Memories of Silver Lake

For the past 30 years, the All-College Retreat at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp has signified the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year. This year the annual retreat proved to be especially memorable because this was the last time we would use this venue.

The decision to change the location became necessary when the number of attendees grew to 70 people over the camp’s capacity. “The decision was a difficult one and really boils down to lack of adequate space at Silver Lake,” says Ann Snider, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Students and Chaplain. “Cramming 220 people into a space that is designed for about 150 is fraught with potential difficulties. We managed only because it never rained. If we’d had a rainy weekend we would have been in trouble because there are no facilities large enough to accommodate indoor activities.” The decision to change camps was even more difficult considering the camp’s significance for many Grebel students who have been to Silver Lake as campers or staff.

The weekend, appropriately themed ‘Memories,’ began with a morning campfire where faculty shared their memories of Silver Lake, some dating back to when they were Grebel students.

Black Walnut Garden Dedication

This summer, in an effort to preserve Mennonite history, a black walnut tree was planted to commemorate the first Pennsylvania German Mennonite settlers in Waterloo Region. Henry Paetkau, President of Conrad Grebel, opened the dedication by stating that “as a Mennonite educational institution, we believe that remembering and preserving something of the history of the Mennonite people and church is vital to our future.” The black walnut was donated by Robert and Dale Woolner and was an offspring of a tree Robert’s mother had planted on her farm which is now being threatened by new highways and development. “Since the Mennonites who came to this area were all farmers, soil quality was a big issue. Traditionally the black walnut tree has been seen as an indicator of good soil. Thus it seemed appropriate to commemorate the
Dalinda Reese, a native of Richmond, Virginia, recently packed up all of her belongings, including her three reluctant children and one eager husband, and moved to the city of Waterloo. The idea was raised by her husband Clarke, “who’s had a real itch to move to Canada for some time.”

Dalinda, a practicing anesthesiologist, and her husband Clarke, a stay at home Dad for the past five years, visited Waterloo last summer. They really liked the area and thought it was “a very nice place to raise a family.” Dalinda and Clarke also liked the city because they had a mutual desire to return to school, with Clarke interested in the University of Waterloo’s Applied Heath Studies program and Dalinda wanting to expand her interest in spirituality and health. Grebel’s MTS program looked like a good place to do this.

At 17 years of age and with only one year left of high school, Dalinda and Clarke’s twin boys, Michael and David, were understandably hesitant to move. However, raising a family in the U.S. was a growing concern for Dalinda and Clarke because of the potential for a military draft and the global situation as a whole. “Not everyone thinks the same way. If we support peace we are somehow unpatriotic, even though we are just expressing our opinions. Since when does supporting peace mean we are anti-troop?” Dalinda asks. She felt that their right to free-speech had been “hijacked” in that climate.

Eventually the idea to move to Canada became more realistic. For the Reese family, it meant “that our options would be expanded,” says Dalinda. Grebel’s Master of Theological Studies (MTS) program currently has 49 active students, 10 of them new students and 13% full time. This is one of Grebel’s fastest growing programs with approximately 70% of MTS students in the Ministry Option.

For several decades the number of people wanting to attend the All-College Retreat has been increasing. Since the residence expansion in 2004 and the double cohort year, the number of residents and associates wanting to attend the retreat has been even higher. For the first time last year, Student Services had to limit the number of students who could attend.

Next year’s All-College Retreat will be held at Camp Trillium on Rainbow Lake, one hour away from Grebel, with a capacity of 250+. The site offers a climbing wall, swimming pool, boating, games lounge, craft room, two campfire pits and much more.

Stretching after the long bus ride, singing around the campfire, splashing in the lake, the sauna, freshly baked cookies... - what is your fondest memory of Silver Lake? Tell us and we will share the stories in our next Grebel Now issue. Please send submissions to greblweb@uwaterloo.ca
Anabaptist Colloquium

Another year is underway here at Grebel with 91 new residents moving in on Labour Day. Frosh week was a rousing success thanks to the tireless efforts of our Orientation Committee and the hard work of the student leaders.

Student Council Notes

Student Council will once again be faced with the very rewarding task of working to bring together the many different members of our community. Adding to our community is the increasing number of residents from a variety of different cultural backgrounds. With a large influx of frosh, the residence is abuzz with new and creative energy. We are planning a full year of events both big and small. In fact, Student Council has just agreed to finance a musical production of “Footloose,” scheduled for March 2006.

Beyond being a social network inside of the community, I think it is also important to emphasize the more “outward” aspects of the student body. The Council brings people together to encourage a charitable and socially responsible attitude inside and outside of Grebel. Examples of this are our trick-or-treating for canned goods for a local food bank and a charity poker tournament.

With such an energized group of students, and so many great leaders emerging, I couldn’t be more excited about the year to come.

-Tobin Reimer, Student Council President

The Ontario Mennonite Music Camp (OMMC) was once again held at Conrad Grebel University College this August. Attended by 36 energetic and talented young musicians (and 8 professionally trained staff-musicians), the camp spanned two weeks and proved to be a great success. The campers, ranging from ages 12 to 16, spent their days surrounded by music and worship while still couched within an exuberant ‘summer camp’ environment.

Each day began with a short chapel service followed by a hearty Grebel breakfast. The rest of the morning consisted of a choral/musical rehearsal, individual masterclasses and free time. After lunch there were a variety of seminars, including hymn leading, sound walks, program music and knot tying. This was usually followed by a recreation time filled with fun games, swimming, and even a photo scavenger hunt. A devotional time after supper usually preceded a professional concert, or more recreation time, and the day ended with a meaningful campfire across the creek.

On the Sunday that fell within the two-week session, the campers were bused to Markham where they put on a morning worship service at Rouge Valley Mennonite church. In the afternoon they performed a short concert at Parkview Retirement Home in nearby Stouffville. The musical fruits of these two weeks were formally realized at the final concert held on Friday, August 26 at Breslau Mennonite Church. Here, each student performed pieces prepared in their respective masterclasses, which included piano, wind, string and vocal selections. Along with these individual pieces came the choral pieces sung by the mass choir and the full-length musical, “Samson,” performed by all of the campers. It was astonishing to see the effort and abilities portrayed by these fine young musicians which showed a level of musicianship and maturity that was well beyond their years.

Over the course of these two weeks many friendships (no doubt long-lasting) were formed, and new bridges to worship and music were achieved and solidified. Moving forward into its twenty-third year, OMMC promises to be a lasting staple, blending musical excellence in young people with worshipful integrity for many years to come.

By Brandon Leis – Vocal Director OMMC
Faculty Travel and Tours

Over the course of the summer many faculty had the opportunity to travel and lead learning tours around the world. Some of these destinations included: England, Greece, Israel, Korea, Russia, South Africa, Turkey and Ukraine. Below are brief descriptions of their exciting adventures, and highlights of two upcoming tours to South Africa, and Germany.

Tom Yoder Neufeld, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Theological Studies, his wife Rebecca, and approximately 35 others spent two packed weeks in Turkey and Greece, acquainting themselves with the world of Paul. The group was jointly sponsored by Conrad Grebel University College and TourMagination, from May 27-June 12, 2005. The group visited such sites as Ephesus, Philippi, Thessaloniki, Corinth, and Athens, as well as sites that were very much part of Paul’s world like Aphrodisias, Pergamum, Laodicea, Hierapolis, and Delphi. In addition to the ancient world of Paul’s day, the group also had opportunity to visit Istanbul, the capital of the Ottoman Empire, earlier the center of new Rome, called Constantinople. Other sites visited that are important in the history of Eastern Christianity included ancient Nicaea in Turkey and Meteora in Greece.

Together with Turkish and Greek guides, Tom taught about the Apostle Paul at the various sites, but also on the bus, and on some evenings in the hotels. Most important for the entire group was getting reacquainted with Paul in the setting in which he once founded communities of persons devoted to Jesus. “We thought hard about what it meant for them to confess as ‘Lord,’ ‘Saviour,’ and ‘Son of God’ a Galilean who had been crucified as a rebel by the Roman imperial authorities, when those same emperors were being worshiped with exactly those same titles,” says Tom.

Len Enns, Music Professor, and Marlene Epp, Academic Dean, were resource leaders on a TourMagination tour to Russia and Ukraine, July 29 - August 12, 2005. The group was 28 people in total, including tour leader Wilmer Martin. Participants came from across North America, and included one 3-generational family of 7 people. The trip included visits to Moscow and St. Petersburg in Russia, Kyiv, and Zaporizhia in Ukraine. The latter city sits on the Dnipro River in southern Ukraine and in between the former Mennonite settlements of Khortitsa and Molochna. Marlene served as a resource for the Mennonite historical experience while Len offered insights on Russian Mennonite musical heritage. Many people joined the tour with the purpose of visiting places where parents or grandparents had lived or where they themselves had been born. “It was interesting for me to see several monuments that were recently placed at sites of historic importance to Mennonites, such as granite benches at the train station at Lichtenau, and a memorial stone at Eichenfeld, the site of a massacre of Mennonites in 1919,” says Marlene.

Ken Hull, Music Professor, along with fourteen Music students spent two weeks exploring the music and culture of London, England from the 16th century to the present. The Music 355 “Music and Culture in London” study tour ran from May 11-25, 2005. The program included concerts, theatre, museums, galleries and architecture as well as lectures and seminars. Standing in front of the famous Stonehenge is Bram Cymet, a second-year student majoring in honours math and minoring in music.

For more info. on faculty activities visit: www.grebel.uwaterloo.ca/academic/facultyactivities.shtml

Len and Marlene standing in the gate to the former residence of Mennonite entrepreneur Johann Cornies in Juschanlee, Molochna.

Henry Paetkau, Grebel President, and his wife Leonora enjoyed the “Experiencing the Bible in Israel” tour from August 17-27, 2005. “Reading the Bible in places where these events occurred not only connects one with those experiences long ago and far away but also challenges one to find their meaning and relevance for the here and now,” says Henry. This tour was co-sponsored by Grebel and TourMagination. It is offered again from June 21- July 1, 2006. More information is available from www.tourmagination.com.

Henry and Leonora enjoying a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.

Composer, performer and Grebel professor Carol Ann Weaver and her musical partner, Canadian singer and songwriter Rebecca Campbell, completed a two-part musical ‘world tour,’ visiting Korea and South Africa.

Weaver and Campbell visited Seoul, Korea from June 19 - 24, 2005 where they attended the 9th International Interdisci-
Music and Culture in Durban, South Africa

May 8-26, 2006
Music 355

In May 2006, Carol Ann Weaver, Music Professor at Conrad Grebel, will take students on a two-and-a-half week study tour of Durban, South Africa.

Some of the events include visiting a traditional Zulu village, attending lectures on African music and culture by University of KwaZulu, attending concerts of traditional African music and spending time on the Indian Ocean beach.

For more information: contact Prof. Weaver by phone at (519) 885-0220 x245 or e-mail at caweaver@uwaterloo.ca or visit grebel.uwaterloo.ca/music/southafrica.shtml

Bonhoeffer: Life and Legacy
Centenary Study Tour
May 11-26, 2006

This spring, A. James Reimer, Religion and Theology Professor at Conrad Grebel, and Peter Frick, Religious Studies Professor at St. Paul’s United College, will lead a tour through Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic to visit the major sites important in the life of one of the most influential theologians of the twentieth century, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945).

 Stops on the tour include his birth place (Breslau), his boyhood home (Berlin), universities attended (Berlin, Tübingen), pastorates (Berlin, and Kozalin in Poland), Confessing Church seminary which he directed (first in Zingst, then in Finkenwalde), the monastery where he stayed during his involvement with the conspiracy against Hitler (Ettal in Bavaria), and prison and concentration camps where he was held and finally executed (Berlin, Buchenwald, and Flossenbürg).

For more information, visit grebel.uwaterloo.ca/gts/bonhoeffer.shtml or contact James Reimer at 519-885-0220 x234 or ajreimer@uwaterloo.ca

Grebel Review

The Spring 2005 issue of The Conrad Grebel Review is available NOW! This issue’s theme is “Mennonite Scholars and Friends: papers from the 2002 and 2004 Forums.” From the 2002 forum entitled: Radical Orthodoxy and Radical Reformation selected papers are written by John Millbank, Jim Reimer, Chris Huebner, Travis Kroeker, Malinda Berry and Gerald Schlabach. From the 2004 forum entitled, Anabaptist Witness in the Public Square selected papers are written by Ted Grimsrud, Scott Holland, Jeremy Bergen, Matt Hamsher, Peter Blum and Peter Dula. 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
People

David Willms (’94) and Anita Fieguth (’92) are delighted to welcome their daughter Naomi Li Fieguth Willms into their family. Naomi was born in China on May 26, 2004 and was adopted on May 16th, 2005. Big brother Andrew is enthralled with his little sister and loves to make her laugh. Dave is on parental leave until mid-August, after which he will return to work at Northern Digital Inc. in Waterloo. Anita is based at home with the children and picks up the occasional social work contracts.

Beth Reyburn (’97) and her husband Graeme Henkelman have decided to brave the swirling heat and make their home in Austin, Texas. Beth is managing a bike shop while traveling around the U.S. competing in all sorts of biking & wilderness adventure races. When she’s not on her bike, you might find her tubing down the river, playing frisbee golf, or hanging out on the front porch of their beautiful Austin home. Graeme is an assistant professor in the Chemistry & Biochemistry department of the University of Texas at Austin. Beth’s email is breyburn@gmail.com.

Ada Jaarsma (’97) received her PhD in Philosophy from Purdue University in May and will begin teaching Philosophy at Sonoma State University, in beautiful Northern California wine country. She misses Canada and would love to hear from Grebel friends: adajaarsma@alumni.uwaterloo.ca

Jennifer Thiessen (’00) and Nathan Scott (’01) welcomed the birth of their daughter Abigail Jessie Thiessen Scott at home in Vineland on May 11. Currently, Nathan is running his own business from home while Jennifer is on maternity leave from her position as a reference librarian at Brock University.

Jennie (Krueger) (’99) and Colin (’01) Wiebe along with sister Naomi, 2, are happy to introduce Joshua John Krueger, born May 30th in Leamington. He is the newest staff member at Meadowlark Organic Farm on Pelee Island, where Jennie & Colin are in their second year as farm managers. Big sister Naomi loves to hug and kiss her little brother. “Drop us a line!” at: cnjwiebe@msn.net and visit www.meadowlarkfarm.org.

Melody and Scott Morton Ninomiya (’97) are currently in the middle of their second term with MCC in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, serving as Co-Executive Directors of Community Mediation Services. They plan to stay on for a while so that Melody can go back to university for a Masters in Education and so Scott can continue trying to pose as a true Newfoundlander. They now have two children: Maya, 4 and Aidan, 2. The Ninomiya’s would like you to feel free to contact them if you are headed their way at: morton_ninomiya@yahoo.com.

Karen (Lange) Autio (’81) recently published her first book entitled Second Watch by Sono Nis Press. The novel is intended for young readers and is about an 11-year-old girl named Saara who navigates a challenging time at home in the Finnish immigrant community in Port Arthur, Ontario, as she seeks passage on the majestic steamship Empress of Ireland. The 1914 tragedy of this Canadian Pacific passenger ship provides an historical basis for this compelling tale of hardship and hope, faith and family. Learn more at www.karenautio.com. Karen lives in Kelowna, BC with her husband Will (’80) and their two children.

Tony and Sarah (Ainsworth) Mohr (’01) are thrilled to announce the birth of our daughter, Avery Elizabeth on May 19, 2005. She weighed 6 lbs, 12 ounces. Tony and Sarah are currently residing in the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

In a case of life imitating art, Sara Martin (’97), after playing Marian the Librarian in The Community Players of New Hamburg’s ‘The Music Man’, received her Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Western Ontario. She has just completed her second year as the Librarian at Resurrection Catholic S.S. in Kitchener. Sara also is a member of the DaCapo Chamber Choir and performs regularly with local theatre groups that include KWMP’s upcoming production of “Seussical, the Musical” in November 2005 at the Centre in the Square. She can be reached at smartin@alumni.uwaterloo.ca.

Meg Bauman (’93) and her husband, Mike Ratcliffe, welcomed Katelyn Elizabeth into their family on October 23, 2004. Meg has been enjoying her time at home with Kate, but is looking forward to returning to work at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate in the fall. First time grandparents, Nancy Brubaker and Brian Bauman (senior residents ‘80–’82), are bursting with pride and loving every minute with their new granddaughter.

Steve (’96) and Jennifer (Wiebe) (’96) Driediger are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Rachael Elizabeth on June 1st, 2005. Sarah, age 3, is thoroughly enjoying her new role as “the big sister.” The Driedigers are living in Kanata and can be contacted by email at: steve.jennifer@sympatico.ca.

After working very hard to become a better writer and researcher, Diane Chesla (’02), is the co-author of “Africa’s Blessing/Africa’s Curse: The legacy of resource extraction in Africa.” Chesla has spent several years as a web-editor for AfricaFiles covering peace and conflict in sub-Saharan Africa’s mining/oil sector has and has recently finished her Masters degree at York University. Chesla has also accepted to present at Canada’s first conference on dialogue and deliberation in Ottawa this October.

Ernie Regehr (’68) has retired from his role as Executive Director at Project Ploughshares. Ernie has been with Project Ploughshares since its beginning in 1976. He will continue to work with Project Ploughshares as a Service Advisor, focusing on writing, researching and other special projects. Succeeding Ernie is John Siebert, who has extensive knowledge in the areas of foreign affairs and human rights organizations in Canada.
It was with great sadness that the college community learned of the death of Sarah Leili this past summer. Sarah had finished a year of studies at Conrad Grebel and UW, and was spending her summer working at home in the Leamington area.

Sarah will be missed for many reasons. Her warm smile and unique laughter were a friendly presence in Grebel’s hallways. Her passion for peace and concern for the well-being of the earth inspired many conversations. Her participation in the Peace and Conflict Studies program were times of genuine growth in understanding for herself and with friends. Sarah’s friends hold these times of study and fun dear and close to their hearts.

The service remembering Sarah’s life was a celebration of joy and faith. Grebel students at the service were moved by the fond remembrances and reflections of the students at the service were moved by the fond remembrances and reflections of the Lemington United Mennonite Church pastors, Darrell Fast and Anna Lisa Salo, special music by Angelika and Carlos Correa and a special medley of Sarah’s favourite hymns composed by Paul Dueck. The hospitality of LUMC in the lunch following was warm and caring.

Ed Janzen, Chaplain

Alan Teichroeb (BES ’82, MAES ‘91) gave an address to over 75 University of Waterloo alumni at a reception hosted at Henry of Pelham winery. Al is the Business Development Manager at the Niagara Economic Development Corporation. Other Grebel alumni in attendance included Susan Dueckman ’80, Burkhardt Schmidt, ’82 and Al’s wife Ruth Willms. Participants enjoyed the task of discerning fine wine and agreed that alumni, Ron Giesbrecht, BSC ’83 who is the wine maker at Henry of Pelham, is doing a fine job.

John Miller, Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at Conrad Grebel, recently received first place honours from the Catholic Press Association 2005 for his book entitled, How the Bible came to be. The book is a detailed study of the form and message of the Bible as a whole. In an excerpt from the citation, the book is described as “very useful for students of the Bible. It addresses some of the most asked questions about the formation of the Scriptures. In addition, this book could help to correct some of the most threatening dangers of religious fundamentalism such as supersessionalism and triumphalism.” Miller is also an ordained minister in the Mennonite church. He is author of eight books, including The Origins of the Bible, Jesus at Thirty, and Calling God “Father.” All of these books are available from The Bookshop at Pandora Press – www.pandorapress.com

Grebel Alumnus Peter Harder Receives Honorary Degree

Peter Harder (’75) is one of seven who will be receiving an honorary degree from the University of Waterloo this fall. Harder will receive a Doctor of Laws for his many achievements as a public servant and for his help in shaping Canada’s role on the international scene. Also accepting an honorary degree is Rudy Wiebe. Hildi Froese Tiessen will introduce Wiebe when he accepts his Doctor of Letters on Saturday, October 22, 2005.

The newly released Then and Now Conrad Grebel Chapel Choir CD is now available online at: grebel.uwaterloo.ca/chapelchoir

Receive a free Then and Now CD when you donate $500 or more to Grebel’s annual fund campaign.

Upcoming Concerts
Conrad Grebel Chapel

November 2
Sounds of Vietnam
Khac Chi and friends

November 9
Classical & Contemporary Piano
Cheryl Pauls, piano

November 16
Virtuoso Piano
Roman Rudnytsky, piano

November 23
Russian Choral Music
Archiglas (a 5-member a capella group from Russia)

November 26
8:00 p.m.
University Choir “Magnificat” - J.S. Bach & “Gloria” - Antonio Vivaldi with members of the Waterloo Chamber Players Gordon Burnett, conductor St. John’s Lutheran Church

November 27
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Stage Band ‘Christmas Jazz’
Michael Wood, director Great Hall, CGUC

November 28
7:00 p.m.
Instrumental Chamber Ensemble
Elaine Sweeney, director CGUC chapel

December 11
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Chamber Choir “Great Choruses of Christmas”
Richard Cunningham, director Graham Coles, conductor, W.L.U.
Come out and see who has changed!
Alumni from the 1970-75 era are invited to an informal reception at Grebel at 6:30 p.m. Hosted by Sandy (Froese) Callahan, BA ’71 and Bob Burkholder, BA ’76, the evening will include stories by featured alumni including CBC Producer of Tapestry, Marieke Meyer, BA ’77, and community activist and CEO of Famous Players Inc., Salah Bachir. To register visit: http://alumni.uwaterloo.ca/homecoming

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Calendar of Events
1979-75 Grebel Alumni Reunion
register at alumni.uwaterloo.ca/homecoming or call 519-885-0220 x381
Benjamin Eby Lecture
with Hildi Froese Tiessen
Sawatsky Visiting Scholar Lecture
“Responding to the Tsunami and Darfur Crises: Report from Indonesia and Sudan” with Ron Mathies
Bechtel Lectures
with Dr. James Urry

October 29, 2005 6:30pm
November 11, 2005 7:00pm
December 7, 2005 7:00pm
March 9-10, 2006 7:30pm

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Distinguished Alumni Service Award
The Distinguished Alumni Service Award will be given annually to alumni who have, in some notable way, demonstrated the unique emphases of Conrad Grebel University College.

The qualifications for the award are:
1) Was a resident or associate of Grebel for four terms, or is a graduate of one of Grebel’s academic programs (Music, Peace and Conflict Studies, Master of Theological Studies);
2) Has made a unique contribution to the church, community, nation, world that is significant and worthy of recognition;
3) Has made a contribution representing the ideals and purposes of Conrad Grebel University College

Grebel invites you to nominate deserving alumni by Dec. 31, ‘05 for awarding in April, ‘06. Send nominations to: Fred W Martin, Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G6, fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca