Academic), Bruce Guenther (President, Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary Canada), and Terry Hidichuk (Acting Dean, The University of Winnipeg Faculty of Theology)

leadership development, and pastoral care and counselling. In addition, he will serve as a resource person for the Manitoba Mennonite Brethren Conference.

"His years of experience in pastoral ministry, combined with his studies in Christian spirituality, will very much benefit our students, and through them, the larger church," says Davey, noting that Dyck will teach alongside CMU's highly respected *Emerti* and faculty professors, including Paul Doerksen, Irma Fast Dueck, Dan Epp-Tiessen, Gerald Gerbrandt, Pierre Gilbert, Titus Guenther, Chris Huebner, Harry Huebner, Sheila Klassen-Wiebe, Karl Koop, Gordon Matties, and Gordon Zerbe.

"As a community of scholars, committed to the life of the church, experienced in mission and service, and accomplished in research and publication, the faculty together bring significant gifts and experience to their roles as teachers and mentors," says Davey.

CMU's graduate programs include a

Master of Arts in Christian Ministry and in Theological Studies, as well as a Certificate in Christian Studies, with courses in Bible, History, Theology, Ethics, and in Practical Theology and Ministry.

"Opening a Graduate School at CMU is no small action," says Koop. "This is something to celebrate; and it is of utmost importance. In a world of much complexity, there is an urgent need to inspire and equip for pastoral ministry, leadership, scholarship, and service; a need to educate and women who will be challenged to a deeper understanding of the biblical story and who are open to being transformed by it; and a need to train women and men who have an appreciation for the diversity and unity of the church, a heightened sense of self-awareness, and who can embody strong leadership... It is to these ends that we launch a School to serve the church and its countless diverse expressions of mission, evangelism, and service."



Scott Janzen at a waterfall lookout in southern Burkina Faso.

Next Steps at CMU

Ottatown Prepares Students

By Lindsay Wright

Scott Janzen's decision to apply for the Ottatown program was a relatively easy one. "I originally heard about Ottatown from a guy who attends the same church as me. Then I kept hearing about the program everywhere... By the time I hit grade twelve, I thought I should give it a try," says Janzen.

It was Ottatown's new French Africa site that really struck a chord with him. "I was wanting to learn French and thought this might be a really good fit. And that's where I ended up going," he says.

Janzen was part of the first-ever French Africa site, a group that included twelve students and three leaders. His Ottatown adventure ran from September to December and started with a canoe trip in western Ontario and time in Winnipeg's French Quarter in St. Boniface. From there, the team visited Camp Peniel, Montreal, and Quebec City, Quebec before moving on to Paris, France. Finally, they arrived in Africa where they spent the majority of their Ottatown experience – including five weeks in Burkina Faso and a debrief period in Ghana.

"I was surprised to find that I didn't know French as well as I thought I did," says Janzen. "I was able to get by, though, and the leaders were very accepting of me and translated when I didn't understand."

CMU's Ottatown program provides a mix of biblical

study, adventure travel, and unique volunteer opportunities. The French Africa program explores the intersection of western and Muslim communities and the importance of Canada's dual identity as a bilingual and bicultural nation.

"I was really struck by the difference between media projections of Africa and experiencing it firsthand," says Janzen. "Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in Africa, but it was different than the international aid organization commercials featuring starving, dying children or the hazardously violent, war-filled news stories we've all grown up seeing. Before going to Burkina Faso, these were my only perceptions of Africa. My experience really opened my eyes to the real Africa. I met some incredible, friendly, and genuinely happy people there."

Janzen, now attending CMU, found that his Ottatown experience helped prepare him for the next step and brought him closer to solidifying his plans for the future. "Ottatown opened some doors for me at CMU in terms of scholarships and academic credits for my time in the French Africa program," he explains.

"In the future, I'm very interested in studying environmental science and physical geography," says Janzen. "That's always been the plan, but it used to be the only plan. Now, I like to say that my career goals are, Plan A: serve God, Plan B: become a hydrologist. Ottatown opened my eyes to the reality that the world is full of people just trying to survive – in Africa and also right here in North America. I'm more excited than ever about pursuing a path that will let me serve by helping people in a very practical way."

"Ottatown is great. Amazing experiences occur in great communities," Janzen says. "I encourage people to go on Ottatown to get a firsthand experience of the world – and of God."



One of the key features of the renovation project is MSC's new 1,000 square-foot Student Commons area.

MSC Campus Newly Expanded and Refurbished

By Lindsay Wright

New and returning students to Menno Simons College (MSC) were among the first to enter into the College's bright, spacious, and attractively renovated facilities at 520 Portage Avenue, benefitting immediately from the important improvements to classrooms, offices, and student areas.

MSC purchased property within 520 Portage in November 2009. Plans for renovating the space began immediately.

"Our primary goal was to provide a permanent and economically secure home for MSC, including offices, administration facilities, improved space for our students, and some classroom areas," says Ruth Taronno, MSC Associate Vice-President and Practicum Director. Also included in the plans were improvements to heating and ventilation systems.

The main floor now includes an open reception area featuring natural lighting as well as the administrative offices housing the MSC office coordinator, student services staff, the MSC Dean, and the Associate Vice-President.

The renovated main floor also includes a boardroom and seminar space adjacent to the offices, along with a refurbished, medium-size classroom.

On the second floor, MSC has created two large classrooms separated by a folding wall.

"This gives us the option of hosting two classes or meetings or one large conference group," says Taronno. "Both spaces are equipped with updated audiovisual technology, giving our professors access to modern teaching techniques and resources."

Freshly painted and refurbished MSC faculty offices can still be found on the second floor.

MSC Adds New Student Commons Area

"One of the key features of the renovation project is our brand new Student Commons area – a 1,000 square-foot space on the second floor," says Taronno. She notes that the commons offers plenty of open space as well as a quiet area with computer terminals and

study carrels, several tables for informal meetings and group projects, and a lounge space with comfortable couches and chairs. The MSC Student Association office can also be found in the commons area.

"We're very excited to open the Student Commons for our students," says Taronno. "It provides MSC students with their own space to gather, relax, and study. So much of the learning that happens at MSC happens in the interaction between our students outside of the classroom, and we're grateful to be able to offer a space for that to happen."

"We love knowing that MSC will have a permanent home downtown," says Taronno. "The space overall is bright and welcoming. We're so grateful to our supporters for helping to make this happen. We look forward to welcoming people to our new and improved facilities."

Menno Simons College formally opened its new premises on September 14. A donor appreciation event was held October 10, 2012 to honour the family of Dr. David Friesen.

Faith and Secularism in Development

By Ray Vander Zaag, Assistant Professor & Program Coordinator, International Development Studies



Ray Vander Zaag

Religion in Development: Rewriting a Secular Script is the title of the textbook I use in the fourth-year “Religion and Development” course in International Development Studies. It captures the two key themes that make this one of my favourite courses with which to engage students. First, this title suggests that all approaches to development are based on inherently faith-based assumptions about the nature of humans

“Faith and religion are always present in approaches to development...”

and society, change, and progress. In this course, we study how the foundational ideals of Christian, Islamic, secular/modernist, and other traditions relate to poverty reduction, rural development, health promotion, and other development issues in poorer countries (and our own). Faith and religion are always present in approaches to development, and I encourage students to explore how the secular and the sacred are never separate.

Second, the text argues that the dominant script of Western-led development efforts in the south is based on secular assumptions. In this course, we debate whether today’s development workers are modern secular missionaries, which is a feeling those Canadian students who have completed an overseas practicum often have. Yet this secular script is increasingly being challenged, and students read the burgeoning literature on how (or even if) the religious under-

standings and faith-based agencies of southern societies can be respected and integrated into development efforts.

The course also gives students a chance to examine some of the concrete challenges of bringing a faith-perspective to helping others. How can people of faith both understand and want ‘good change’ that is shaped by the perspective of their faith, and yet also respect the essential humanitarian principle of helping without discrimination or hidden agenda? How can or should faith-based non-government organizations collaborate with government funding agencies or organizations from other faith-traditions?

Finally, I find it interesting and humbling to be able to hear and read how students in this course debate, articulate, and grow in their own personal convictions regarding their faith and how it shapes how they want to act for a better world.

Reflections on Religion and Development

By Carolyn Townend (CMU ’12)



Carolyn Townend

Religion and Development was one of the most formative classes I took during my time in the International Development Studies (IDS) program at CMU. The class lectures, discussions, and readings allowed me to explore the increasing tension I felt between my own religious beliefs and the dominant development discourse that became apparent as I studied development theory and practice. This course helped me deconstruct my own assumptions of how religion and development can be defined, what has traditionally constructed these definitions, and the roles that both play in a dynamically evolving world. This allowed me to bridge the increasing divide I felt between my own faith and the seemingly secular world of development, especially as I encountered development practice in the highly religious context of Pakistan, where I completed my IDS practicum. Being able to speak to both the tension and harmony of religion and development has given me the confidence to work within a field that has, at times, pushed religion into the margins.

The Complexity of Good Change

By Kenton Lobe, Instructor in International Development Studies



Kenton Lobe

Introduction to International Development Theory” is one of two introductory courses offered as a gateway to the International Development Studies major in Social Sciences at CMU. The course unpacks the meaning of “development,” examining the diversity of ways in which poverty and wellbeing are understood while wrestling with notions of participation and the use of power that mark relationships from the village level to the United Nations.

Reaching back into history, students

“This is a rich context in which to discern what it means to be the church as participants in the work of good change.”

explore contact narratives between western European and indigenous peoples. Digging into political and economic theories, we examine how economic structures have influenced and contribute to the “underdevelopment” of places and peoples in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

What I appreciate most about teaching in this field and in this course is the affirmation of an interdisciplinary perspective to engage the complex issues of development. What happens when our modern notions of individualism and material satisfaction get tangled up with more traditional understandings of wellbeing that include community cohesion, for example? Do resource extraction companies from northern countries provide much-needed economic growth for southern communities, or do they perpetuate relationships of social and environmental injustice?

As we read and discuss, we arrive at a tentative understanding of development as “good change,” recognizing that contested definitions of “good” will remain and that ongoing disagreement on what kinds of change matter are at the core of the work. I enjoy the opportunity to draw students into this dialogue where they can share the wealth of knowledge they bring to the classroom. Some have completed CMU’s Outatown program and have lived with Mayan families in Guatemala. Others have parents who are or have been Mennonite Central Committee workers, and so they are well steeped in cross-cultural living. Still others are simply in the class because of the notion that Christianity and helping others go together somehow. This is a rich context in which to discern what it means to be the church as participants in the work of good change.

Reflections on International Development

By Matt Dueck (Third-year student, Social Sciences major)



Matt Dueck

When I signed up for “Introduction to International Development Studies,” I was not entirely sure what international development truly meant, looked like, or whether I was interested in this field as a future area of study. While I did not enter the course expecting black and white answers, I am not sure that I could have anticipated the types of things that I learned and the questions that I would find myself asking by the end course. The course was life changing for me; it rocked the very foundations of my worldview. Whether studying the history of European empires or neo-colonial economic structures, I left every class challenged and inspired. I now believe more than ever that I will in some way be involved in this type of work in the future. Even if I do not work directly in this field, I know that I have the knowledge and understanding to make informed decisions and thus become a better person in and for this world.

Tall Grass Prairie Bread Company

2012 Blazer Distinguished Community Service Award Winner

Canadian Mennonite University presented its 2012 Blazer Distinguished Community Service Award to Winnipeg's Tall Grass Prairie Bread Company on September 28 at the University's annual Fall Festival. In doing so, CMU paid special tribute to company owners Paul and Tabitha Langel and Lyle and Kathy Barkman. Established in 2010, this award recognizes distinguished achievement and service within the broader community or church, through business, leadership, artistic, political, or volunteer contributions.

By N. Kampen

It took strong faith and \$40,000-plus in private loans and savings to start a community-based, environmentally sustainable organic bakery in the 1980s. As a business, it was risky. Who could predict growing a church-kitchen bakery into a thriving business? Who could be sure that customers would pay six or seven times higher on bread prices so that the bakery could pay farmers enough to sustain their organic grain operations? Who could have foreseen the goodwill of the community, starting with a customer who would give back a paid-for loaf on opening day to use in blessing the new venture?

In 2012, "the little bakery that could" presents both a lifestyle and a business model. It shows what a group of friends can achieve with a good idea done well. The innovative company today employs over 60 people, with everyone



Tall Grass Prairie Bread Company owners Paul and Tabitha Langel and Lyle and Kathy Barkman

earning fair wages and what the owners describe as "a good living," above standard industry pay. One location has grown to two; they have opened a second business, Grass Roots Prairie Kitchen, selling brand name preserves, baking products, and organic sunflower oil. Their organic grain is ground at the downtown site, and the oil is also pressed on site – not only to save on the

cost of fuel (which also happens), but to save on the use of fuel, to help conserve finite resources.

Sitting around a small table at their Winnipeg Forks location, the owners serve a generous selection of Tall Grass Prairie cinnamon buns, delicious breads, and local fruit to their CMU guests. Tabitha Langel, who focuses on the baking operations, pours lemon-



Fall Festival



flavoured water from a large mason jar and places it on the table. The four owners gather round the table, shoulder to shoulder, chatting about an afternoon conflict resolution meeting that they will attend – a customary practice for the company that helps maintain healthy working relationships.

“If any of us have issues or are angry with each other, we won’t make bread while angry,” explains Lyle Barkman, who takes care of technical and mechanical aspects of their operations. The bread, they feel, is an expression of reconciliation and blessing, and it needs to be made in a wholesome environment.

There is consistency in the details of this business that points to a cohesive vision.

“We have undergone a lot of change, but the core vision has never changed,” says Paul Langel, who takes care of the company’s website and promotions.

Their core vision is simple: to serve nutritious bread, made in a spirit of blessing and reconciliation; steward the earth’s gifts; share among neighbours; pay suppliers and workers well; nurture the soul and the body. They strive to nourish, bless, sustain, and heal.

And it is, interestingly enough, profitable.

“Our philosophy is about reconciliation,” adds Paul, “and about how we work that out in our world: person to person, us to the land; rural to urban. We focus on blessing and respect for everyone.”

Coming as a group from the Grain of Wheat church family, the partners fundamentally agree that their work is bigger than themselves. They also recognize and value the fact that each person brings special attributes.

Kathy Barkman, who prepares the company’s financial records, comments on the contributions of the partners and of their employees. “Our diversity, and what each of us brings, are gifts,” she says. “It is humbling when stories come back to us about what we have done here. We are making something that is so basic. We make bread, but we are baking love into it.”

In terms of their future plans, new ideas are always considered, but after recent expansions and new production introductions, they are looking forward “to simply living” for a while, preserving and sustaining what they have built, and keeping their partnership alive and well.

“We experience the faithfulness of God to us daily,” says Tabitha. “We therefore choose to stay faithful to one another.”



Above: Some staff members of Tall Grass Prairie Bread Company, at its Forks location.

Canadian Mennonite University is pleased to announce its CMU 2012 Blazer Distinguished Alumni Award winners.

Recipients are Bill Janzen (CMBC 1966-1967), Sarah Klassen (MBBC '62), Patrice Nagant (CMU '01), and Bonita Sawatzky (CMBC 1981-1982). The recipients were honoured at a ceremony and reception held at CMU on September 28, 2012 during the University's annual Fall Festival.

By Eleonore Braun and Tammy Sawatzky

William (Bill) Janzen (CMBC 1966-67)



Over a 33-year career as the founding director of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Ottawa, Bill Janzen played a significant part in peace and justice initiatives in Canada and abroad. Opening the Ottawa office in 1975, Janzen took a lead role in

advocating on issues of peace and justice to the Canadian government with a number of coalitions.

Two significant projects stand out for Janzen during his career. In 1979, he played a key part in negotiating Canada's first master agreement for the private sponsorship of refugees. That same year, he authored a report for the US Congress on undocumented Mennonite settlers in Texas and Oklahoma. The report led Congress to pass a special bill granting those individuals permanent resident status. Janzen was also involved in helping to found the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

"I always found Bill to be a voice of calm, reflective reason in the Ottawa tempest," commented Bill Blaikie, retired Manitoba Member of Parliament, upon Janzen's retirement in 2008. "He is one of the best examples I can think of for Christian witness and advocacy in the political process."

Janzen began his studies at Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC). "CMBC was very important in my formation and education," he notes. In 1970, he earned his Master of Arts degree in International Development from Carlton University's Norman Patterson School of International Affairs. He completed a second MA in Biblical Studies from the University of Ottawa, and received his PhD in Political Theory from Carlton University in 1981.

Janzen is married to Marlene and they have two adult children. He is an active member of Ottawa Mennonite Church.

Sarah Klassen (MBBC '62)



Sarah Klassen is an award-winning poet, born and raised in Winnipeg, MB. She is the author of nine books, including *Monstrance* (Turnstone Press, 2012) and *A Feast of Longing* (Coteau Books, 2007) for which she received the High

Plains Award for fiction. Her debut poetry book, *Journey to Yalta* (Turnstone Press, 1988), received the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award.

Klassen has contributed to eleven anthologies including *Pith & Wry* (Scrivener Press, 2010) and *Poetry as Liturgy: An Anthology of Canadian Poets* (St. Thomas Press, 2007). Klassen is a former poetry instructor at the CMU School of Writing.

"If your notion of a poet is someone who is awash in sentiment and woozy with emotion, reading the work of Sarah Klassen is a useful corrective... Her observations have unusual clarity and her language is generous and precise," says Sue Sorensen, Assistant Professor of English at CMU.

Klassen graduated in 1962 from Mennonite Brethren Bible College (MBBC) with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She earned a Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Manitoba in 1971. She then taught in various elementary schools and later taught high school English.

While she retired from teaching in 1990, Klassen continued to teach English as an additional language at Lithuania Christian College. Teaching English took her to Karkhiv, Ukraine, allowing her to visit Barvenkovo, Ukraine from where both her maternal and paternal grandparents departed from for Canada in the 1920s.

Currently, Klassen is the poetry editor for *Prairie Fire* and reviews editor for *Rhubarb* magazine. She attends River East MB Church.

Patrice Nagant (CMU '01)



Evangelism and church planting are deeply important to Patrice Nagant. Patrice and his wife Cindy Bucci gave their lives to Christ in 1980 and joined a church north of Montreal, where they grew in faith and served the Lord. Busy with their interior

landscape business, theological education was pursued part time and at various schools including: Emmaüs Bible school in Switzerland; Acadia University, Montreal; and at École de théologie évangélique de Montréal (ETEM).

In 1999, they sold their 20-year-old business and moved to Winnipeg to study at CMU. Patrice graduated in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology.

After CMU, Nagant returned to Montreal to direct *Rendez vous Montreal*, a Key City initiative of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (CCMBC). *Rendez vous Montreal* was a partnership to plant new churches. Through Nagant's work, church planters were identified, coached, and locations determined. In total, six churches have been planted since *Rendez vous Montreal* began.

While Nagant continued to oversee the development of other new churches, in 2006, together with his wife and another couple, David and Patricia Miller, he became directly involved in L'Intersection, a church plant in the French-speaking city of Terrebonne, QC.

In 2011, CCMBC began *C2C Network* for church planters to promote, train, coach, and equip the planters and support new initiatives. This year, Nagant accepted the invitation to oversee the *C2C Network Québec*.

Patrice and Cindy worship at L'Intersection. They have three married children.

Bonita Sawatzky (CMBC 1981-82)



Bonita Sawatzky is passionate about her research work as Principal Investigator with ICORD (International Collaboration of Repair Discoveries), an inter-disciplinary spinal cord injury research centre. Her role is to develop a rehabilita-

tion laboratory that assesses movement strategies in those with spinal cord injuries.

Always having a love for learning, she wrestled from infancy with her other love, being active. Born with a spinal cord disorder that affected her arms and feet, she decided to attend University of British Columbia (UBC) and study Physical Education with the idea of developing methodologies and technologies that would enable people with disabilities to participate in physical activities. She went on to complete a Master of Arts degree at UBC and her PhD at Simon Fraser University. Her scholarly work focuses on understanding the biomechanics of human movement in children and adults with spinal cord injuries.

Sawatzky began her career as a research assistant in surgery and orthopaedics at British Columbia's Children's Hospital.

Leaving the mountains and the ocean to come to Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC) on the prairies was a significant move for Bonita Sawatzky. Bonita wondered what she would do with her life, what she believed about God, and how she would fit in. "CMBC was a great place," says Sawatzky. "It gave me the ability to think critically as to what I read and heard in the world and in the church."

Sawatzky is married to Brian Wixted; they worship at Peace Mennonite Church in Richmond, BC where she has served in church leadership and worship leading.

2012 CMU Leadership Scholarship Awards

Canadian Mennonite University offers four Leadership Scholarships annually to students demonstrating significant leadership ability, academic excellence, personal character, service, and vision. CMU's Leadership Scholarship Award winners for the 2012-2013 year are: **Carter Brookes**, Winnipeg, MB; **Marika Friesen**, Edmonton, AB; **Alanna Johnson**, Winnipeg, MB; and **Rachel Sawatzky**, Keewatin, ON. "Each year, Admissions receives over 30 applications for the Leadership Scholarships," says **Lois Nickel**, Director of Enrolment Services. "The students who apply are of the highest quality and make it difficult to choose the final four recipients. It is inspiring to read through these resumes and essays highlighting young people who serve and lead in unique and outstanding ways." The maximum scholarship value is \$10,000 (\$4,000 the first year, \$2,000 per year for three additional years). Learn more at www.cmu.ca/scholarships.html

CMU Essay Contest Winners

In spring 2012, CMU invited Manitoba students to engage with important questions about art, ethics, and theology. Congratulations to the winners of CMU's Essay Contest for Manitoba High School Students interested in the Humanities: First Place: **Katerine Ruvalcaba de Santiago** (Grade 12 student, Glenlawn Collegiate, Winnipeg); Second Place: **Ryan Hofer** (Grade 12 student, Green Acres Colony School, Winnipeg); Third Place: **Bhargavi Patel** (Grade 12 student, Kelvin High School, Winnipeg); First Honourable Mention: **Geethani Benedict** (Grade 11 student, Fort Richmond Collegiate, Winnipeg); Second Honourable Mention: **Carrie Bergen** (Grade 11 student, Neelin High School, Brandon). Essays were judged by CMU's Dean of Humanities **Paul Dyck**, Assistant Professor of Theology **Paul Doerksen**, Associate Professor of Theology and Philosophy **Chris Huebner**, and Philosophy Instructor **Justin Neufeld**. Prize money in amounts of \$500, \$300, and \$200 were awarded to first, second, and third place winners respectively.



CMU Hosts Youth Ministry Conference

CMU welcomed participants to campus June 1-2 for the "Youth Ministry as a School of Love" conference, featuring guest speakers and course instructors **Mark Yaconelli** and **Michael Hryniuk**. The conference offered workshops and worship sessions with local min-

isters and worship leaders, and a series of plenary sessions with the quest presenters. Some participants also attended a week-long youth ministry course at CMU for university credit. "During the course, students examined what it means to grow spiritually and how the Holy Spirit is active in the process of human development," comments **Abram Bergen**, coordinator for the course and conference. "Then, through story, practice, and discussion, conference attendees explored practical ways of cultivating love in the world. Those who completed the course and/or the conference were renewed in mind and spirit."



Kenton Lobe and Irma Fast Dueck

Bike to Work Day at CMU

On June 22, 2012 CMU hosted a pit stop for Bike to Work day and assisted 56 people, up from 44 last year. Cyclists arrived from as far away as Transcona (approximately 20 km from CMU, one way). One woman commuted by bike to work year-around and retired the week following Bike to Work Day. Bike to Work Day is an annual event promoting biking as an everyday transportation in Winnipeg.



59-cent campaign members: (l to r) Maureen Gathogo, Rianna Isaak, Cecilly Hildebrand, and Matthew Dueck. (Missing from photo: Deanna Zantingh)

59-cent Campaign Grows from CSOP

A small group of students from CMU and MSC on June 30, 2012 launched the 59-Cent Campaign challenging the federal government's decision to begin denying supplemental healthcare coverage to refugees. A politically independent, student-led movement, the campaign grew out of a small group assignment in a one-week course, "Speaking Out... and Being Heard – Citizen Advocacy," at CMU's Canadian School of Peacebuilding (CSOP). Campaign members

Matthew Dueck, **Maureen Gathogo**, and **Deanna Zantingh** were later joined by fellow CMU students **Cecilly Hildebrand** and **Rianna Isaak** to help spread the word. Their position was that changes to the Canadian Interim Federal Healthcare Program (IFHP), which supplied refugees with the medical help, were unacceptable. Says project spokesperson Matthew Dueck, "We would like to see refugees given the opportunity to receive the healthcare they need." View the YouTube video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiSe00HOec>



(l to r) Jordan Zimmerly and Jonah Langelotz

CMU Soccer Players Team Up in Ecuador

This past summer, CMU students Jordan Zimmerly and Jonah Langelotz of the CMU men's soccer team travelled to South America as part of the Manitoba to Ecuador project.

The project, founded by Steinbach Regional Secondary's Mark Reimer, brings soccer players to Puerto Lopez, Ecuador each summer to work with the Los Canarios soccer club. "The whole purpose of his program is to provide young boys with role models for life," explains Reimer.

"The club expects to not only produce good footballers, but more importantly, good people. It is a way to plant some healthy lifestyle seeds in the community," says Langelotz, who is studying International Development Studies (IDS) at CMU.

When asked about local needs, Langelotz viewed the situation through an IDS lens. Food and healthcare are huge issues in communities like Puerto López. Many people are in dire economic situations that have led to an obvious presence of malnutrition. Working towards generating funds to help local people buy land to grow healthy crops seems very practical. This way, we can meet those in need halfway and provide them with the tools to move forward.

During their time in Ecuador, the two CMU athletes spent their mornings in Spanish-language classes, volunteered at a day-care over the lunch-break, and spent afternoons working with the football club. "Practices were usually divided into the two separate age groups," says social sciences student Zimmerly. "Jonah and I worked with the younger ones while the more experienced coaches ran training with the older group."



Introduction to Christianity class photo

Muslim and Mennonite Women Drawn Together

The conversation was lively on a warm June evening in Winnipeg. It was very much a typical “girls’ night out” with friends.

But this party was unique. More than half the women attending are Shia Muslims from Iran, the others are Canadian Mennonites, and they’re celebrating the end of an intense week of the study of Christianity. They were also celebrating the friendships they’ve formed. For many of them, interfaith encounters are a first. “Some things about Christianity you can learn from books,” says Mariyam Naqvi, “but when you learn from people practicing it, it’s completely different. Then you can understand with your whole soul and body.”

“Introduction to Christianity,” held June 11-17, 2012 at CMU, grew out of an initiative by Iranian scholars in 2011, when a group of female Muslim students came to Winnipeg for a one-week course on Christian understandings of peace and justice taught by CMU professors Irma Fast Dueck and Sheila Klassen-Wiebe.

This spring, there was another request. Would CMU offer a second course, for a second group of women graduate students from the Jamiat Al-Zahra, an international Islamic women’s institute Qom, this time for an introduction to Christianity?

It seemed a wonderful opportunity, a further link in a chain of Muslim-Mennonite interaction that goes back to 1990, when Mennonite Central Committee responded to the devastating earthquake in Iran.

This year’s course examined the history, practices, and core theological beliefs at the heart of the Christian faith.

The women say they were surprised at “similarities” they encountered in Christianity. They found challenges too, such as the Trinity. “It has changed lots of my thinking about Christians — in a good way,” Zahra Golzar offers. “Before this, I thought that just we love God.”

Faculty involved in the course acknowledge that aspects of the interfaith dialogue have been controversial within parts of the Mennonite community, not least because of Western political tensions with Iran. They feel joyfully drawn, however, to continue to engage with Muslims, to articulate the Christian faith, and hopefully to also make a small difference on behalf of the struggling

Christian church in Iran.

“It’s a Christian calling,” Irma Fast Dueck says firmly. “It’s about breaking down stereotypes,” adds Sheila Klassen-Wiebe. “And about building relationships — with smart, funny, strong, devout women.”



CMU Library staff with CBC CDs

CMU Acquires Winnipeg CBC Music Library

Canadian Mennonite University has acquired a large part of the Winnipeg CBC music library, including 20,000 classical and jazz CDs.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation donated the CDs to CMU’s music program. CMU will make the collection available to other educational institutions as part of the agreement.

“It more or less increases our existing CD collection by 10 times, so it’s an enormous donation,” says Library Director Vic Froese.

The donation will benefit music students at the university, who use the library’s CDs because they are required to listen to music as part of their course work. But Froese also points out that the donation will benefit the wider community as well.

“We’re happy that we can not only serve our music department with this collection, but also the broader public,” he says. “Members of the Winnipeg community and even further out are welcome to use our library, and these CDs can be checked out for seven days at a time.” The CBC is selling or donating CDs and albums as part of a process it began in 2009 to digitize its entire music library.

Cataloguing the CDs will take thousands of hours of dedicated work. Froese and his colleagues in the library are up for the task, though. “I don’t know what gems might be there, but I expect there will be many,” he says.

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Retirements

Gerald Gerbrandt, CMU President, after almost 40 years of employment at CMBC and CMU. As a Professor Emeritus, Gerbrandt is on sabbatical in 2012-13, with plans to travel with his wife Ester and complete a commentary on the book of Deuteronomy, prior to resuming part-time teaching.

Paul Redekop, Associate Professor, Conflict Resolution Studies, from Menno Simons College. Redekop returned in fall 2012 as interim acting Dean of MSC until December and to teach two CRS courses. Paul and his wife plan to spend the winter months with their children and grandchildren in Santiago, Chile.

Henriette Schellenberg, Assistant Professor of Music, Vocal Studies, from CMU. Schellenberg continues to instruct vocal students as a sessional instructor. She looks forward to new volunteer opportunities and spending time with her grandson.

Transitions

Earl Davey completed his term as CMU Interim President on October 31, 2012. CMU extends a heartfelt thank you to Davey for his leadership during this period of transition. Davey continues in his role as Vice-President Academic.

Sheryl Penner took on a new role as Financial and Student Services Advisor, Student Life.

Stephen Redekop assumed new duties as Account Assistant.

CMU WELCOMES

Tim Corliss, Lecturer of Music

Sarah Coulombe, Administrative Assistant, Registrar office

Maureen Epp, Research Grants Facilitator

Heather Holiday, Program Assistant, Outtatown

Janice Hayward, Laboratory Assistant, Biology

Jane Hiebert, Development Assistant

Jeff Huebner, Associate Professor for the Redekop School of Business.

Janelle Hume, Admissions Counsellor

Adam Janzen, Senior Resident Assistant, Student Life

David Klassen, Instructor of Music

Paul Little, Web Designer, Communications and Marketing

Paul Peters, Program Manager, Outtatown

Matthew Povey, Admissions Counsellor

Rose van der Hooft, Music Instructor

Bob Wiebe, Assistant Director of Development



Gerald Neufeld and family

Gerald Neufeld (CMBC '88) serves as a pastor at Mennonite Japanese Christian Fellowship in Surrey and also works part-time as the music coordinator at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Abbotsford. Gerald and his wife, **Rie**, and children, **Rena, Jay**, and **Irene** enjoy making music, hiking, and eating local blueberries. They've just bought a townhouse and are now hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, but they are happy for the extra space to host visitors.

Lora Braun (CMBC '92, CMU '07) and **Gerald Pauls** (CMBC '80) announce the birth of a son, **Simon Jacob Braun Pauls**, born September 21, 2011. Gerald works as a high school drama teacher while Lora is on maternity leave from her music therapy practice. They live in Morden and worship at Morden Mennonite Church.

Robin (CC 1997-2002) and **Nicole Dalloo** announced the news of the birth of their first child, **James Alexander**, born May 19, 2012. They make their home in Winnipeg where Robin works in insurance.



Cheryl Woelk (CMU '02) and her husband Hong Soek (Scott) Kim

Cheryl Woelk (CMU '02) and her husband **Hong Soek (Scott) Kim** recently graduated from Eastern Mennonite University. In spring 2011, Cheryl received an MA in Education and graduate certificate in Peacebuilding. In spring 2012, Scott received a graduate certificate in Theology of Peacebuilding and is completing an MA in Conflict Transformation. They assisted with the Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding

Institute in Japan after graduation and plan to move to Saskatchewan this fall.



Caralee Good and Elijah Nyakudarika

Caralee Good (CMU '02) and **Elijah Nyakudarika** were married on August 19, 2012 at Wilmet Mennonite Church, Baden, Ontario. They have recently moved to Sydney Australia where Caralee will be working as a neonatal nurse and Elijah will be completing his training as a doctor in internal medicine.

Bettina Schmidt (CMU '03) spent the past number of months in Mozambique with YWAM helping with the orphanage program at Iris Ministries. Before that she worked at Booth University College library. Bettina hopes to return to Mozambique and attend the Harvest School in Pemba in the near future.



Stephanie and Steve Penner with Theodore

Stephanie (Melenchuk, CMU '04) and **Steve Penner** (CMU '04) announce the birth of their son, **Theodore (Teddy) John Stephen Penner**, born August 22, 2012. Stephanie is on maternity leave from her work as Assistant Registrar at CMU while Steve is a project manager with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation. They worship at Faith Covenant Church.



Anna Ruth Hershberger

Anna Ruth Hershberger (CMU '05) graduated in spring 2012 with a Master of Divinity degree from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

In spring, **Kyle Devine** (CMU '06) graduated with a PhD in music and cultural studies from Carlton University. This year Kyle is part of a research team at the University of Oxford. The "Music, Digitization, Mediation" project directed by Georgina Born examines the changes to music and musical practices afforded by digitization and digital media.

Meribeth Plenert (CMU '08) received the Masters of Archival Studies degree from the University of British Columbia May 25, 2012. She is employed as an archivist by the Provincial Archives of Alberta in Edmonton.



Justin Friesen

In September, **Justin Friesen** (CMU'09) performed in the opera "Isis and the Seven Scorpions," A Little Opera on the Prairie (LOOP) production. LOOP toured the 45 minute opera to school groups throughout Saskatchewan, Friesen's home province. Upon completion, Friesen plans to build on his New York and New York Film Academy opera and theatre experience and work out of Toronto.

Robert Walker (CMU '09) is pursuing doctoral studies in Theology through Distance Learning at University of Birmingham, UK.



Heather Schellenberg and Michael Harms

Heather Schellenberg (CMU'09) and **Michael Harms** (CMU'10) were married at Glenlea Mennonite Church on August 5, 2012. Heather is teaching at Eagles' Circle, a First Nations alternative program run by Hugh John MacDonald Junior High School and Michael is employed at Mennonite Central Committee. They attend Home Street Mennonite Church.

Jaron (CMU'10) and **Abby Friesen** announce the birth of their first child, Elyse Marie Paige Friesen, born June 30, 2012. Jaron serves as Assistant Director of Hosting & Facilities at CMU while Abby is on maternity leave from her work as a real-estate assistant. They attend Home Street Mennonite Church. Proud grandparents include **Andrea** and **Jake Wiebe** and **Lorne** (CMBC '79) and **Lillian Friesen**.

Zachary Peters (CMU '10) and **Julie Daniels** were married at Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship on July 21, 2012. Julie works at St. Vital Veterinary Hospital as an Animal Health Technologist. Zach works at CMU as an Admissions Counsellor.



Zach Peters and Julie Daniels

David Isbister (CMU '11) and **Christie Anne McCullough** (CMU '11) were married April 21, 2012 in



Brad Scheerer (CMU '08), Sean Keough, Paul Muns (CMU '10), David Isbister, Christie Anne (McCullough) Isbister, Kathleen McCullough (CMU student), Amanda Wiebe (CMU '05), and Jennifer Horne (CMU '04).

Niverville, MB. Currently living in Chilliwack, they plan to travel and volunteer abroad.

PASSAGES

Henry R. Baerg (MBBC 1946-1947) died May 8, 2012.

Peter G. Sawatzky (CMBC '50) died July 4, 2012.

Joseph S. Neufeld (CMBC '55) died June 27, 2012.

Alvin Peters (CMBC '68) died April 4, 2012.

Arnie Neufeld (MBBC '69) died May 28, 2012.

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Competing in London 2012: Legendary Canadian Paralympian Arnold Boldt

By N. Kampen

While many Canadians watched “London 2012” on television, Canada’s highly decorated Paralympian Arnold Boldt (CMBC ‘81), on the eve of this 55th birthday, competed in his sixth Paralympic Games.

Boldt, who was three years old when an accident led to amputation of his right leg above the knee, simply loves sports. As an adult, an amazing Athletics career saw him earn eight medals in Paralympics. He won five gold medals in high jump in five consecutive Paralympics, beginning in Toronto in 1976 through to his retirement year in Barcelona in 1992. He was also a dominant competitor in long jump in the Paralympics, where he earned two gold medals and a silver.

One of his most memorable jumps, he recalls, was in Rome in 1981 in front of 60,000 people there to see Pope John Paul II and to watch a sports demonstration. “I remember feeling that I hardly had to jump to get over the bar at 2.04 metres – the spirit of the people in that stadium that day pulled me over the bar.”

Twenty years after Barcelona, Boldt, who is the Associate Vice-President of Saskatchewan’s Institute of Applied Science and Technology, has expanded his legendary sports career, competing and performing well for Canada in London 2012 in the timed track and open road cycling races.

From this experience, one of the aspects Boldt finds astounding is the growth of the Paralympics. “The number of athletes has at least tripled, and the number of countries participating



Arnold Boldt performed his personal best on opening day in the one-kilometre timed trial in London’s Olympic velodrome. (Photo by Phil MacCallum/Canadian Paralympic Committee)

has probably more than doubled,” he says. “As well, training regimes and science behind most of the sports here has risen phenomenally.” He and his teammates, for example, each trained, on average, 1,200 hours per year in each of the last four years.

Boldt took up cycling eight years ago, simply because he likes to ride with his friends and his two sons, Alyosha and Nicolas. His competitive spirit was reignited, and he decided to get back to competing at a world-class level – but this time in a new sport.

Commenting on what motivates him, Boldt says, “First of all, I am competitive – my goals and aims are very high for myself. I push myself hard, but always with a plan in mind as to how I can achieve my goal.” Another key factor has been the awareness of the impact of his athletic performances on others, especially when he was high jumping. “It inspired peo-

ple, motivated them; they saw ability and imagination to do what was not imaginable—and that motivates me to continue competing,” he says. He continues to draw attention to the need for discussion and advocacy for disabled people. “My focus,” he says, “is on engineering and civil engineering with regard to private and public building and facility access.”

“I also love to travel and to meet people,” says Boldt. “I have met incredibly inspiring and wonderful people.”

Encouraging young athletes comes naturally to the mature competitor. “To young and aspiring Paralympians, I would say, first and foremost, you need to love what you are doing. I love riding my bike. Even if I had not made the team this year, I would be riding my bike with my friends, with my boys, with anyone I happen to meet on the road or trail.”

October

21 CMU Vespers

November

16 Steinbach Friends and Alumni
Fundraising Event
18 CMU Vespers
23 CMU Campus Visit Day
24 Christmas@CMU, 2 PM and 7 PM
25 Installation of Dr. Cheryl Pauls as
CMU President

December

2 Outtatown French Africa Graduation
16 CMU Vespers
Dec 25-Jan 1 CMU Offices Closed

January 2013

20 CMU Vespers

February

1 CMU Campus Visit Day
3 Rosthern Junior College Joint Fundraiser
7-9 Worship + Imagination
15 Altona Friends and Alumni
Fundraising Event
17 CMU Vespers
21 CMU Open House

March

3 Choral Connections
15 CMU Campus Visit Day
17 CMU Vespers

April

4 Celebration Banquet and Fundraiser
8 Jazz@CMU
13-14 CMU Outtatown Graduation Weekend
25 Winter Semester Ends
27 CMU Spring Concert: CMU Choirs
& Ensembles
28 CMU Convocation

June

11 President's Golf Classic
17-28 Canadian School of Peacebuilding

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Norma & John Thiessen

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