New agreement on Theological Education

On December 18, 2006 an historic agreement on Graduate Theological Studies (GTS) was signed between Conrad Grebel University College, St. Jerome’s University and the University of Waterloo (UW).

“This new milestone in our GTS program is the happy result of the good reputation established by the program, a compelling vision for the future, and much goodwill among those who worked together to reach this agreement,” observed Jim Pankratz, Academic Dean at Conrad Grebel. Since his arrival in January 2006, one of his biggest tasks has been leading this discussion about Graduate Theological Studies at the College.

Photo: Myroslaw Tataryn, Acting President, St Jerome’s University, (left), David Johnston, President, University of Waterloo, Henry Paetkau, President, Conrad Grebel University College and Amit Chakma Vice-President, Academic and Provost, gathered to sign the agreement that will see funding flow to Conrad Grebel University College and St. Jerome’s University for their graduate programs in theological studies. ...continued on page 3

Mennonite Writers

“Mennonite sells,” Sandra Birdsell’s Random House publicist declared to an audience that gathered at Conrad Grebel last year to hear Birdsell read from her novel _Children of the Day_, the sequel to her Giller Prize-nominated _The Russländer_. In recent years Mennonite writers like Sandra Birdsell, Rudy Wiebe, David Bergen, and Miriam Toews have brought the Mennonites to national – and international – attention.

Mennonite writers have had a presence at Grebel and the University of Waterloo for many years. Sandra Birdsell, at the invitation of Grebel, was writer in residence on campus over a decade ago. Rudy Wiebe was awarded an honorary degree by the University of Waterloo last year. This spring Birdsell is returning to Grebel once more, this time to deliver the Bechtel Lectures in Anabaptist Mennonite Studies on March 15 and 16. (See back page for more info on the Bechtel Lectures.)

Grebel was the first of the Mennonite colleges in North America to offer a course in Mennonite Literature, a course that Hildi Froese Tiessen (for whom “Mennolit” is a primary area of research) developed in the eighties. It was in 1990, though, that Conrad Grebel was firmly identified with Mennonite literature. That year Grebel hosted the first conference on “Mennonite/s Writing.” It was an amazing event – full of readings and lectures by the most prominent writers and scholars in the field and overflowing with animated conversation. It was memorable, for both Mennonites and for the non-Mennonite scholars in Canadian literature who attended, and who even now speak of that conference as a highlight in their academic careers. Three more conferences have followed since 1990. ...continued on page 2
Many Grebel alumni from the eighties and nineties will recall Mennonite authors frequently reading at Connie Spurrek, giving lectures, and running creative writing workshops. Three Grebel Alumni from the nineties, Carrie Snyder, Melanie Cameron, and Kristen Mathies, were so inspired by these writers that they became writers themselves. Coming full circle, these now already accomplished writers, were invited to read some of their work at the November 2006 Mennonite’s Writing Conference in Bluffton, OH.

Carrie Snyder (‘97)

Education: BA from UW in English Literature and Peace and Conflict Studies; MA in English Literature from the University of Toronto.

Work:Hair Hat (2004): short stories and poems in a number of periodicals and anthologies; nominated for numerous awards, winner of several; worked in the Books section of the National Post.

Currently: working on a novel set in Nicaragua; being a mom to three children, ages 5, 4, and 1; living in Waterloo with husband Kevin Cairns.

Carrie Snyder lived at Conrad Grebel during her years 93 where she was in residence with Melanie Cameron. She has great memories of spending time with the coops, flipping tons of eggs on the grill and discovering that one of the layers of delicious seven-layer-salad is pure mayonnaise! As an English student, Carrie considered Heidi Froese Tiessen organized. Prior to the series, Melanie had never participated in a workshop or talked extensively with a published author. “Listening to writers share their thoughts about poetry, and about how they carve out mental and practical space for themselves, was profound for me,” says Melanie. “Some of the insights shared by those writers have stuck with me, and I find myself drawing to writers share their thoughts about poetry, and about how they carve out mental and practical space for themselves, was profound for me.”

Kristen Mathies (‘95)

Education: BA from UW in English Literature and Peace and Conflict Studies; MA at the University of Waterloo; MA in Peace Studies from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

Work: has published some poetry; writes short stories; served one year for Mennonite Central Committee in New York as a United Nations Intern.

Currently: finishing a novel; teaching ESL, GED, and Rockway Mennonite College in Kitchener.

Beginning and ending life at Grebel as an associate, Kristen was a resident for two years and third year of university. She was very involved with student council, donning, chapel committee, peace society, and more. She even spent a year as the custodian for the academic building! Thinking back to her formative years as a writer, Kristen thought that the Mennonite writers Heidi invited to campus were “fabulously encouraging!” To learn from the writers whose work she’d read and enjoyed was inspiring to keep working on her own writing. “Just as significant as being able to meet with the published/well-known writers,” reflects Kristen, “was the kind of community that was created among the people taking the workshops.” Reading from her nearly completed novel at the Mennonite’s Writing conference in the fall, Kristen found the event to be “fantastic: writing, celebration, teaching, discussion, community, and worship rolled into a few days!” She came away with “gratitude for the organizers, delight in the very fine work I heard, amazement at the sheer variety of talent, and great confidence in my own work, questions to follow up on, and scribbled drafts of new work.”

The Make-A-Difference Market

As a second year anthropology student at the University of Waterloo, Conrad Grebel resident Mimi Hollinger-Janzen has resolved to make a difference in the world. Born in Benin, West Africa where she spent her first thirteen years, Mimi returned to the country last summer to work in a home called Casa Grande. From the dream of its founders and the support of a small Mennonite congregation in Spain, the home has grown into a place where over 24 children who have been separated from their biological parents through death or because of health or financial hardships, La Casa Grande is expanding its facilities to accommodate a number of children needing a loving home and become a more viable Christian community for 100 children with a school, a health center and training opportunities.

Upon returning to school in the fall, Mimi brought back handmade necklaces by the children at La Casa Grande. Her personal project was to sell this jewelry to raise money for the home. Conrad Grebel Chapel Committee together with Chaplain Ed Janzen, decided to host a Christmas bash at the College and invited Ten Thousand Villages and Nazareth Village Ministry to be part of it. The Make-A-Difference Market evolved to host eleven vendors and two organizations, drawing more than 250 local shoppers. “There are times when everything comes together in pretty amazing ways - the heart of who we are, our experiences, and our opportunities find expression in our daily life,” mused Ed Janzen. “The Make-A-Difference Market was one such time for various members of the Grebel community.”

All vendors donated 10% of their proceeds to La Casa Grand, raising over $500. While Mimi was happy with this amount, she said “the more important thing is that now people are aware of La Casa Grande. The event showed people that they have an alternative to shopping in traditional places and that there are significant projects that not only bring pleasure to the recipient but also help the person who created it.” Reflecting back on the event, Ed Janzen said that “the relationships that Mimi had with Casa Grande, her family’s experiences as missionaries in Benin, her and her friends’ concerns for justice and peace, the support of the college, and the opportunities of the Christmas season all came together to make a difference for the children’s home. Such an event turns the circumstances of life into a lifestyle of Christian commitment.”

Theological Education

At its fall Strategic Planning sessions, the Board, along with other stakeholders, highlighted the need to expand the Master of Theological Studies program. This program has grown significantly in recent years and now has over 50 students enrolled. Many of them are preparing for leadership in the church, some are continuing their education, and others are preparing for further graduate studies. Of the 53 graduates from this program, about one quarter have gone on to complete doctoral studies in Bible and theology, nearly half are in the pastorate, and the rest are in a variety of professions. Students are preparing for leadership in the church, some are pastors who are continuing their education, and others are preparing for further graduate studies. Theology programs have an increasing demand for students who are preparing for leadership in the church and are interested in a ministry that is rooted in the Christian faith.

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Hammer & Wind

HAMMER AND WIND (2007) is the latest CD of music by Leonard Enns. The disc is devoted to his chamber music and features performers with whom Enns collaborates regularly, most of them on staff in the Grebel Music Department: Stephanie Kramer (soprano), Carmen Kasdorf (flute), Jeff Gundy (piano), Willem Moens (baritone), and平Amish houses into raucous mar- kets, and plain Amish houses into rau cous marble-roller arcades. Respectively and some-times irreverently, the songs deal with the humour, piety, earthiness, work-and-play, aspirations, wonder, imagination, and beauty found within this unique cultural setting. The music joyfully incorporates sounds from a shared cultural Mennonite heritage - songs of work and play, songs of Tom Yoder Neufeld, who teaches Biblical studies in the program.
American Duo Makes their Mark

At every end-of-term banquet, the Student Council presents several Student Life Awards. Winners of this non-monetary (fame only) award are nominated by their peers because they have shown outstanding leadership despite not holding a formal leadership role at the College. It is intended for students who stand out in the crowd - who get involved in the community in an exceptional way.

This past fall term, five students were presented with this award. Two recipients introduced themselves: Rosabeth Koehn and Angela Honore. Each received a first-year English major from Goshen, Indiana. Honore explained how these two women enrich the Grebel community simply by their glowing presence. ‘Whether it’s the creation of foreign film night or a lovely hymn sing or just a piece of pie for American Thanksgiving, they always warm our hearts. Both are very involved in the Peace Society, working toward bettering the lives of refugees in the KW area. Both individuals are unique: one more athletic, one more artistic, one a flaming red head, the other an earthy brown, one can play the accordion, the other doesn’t, one wears many similarities: hometowns, love of suburbs, adoration of the Stratford area, their constant desire to look in every Salvation Army thrift shop possible, their intelligences, their accents, and their uncommon compassion and empathy.’

‘And I know I may appear very similar if you are simply reading our bio,’ said Rosabeth, ‘but we actually have very different personalities and are interested in different types of activities - I am more athletic while Angie is more into music and theatre. We were good friends in high school but made the decision to come to Grebel separately.’ Angie added that while they do a lot together, they have their own interests as well. And while they often reach the same conclusions, they think differently and approach things in different ways. ‘It has been a wonderful gift,’ summarized Rosabeth, ‘to be able to share the unique experience that is Grebel with an old friend as we encounter new things and grow both together and separately.’

Active in Peace Society, FLOW (Grebel women’s group), UW women’s centre, writing for Grebel Speaks, organizing with others a weekly Grebel Foreign Film Night, Rosabeth is motivated to not only be a part of the creation - the lives of other people as well - but also to create the space for others to contribute.”

“Coming to Grebel to make her music, as well as student big brother, Angie wanted to be a part of the experience.”

Honouring each other.

On October 26 over 70 donors and student recipients came to a reception to celebrate Student Awards, Scholarships and Bursaries. The event was a wonderful way for do- nors to meet students whose studies they have helped to support. Recent alumnus Jake Sauer, who established the Sauer Family Award in memory of his mother Helen Louise, observed that setting up this fund is a concrete way to share the spirit of Grebel that he and his mother enjoyed, with future generations of students. In the last 5 years this program has grown immensely and this year $100,000 will be distributed to successful student applicants. Director of Development, Fred Martin, noted that in this time over 20 named awards for student support have been established. At the end of last fiscal year, the College held over $1.7 million in endowed funds for student awards in addition to awards funded by external partners such as Mennonite Foundation or the Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (below).

For more info on awards and endowed initiatives, visit the planned giving website: grebel.uwaterloo.ca/giving

Congratulations 2006-07 Winners

Grebel proudly congratulates these scholarship and award winners. Thank you to all those who have set up memorial scholarships and awards to honour family members, as well as friends who have set up funds to support students over the years.

40th Anniversary Award - David Lenton

A. James Reimer Award

Allan Rudy-Froese

Alice Eisen Leadership Award

Kyle Gossen, Lauren Eby-Koehn, David Froese, Trevor Moore, Vasana Ayesekery

Becky Frey Scholarship - Timothy Rudd

Clemens Scholarships in Music

Cecile Michniwicz, Jane Thompson, Jennie Spratt, Sarah Fried, Jennifer Kremser, Trevor Moore, Vasana Ayesekery

Clifford Snyder Memorial Bursary

Steve Park

Dean’s Residence Award - Julia Mallick

Entrance Scholarships - Jessica Reesor, Rosabeth Koehn, Symon Fleming

George E. and Louise Schroeder Award

Khoang Truong, Tobin Reimer

Grebel Choral Church Music Scholarship

Chris Head

Good Foundation Scholarship - Emma Dines, Leah Harder, Leena Miller, Matt Horlings

Graduate Students Award - Zoe Abdeckahoe, Stacey Thurman, Sarah Whyte

Grebel Student Award - John Wyrai, Mike Torman, Justin Zimmermy, Morgan Grainger

Jacobs Andreas Scholarship

Joseph Zimmermy

The J. Cean Music Award

Cecile Michniwicz, Katherine Barth, Mary-Catherine McIninch-Pazzano

A gift to inspire students

To recognize his family’s passion for music, Rudy Rempel has established the Rudy Rempel Music Award. By working with Darren Pries-Klassen at Mennonite Foundation, Rudy realized that he had enough resources to care for himself and his son and make a gift to support his love of music. This endowment will provide $2,500 in each of four years to support and promote musical gifts to four students per year. Born in Haliburn, Ukand and blind since the age of two, Rudy developed a keen ear and love for music. He played piano from a young age and also learned to play a variety of other instruments. He attended a Music Technical School where he soon became a teacher. Rudy enjoyed the interaction with students and appreciated working with gifted students. World War II interrupted Rudy’s musical studies and led him on a different path.

Rudy immigrated to Waterloo, ON in 1948 after spending five years during the war in Germany. Soon after arriving in Canada, he met his future wife Hedy who had come to Canada earlier in 1924 from Grandaufeld, Ukraine. The Rempels settled in Kitchener and had one son, Walter. A very busy man, Rudy worked at various tasks and projects to improve the quality of life of blind persons and helped the Canadian Mint to design coins that could be easily distinguished by the blind. He also worked in the Tuck Shop at the K-W Hospital for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and served for four years as National President of the Council of the Blind. “If this gift makes a little music, I’ll be happy,” mused Rudy. “It will be nice if this inspires students.”

Reimer Award

The Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre (TMTCC) and Conrad Grebel University College are pleased to name Allan Rudy-Froese as the 2006-07 recipient of the A. James Reimer Award, a recently established award for Mennonite doctoral students at the Toronto School of Theology and TMTCC.

Allan is an active TMTCC-affiliated student, pursuing a doctorate in pastoral theology at Emmanuel College, specializing in homiletics. His dissertation will attempt to construct an ‘Anabaptist theology of grace for preaching. Prior to beginning his doctoral studies in 2004, Allan completed undergraduate degrees at Canadian Mennonite Bible College and the University of Winnipeg; he also earned an M.Div. from Associated Biblical Seminary.

Allan has pastored three churches: Thompson United Mennonite Church (Manitoba), Rockway Mennonite Church in Waterloo, and, most recently, Erb Street Mennonite Church in Kitchener.

Interestingly, while at Rockway he was the pastor to Dr. Jim Reimer in whose honor the Reimer Award is endowed. “We have brought youth catechists together,” states Allan, “and I have sat in on some of his classes. I have great respect for his understanding of his teaching role, his parenting, and his sense of humor. When I picture Jim, I see a man living and grappling with life seriously in a way that ‘calls’ to discipleship and community in the context of God’s ridiculously generous grace. Jim is a great inspiration.”

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Jill (Martin ’02), Tim, and Meghan Piet- sch: Chris is a new member into their family! Nathaniel Paul was born December 5th, 2006. Jill is on maternity leave from Grebel where she worked as an accountant, while Tim works in accounting at Clarica & Sun Life Financial in Waterloo.

Colin (’01) and Jennie (Krueger ’99) Wiebe are *“mainly”* living in Hong Kong. They moved from organic farming on Pelee Island, in the middle of Lake Erie, back to KW in November. Colin is working as an engineer with the consulting firm Gamby & Manroen in Guelph while Jennie works in early childhood education, family nutrition, physical education and more as she takes care of their two children at home. Naomi (3) and Jodusha (1). She is happy to be singing again with Len Enns and the DaCapo Chamber Choir. Everyone is slowly adjusting to the faster pace of life on “the mainland”, and to seeing so many cars and people and stores and street lights and traffic lights everywhere. (There were few of these on Pelee and no traffic lights at all.) They can be reached at jenniewiebe@alumni.uwaterloo.ca

Nolan (’97,’98) and Margaret (’96,’97) Andres are pleased to have Kira Katharina (Pearl) join their family. She was born June 19, 2006 and is a little sister for Zoe (9) and Alethea (5).

What’s going on in YOUR life??

Grebel Alumni want to know what’s up with your old friends, lost roommates, and late-night study buddies. YOU CAN HELP! Tell us what’s going on these days!

**ALL CONRAD GREBEL ALUMNI** are invited to submit info about address and vocational changes, general updates, information about travel, family news, and for inclusion in People. Please send your name, year graduated, address, email, photo, and news to jniepel@uwaterloo.ca or write to Grebel, 200 University Avenue West, Waterloo, ON N2L3G6. Submit your update by May 25th, 2007.

**Irish Visitors**

Several times a year, PACS Sessions, Keith Reguly leads workshops at Grebel for groups of Irish post-high school young adults who are in Canada for three months. The goal is to provide some work experience and job search skills in the context of a group that is deliberately made up of Catholics and Protestants from Northern Ireland as well as people from the Republic. The programme is intentional in providing training in conflict in a variety of settings.

Keith’s workshop provides an opportunity to think about recent shifts in Northern Ireland. With Ireland’s fast growing economy, the historical Catholic/Protestant conflict is becoming less important as the economy improves and immigrants arrive from various parts of the world looking for work. Irish attitudes to immigrants parallel those of Canadians in the early years of multiculturalism - they take jobs, they are all on social assistance, they are violent, etc. This training event is an opportunity to undo some of the stereotypes and help the young adults think about being an immigrant in Ireland.
Calendar of Events

Thursday & Friday March 15th & 16th, 2007
7:30 pm, Great Hall
Bechtel Lectures with Sandra Birdsell

Saturday March 17th, 2007
7:00 pm, Wycliffe College, U of T
Readings by Sandra Birdsell

Sunday April 15th, 2007
2:00 pm, ML Theatre of the Arts
Conrad Grebel Convocation

April 21st & 22nd, 2007
Chapel Choir tour to Vineland, Markham and Ottawa

Friday-Saturday May 25th-26th, 2007
7:00 pm, Grebel Residence
Conrad Grebel Alumni Sleepover

Tuesday June 19th, 2007
6:30 pm, Dining Room
Lebold Endowment Fundraising Banquet

Saturday September 29th, 2007
Conrad Grebel
1980-85 Era Alumni Reunion & 80’s Dance

Exploring the World of Paul
May 25 - June 10, 2007
TourMagination along with Conrad Grebel University College, are planning a tour through Western Turkey and Greece. Tom Yoder Neufeld, Associate Professor of Religious Studies (New Testament) and Peace Studies, and Fred Redekop, pastor at the Floradale Mennonite Church, will lead the group.

Call TourMagination, 1-800-565-0451
*available for credit if interested

Grebel Summer Accommodations
Planning a wedding, a retreat, a family reunion, a conference, or seminar? Looking for a place to stay while visiting K-W?
This summer, try having your event at Grebel! Single or double rooms, 4-person apartments, classrooms, meeting rooms, and the dining room are all available for use!
Call Cheri at 519-885-0220, x24297

Grebel Review
Fall 2006
Recent Mennonite Studies on The Lord’s Supper
To subscribe, contact: The Conrad Grebel Review, Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G6, 519-885-0220, x24242 or cgreview@uwaterloo.ca

Conflict Management in Faith Communities
Faith communities present unique conflict resolution challenges—they involve deeply held values, identities, group dynamics and family systems. They also act as a wonderful resource for addressing conflict situations.

2007 Conflict Management in Faith Communities Workshops include:
- Transformative Mediation
- Narrative Mediation
- Facilitation Skills
- Understanding Conflict in a Faith Community
- Understanding Conflict I: The Key to Change
- Healing Rituals for Conflict Resolution
- Communication in Creative Leadership
- Spiritual Practices for Conflict Resolution
- Racism in Faith Communities
- Theological Perspectives of Conflict/Resolution

For more info or to register contact 519-885-0220 ext. 24254, certprog@uwaterloo.ca or www.grebel.uwaterloo.ca/certificate

“From a peace and justice tradition”

Grebel Now Winter 2007