The Heart of the College

“When we sat down to discuss long range planning, the same topic came up over and over again – it was time for Grebel to expand,” says Paul Penner, Operations Manager at Conrad Grebel.

On Sunday, November 9th, 2003 over 200 donors, students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends celebrated the completion of the four year long planning, fundraising, and construction process with a dedication service and tours of the new residence rooms, atrium, apartments, classrooms, and music studios.

After the official groundbreaking in June 2002, construction crews focused first on remodeling the existing building. The largely unused lounge in the basement was converted into new classrooms, while a games room and study area took the place of some offices. This put all of Grebel’s classrooms on one level, and gave residents a common area located closer to the residence rooms.

In Fall 2002, the year of mud and dust began. The 32-bed apartment building was finished in August 2003, offering upper year students more freedom and a fantastic view of the campus. The residence expansion was also completed in time for the double cohort, increasing the total number of students in the residence from 116 to 142. With the expansion of the residence building, the games room became twice as large, and an airy new laundry room was added.

The completion of the 4-storey glass John E. Toews Atrium (named in honour of the past president) was highly anticipated, since it links the residence and academic buildings and creates a large space filled with couches for visiting. Catwalks provide access to the library and elevator, making Grebel more wheelchair accessible. The new coffee bar, Common Ground, has just opened and serves specialty coffees, snacks, and baked goods. Two new music studios were built on the lower floor of the atrium, and a furnished gathering area for music students.

At the dedication ceremony, Dawn Regier, Board of Governors Vice Chair, noted that in addition to being an architectural term, an “atrium” is also a chamber in the heart. She hopes the atrium will become the heart of the institution, and just as blood flows through the atrium of the heart, so will the life-blood of the College flow through this atrium.

The anticipated total expenditure including financing for the building project was $5.1 million. Indications are that it will come in under budget. The majority of the project is being financed through mortgage payments with income generated from the apartments and new residence rooms. Because portions of the project, like the atrium, will not generate revenue, a challenge gift of $500,000 initiated a “quiet fundraising campaign” for $1.4 million. At the dedication service, President Henry Paetkau announced that the campaign had reached $1,402,790 in donations.

President Paetkau commented, “We are truly enjoying these new spaces! They bring new energy and enthusiasm to the Grebel community. We look forward to the opportunities they offer to enhance both our residential and academic programs.”
The Grebel Apartment Experience

Maida Tiessen
4th year English and Religious Studies

A line from one of the songs in the Mennonite hymnal is, “the journey is our home.” I am reminded of this line as I think of the many “homes” I’ve had throughout my journey in life so far. On a recent Conrad Grebel Chapel retreat, we as students discussed our own journeys and paths in life. We recognized that the one common landmark on each of our roads in life is Conrad Grebel.

While I am attending university, my home that I come to at the end of the day is Conrad Grebel. But this year has been a particularly special and unique experience because I am one of the first students to live in the new apartment complex located next to the original residence on campus. There are eight apartments in the complex with four people living in each apartment. The apartments are set up so that there is a common room and kitchen in the centre and two bedrooms on each side of the common room/kitchen area. One of the really great things about the design of the apartments is the nice big windows in each room.

The atmosphere in the apartment complex is slightly different than the atmosphere in the Grebel residence. All of the people in the apartments are upper year students so the building is somewhat quieter and there is a little more privacy in the apartments as well. But the community is still there when needed. It’s nice to be able to walk down the halls and know everyone in the building because we have all lived with each other in the Grebel residence in earlier years.

A highlight from last term was when a group of students planned an apartment potluck supper. It was great to have everyone crowd together in one place to share food, conversation, and even swap a few recipes. Another plus about the apartments is the close proximity to the UW campus as well as the Grebel facilities. Many people in the apartments still run over to the cafeteria for Community Supper on Wednesday nights and many attend chapel on Wednesdays as well.

For me, living in the Grebel apartments has been a very positive experience. As an older student, I still very much value my connection with Grebel. I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to live in the apartments with other students who value the Grebel community as much as I do. I think it was an excellent idea to build the apartments because it is important for Grebel to continue to extend the community so many of us can continue to be a part of it. Overall I think the feedback from others in the apartments has been very positive and we are all glad to call Grebel our home as we persist on our journey through university.

Check out the NEW Grebel Website

grebel.uwaterloo.ca
“Mennonites have been making music for hundreds of years in North America, but only recently have we begun to appreciate the artistic, spiritual, and community values involved in this process” says Mary K. Oyer, keynote speaker for the Sound in the Land conference and music festival. “While traditional four-part a cappella singing has become recognized as the Mennonite sound, this singing style has fed into a larger, more contemporary, more global musical experience which also speaks for new Mennonite traditions.” Tracking where Mennonites have been and where we are going musically is the challenge of her address.

Sound in the Land takes place at Grebel May 28-30, 2004 and will be both a festival with multiple concerts, performances, mini-concerts, workshops, possible jam sessions and reading sessions, and an academic conference addressing issues of Mennonite-rooted peoples and their music making in terms of ethnicity, cultural studies, or musical/theoretical/historical analysis.

Organizer and Grebel Prof. Carol Ann Weaver said, “I have wanted to have a festival like this for practically my entire life.” Her vision for this festival stemmed from her early background in the Swiss Mennonite a cappella church, to her move to a Russian Mennonite community, to her travel and study in Africa where life and music are so intertwined. She said “I have become more eager to help create a platform where all our Mennonite musical voices have equal room to sing – not just our sacred choirs, not just our carefully crafted classical music, not just our church songs, but our band music, our improvised music, our loud symphony music, our dramatic music, our jazz, and our hiphop.”

The objectives of this conference are to present, explore, study, and celebrate Mennonite-related music, a body of work which has not yet been granted its full recognition as a major cultural voice within Canada and North America today. By bringing together composers, songwriters, performing musicians, scholars, and writers of Mennonite background for three days of live music and discussions about the very ‘sounds’ and meanings of “Mennonite music,” this conference will create a unique forum for musical convergences. The conference will place a newly recognized genre of music in front of the public in general, and in front of the musical world specifically, both nationally and internationally.

Sound in the Land promises to be a first-ever occasion for people of all musical persuasions to commemorate and celebrate Mennonite musical roots. It’s hard for Weaver to contain her excitement as the festival grows closer. “There’s never been anything like this in the history of the planet,” she says. “It’s a big bash dedicated to Mennonites performing and studying their own music.”

For more information or to register (musicians, scholars, writers, and appreciative audiences are all welcome!) visit the website grebel.uwaterloo.ca/soundinland or contact Carol Ann Weaver at 519-885-0220x245 or caweaver@uwaterloo.ca

Projects upon Projects

Four publication projects, two recording projects, two commissions, one choir reunion, countless grant applications, and a great idea. For someone who had a “low-key” sabbatical this fall, Len Enns certainly has kept busy.

One project that has taken a lot of Len’s time recently is the DaCapo Chamber Choir’s first recording, “Still,” to be released at the end of May. (Pre-orders are available)

Another major undertaking was two commissioned compositions for two Grebel music sessional instructors: a 15 minute piano sonata for Catherine Robertson, and a song cycle for soprano Stephanie Kramer titled “In the End” on the theme of death and hope. The central song is a setting of John Donne’s sonnet, “Death be not proud.” That work will be premiered at Sound in the Land.

The Grebel Chapel Choir Reunion was a highlight of Len’s sabbatical this year. “It was GREAT!” he said. “I loved it. I want to do it every year!” With 65 experienced alumni, Len said it was easy to “jump in, rehearse, and do what I was trained to do.”

In addition to composing and conducting, Len began background reading for a big project he has in mind – a concert length oratorio dealing with the themes of Russian Mennonite diaspora. While he may not focus specifically on the details of that particular story, it forms the inspiration for his project. He is particularly interested in the themes of disruption, alienation, loss, resettlement, hope, faith, and especially the theme of assimilation and celebration in a new context. These are themes common to countless people throughout the world today. Len hopes this will be a project for his next sabbatical – a full year this time.

If you’d like to hear Len’s recently published choral symphony, “The Silver Cord”, it is being performed on Feb. 28th in Kitchener at Centre in the Square. More of his work will be featured at the Sound in the Land Festival.
**The William Dick PACS Field Study Award**

One of Grebel's newest awards is the William Dick PACS Field Study Award. This award supports and promotes the PACS Field Study program among students at Grebel and UW. Financial support for students will also aid the work of the agencies for which they volunteer. The award was established by a gift from Bill's family including his wife Mary, son and daughter-in-law Paul and Betty Jean Berg-Dick, daughter Marly Penner, and grandchildren Emily and Meredith Berg—all whom have attended Grebel.

**Grebel Annual Fund update**

Each year Grebel friends and alumni make donations to the College to support student life, Peace and Conflict Studies, the music program, Graduate THEOLOGICAL STUDIES or our Library and Archives. These funds are needed to provide the excellent program that our students require and our alumni remember.

In order to balance our annual budget, we still require $52,000 to reach our goal of $310,000 by April 30, 2004.

Please consider becoming part of Grebel’s current mission by making a tax-deductable contribution to our annual fund.

For more info contact:

Fred W. Martin  
Director of Development  
140 Westmount Road,  
Waterloo ON N2L 3G6  
(519) 885-0220 x 381  
fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca

**40th Anniversary Fund**

As a way of celebrating the College’s 40th year of operation, we’ve established the 40th Anniversary Fund. The goal is to generate $40,000 - $1,000 for every year - with special “anniversary gifts” to the college. These funds will be used by our Scholarships and Bursaries committee to make awards to qualified students. To date over $11,000 of “Best Wishes” have been received. We invite you to consider helping future Grebel students during this special year.

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fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca

**Pick up a copy of The Conrad Grebel Review**


Mennonite Christian dialogue articles include Rationality, Humanity, and Modernism; Keeping Pace with Modernity; The Limits of Modernity; From Instrumental Reason to Sacred Intellect; Pluralist Culture and Truth; A Typology of Responses to the Philosophical Problem of Evil in the Islamic and Christian Traditions; Public Orthodoxy and Civic Forbearance.

For single issues or subscriptions, contact: The Conrad Grebel Review, Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G6, 519-885-0220 x242 or cgreview@uwaterloo.ca. Visit the website at grebel.uwaterloo.ca/cgreview

**2003-2004 Scholarship & Award Winners**

**Becky Frey Student Scholarship**  
Jonathan Schmidt

**Good Foundation Scholarship**  
Nathan Gundy  
Jenn Toews

**Graduate Student Support Fund**  
Nak Sun Kim

**Grebel Student Award**

Dan Albrecht  
Adam Feiner

Sara Beecroft  
Jen Golem

Dan Bishop  
Dora Marie Goulet

Lindsay Bowman  
Amanda Hooykaas

David Chodos  
Scott Jantz

Celeste Dickson  
Isaac Luchini

Meagan Doyle  
Amy Nicoll

Katie Diederg  
Matt Ninomiya

John Drummond  
Joel Westberg

**Jacob Andres Scholarship**  
Becky Elko

**Lucinda Robertson Scholarship**  
Dana Evans

**Magdalena Coffman Scholarship**  
Ryan Wiens

**Robin Coupland Jutzi Scholarship**  
Jonathan Enns  
Becky Pearce

**Sauer Family Award**  
Amy Nicoll

**Schroeder Residence Scholarship**  
Andrea Donaldson  
Katie McDougall

**Shantz Travel Aid Fund**  
Suzanne Bender  
Celeste Dickson

Laura Dickey  
Christina Woolner

**Upper Year Residence**

Suzanne Bender  
Jennifer Janzen

Jenny-Lee Bowman  
Stephanie Paetkau

Pam Jantzi  
Lindsay Shantz

Kristen Nighswander

**WMCEC Award**

Ilene Bergen  
Nancy Mann

Jean Lehn Epp  
Lori Reesor

In addition to these Scholarship and Award winners, Grebel had 16 bursary recipients.
MTS: a Retirement Plan

For Marita Williams, Grebel’s Master of Theological Studies is part of her retirement plan and a way of contributing something to the world.

While working toward her MTS degree in the ministry stream at Grebel, Marita is also enrolled at Huron College in the ordination stream of the Anglican Church of Canada, heading toward the priesthood. The 20 Grebel courses she will take count towards the 30 courses she needs to complete her Master of Divinity at Huron.

Currently, Marita is studying at Grebel part-time, taking one course a term. At this rate, it will take her 6-7 years to complete her degree, but Marita isn’t in a hurry. “This is for retirement,” Marita said. “When I retire, then I’ll have something brand new to do, and something I think I’ll really love. It’s a way of giving back. I’ve received so much. God has been so good to me.”

Marita has worked at the University of Waterloo for 27 years, and is currently the Manager of Space Information and Resource Planning, responsible for knowing how every building and room on campus is being used. Before this job, she worked as coordinator of scheduling, among other positions in the registrar’s office. Marita’s UW degree in psychology “helped me to know human nature and to be able to deal with people - the aspect of my job which is most trying. Space is very political and volatile.”

At first glance, Grebel may seem like an odd place to be studying for the priesthood, but it was a natural place for Marita to start. In addition to the very convenient location (just across the creek from work), the MTS program is quite ecumenical with students from a variety of backgrounds. As well, Grebel is very accommodating, allowing credit for courses from other schools. Marita is currently taking a course in Anglicanism through Renison College, and is looking forward to taking Homiletics (a preaching course) at Laurier in the future. Last term she took “Thinking Theologically”, a mix of Biblical studies and dogma, with Tom Yoder Neufeld and Jim Reimer, “two most interesting teachers.” In retrospect, this course was “a good way of stepping into the water.”

An Anglican priest’s duties are similar to a pastor, however Marita will have to go through a postulancy period – a training period where she will meet other students who are going through the same process. “It’s like a period of discernment, going through different steps to determine if the priesthood is your real calling. It all leads up to the final decision of ‘is this really what I want to do?’”

Marita is looking forward to becoming a priest and said “it will be a great carrier in retirement. Something I can work on as long as I live and still feel like a valuable contributor.” Her words of advice are to “contribute your whole being to be the best you can be. Give all you have to offer.”

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MTS Enrollment

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Grebel Now Winter 2004
People

After a long time away from Canada (3.5 yrs in Japan and 7 yrs in California), Philip ('86) and Lorena "Lori" Jessop (nee Crook) have moved back to Canada! Philip has accepted a faculty position as Canada Research Chair at Queen’s University chemistry department. His research is in the area of green chemistry (i.e. environmentally-benign) while Lori is teaching English as a second language at the School of English. Their sons David and Michael are now 14 and 12 and looking forward to seeing a winter with snow.

Eunice Yantzi ('67) rounded out her UW English degree by specializing in English at the Faculty of Education in Toronto and studying speech arts and drama at Toronto’s Royal Conservatory of Music. She recently graduated from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. She plans to return to Toronto to complete several writing projects.

Peter ('94) and Irene Ascough are beginning a three-year Mennonite Central Committee assignment as youth camp directors in Labrador. Irene has a bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of Manitoba, while Peter graduated from UW with a BA in religious studies. They have a one-year-old child, Christopher.

Sophie Bernadette & Ysabel Rose were born on October 24th, 2003 to Tim and Clara Fraschetti ('90). Sisters to Ezra, 27 months old. Clara is following in her maternal Grandmother's footsteps who birthed 2 sets of twins. The family lives in Richmond Hill and is gradually discovering and creating the rhythms of life for a family of five plus two cats – Stanley and Leonard.

Bob Horvath ('84) and his wife Judy welcomed Nicholas into their family on January 6th, 2004. He is a little brother to Laura, Anna, Isaac and Thomas. The Horvaths live on a farm in Drumbo. Bob works as an engineer at Babcock and Wilcox, and Judy is homeschooling Anna, Isaac and Thomas.

Paul Heidebrecht ('94) & Carmen Brubacher ('94) along with Conrad, Sophia & Nathan, are moving to the Milwaukee area so Paul can start a Ph.D. program in theological ethics at Marquette University. Their third child, Nathan Paul Brubacher Heidebrecht, was born on July 8 of this year, two years and one day after his sister Sophia.

Ernie Regehr ('68), Interim President at Grebel from '94-'95, has been appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. The announcement recognizes him as “one of Canada’s most prominent and respected voices on international disarmament and peace. Executive Director and co-founder of Project Ploughshares, Ernie Regehr is known for his sound judgment, balanced views and integrity. Canadian and foreign governments as well as the United Nations call upon him as an expert on disarmament. Organizations such as the World Council of Churches, the Canadian Council for International Cooperation and the Africa Peace Forum also benefit from his knowledge and insight. A dedicated humanitarian, he has made a significant contribution to Canada’s international reputation as a leader in peacemaking.”

Carrie Snyder ('97) just published her first book, Hair Hat, a collection of 11 linked stories. According to Quill & Quire, the common theme in the stories is “a man who has grown his hair into the shape of a hat, becoming a recurring symbol of loss and yearning – a mystery figure more frightening and ambiguous than the Grim Reaper, and more vulnerable and human than any guardian angel.” They also say “hooray for Hair Hat! It’s difficult to find fault with a book wearing its heart so bravely on its head.”

We’ve been gathering all-college and grad photos from the past 40 years, and putting them online. See if you can find yourself! grebel.uwaterloo.ca/alumni/gallery
Laureen Harder-Gissing ('91) is the new manager of the Mennonite and Brethren in Christ Resource Centre in Kitchener. The resource centre has all kinds of exciting resources including videos, DVD's, books, games and more.

Albert Ho ('99) is still alive and wants to say hello to everybody! He now lives in Cary, North Carolina and works for IBM as a software engineer. In his spare time he enjoys playing German board games (like Settlers of Catan and Bohnanza) and the piano. He misses playing bid euchre with his Grebel buddies.

Rodney Sawatsky, Grebel Academic Dean from 1973-1989 and Grebel President from 1989-1994, has resigned from his current role as President of Messiah College in Harrisonburg Virginia, effective June 30, 2004. Rod was diagnosed with a brain tumor last March, and says “although I continue to feel very well and with God's continuing graciousness hope to have years to live, I cannot assure Messiah College the kind of leadership it requires and deserves.” Eunice Steinbrecher, Messiah College Board Chair, writes that Rod is “a leader of exceptional vision, energy, and integrity. He has made an impact on the lives of many young men and women who have been educated toward maturity of intellect, character, and Christian faith.” Rod and his wife Lorna plan to move to Ontario to be closer to their daughters, Tanya, Lisa, and Katherine.

Heather Clayton ('85) has been working as a special education consultant (grades 7-12) for the Kawartha Pine Ridge School Board since this past September. She is supporting teachers and administration with programming for and dealing with special education kids of various types (other than learning and life skills). Heather’s husband, Paul, is now teaching part-time so he can take care of the home front and the chauffeuring of their 3 kids, ages 13, 11 and 8. The Claytons spent 2000 in Australia on a teaching exchange. Heather writes, “we traveled for almost 16 of the weeks that we were away and saw much of Australia as well as New Zealand and the Cook Islands. We were living in outback Australia with kangaroos, emus and lizards.”

Sara Cressman ('01) and David Martin ('02) were happily married on June 14th, 2003 and now live in Waterloo. David is pursuing his Master's in Canadian History at Waterloo, while Sara works as an accountant and project manager at Bramante Studio in Kitchener.

Mark Heinmiller ('00) has just begun working as Technical Services Librarian at the public library in Edmundston, New Brunswick. Mark writes “I am very excited! I’ll miss my friends and family in Ontario, but it should be great living in New Brunswick. One has to start somewhere, and this position sounds like a great start. I'll be doing many different tasks -- human resources, marketing and public relations, collection development, serving on committees, travelling to different libraries in the region, and even some cataloguing. As a bonus, I'll be able to improve my French skills!”

Marlys Neufeldt ('95) and Alan Armstrong ('94) introduced William "Liam" Scott Neufeldt Armstrong into their family on September 4, 2003. He is a little brother to Siena and Thea. They recently moved to Belmont, California, where Alan took a job with Wylie Technology.
Remember....

- Mother Ellis as the house mother when what we needed was riot police?
- Getting Winfield Fretz out of bed to address our concerns about food quality?
- When the men took the supper dress rules literally and came dressed in pants, jacket, and tie but no shirt?
- The only morning when more than half the residence showed up for breakfast early? The men’s long hallway had been tied up with clothes line complements of Brian Iler and Jim Griffiths. Do you remember their “payback”?
- One of the greatest pranks of all — gathering our belts to string together as we tried to lower our thinnest member down the garbage chute to break into the kitchen for food?
- Spending hours typing Gestetner masters of John Rempel’s sermons for copying and distribution? (Do you still have your copy?)
- The late night conversations sitting on the floor in the hall so you wouldn’t disturb your roomie?
- The productions of *Swan Lake* and *Waiting for Godot*?

Did you know that in the past few months there have been three localized alumni gatherings in Toronto, Ottawa, and K-W? Only people with email addresses in our database were officially notified. The rest of you had to rely on word of mouth. Help save paper and keep in touch. Send your email address to Jen (jkonkle@uwaterloo.ca)