

## BLAZER

CONNECTING ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF CMU

Reconciliation: the restoration of friendly relations; the action of making one view or belief compatible with another.

This word, reconciliation, is one of the pillars that defines CMU's mission and the university's vision for shaping students for their experiences in their relationships, the city, and the world. However, CMU's present-day commitment to the concept of reconciliation predates the university.

A commitment to reconciliation has been a central defining feature of the founding colleges and the same can be said of CMU. Faculty and students have always been passionate about understanding, harmony, compromise, love, and justice. Indeed, CMU has been well ahead of the curve when teaching and equipping students to be change-makers in all aspects of their lives.

Working on this issue of the Blazer, I have been mindful of the importance of a simple Sunday School lesson on The Golden Rule. Treating others as one would like others to treat oneself is more applicable than ever, given present issues and realities in society, our churches, and in the global context.

As you look back at 2015, and ponder the new year ahead, I trust that you will be inspired and compelled by the reflections and stories in this magazine.

Kevin Kilbrei Director, Communications & Marketing

### On the Cover

From Oct. 23 – 25, high school students from across Canada gathered at CMU for **Peace It Together**, a bi-annual youth conference, focused this year on 'Hearing God in Indigenous Voices'. One group of students created the art project depicted on the front cover. It is rich with symbolism and hopes for the future. The number



'94' represents the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Mirrors within the mural reflect a desire to change ourselves before trying to help others, while the embedded handprints both contain the number of the treaty where each participant lives and speak to the opportunities we have to be reconcilers by building neighbourly communities.



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Blazer Production:
Editor: Kevin Kilbrei
Managing Editor: Annalee Giesbrecht
Head Writer: Aaron Epp
Contributors: David Balzer, Delmar Fr

Contributors: David Balzer, Delmar Epp, Paul Dyck, Candace Viddal, Sheila Klassen-Wiebe, Wendy Kroeker, Terry Gudmundson, Alex Gachanja, Ginger Norwood, Ellen Paulley, Cheryl Pauls, Paul Peters

Design: Craig Terlson Associate Designer: Annalee Giesbrecht

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Cover Photo: Craig Terlson

### Reconciliation

hrough teaching, research, and service CMU inspires and equips women and men for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society." So concludes CMU's mission statement. When this statement was written in 2000 we could not have known that 'reconciliation' would be a household term in 2015, as has happened through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission interrogating Canada's Indian Residential School legacy. Poised with confessions of lament and new hope, the CMU learning community (which extends to everyone like you who surrounds the university) needs to consider this: How does our understanding of 'reconciliation' as a Biblical mandate and gift that was entrusted to the Corinthian church (2 Corinthians 5:18-19) connect with how we respond to the 94 recommendations of the TRC?

CMU is participant to various formal statements expressing commitments to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. In March 2014, MCC and four Anabaptist denominations in Canada collectively stated,

« ...this call threatens to become a thing in itself, something we do on our own apart from receiving and releasing into something greater than ourselves... »

"...We are followers of Jesus Christ, the great reconciler. We will seek to model the reconciling life and work of Jesus in seeking reconciliation with you..." This fall Manitoba's six universities are making extensive collaborative commitments to Indigenous peoples and knowledge in service of "...reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people..." These fulsome commitments of ecclesial and academic communities require both immediate attention and long-term relationships.

Along the way, many are inspired by the popular phrase, "leave it better than you found it," an expression that has captured hearts and minds with courage, hope, and inventiveness for the many complex, strained matters we face. This phrase conjures up vague recollections of



improving on life in the '70s, when litter was scattered along highways and hiking trails, and toys, swing sets, and cars were made of corrosive metal. It represents a desire to call ourselves to account, insists on expressions of care beyond our own circles, and nurtures habits of grace for the sake of sustainable futures long beyond us.

While there's much to commend in this all but cliché phrase, "better than we found it," there also are risks. It's difficult to act on the expression without thinking we're smarter and better than those harmful, hurtful, sinful people who preceded us. But more importantly this call threatens to become a thing in itself, something we do on our own apart from receiving and releasing into something greater than ourselves—the beauty and truth and mystery of God.

With a call to offer to God the very best of what we think we now grasp, I invite you to join with CMU in discerning what it is to be people entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation.

Peace and joy, Cheryl

## Breaking Down Stereotypes

By Paul Peters, Outtatown Staff

Reconciliation can be interpreted as "the work of restoring relationships." As a program, Outtatown is built on relationships. We take our students across Canada and around the world with the hope of building relationships and breaking down stereotypes. For it is in doing so that the restoring of relationships can begin.

One event that takes students out of their comfort zone and allows them to break down stereotypes while building relationships is the OT Urban Plunge experience in both Winnipeg and Vancouver.

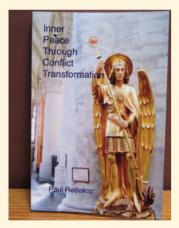
As a society, we are often quick to put labels on people groups, or certain marginalized areas of cities. It's for that reason that we purposely take our students into these areas, to help break down stereotypes by meeting people in the hope that they might begin to restore healthy relationships. Allison Berard, speaking about her site's recent Urban Plunge in Winnipeg, said:

"Prior to our Urban Plunge, I'd thought about poverty, inequality, and injustice, although I'd never dug deeper or let those issues affect my perspective in a profound way...I no longer hold previous stereotypes following those experiences...



The Winnipeg Urban Plunge planted a multitude of seeds within me, and within our group, that are quickly sprouting. These seeds allow us to seek understanding and feel God in new ways. Seeing God's greatness that week ignited a flame of hope and desire to see God's will in our world."

Our work of reconciliation can often begin with the simple act of building relationships: for example, engaging in conversations with people who are different than you or I, even if they make us feel uncomfortable. For it is in those moments that we will hopefully experience the heart of God, and see where we are being invited into a space of new relationship and reconciliation.



## Resolving Inner Conflict

By Ellen Paulley

pr. Paul Redekop hopes people will become their own best friends. In his new book, *Inner Peace Through Conflict Transformation*, Redekop provides readers with tools to resolve their own inner conflicts.

"I apply the knowledge and skills we teach in conflict resolution for dealing with interpersonal and intergroup conflict to intrapersonal conflict," says Redekop, Associate Professor Emeritus at Menno Simons College.

Internal conflict is as normal and natural as conflict with others, he explains. What's important is how we deal with our inner conflicts.

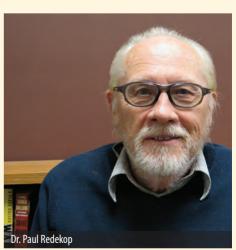
"It's about becoming your own best friend," he says. "Being someone who likes you for who you

are—who sees you have flaws but accepts those and helps you to be the self that you really want to be."

The book explains the basic strategies of conflict resolution—such as conflict analysis, and listening and communications skills—and applies them to inner conflict. Redekop draws on quotes, stories, and examples to demonstrate how readers can apply conflict resolution strategies in their own lives.

Through this publication, Redekop hopes to help people become more comfortable with their own thoughts and feelings just as the Conflict Resolution Studies program in general helps them to feel more comfortable with interpersonal conflict.

"Life is conflict. Human existence is inherently conflictual," he says. "It's important to acknowledge that, accept it, and move on from there."



# CMU hosts Peguis First Nation Post-secondary Indigenous Transition Program

By Ellen Paulley

Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) is pleased to host and facilitate the first Peguis First Nation Post-secondary Indigenous Transition Program.

Designed by the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC), the 10-month program aims to assist students in the transition from high school to postsecondary education, from the reserve to an urban setting.

With the support of the Peguis First Nation School Board, 19 students from Peguis First Nation are participating in the transition program, which began in August 2015. It is the first transition program in Manitoba to occur in Winnipeg, allowing students to fully experience city life. Eighteen of the students are living on CMU's campus.

"It's an honour for CMU to work in partnership with Peguis First Nation to make this program possible," says CMU President Cheryl Pauls. "There is significant evidence that quality of academic and life learning can be correlated directly to quality of relationships students have with instructors and peers. The cohort model of this transition program builds on and strengthens the relational commitments of the CMU learning community."

The transition program includes a combination of life skills training, an Indigenous cultural awareness component, as well as university courses accredited through CMU.

« I see this program as a way of reconciliation—an example of how reconciliation can be achieved between First Nations people and Canadian society. »

"Everything they learn in this program is going to be the skills they use in the future," says Clairissa Kelly, Program Coordinator and Student Counsellor. "It's about setting them up for success in the future."

Drawing on the medicine wheel, the transition program offers supports in four key areas, explains Kelly: physical—focusing on housing, transportation, and physical health; social—focusing on relationship building, peer-to-peer learning, recreation, and volunteering; mental—including setting education and employment goals and meeting mental health needs; and spiritual—including cultural components and learning such as smudging and participating in a traditional sweat.

"I see this program as a way of reconciliation—an example of how reconciliation can be achieved between First Nations people and Canadian society," says Kelly.

Through the life skills training, students will learn about their history, culture, and heritage. Guest speakers and



elders will share about traditional knowledge, teachings, and ceremonies, with opportunities given for students to participate in ceremonies.

The transition program includes 15 credit hours of university courses: Introduction to Computers, Introduction to University, Academic Writing, and a two-part course on Indigenous Knowledge.

Each course has been developed from an Indigenous perspective and will be taught by instructors associated with the transition program. The courses are accredited by CMU and will operate according to CMU policies. Students will emerge with CMU credits that are transferrable to other universities or to additional CMU programs.

"My goal at the end of the program is for students to have employment—part-time or summer employment—or that they are attending post-secondary education," says Kelly.

The idea for the program grew out of observations and experience that the transition from high school to university can be challenging for students, says Wayne Mason, who helped develop the transition program while working at MFNERC.

Moving away from their supportive home community, family, and friends, adjusting to life in Winnipeg, and differences between high school and university atmospheres can sometimes hinder students' success, explains Mason.

"We need to make changes that will help our young people to succeed and overcome a lot of those negative aspects that may hold them back," says Mason. "The transition program is needed and hopefully we can work ourselves out of transition programs when all students can go directly from high school to university or college."





#### RECONCILIATION AND MEDIA CONT.

From a communications and media standpoint, this challenge poses a number of questions, particularly questions of form and content. For instance, are there some media forms that give expression to new creation better than others? If so, how would we differentiate the strength or weakness of one medium over another? And which elements of "everything becoming new" would best serve as content?

Christianity and the Mass Media in Canada is an upper-level seminar course that investigates these questions. We read in both communication theory and theology and interact directly with current media hosts/producers from across Canada through a series of in-person and Skype-facilitated case studies. As we engage in this dialogue, my hope is that we will discover in profoundly life-giving and tangible ways what it means for God to make "His appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:20).



## **EMPATHIC UNDERSTANDING**

**Delmar Epp** | Associate Professor of Psychology

s I see it, the whole of the discipline of social psychology is built on ideals of reconciliation. Efforts to comprehend one another's most deeply felt motives, to reveal the biases we carry that affect our decisions and judgments, to acknowledge the external factors that impinge on our everyday behavior, all serve to foster a deeper and more accurate mutual understanding. Knowing the factors and motives that link us together, and the needs and misunderstandings that disrupt our relationships, can point the way to bridge-building. At least, they have the potential to do so.

One of the key insights emerging from our discipline is the centrality of empathic understanding. The ability and the willingness to 'walk in another's moccasins' lies at the heart of reconciliation efforts of any magnitude. Without genuine empathy, our relationships default to an economic model, determined largely by the relative benefits we can accrue.

My own research on motives for self-protection and my Portable CMU series focused on love of neighbour suggest that empathy and perspective-taking permit us to open our social circles—to build new relationships, and to restore those that are broken. We've learned that perceived threats (to our well-being, or our success, or our self-esteem, in fact, threats of any sort) can cause us to withdraw



# ...THE WHOLE OF THE DISCIPLINE OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY IS BUILT ON IDEALS OF RECONCILIATION.

from those who differ from ourselves. One of the few effec-

> tive means to overcome the view of others as potential sources of threat, is to come to know one another on a personal

level. We must realize how much we are alike. We need to learn our brothers' and sisters' names, to hear their stories, to discover what we share in common, to work together for common goals. We require only God's grace and a bit of courage to take the first steps on this road.

## MAKING ROOM FOR Difference

Paul Dyck | Associate Professor of English

e do not usually think of literature courses in terms of reconciliation, at least I don't, but when I think about it more, the term has a real resonance with the act of reading. Reconciliation—a word, by the way, that has been in the English language since the Middle Ages—assumes that a relationship has been broken and that it once again can be made whole. It's an interesting word to use in secular contexts because it actually testifies to a theological faith. I mean, why talk about "reconciliation" between Indigenous and European peoples, when arguably our peoples never had a good relationship to which we can now return? Notably, in the history of the word, it first meant reconciliation between humanity and God, and later was used to also refer to human relationships. When we talk about reconciliation between Indigenous and European peoples we are already talking about a return to a unity that hasn't historically happened, but that may be found in God.

It's important to understand, then, that actual



# LITERATURE HAS A LOT TO TEACH US, FOR IT GIVES US A CHANCE TO DEVELOP PRACTICES OF IMAGINATIVE PATIENCE, THE CAPACITY TO LISTEN AND TO REFLECT DEEPLY.

reconciliation does not erase difference, but makes room for it. In this way, literature has a lot to teach us, for it gives us a chance to develop practices of imaginative patience, the capacity to listen and to reflect deeply. My students and I wouldn't talk about our reading of the literature of the Middle Ages, for instance, as producing a reconciliation as such, but in fact, when an International Development student told me that the poem Piers Plowman had changed how she thought about society and the land, wasn't that indeed a reconciliation with the past, opening a new way of reconciling with the land? As much as anything, to believe in reconciliation is to believe in God's redemptive power, deeply engrained into things, and to be attentive to its eruptions.



## SPHERES OF REALITY

Candace Viddal | Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Physics

s both a Christian and a scientist I approach the universe in two very different ways. Science is built to a very large degree on empiricism and the employment of a methodology whose aim is to ascertain the 'truth' of a relationship or reasonableness of a very specific concept based on evidence that can be repeatedly verified by carefully-designed experiment. Religious language is much more approximate than scientific language, but it applies much more broadly. It makes a call on our entire being about how to live, what is the good to which we aspire, what our place is in the order of things, what it is that we can hope for.

My experience with teaching and doing research in science, as well as practicing Christianity, has led me to think less in terms of resolution between the two domains (because their methods and aims are different) and more in terms of helpful and informative dialogue between them. After all, the way that the universe is imagined to be, based on either deep religious commitments or a type of philosophy, plays a significant role in how theories in science are developed and envisioned.

In turn, scientific theories can alter our perception of reality and affect aspects of our theology. Though powerful and incredibly useful in describing so many phenomena around us in technical terms, scientific theories are ever-changing insights about reality at some level, but cannot describe the totality of all that is. Similarly, the practice of faith can

illuminate our lives and direct us toward a much larger sphere of reality, but the concepts employed can nevertheless

> become prone to rigid interpretation or an assumption of certainty, if not continually re-assessed based on our own life experiences, including scientific exploration.

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SIMILARLY, THE PRACTICE OF FAITH
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LARGER SPHERE OF REALITY...

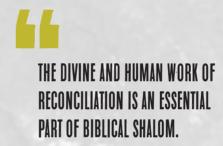
## **AGENTS OF RECONCILIATION**

Sheila Klassen-Wiebe | Associate Professor of New Testament

econciliation lies at the heart of everything I teach. One cannot teach courses in the Bible without talking about reconciliation, since this is central to the whole biblical message. In the New Testament the primary agent of reconciliation is always God, who is reconciling the world to God's self in Jesus Christ and who reconciles people alienated from each other. As the apostle Paul says, however, God has also entrusted the message of reconciliation to us and we are ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). In my teaching, then, I hope not only to help students understand more deeply the nature of God as divine Reconciler, but also to inspire and empower them to become agents of reconciliation in the church and the world themselves.

One course this semester in which students are working at the concept of reconciliation in various ways is *Biblical Perspectives on Peace and Justice*. The divine and human work of reconciliation is an essential part of biblical *shalom*. But the Bible also raises thorny questions. What does one do with "conquest" texts that have been (mis)used to justify modern day genocide and oppression of Indigenous peoples?

What does it mean to be Christ's agents of reconciliation in contexts where the Bible has hurt more than helped? How does one reconcile with the enemy when that "enemy" sits beside you in the pew? How should Christians influence their government to be an agent of reconciliation in international conflicts rather than to increase militarization and ramp up the rhetoric of war? Being agents of reconciliation requires imagination, courage, hope, and trust in a God who embodies reconciliation in Jesus. I see these qualities in my students and, through my teaching, seek to nurture them and help students give them expression.



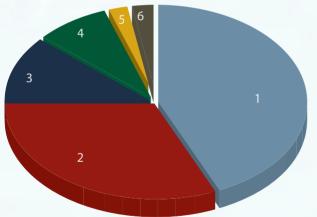




# Report to the Community

2014-2015

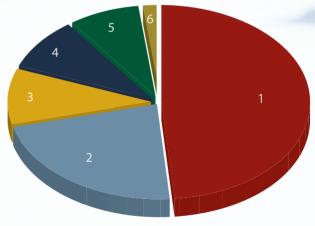
This **Report to the Community** provides a glimpse into CMU's uniqueness for alumni, donors, and friends. In the midst of challenging times for all Canadian universities and within the changing realities of the church, CMU continues to operate in the black (with no operating deficit), and with an increasing number of people embracing the distinct mission and vision entrusted to this university. We are grateful to God for the ongoing stream of students whose lives are being impacted and whose witness in the church and the world around us is significant. We share this information with gratitude for your ongoing interest and support.



#### **Total Revenues**

#### \$13,646,977

1. Student Tuition, Fees, Residence, Meal Plans	\$5,931,370	(44%)
2. Government Grants	\$4,318,105	(31%)
3. Rentals & Non-Academic Programming	\$1,577,743	(11%)
4. Individual Donations & Church Support	\$1,105,790	(8%)
5. Redekop School of Business Start-up Fund	\$364,155	(3%)
6. Bequests & Endowments	\$349,814	(3%)



#### Total Expenditures

1.	Academic Programming	\$6,584,613	(49%)
2.	Facilities, Maintenance, Food Services, Rentals, CommonWord	\$2,997,036	(22%)
3.	Development, Recruitment, Church Relations, Alumni	\$1,336,034	(10%)
4.	Administration and General	\$1,221,256	(9%)
5.	Student Services, Residence, Athletics	\$1,102,236	(8%)
6.	Scholarships and Bursaries	\$231,752	(2%)*

<sup>\*</sup> This budget expenditure augmented by \$259,715 from donor-funded scholarships, bursaries, and endowment earnings

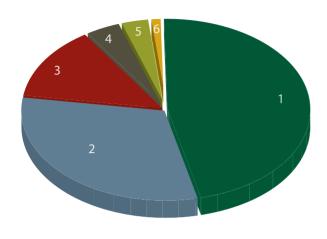
\$13,472,926

### **2014-15 Donor Donations to All Funds**

#### **All Funds include:**

**The CMU Fund,** (otherwise known as the Annual Operating Fund) includes designated and undesignated gifts

Student Bursaries and Scholarships
The Capital Fund (Marpeck Commons) | Any Other Funds



#### **Total Donations to All Funds** \$5,967,773 1. Marpeck Commons Capital Project \$2,798,164 (includes ongoing pledge fulfillment) **Annual Support** 2. Undesignated Donor Bequests, **Endowments, Other Designated Funds** \$1,855,796 (Includes Redekop School of Business ongoing pledge fulfillment) 3. Undesignated Donor Gifts \$787,789 4. Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Brethren Manitoba Denominational and Congregational Support \$258,141 5. Donor Designated Funds for Student Aid (Church Matching Gifts, Scholarships, and Bursaries) \$200,270



#### **Number of Donors to All Funds by Region United States/Other** 59 Donors (15 Alumni) **British Columbia** \$28,718 96 Donors (44 Alumni) \$2,385,404 **Alberta** 122 Donors (43 Alumni) BC \$426,623 ΑB Saskatchewan SK 123 Donors (46 Alumni) \$78,852 Ontario MB 202 Donors (70 Alumni) \$126,808 Manitoba 908 Donors (309 Alumni) \$2,921,772

 Donor Designated Funds for Academic Programs (Business, Communications, Music, Athletics...)

#### **Donations to All Funds by Giving Range**

**Patrons** (\$5,000+) \$5,166,042 111 Donors

**President's Circle** (\$1,000 – \$4,999) \$534,924 310 Donors **Partners** (\$1 – \$999) \$266,807 1089 Donors

**Total: \$5,967,773** from 1,510 donors

\$67,712

### 2014-15 Donations to the CMU Fund (for Annual Operations)

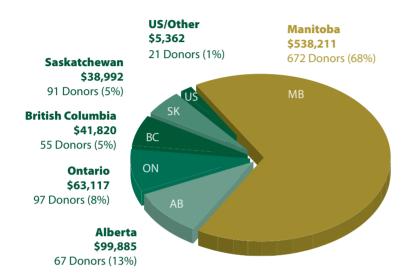
#### **Donations to the CMU Fund by Giving Range**

Patrons (\$5,000+) | \$303,223 | 33 Donors

President's Circle (\$1,000 – \$4,999) \$304,526 195 Donors Partners (\$1 – \$999) \$180,041 775 Donors

**Total: \$787,789** from 1,003 donors

#### **Donations to the CMU Fund**



## Scholarships and Bursaries

\$490,927

was committed to student awards



231 SCHOLARSHIPS

**153** BURSARIES

#### **Alumni Giving**

In 2014-2015, **1,510** donors contributed to any fund (CMU Fund, Capital Fund, and/or scholarships and bursaries)

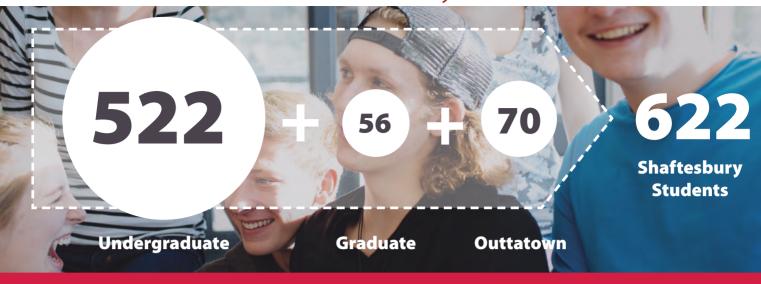
**527** of these donors were Alumni (35% of 1,510)

Alumni contributed \$284,876 (36%) of the CMU Fund \$787,789 (for Annual Operations)

## 10 New Donor Funded Scholarships and Bursaries established in 2014-15

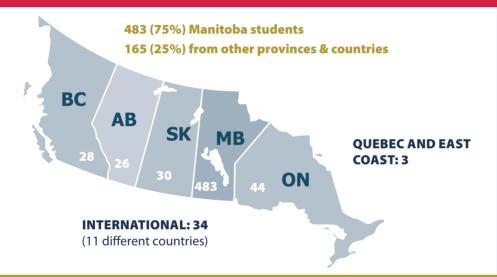
- Katherine Bender Bursary (\$5,000) for students with financial need
- Elizabeth Buckland Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000) for a Menno Simons College campus student majoring in Conflict Resolution Studies or International Development Studies
- **Eileen Craig Music Therapy Scholarship (\$1,000)** An estate gift to fund a Music Therapy Scholarship
- Kay & Lorne Dick Legacy Awards An estate gift to recognize an outstanding student and faculty member
- Gordon & Nettie Dueck Biblical Studies Bursary for International Students (\$1,000) for a student majoring in Biblical and Theological Studies and with financial need
- William and Helen Klassen Student Ministry Fund (\$15,000) To several students preparing for ministry or completing a ministry practicum
- Ruth & Peter Kroeker Memorial Bursary/
  Scholarship (\$8,000) To several students in
  Music, Biblical & Theological Studies, International
  Development Studies, and Peace and Conflict
  Transformation Studies
- Hugo & Herta Peters Returning Student Leader Scholarship (\$750) To a student involved in a formal leadership role at CMU
- Gary R. Rempel Memorial Music Scholarship (\$1,000) To fund an annual Music Merit Award
- J.J. Thiessen Memorial Bursary (\$1,000) Additional endowment funds from the family will provide one or more annual bursaries for students with financial need

## 2014-15 Enrolment Summary

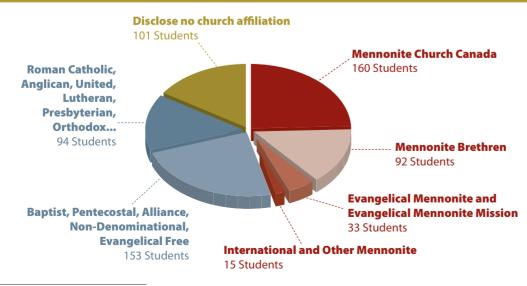


306

(FTE) University of Winnipeg students (took one or more courses in either Conflict Resolution or International Development Studies at CMU's Menno Simons College Campus as part of their University of Winnipeg degree)



#### **Denominational Breakdown**



## More Enrolment Facts

63% female
37% male
7% over 30
190 students on campus in dormitories and apartments

70 students in weekly fellowship groups

61 students in key campus leadership positions

athletes on men's and women's athletic teams in basketball, volleyball, and soccer

of these athletes attained GPAs 3.0 or higher (with 12 of these athletes attaining a GPA 4.0 or higher)

**34%** of students who completed 2013-2014 Outtatown enroled in undergraduate studies in 2014-2015

community children, youth, and adults enroled in classes and lessons with CMU's Community School of Music and the Arts (CSMA)

#### **Title Sponsor**





#### **Gold Tee Sponsor**















#### **Bronze Tee Sponsors**









#### MARKETING THOUTBORDERS

#### **Hole Sponsors**

BDO Dunwoody LLP Bonaventure Travel Inc Cel Electric Ltd Crosstown Civic Credit Union Derksen Plumbing & Heating Froese Construction Management Inc Investors Group, Wesley Dueck Lakeview Insurance Brokers Ltd Mennonite Foundation of Canada Nelson River Construction Penner International Snider Orthotic Design Sun Life Financial Winnipeg Building & Decorating

#### **Shared Hole Sponsors**

All-Fab Building Components Inc. Beaver Bus Lines Flynn Canada Ltd Herb Peters, Aikins Law J & D Penner TD Commercial Bank Wallace + Wallace Westgate Enterprises



#### 14th Annual Golf Classic

Everyone who participated in CMU's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic on June 9, presented by Triple E Canada Ltd—this year's Title Sponsor—was treated to a fabulous day at Kingswood Golf & Country Club in La Salle, MB. To celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Triple E Canada Ltd made it possible for all golfers to have chances to win a Leisure Travel Van.

"We are grateful for our generous sponsors, our volunteer Golf Classic Committee (Tom Ewert, Erna Karlowsky, Anthony Reimer, Len Sawatsky) and CMU staff and students who together made our tournament successful and so much fun," says Joyce Friesen, tournament organizer. "We are already looking forward to CMU Golf Classic 2016 on June 14, again at Kingswood Golf & Country Club. Please plan to be involved!"

## Capital Campaign Update as of Oct. 31, 2015

\$14,369,000

Total project cost

\$12,049,246

Total cash and pledge commitments

\$2,319,754

Remainder still to raise

446

Manitoba donors (59% of total) have given and pledged \$8,498,175 (70% of total)

304

donors from other Provinces and the US (41% of total) have given and pledged \$3,551,071 (30% of total) **307** 

engraved bridge tiles have been purchased (total \$153,500 raised)

#### It's not too late.

Consider purchasing an engraved tile. Help CMU complete this significant project.

cmu.ca/connect

152

bridge tiles waiting to be engraved and sold.
Selling the remainder will provide

**\$76,000** for the Campaign

Winter 2015 13

#### 2014-2015 DONORS to ALL FUNDS

Includes the CMU Fund (Annual Operating – Designated and Undesignated),
Students Bursaries and Scholarships, Capital (Marpeck Commons), and All Other Funds

\*\* — Patron Donors, \$5,000+

— President's Circle Donors, \$1,000-\$4,999

**Bold** — Alumni, Staff, or Emeriti

Peter and Susan Aaldyk Abbotsford Community Foundation\* Aberdeen EMC Elizabeth Abrahams Sally Ainley Elizabeth Alexander-Cook Allan's Glass & Aluminum Products Ltd\* Andrew Allentuck Shirley and Neil Almdal Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church\*

Shirley Amaro
Roland and Lydia Ammeter
Jacqueline Anderson

Jake and Verdell Andres\*\* Eleanor and Corey Andres Annapolis Valley Regional School Board\*

Aon Reed Stenhouse Inc.\* Ardent Financial Group Ltd.\*\* Arnprior Wesleyan Church Elaine Arsenault-Schultz and Dennis Schultz Ruth Bachmann

Irmgard and William Baerg\*
Justina Baerg
Bruce and Debbie Baergen\*

Bernhard Baergen and Celia Enns Marvin and Susanne Baergen

David and Janet Baker
Wayne and Virginia Baker

David and Kathryn Balzer

David and Kathryn Balzer
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Erwin and Tena Siemens Esther Siemens and Henry L. Janzen Laverne and Ruth Siemens\*

Leo and Erna Siemens **Leonard Siemens** Leonard and Olive Siemens Marianne Siemens and Terry Friesen

Morley Silverman\* James and Isabelle Slater Elvira and Douwe Smid\* Maureen Smith Martin David and Judith Smucker Vaughn and Luke Snider

Anna Snyder and Brian Rice Sue Sorensen South Park MB Church Southside Fellowship Southwood Ventures Ltd\*

Barry Spain and Vi Stoesz Heather and Don Sparling Burke and Kathy Sperling Springfield Heights Mennonite Church\*

St. John's Music Starbuck Credit Union Ltd. Steinbach MB Church Steinbach Mennonite Church\* Anita Stephen Sterling Mennonite Fellowship Elmer Stobbe

Stephanie and Karl Stobbe Ed and Sara Stoesz\* Philip and Candace Stoltzfus Krista and Joel Stoneman Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation\*\* Strathclair Baptist Church Erwin Strempler\*

Hilde Strempler Allan and Ruth Stuart Linda and Lyle Stucky **Marilyn Stucky Brockmueller** and Lee Brockmueller Subterranean (Manitoba) Ltd Dwight Suderman and Kathy

Jake and Betty Suderman Donald and Dorothy Sugimoto\* Sun Life Financial\*

Bert and Lenora Suss\* Michelle Swab Kelly and Kirsten Switzer Denis and Maria Elena Sylvestre

**Dylan Tarnowsky and** Kimberly Penner Ruth and Tony Taronno Gord Taves and Jan Wilhelm TD Canada Trust Helena Teichroeb Gladys and Terry Terichow Craig Terlson

Terry Fox Humanitarian Awards Inc.\* Lois Tessier and James Currie

Julia and Jean Philippe Tetreault

The Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation\* The David and Katherine Friesen Family Corp\*\* The Jim Pattison Foundation\*\* The Kuhl Foundation Inc.\*\* The Meeting Place\* The Winnipeg Foundation\*\*



Henry and Katy Thiessen\*\* Jake Thiessen\*\* Anne Thiessen

**Bernard and Katherine Thiessen** 

Darrel and Audrey Thiessen\* Edmund and Anita Thiessen

Elmer and Maggie Thiessen Harold and Tobi Thiessen

Harry and Elaine Thiessen Harv and Helene Thiessen\* Ingrid Thiessen

John and Norma Thiessen\*\* Julia Thiessen

Marlies Thiessen

Shirley and Alvin Thiessen\* Richard Thiessen and Karen

**Heidebrecht Thiessen** 

Thomas Sill Foundation\*\* Thompson Christian Centre Fellowship\* Ralph and Helen Thorpe

Bertha Tiessen\* Erwin and Ruth Tiessen

Ingrid and Robert Tiessen John and Irene Tiessen Leanne and David Tiessen

Nellie Tiessen Lori Tiessen Banman and Jason

Banman

Bill Tillmann **Ruth Todd** 

Johannes and Audrey Toet

Alfred and Anne Toews\*\* Bernard and Iris Toews

Henry and Agatha Toews John and Eileen Toews

Lucille and Darrel Toews Wesley and Sherry Toews

Leah and George Toews Friesen Lori Toews Friesen

Elmer and Diana Tokarchuk Toronto United Mennonite Church Andrea and Robert Town

Traction Developments Ltd Luc and Hoa Tran

Tri Crop Farms Linda Tweed Anne and Russ Tymos

John and Merrill Unger

Gina Unger and Jeff McMillan **Hugo Unger** 

Ivan and Marge Unger John and Mary Unger John and Melanie Unger

University Women's Club of Winnipeg Universities Canada\*

**Dustin and Erynn Unrau** John and Amanda Unrau Elizabeth Unruh

Rose and Ron van der Hooft Nolan and Dorenda Van Gaalen

Harry and Bernice Vander Zaag Ray and Jayne Vander Zaag

Gerda Veith

Art and Oriole Veldhuis Ventura Custom Homes Ltd.\*\* Mauro and Maria Grazia Verrelli Victoria Inn Winnipeg

Candice and Jason Viddal Vineland United Mennonite Church\* Henry and Kay Visch

Robert Visch and Shawna Redekopp

E Von Bobrutzki-Cournoyer and Rodney Cournoyer
Neill and Edith von Gunten

Hermann and Mary Voth Merv and Rhonda Voth Gisela Wachter

Michael and Jennifer Wagenman Ralph and Marlene Wagner

Johanna Wall and Tim Bergen Wallace + Wallace Fencing\*

Katrina Walsh David Warkentin

Ed and Irene Warkentin\*\*

Elsie Warkentin

Erwin and Esther Warkentin Frank and Lynda Warkentin Gerald and Cheryl Warkentin

Gertrude Warkentin Heather and Jeff Warkentin

Henry and Nettie Warkentin Ken and Lydia Warkentin

Paul and Ruth Warkentin Thomas and Teresa Warkentin Waterloo North Mennonite Church\* Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church Mission Circle

Eileen Watson WBS Construction\*\*

Curwin and Jill Weber Friesen\*

John Weier Pat Welsh

Timothy and Stephanie Wenger

Hans and Diana Werner\* West Union Mennonite Church\* Richard and Sandra Westby Westgate Enterprises Ltd WGI Westman Group Inc.\*\* James and Ingrid White

**Audrey and Geoffrey Wichert** George and Linda Wichert

Jason Wicklund Doris and Roland Wickstrom Magdalena Widjaja Abe B. Wiebe\*\* Agatha Wiebe

Alma and Arthur Wiebe

Bernie Wiebe\* Brian Wiebe and Juls Rempel

Bruce and Noreen Wiebe Caroline Wiebe\*

Connie and Kurt Wiebe Cornie Wiebe

David Wiebe\* **David Wiebe** and Debra Fast Don and Lori Wiebe Elizabeth and John Wiebe

**Ernst and Lynette Wiebe** Eve Wiebe

George and Esther Wiebe\* Gord and Linda Wiebe Helen Wiebe

Jacqueline Wiebe Jake and Eleanor Wiebe\*

Joel Wiebe and Brenda Tiessen Wiebe John Wiehe

John and Betty Wiebe Justina Wiebe Ken and Yvonne Wiebe Leonard and Phyllis Wiebe\*\* Linda and Dean Wiebe\*

Lvdia and Menno Wiebe Mary and Peter Wiebe Natasha Wiehe

Nellie Wiebe Peter and Regina Wiebe\*

Peter and Nettie Wiebe Richard and Ruth Wiebe Robert and Verna Wiebe\*\* Rudy and Tena Wiebe Terrell and Janna Wiebe

Toni and John Wiebe Val and Dave Wiebe

Walter and Elsie Wiebe Wendell C. Wiebe

Hartwick and Betty Wiehler\* John and Elisabeth Wieler\* Agnes Wieler

Bertha Wieler

Alvina and John Wiens\* Frnie and Charlotte Wiens\*

Esther R. Wiens Gerald Wiens\*\*

Harold and Diana Wiens Harry and Susan Wiens\* Helen and Henry Wiens Jacob and Catherine Wiens Justina and John Wiens

Katherine Wiens\*\* Katie Wiens Kim and Mathew Wiens Louise Wiens **Rodney and Laurie Wiens Rudy Wiens\*** 

Ruth and Bob Wiens

Trevor Wiens and Brenda Tiessen-Wiens\*\*

Roger Wight\* Wildwood Mennonite Church Peter and Betty Willems Stuart and Lilli Williams Alfred and Irene Willms Judith and Lloyd Wilson

Winnipeg Building & Decorating\* Wm Dyck & Sons (1993) Ltd\* Magdalene Woelcke

Cornelius Woelk and Viola Enns Woelk\*

Dan and Irmy Woelk Women in Mission (SK) Beniamin Wood Douglas Workman Richard and Claire Workman

Jonathon Woytowich Lucille and Bob Yutzy Ed and Susan Zacharias\*

Esther Zacharias Jessie Zacharias

Peter and Valentine Zacharias Peggy Zehr

Gordon Zerbe and Wendy Kroeker\* Richard and Dori Zerbe Cornelsen Terry Zimmerly and Karen Martens Zimmerly

Zion Mennonite Church Zoar Mennonite Church Anonymous Donors 61 Requested Names Withheld



## Donor Recognition Wall Unveiled in Marpeck Commons

By Aaron Epp

Marpeck Commons is an inspiring place, so it should feature an inspiring work of art.

That's what Ray Dirks thought when CMU President Cheryl Pauls asked for his guidance in the commissioning of an artwork for the new building—an artwork that would simultaneously be aesthetically pleasing and also serve as a donor recognition wall, acknowledging the generosity of the many people who gave money to make the new building a reality.

Dirks, curator at the Mennonite Church Canada Heritage Centre Gallery, suggested that CMU commission Winnipeg artist Richard Finney to create the piece.

"I knew he would come up with

« Each individual is a kernel, a kernel that matters and is vital to the actual, ongoing life of this place. »

something that will stand the test of time," Dirks said.

The impressive piece mixes a variety of mediums, including paint, brushed metal, and glass with laser-cut etchings.

The top third of the piece features an etching of a tree made up of phrases from CMU's mission statement.

The bottom third of the piece features the names of donors who contributed to the project, and the middle third leaves room to add the names of future donors.

"It's a field of names," Pauls explained during the artwork's unveiling at CMU's opening program on September 26. "Each individual

is a kernel, a kernel that matters and is vital to the actual, ongoing life of this place. As a collective, this field of names draws out the best of what is made possible through the learning, the conversation, the sharing together in this place."

While Finney did much of the work, Dirks contributed to the project by providing the painting of the Chortitza oak that was ultimately laser cut into the glass that covers the artwork.

From the very beginning, Finney wanted the work to grab people's attention.

"It has to be something that when people walk up, they're going to look at it over and over and over again and see something different every single day," he said, adding that he wanted to create a piece that would make donors proud. "It's kind of grandioso... but to me, it's go big or go home."

Dirks appreciates the fact that CMU's administration was inspired to commission a piece of art rather than simply a plaque with a list of names on it

"I think it will stand the test of time much better, and it all works together really well," Dirks said. "The building is an impressive building and an important addition to CMU."



## **Canadian School of Peacebuilding**

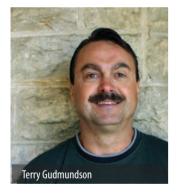
By Wendy Kroeker, Co-Director of the Canadian School of Peacbuilding and Instructor, Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies



T'm based in the Philippines this L semester to research the role of local peacemakers in building a culture of peace. I had coffee this morning in Manila with an old friend, very much invested in supporting peace processes in his country. When I asked him for the definition of the peace that he and others are seeking he said, "Peace does not exist if there is no interest in reconciliation." It was clear to him that all sorts of treaties and agreements could be signed but that if there wasn't an interest in rebuilding relationships and examining the narratives with which we live, peace will not emerge in any sustainable way.

Many of the students who join us at CSOP are also ambivalent about the efforts that their countries are engaged in, all in the name of "peace." Here at home, we Canadians have had the opportunity to connect with a process that has opened the space to explore the pain experienced by Indigenous peoples. The Truth and Reconciliation process has provided opportunity for trauma-impacted survivors of residential schools to share their stories, thus enabling a journey towards reconciliation and a peace that has depth and integrity. Without listening to these stories and the words of recommendation in the final report, we will not push forward to a restored and transformed community. This will require hard work and changes in our interactions and way of life.

When I asked my friend if he was hopeful, he said that if we can pause to reflect on what we have heard and learned, peace and reconciliation is possible.



#### **Reflection on International Microfinance**

By Terry Gudmundson, Senior Pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Steinbach, MB

his summer I attended a week long course offered by the Canadian School of Peace Building at Canadian Mennonite University entitled, "Youth Voices and Peace Activism." The instructors for this course were Brigette DePape and Rick Mc-Cutcheon, two very knowledgeable people, each passionate about peace activism. I was the only pastor in the group of students and I was also the oldest person in the room, including the instructors! Attending this course was a fantastic experience.

One of the students, who was approximately 20 years old, said to me that, "it was

nice to see a pastor interested in peace activism." She went on to say that she "didn't expect to see anyone involved in ministry taking the course." I mentioned to her that Jesus was very much an activist for peace. I told her that being involved in peace activism in today's world is something that our Saviour would very much like to see. Standing up for justice and peace and working towards positive social change is very much at the heart of a Christian life.

During the course we talked about many atrocities that have, and unfortunately still are, taking place in our world. Reconciliation is something that is sorely needed to help those affected to heal and to move forward in their lives. From a pastor's perspective this course rejuvenated me and opened my eyes wider to see the amount of work that we need to do when it comes to reconciliation. Further to this, we need to see past the healing that is sorely needed to the one who does the healing.

We are all lifelong learners as we grow in faith. God is ever constant, the rock which we can lean upon, but he is also always pushing and pulling at us to get out of our comfort zones to be the feet and hands of Christ in a world that sorely needs to hear and experience the gospel. "Youth Voices and Peace Activism" was a great reminder of what Jesus stood for more than 2,000 years ago and what he still stands for today.

#### **Women and Peacebuilding**

By Alex Gachanja, BBA('08); BA - 3-yr Conflict Resolution Studies ('12), Menno Simons College



In the summer of 2015 I had the opportunity to take a CSOP course titled 'Women & Peacebuilding' with Ouyporn Khuankew and Ginger Norwood. It was an experience that I will forever cherish as I continue on my peacebuilding journey. My instructors were not only caring, knowledgeable, and supportive but taking courses at CMU, an integrative church-rooted university, provided me a chance to challenge some assumptions I had about faith-based institutions—for example, would I feel welcomed even though I adhered to no particular faith or religious doctrine? Despite my initial reservations, CMU/CSOP was a place where I felt welcomed, safe, and my ideas and opinions valued. Perhaps the biggest lesson that I took away from my CSOP course was a deeper understanding of feminist peacebuiding. Feminism is a gender ideology that is aimed at transforming power relations that oppress people based on, primarily their sex. And yet, this understanding of feminism is incomplete

without asking the tough questions that challenge patriarchy, privilege, and power dynamics based on gender. I am forever indebted to CSOP and CMU for providing me this wonderful opportunity to ask the 'tough questions'.



## **Peace-Justice Journey**

Ginger Norwood, co-founder of International Women's Partnership for Peace and Justice, Thailand Course: Women and Peacebuilding

In my work with grass-roots activists in Southeast Asia, work-

shops focus on the intersection of personal and structural transformation utilizing a framework of understanding society, understanding self, and self-awareness. The foundation of this framework is naming the domination, violence, and oppression that surrounds us and recognizing the ways in which we've each internalized aspects of these negative forces, even as we work for peace and justice. The selfawareness is a spiritual process of cultivating the inner wisdom, peace, and mindfulness to choose to challenge and change those internalized ways of thinking, acting, relating towards thought, speech and collective action that promotes peace-building within ourselves and the larger society.

This same workshop framework was brought into the CSOP's Women and

Peacebuilding course. My assumption that we would somehow need to 'translate' or adjust this personalized approach for participants in a more formalized educational institution seeking theories and concepts could not have been further from the reality. During the five days, I witnessed a diverse group of participants earnestly explore peace-building in her/his own life and experiences, even when doing so required taking risks to be open and vulnerable. The group truly embodied peace-justice in their respectful and sensitive interactions with one another, listening with attention and care and also daring to challenge when their own truth was not understood.

I was truly humbled by the moments of true peace-building: in the days following the workshop one participant wrote of the feminist-mindfulness lens through which she was analyzing her own present situation of domestic abuse and the ways in which wisdom and compassion were helping her work

through her emotions and take action with clear awareness and integrity. During the week, a participant used non-violent communication to confront another participant who had offended her and thus began a dialogue that led them to a deeper connection. A participant clearly struggling with anxiety used the breathing exercises we had practiced to calm herself enough to stay present in the room when she would have previously had to leave. Another participant who self -identified as 'analytical' and 'in his head' offered deeply compassionate listening to a fellow participant who expressed her gratitude for that moment when she finally felt really heard. Each of these moments, plus many others, exemplify peace-building in its lived form: awareness and inner wisdom, listening to oneself and others, and action grounded in clarity and integrity. I feel so fortunate to have been part of this peace-justice journey.

## **2015 CMU Distinguished Alumni Awards**

By Aaron Epp

An Olympian-turned-lawyer, an English language educator, a businessman with a passion for international development, and a couple who have ministered for more than 45 years in Winnipeg's North End are the recipients of the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

CMU President Cheryl Pauls presented the awards to Larry Plenert, Cheryl Woelk, Gerry Dyck, and Arno and Lena Fast at Fall Festival this past September.

The awards celebrate alumni who, through their lives, embody CMU's values and mission of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society. The awards are presented to alumni from CMU and its predecessor colleges: Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC) and Mennonite Brethren Bible College (MBBC)/Concord College.

"The story of the character and quality of a university is made true through the lives of its alumni," Pauls says. "CMU is honoured by the commitments and courage of this year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipients, and excited to see how their stories will inspire the faithfulness of later generations."



## Arno and Lena Fast (MBBC '55)

When Arno and Lena were called to minister at Salem Mennonite Brethren Church in 1969 (now Salem Community

Bible Church), they had already pastored and worked with Saskatchewan Home Missions for 12 years.

This invitation brought them to Winnipeg's North End. Their plan was to stay and minister for two or three years, but 46 years later, they are still serving the same church.

This ministry has been a partnership from the beginning. Lena has been active in the ladies group, as director of the Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, and fills in whatever needs to be done.

She can be found in the church office when Arno is there,

connecting with people by phone and visiting them together with Arno.

Salem was close to shutting its doors when the Fasts arrived, but today it is a thriving, multicultural congregation of 100 adults and children.

"The best years of our ministry are right now," Arno says.

This year, the church had six baptisms, and the Fasts continue to reach the neighborhood where their congregation is located as well as drawing people from all over the city and beyond.

Arno is currently mentoring his 32-year-old grandson, Andy Rapko, into the ministry role at the church.

"We don't feel we've done anything exceptional," Arno says. "We just followed the call of God."

In September 2014, Arno and Lena celebrated their 85th birthdays, their 60th wedding anniversary, and 45 years of ministry at Salem.

They have two children and seven grandchildren.



## Larry Plenert (CMBC '78)

Lawyer, teacher, coach, musician, and athlete whose prowess as a power spiker earned him a spot on Canada's national volleyball team for the 1976 Summer Olympics —

Larry Plenert is all these things.

The last seven years have been some of the most meaningful of his working life, though.

Since 2008, Plenert has worked as an adjudicator of claims of serious physical or sexual abuse by former students of Indian Residential Schools.

It's work that resonates with his theology and sense of justice.

"I consider it to be really important work in terms of

restoring a sense of dignity and pride to our Indigenous peoples," says Plenert, who shifted into adjudication work after practicing law in Abbotsford, B.C. for more than 25 years.

His current role is both challenging and rewarding.

"It's work that forces me to look at my own biases, my own prejudices," he says. "I come away from... these hearings having been enriched, enlightened, (and) educated."

Plenert says he is proud to receive a Distinguished Alumni Award because it signals CMU's support of the important work of justice and reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous population, and because it is a personal affirmation of the powerful influence his CMBC experience has had on his life.

"I also feel humbled, knowing that there are many alumni that are equally or more deserving of this award," Plenert says.

He and his wife, Sheryl, live in Fort Langley, BC and attend Langley Mennonite Fellowship. They have two adult daughters.





#### Gerry Dyck (MBBC '82)

Studying at MBBC exposed Gerry Dyck to the realities people in developing nations face.

"(That) forces (a) young person to either ignore it, which I couldn't do, or else try to deal with it the best they can," Dyck says.

Since graduating, Dyck has fused his life-long interest in business with his interest in international development to make a difference.

He is the co-founder and president of Kalora Interiors International, a business that specializes in décor solutions for the home furnishings industry.

An offshoot of a multi-national non-profit charity called International Development Enterprises, Kalora was estab-

lished to match the needs of suppliers from the developing world with the needs of customers in the Western world.

Dyck is also involved with the Ontario Board of Church Extension, with a focus on church planting in large urban centres in Ontario.

This is important to Dyck because he values the strong church background he himself came from, which helped teach him to work for justice and care for the poor.

"I consider it a great privilege to be able to have a career that allows for a mix of church work, international business, and international development," Dyck says.

After living in Calgary and Montreal, Dyck moved to St. Jacobs, ON 19 years ago. He attends Waterloo Mennonite Brethren Church.

Dyck was married to Evy, who passed away in 2013 after a courageous journey with cancer. They have three grown children.



#### Cheryl Woelk (CMU '03)

Peacemaking, language, and education are interests that have continually woven together in Cheryl Woelk's life.

From 2002-08, she was a Mennonite Church Canada Witness Worker in Seoul, South Korea where she worked as education

coordinator at the Korean Anabaptist Center (KAC) and head teacher at Connexus, the English language school she and her KAC colleagues founded.

After earning a Master of Arts in Education at Eastern Mennonite University, Woelk and her husband, Hong Soek (Scott) Kim moved to Saskatoon, SK, where they live with their one-year-old son, Rohan, and attend Wildwood Mennonite Church.

Woelk is currently involved in a variety of initiatives,

including Language for Peace, which brings together teachers and learners interested in the connection of language, peace, and education from a Mennonite perspective.

She is grateful for her time at CMU.

"My curiosity for learning about language, peace, and education seemed to have little connection at the time but I was able to take classes that got me started on weaving them together, little knowing how they would become so entwined in my work and study," she says. "My experience at CMU also gave me a taste of real community and raised the bar for my expectations of relationships in the church, giving me a persistence to work harder at community in times of conflict rather than walk away.

"While I don't know what the future holds for us, I trust that God will continue to guide me on the path of learning to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God."

# Fall Festival September 25–26, 2015 CMU Community Celebrates Fall Festival

« I have little doubt that

reflection that both bend

toward beauty... »

the mission entrusted to this

university requires action and

by Aaron Epp

A lthough it's only been five months since she graduated from CMU, Amber Neufeld was eager to return to campus for Fall Festival.

Neufeld performed at the festival's MPK folk concert, shopped at the farmers market, and attended the opening program. She hopes to attend more CMU events in the future because of the impact the university has had on her life.

"Not only did CMU teach me valuable things that are the foundation for my faith and education, it gave me some amazing people that I'm honoured to be friends," Neufeld said.

More than 500 people gathered at CMU for Fall Festival September 25-26.

Celebrated at the end of each September, Fall Festival features opportunities for students, alumni, friends, donors, and community members to connect, learn, play, and celebrate with the CMU community.

In addition to the folk music festival and farmers market, the weekend included class reunions, community meals, a Manitoba Cycling Association-sanctioned bicycle race, MCAC basketball games, and a tour of Marpeck Commons, the new building on campus that houses a library, a bookstore/resource centre, learning commons, and a café.

The weekend kicked off on Friday, September 25 with a Face2Face community discussion exploring oil dependency.

After a full day of activity on a warm and windy Saturday, Fall Festival wrapped up with CMU's annual opening program, a time of worship to celebrate the start of a new school year.

For the first time ever, the opening program was held in Marpeck Commons, which opened at the end of November 2014.

Delivering a message based on CMU's chapel theme for 2015-16,

Behold the Beauty of the Lord (Psalm 27:4), CMU President Cheryl Pauls spoke of the ways in which beauty and inquiry work together.

Meditating on the popular phrase, "Leave it better than you found it," Pauls talked about how that mentality has captured people's imaginations as they work amidst the complex, strained matters of today, such as economic disparity, climate change, food security, human sexuality, and reconciliation with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

"I've little doubt that the call 'Better than we found it' nurtures our commitments to these and many more hurting peoples and places," Pauls said.

"I have little doubt that the mission entrusted to this university requires action and reflection that both bend toward beauty. Through prayer, courageous and humble inquiry, and awe, we seek God's clear and compelling ways forward. In this way, we face into matters and relationships that confound and trouble us." And also, perhaps more importantly, by ever releasing and offering to God the very best of our persuasions and of all we think we now grasp."

The opening program included the presentation of the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards, which annually recognize alumni who, through their lives, embody CMU's values and mission of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society.

Pauls presented the awards to Larry Plenert, an Olympianturned-lawyer who has worked for the past eight years as an adjudicator of claims of serious abuse by former students of Indian Residential Schools; Cheryl Woelk, an educator and peace worker; Gerry Dyck, a businessman who has made significant contributions in the field of international development; and Arno and Lena Fast, a couple who have spent the past 46 years ministering at a church in Winnipeg's North End.

Later in the program, Pauls noted that \$12 million of the \$14.4 million needed to pay for Marpeck Commons has been raised so far.

She unveiled a donor recognition wall, which features an art piece by Winnipeg artists Richard Finney and Ray Dirks commemorating people who contribute money to the project. (See

story on page 22.)

For MaryLou Driedger, who attended CMBC in the early '70s, Fall Festival was an opportunity to catch up with old friends.

Reflecting on her blog about spending the day at CMU on September 26, Driedger wrote that she and her husband, Dave (CMBC '75), had a meaningful time at the festival.

"I was able to have a nice visit

with a former roommate and Dave chatted with some guys who were his college basketball teammates," Driedger wrote. "The community of people on our college campus played such an important role in our lives... It hardly seems like 40 years ago."

Vice President External Terry Schellenberg noted that Fall Festival is an important community builder for CMU.

"Once again, Fall Festival opened CMU to alumni, friends, and the broader community," Schellenberg said.

"We were moved by a significant Face2Face conversation; inspired by stories of ministry, restorative justice, business, and peacemaking from five alumni award recipients; gratified by the generosity of CMU's support community as we unveiled a beautiful donor wall in Marpeck Commons; and celebrated and blessed the start of a new academic year."



#### **CSOP**



## Peacebuilding school directors excited about 2016 offerings

More than 80 students from around the world gathered at CMU June 15-26 for the Canadian School of Peacebuilding (CSOP), which offers two weeks of five-day courses for peacebuilders from all faiths, countries, and identity groups.

"There are all kinds of ways to measure success, but to me the most important are how valuable people find their classes, and how engaged they are with their instructors and each other," said Val Smith, the school's codirector.

"The 2015 courses went very well. The instructors were a good fit, and we once again had a radically diverse student body, which adds to the richness in the classroom and in the CSOP community more generally."

In addition to Canada and the U.S., the school included students from Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, Vietnam, Iran, and elsewhere.

Topics covered included women and peacebuilding; youth voices and peace activism; human rights and peace; conflict transformation; indigenous approaches to peace, justice, and friendship; biblical teachings of peace and justice; and peace psychology.

Instructors included Leroy Little Bear, one of the continent's leaders in the advancement of North American Indian philosophy, and Christopher Marshall, a trained and accredited restorative justice facilitator who teaches at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

With the 2015 session over, Smith has turned her attention to the 2016 school.

As they do every year, Smith and her colleagues have planned courses that feature exceptional instructors who are also strong peacebuilding practitioners.

CSOP always aims to provide a mix of courses that have to do with biblical and theological studies, basic peacebuilding skills, and indigenous issues.

"We're really excited about the lineup," Smith said. "We've got fantastic people coming."

Register for the 2016 school now at www.csop.cmu.ca.

#### **MENNO SIMONS COLLEGE**



## Exploring connections through international development

A trip to Rwanda as a World Vision Youth Ambassador was an opportunity for Menno Simons College (MSC) student Evan Roberts to experience development firsthand.

He credits the trip with shaping and guiding his interests and studies since then. Roberts is an International Development Studies (IDS) major at MSC and Human Rights (HR) major at the University of Winnipeg Global College.

Through his studies, he's developed a particular interest in addressing the human dimensions of climate change.

Earlier this year, Roberts was an Arctic Youth Ambassador for Global Vision, an organization that develops the leadership potential of enterprising young Canadians.

Roberts joined 50 youth from northern and southern Canada in Iqaluit to discuss opportunities and challenges facing Canada's northern communities. Roberts said meeting those affected by climate change and hearing their stories provided him with "the chance to see the human dimensions of climate change."

Studying both IDS and HR has provided Roberts with several angles from which to view climate change.

"The human rights program has afforded me the chance to look [at climate change] through the lens of a legal context or a human context," he said. "IDS talks about building up communities affected by climate change."

As a result of his international travels and his studies, Roberts views the world through a global perspective. At the same time, through experiences in Winnipeg, he also understands the importance of local work.

While studying, Roberts has worked with the Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation. He's provided instruction and support for young adults both on and off the ice—teaching hockey skills, providing academic support, and leading activities during a summer program.

"It's been a phenomenal experience," he said. "It's been nice to work with the students for three or four years because you can see kids grow—how much they've grown as a person, as a hockey player."

#### **EVENTS**



## Lectures explore oil, evangelism in the 20th century

How have religion and oil together shaped existence for modern North Americans at the moment of their heightening authority in the 20th century?

That was one of the questions Dr. Darren Dochuk explored at this year's J.J. Thiessen Lectures. Titled, "Crude Awakenings: The Faith, Politics, and Crises of Oil in America's Century," the lectures took place October 20-21.

Dochuk, Associate Professor in the Department of History at the University of Notre Dame, tracked the history of religion and oil in the 20th century, with a particular focus on "oil patch evangelism," showing how encounters with petroleum helped shape a certain theology, a certain understanding of land and environment, and ultimately, a certain understanding of politics.

Each of the three lectures focused on a momentous flashpoint in the life of North American oil and evangelicalism and paused for reflection on what this moment meant long-term for matters of faith and society in the 20th century.

In the process of tracking the chronology of God and black gold in the modern era, the lectures also raised questions pertaining to evangelicalism's relationship to capitalism and globalization, energy and environment, notions of time, and broad interests in politics.

You can watch video recordings of the lectures at www.cmu.ca/jjt.

#### REUNIONS

#### **Summer Gatherings a Chance to Reunite**

The 2015 Mennonite World Conference in Pennsylvania was the backdrop for the first of two informal reunions of alumni from CMU and its predecessor colleges.

More than 15 people attended the lunch hour reunion, says Abram Bergen, Director of Church and Alumni Relations, which was organized last-minute after he and alumna Krista Neustaedter Barg (CMBC '90) noticed the number of CMU alumni at the conference.

Those in attendance at the reunion spanned a number of graduating classes, from the late '80s to the past few years.

"Quite a few who were there had overlapped in their studies," Bergen said. "It was a nice gathering."

A few weeks later, another informal gathering took place at CMU. A group of alumni who attended CMBC between 1992 and 1997 reunited on Saturday, August 1 at the impetus of a handful of alumni who thought it might be fun to get together.

After hearing about this group's interest, Bergen made sure there was space available on campus as well as barbeques for them to use. Bergen and his wife, Harriet, also volunteered to do the barbequing and general hosting.

"The weather was perfect and the trees provided shade next to the picnic tables," Bergen said. "The food was fabulous and the event, which started at about 3 PM and went until about 8 PM, was appreciated."



#### **Alumni reunite at Fall Festival**

Alumni from a variety of CMBC, MBBC, and CMU graduating classes gathered on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Fall Festival for their 10-year, 40-year, 50-year, and even 60-year class reunions.









#### **ALUMNI NEWS**

**Kristina Dueck Manicom** (CMU '06) and **Adam Manicom** announce the birth of their son, Erik David, born April 26, 2015. Erik is a little brother for Asher.



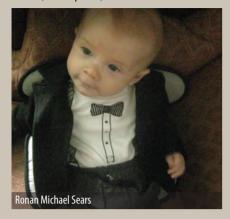
**Kira Friesen** (CMU '06) and **Kenton Thiessen** announce the birth of their daughter, Acacia Katharine Friesen Thiessen, born April 15, 2015. Kira is working on her Master of Science in Nursing through the University of Ottawa.



Joel Kroeker (CMU '03) and Heather Peters (CMU '02) announce the birth of their daughter, Rehema Ruth Kroeker Peters, born April 15, 2015. Since graduating from CMU, Joel and Heather have worked with youth and refugees, taught English, and done peace education in the state of Georgia as well as South Korea and South Sudan. They currently live in Saskatoon, where Joel works in a bakery and Heather is on maternity leave from her job as Restorative Justice Coordinator at MCC Saskatchewan. Heather is also working toward her Master of Arts in Human Security and Peacebuilding at Royal Roads University (Victoria, BC).

#### **ALUMNI NEWS**

**Jon Sears** (CMU faculty) and **Thea Toews** (CMU '08) announce the birth of their son, Ronan Michael, born April 29, 2015.



**Codi Guenther** (CMU '08) and **John McPhail** announce the birth of their son, Angus John McPhail, born May 2, 2015.



**Kevin** (CMU '10) and **Lee Pauls** announce the birth of their son, Desmond Ervin Pauls, born May 8, 2015.



**Paul Schmidt** (CMU '07) and **Leah Klassen** announce the birth of their son, Elliot Joseph, born on May 19, 2015. Elliot is a little brother for Annika, who was born January 2013. The family lives in St.

Catharines, ON. In October, Paul began working as a Network Leader at Quest Christian Community, an alternative faith community.



**Katherine Goerzen** (Krehbiel, CMU '06) graduated from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in May 2015 with a Master of Divinity. Katherine is pursuing a pastoral ministry assignment and serves part-time as coordinator of AMBS Kansas Center.

**Jeffrey Metcalfe** (CMU '09) and **Julie Boisvert** (CMU '09) announce the birth of their daughter, Abigaëlle Rose Metcalfe, born June 6, 2015.



This past spring, **Zach Peters** (OT '06, CMU '10) graduated from the Creative Communications program at Red River College in Winnipeg. He recently began work at True North Sports & Entertainment Ltd., working in the Hockey Communications Department as the Communications Coordinator.

**Jessica P. Dyck** (CMU '10) graduated in June 2015 with a Master of Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Waterloo at Conrad Grebel University College.

**Stephen Redekop** (CMU '03) recently became a Certified Management Accountant. He also holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons.) degree from the University of Manitoba's Asper School of Business and works in CMU's Finance Department as Controller. Stephen and his wife, **Katie** (CMU '07), and daughter, Chloe, attend Nassau Street Church.

Joe Wiebe (CMU '04) recently began work as Assistant Professor of Religion and Ecology at the University of Alberta Augustana Campus. Joe has a PhD in Religious Studies from McMaster University and a Master of Theological Studies from Duke University. Next year, Baylor University Press will publish Joe's dissertation, "Wendell Berry's Imagination in Place." Joe and his wife, **Kim** (CMU staff 2014-15), live in Camrose, AB with their children, Sam, 4, and Chelsea, 2.



Greg (CMU '06) and Amanda Wiebe

(McCullough, CMU '05) recently moved back to Winnipeg with their children, Kaylah, 6, and William, 4. For the past two years, they lived in Regina. In August, Greg defended his PhD dissertation, "Demons in the Theology of Augustine," in the Department of Religious Studies at McMaster University. Amanda is currently working as Assistant to the Program Coordinator of Preparatory Studies at the Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba. Greg is looking for work, even as he enjoys his stay-at-home dad role

**Crystal** (Wikkerink, OT '03, CMU 2003-05) and **Denley Thiessen** announce the birth of their daughter, Brooklyn Thiessen, born July 18, 2015.



**Steve** (CMU '04) and **Stephanie Penner** (Melenchuk, CMU '04) announce the birth of Nicholas Jacob, born July 24, 2015. Nicholas is a little brother for Teddy.



Joanne Moyer (CMBC '01) began work as Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Geography at the King's University in Edmonton this past August. Joanne has a PhD in Natural Resource and Environmental Management from the University of Manitoba, a Master of Environmental Studies from Dalhousie University, and a BA in Environmental Studies from the University of Winnipeg.

**Julia** (Wiebe, CMU '08) and **Jean Philippe Tetrault** announce the birth of their daughter,
Charlotte Frances Eugenie, born August 10, 2015.

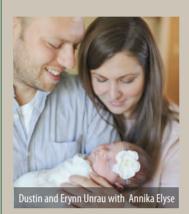


**Matt Veith** (CMU '13) recently began working at Mennonite Church Canada in Winnipeg as a Multimedia Artist.

Miriam Harder (CMU '04) has been appointed Senior Program Officer in the International Programs Department at Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Winnipeg. Miriam holds a Master's degree in Human Geography from McGill University and a BSc in Land Use and Environmental Studies from the University of Saskatchewan. Miriam has several years of experience working with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Mexico and Central America, where she coordinated MCC's conservation agriculture projects in the region. Her degree in human geography brought her to Nunavut, where she conducted field research.

In September, **Merridy Peters** (CMU '14) began a Master's program in English at the University of Victoria in BC. She is concentrating in Medieval and Early Modern Studies.

**Dustin** (OT '05, CMU '09) and **Erynn Unrau** (OT '05, CMU '09) announce the birth of their daughter, Annika Elyse, born September 4, 2015.



**Paul** (CMU '09) and **Jeanette Loewen** (Dyck, OT '04, CMU '07) live in Winnipeg with their three sons, Jaden, 4; Bryce, 3; and Tait, 1. Jeanette graduated from the University of Manitoba with a BEd in 2010. She enjoys her time at home with her boys and works part-time as a substitute teacher. Paul is the Youth Minister at Douglas Mennonite Church and is taking graduate classes in theological studies from Regent College, with the intention of studying there for eight months in 2017-18. He is also the co-author, with his father Arvid Loewen, of the 2014 book, *When Quitting Is Not an Option: My Road to Cycling, a Guinness World Record and Making a Difference.* 



#### **WEDDINGS**



**Brad Langendoen** (CMU '14) and **Adrienne Leitch** (OT '08, CMU 2008-10) were married on April 18, 2015.

**Tiffany Lazar** (CMU '08) and **Chris Carther-Krone** were married on May 16, 2015.

**Tyler Voth** (CMU '15) and **Sara Krahn** (CMU '15) were married on July 4, 2015.

**Kathleen Vitt** (CMU '12) and **Clare Schellenberg** (CMU '15) were married on August 1, 2015.

**Ethan Heidebrecht** (CMU '13) and **Lori Pauls** (CMU '15) were married on August 8, 2015.

**Karen Jantzen** (CMU '14) and **Matt Mayers** (CMU 2010-12) were married on August 15, 2015.

**Josh Hollins** (CMU '15) and **Kaylee Grauman** (CMU '14) were married on August 22, 2015.

**Julia Thiessen** (CMU '04) and **Joel Rempel** were married on August 29, 2015.

**Josiah Brubacher** (CMU '14) and **Christa Jongsma** (CMU '14) were married on September 5, 2015.

**Bruce Guenther** (CMU '03) and **Emily Loewen** (CMU '09) were married on October 17, 2015.

#### **PASSAGES**

**Edward Giesbrecht** (MBBC '72) died on May 10, 2015.

Abe Klassen (MBBC '63) died on June 11, 2015.

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## Respected Theologian, CMBC Professor David 'Doc' Schroeder, 91, Dies

H is name was David Schroeder, but those who knew him affectionately referred to him as 'Doc.'

Schroeder, who worked as Professor of New Testament and Philosophy at Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC), died peacefully in his home on Sunday, September 27. He was 91 years old.

A theologian and churchman with a DTh from the University of Hamburg, Schroeder taught at CMBC from 1959 until 1994.

He was a beloved teacher and inspiring mentor to many students.

Churches from across the Mennonite world sought his wisdom and deep biblical knowledge.

"He refused to give simple answers to difficult problems because he believed in the capacity of people to hear the voice of the spirit," says Harry Huebner, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Theology. "His charisma was infectious and his influence cannot easily be overstated."

Schroeder was born on September 20, 1924 and grew up in Altona, MB.

Schroeder earned a BTh at Mennonite Brethren Bible College and became an ordained minister.

When polio struck, it derailed his career as a minister but led to the opportunity for Schroeder to further his studies.

He earned a BA from Bethel College (1951) and an MDiv from Mennonite Biblical Seminary (1956).

Schroeder loved his family very much. He lived in a fourgenerational house for more than 50 years.

He is survived by the love of his life, Mildred, to whom he was married for 66 years; three children: Dorothy (Don) Sugimoto, Lynette (Ernie) Wiebe, and Alan (Ruth) Schroeder; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

## CMU, Camps with Meaning Develop Students into Strong Leaders, Faithful Christians

MU is having a big impact on Mennonite Church Manitoba's camping ministry, Camps with Meaning (CWM).

All 17 members of CWM's 2015 leadership team and more than half of its senior counsellors were CMU students or alumni

Rebecca Klassen-Wiebe, a recent graduate who ran the summer program at Camp Assiniboia in 2015, says studying theology at CMU made her a better counsellor.

"Having that base of knowledge, you have a wider spectrum of (things) to pull from when you're talking about faith with campers," she says.

CMU President Cheryl Pauls says she's had the opportunity to see CMU students in action through CWM.

"What an honour CMU has to walk alongside young adults of such fine character, commitment, and courage," Pauls says.

Ken Warkentin, the organization's executive director, says that while there is no direct link between CMU and Mennonite Church Manitoba, he recognizes the importance of CMU in CWM's ongoing ministry.

"We appreciate the integrated approach to education that CMU provides," Warkentin says. "This approach infuses the intellectual and spiritual development of the student with Christian Anabaptist values and worldview."

For Breanna Heinrichs, a Music major, working at camp complements studying at CMU.

"It's a good fit with a lot of what CMU is all about: community, the church, and figuring out ways of being the church," she says.

Fellow student Jonas Cornelsen agrees.

"CMU and camp both teach us to live as if the story of the Bible matters," he says.



## Relationships with Indigenous Peoples Leads to PhD Work

By Aaron Epp

elanie Kampen (CMU '12) is us-Ling academics to work for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

A PhD student at Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto, Kampen's dissertation will build on work she began as a graduate student at Conrad Grebel University College at the University of Waterloo, where she graduated with a Master of Theological Studies in 2014.

Kampen's MA thesis explored the concept of original sin, which is dominant in western theology but virtually nonexistent in Indigenous communities.

As Kampen did more research, she found that original sin was a predominant doctrine in Indian Residential Schools.

"Anyone who was not white was to convert to Christianity, which meant becoming white," Kampen says. "Conversion was assimilation, and was based on the idea that the original cultural identity of Indigenous peoples was inherently sinful."

Kampen's interest in reconciliation with Indigenous peoples began 10 years ago when her church, Springfield Heights Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, established a relationship with a church in Matheson Island, MB, a Métis community located 250 kilometers north of Winnipeg.

In the summer of 2006, Kampen's youth group traveled to the community to lead summer camp for one week.

As a result of the relationships she's formed with members of the Matheson Island community, Kampen has returned every summer since.

"As I started learning more about the history of residential schools in high school and at CMU, and learning about

the Idle No More movement, those relationships became a lot more important to me," she says.

"I felt like I needed to use the resources I had in terms of research and writing to learn more about Mennonite relations with Indigenous peoples, specifically Mennonite theology and Mennonite involvement in residential schools."

Kampen's PhD work is motivated partially by the fact that Mennonite Church Canada has not provided any reports to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) about the involvement of Canadian Mennonites in residential schools.

Some Mennonites who applied for conscientious objector status were sent to work in residential and day schools as their alternative service.

"What I find particularly interesting about that is just how specific the Mennonite understanding of nonviolence had to be for that to be possible," Kampen says. "We have an anti-war theology on one hand, but not an anti-colonial one."

A course Kampen took during her third year of study at CMU, titled Whose Violence? Which Peace? has been particularly formative in her academic career.

Cross-listed between Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies and Philosophy, the course gave Kampen her first opportunity to delve into critical theory, especially concerning questions of violence and injustice.

"The readings we did in that class and the material I got to work through



on my own in the papers I wrote really changed the way I thought about systems and structures of power in the world," Kampen says.

"There's stuff in that class that I continue to draw on today. I have my notes from that class with me in Toronto right now because I always go back to them."

Kampen believes submitting a report about Mennonite involvement in Indian Residential Schools to the TRC is the responsible thing to do-a conviction that is driving her PhD work.

"I hope that Mennonites can learn to tell their story of not only fleeing violence and harsh situations in some ways, but also to be able to tell the part of their story where they were also complicit-often not by choice-in colonization," Kampen says.

"Instead of trying to defend ourselves against that claim, I hope Mennonites can learn how to narrate that story and tell the truth for the purpose of reconciliation."

For more alumni stories, visit CMU's Community & Alumni Blog at cmu.ca/alumniblog

#### **CMU CALENDAR**

January 5: First day of classes (winter semester)

January 17: Vespers | 7:00 PM

January 30: Planning Well: A Workshop for Pastors,

Worship Planners, Musicians and Leaders | 9:30-12:00 AM

February 5: Campus Visit Day (Year One)

**February 9:** Face2Face | 7:00 PM - Cohabitation: The Question of Living Together Before Marriage

February 11: Verna Mae Music Competition | 7:00 PM

**February 12:** Campus Visit Day **February 16–19:** Reading week **February 21:** Vespers | 7:00 PM

**March 2:** Face2Face | 7:00 PM – A Conversation within an Abrahamic Tent: A Jew, Muslim and Christian in Dialogue

**March 11:** Campus Visit Day (Year One & Music) **March 11:** Going Barefoot 5 | 8:45 PM-4:00 PM

March 20: Vespers | 7:00 PM

March 30: Campus Visit Day (All-day open house)

April 2: Jazz at CMU | 7:00 PM

April 3: Bells and Whistles with Strings Attached | 7:00 PM

April 6: Last day of classes

**April 7:** Celebration Fundraiser @ CMU **April 17:** Outtatown Graduation | 2:00 PM

April 23: With Gratitude | 2:30 PM

**April 23:** Spring Choral Concert | 7:00 PM **April 24:** Baccalaureate Service | 10:00 AM

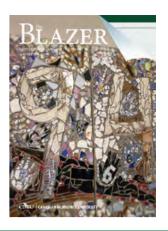
**April 24:** Graduation Service

For an updated and ongoing list of events happening at CMU, please visit **cmu.ca/events**.

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## ANCIENT STONES, LIVING STONES:

The Holy Land in Perspective

April 25-May 16, 2016

For more information visit: cmu.ca/studytour

Tour Leader: Gordon Matties





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