Canadian music icon, Bruce Cockburn, kicked off a seven city Ontario tour with a sold-out solo concert at the Theatre Centre at UWaterloo on February 13th, 2014. “When our alumni committee brainstormed about having a special concert to celebrate our 50th anniversary, Bruce Cockburn was at the top of the list,” said Fred W. Martin, the College’s director of development. His music has always been popular with students and alumni at Grebel. His humanitarian work and his voice for social justice in places like Mozambique, Nepal, Central America and more recently in Iraq, have always struck a chord at Grebel.

The atmosphere in the theatre was electric, as 700 Grebel friends, alumni, and community members visited and reminisced before the concert. Cockburn thrilled the audience with a mix of old favourites, crowd pleasers, powerful social justice ballads, and some newer pieces, proving that after four decades of singing and songwriting, Bruce Cockburn remains a world class musician.

The halls of the Grebel residence always echoed with Bruce Cockburn tunes. Over the years talent shows included Cockburn covers, letters in student newspapers discussed his newest albums, and many students explored deeper understandings of spirituality as the result of his music. A few years ago students even created a “Cockburn Vespers” service in the chapel. The link between music and peacemaking - both in lifestyle and academic programs - is a natural focus for the College.

Shinjita Alam may be new to the Masters of Peace and Conflict Studies program, but she is certainly not new to the field of peace and conflict studies.

Born and raised in a fundamentalist Muslim family in Bangladesh, Shinjita denied an arranged marriage at the age of sixteen in order to pursue her education past high school. In 1992, she graduated from the University of Dhaka with a Masters degree in Social Welfare, in a class of few female students. Her own childhood experiences with gender-based discrimination led her to work with Families for Children, a non-profit, non-sectarian agency helping women and children in India and Bangladesh. In July 1993, Shinjita met members of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and began working with their programs in women’s income generation. She noticed immediately that community relationships were often strained because of constant quarrelling between individuals: mothers and their children, husbands and wives, and women among each other. To increase the women’s income but to do so without peace was not helpful, she observed.
When Generosity Does Not Make the News
by Susan Schultz Huxman, President

During the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, Canadian speed skater, Gilmore Junio, made headlines with an extraordinary act of generosity. In the high-stakes competitive world of elite athletics, he did the unthinkable and he gave up his spot in the 1,000 metre long track race to a teammate. Not because he was injured or ill, but because he thought Denny Morrison would give Team Canada a better chance to do well overall. For this noble, personal sacrifice, many in Canada called for Junio to carry the Canadian Flag in the closing ceremonies!

Deviant, unusual and novel behavior makes the news. And certainly Julio’s generous, selfless spirit was that. But viewed from the lens of Christian liberal arts education, these acts of kindness that make the news are understood as less random and less deviant than they are gifts of grace we learn to receive from a loving God and extend to others. It’s part of educating the whole student.

You have to be an excellent student in the classroom to get into Conrad Grebel—we use the same admission standards as UWaterloo. But once you’re admitted, we don’t just care about marks! We support a culture of care and kindness. For example, these are some of the acts of kindness our students have been engaged in recently:

- A college wide paper airplane race to benefit the victims of the Tsunami in the Philippines, led by a student who was born there.
- The MAD (Make-a-Difference) Market sponsored by the Grebel Peace Society raised significant funds for Mary’s Place in Kitchener.
- At Ray of Hope, 12 students committed to going once a month to buy groceries, prepare the food and serve the food to over 200 homeless people.
- Several students are tutoring every Tuesday afternoon at House of Friendship.
- A group of Grebel students are helping our refugee student from Kenya (who has never seen snow) learn how to skate!
- Over Reading Week, 16 Grebel students went to St. Catharines to assist at a women’s homeless shelter and 15 students went to Staten Island in NY with Mennonite Disaster Service to repair storm damage there.

These simple and profound acts of generosity that happen every week continue long after Grebel students graduate.

Last month, two young alums stepped up “out of the blue” and sent us cheques to move us forward in our Annual Grebel Fund goal. Both just out a few years—still in their 20’s—still getting started—both gave us a cheque for $3,000 saying “we’re so thankful” for our time at Grebel.

You might be surprised at how few schools, especially post-secondary schools, do not mention kindness, generosity, or compassion in their campaign materials as part of their educational mission. All too eager to showcase academic excellence and scholarship opportunities—important features to be sure—few demonstrate what a culture of care looks like on campus and why it’s so very important to nurture.

In the spirit of broadly educating the whole student, our Mennonite schools, Grebel included, define success by how well we very intentionally nourish head, hands ...... and heart!
Celebration in Song

As home to the Music Department at the University of Waterloo, the culture at Conrad Grebel University College is steeped in harmony. The College hosts dozens of concerts each year – instrumental ensembles, jazz band, vocal performances, and choral presentations. Nevertheless, it is truly a special occasion when the department joins together for a mass concert like the “Celebration in Song” that took place on November 30th at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church. With the audience filled to capacity, this special event celebrating Grebel’s 50th Anniversary showcased the College’s three choirs – the University Choir, the Chapel Choir, and the Chamber Choir. To cap the event off, the choirs formed a mass choir to perform the world premiere of Psalm 150, a commissioned piece by Grebel alumnus Timothy Corlis (’98).

According to composer Tim Corlis, the Psalmist in Psalm 150 expresses the “HalleluYah” with “instruments – trumpets, organs, cymbals, harps, strings, tambourines – many of them loud instruments, and then ends with the word, neshamah (נשמה), translated as breath, spirit: ‘Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!’ This is the same breath or soul that God gives in the Genesis creation story.” In setting Psalm 150 to music, Corlis describes the piece as “a journey up the mountain. We share earnest prayer and devotion in the beginning, and follow it by exuberance and excitement as we push on towards the summit. We may face fears of the unknown and the mysterious... wonder and awe as we climb higher. Life, breath, worship all at once, indistinguishable.”

This piece, commissioned by Conrad Grebel University College, was made possible with the Henry A. and Anna Schultz Memorial Fund. The fund, administered by the Mennonite Foundation of Canada, was established in 1982 by Lena Williams of St. Catharines, Ontario, in memory of her parents, Henry and Anna Schultz. Henry Schultz was a church music conductor and self-taught violinist, and all members of the family participated actively in singing and the playing of various instruments. Music, especially sacred music, was an important part of the life of the Schultz family and of their participation in Mennonite church life in rural Saskatchewan.

A recording of Corlis’ Psalm 150, performed by the Grebel choirs, is available online at www.timothycorlis.ca/composition/psalm-150/

Music Department Moves In

On December 27th, Grebel received long-awaited news – the first floor of our new addition was ready! One student remarked that the new facilities are “awesome”, that there are lots of spaces to practice individually and as ensembles, and he appreciates the location of the new spaces close to the rest of the department. It already feels like a home.

President Schultz Huxman uses the mantra of “people, programs & facilities...in that order.”

Music Chair, Laura Gray, builds on that refrain. “The new facilities are not just rooms, walls, windows, and furniture. They are spaces that facilitate things like learning, teaching, communicating, listening, practicing and honing skills, performing, jamming, creating, working together, sharing, laughing, engaging, and cultivating community. A lot of good things are happening in these spaces. But it’s the people who are the real facilitators. Our students past, present, and future are what it’s all about and it takes a team that goes way beyond teachers and administrators to provide them with what they need to learn and grow.”

“It also takes our generous donors – past, present and future – who are important partners in this endeavour. They are people who have been inspired by music and who have inspired others: their love of music and their inspiration lives on in tangible ways for our students. So we want to thank you, Diane (Daniels) & David Conrath, the Marshman family, John H. & Helen Dick, Fred & Pat Gray, the Persoage family, and Erma & Ervin Steinmann, as well as your families, on behalf of all the students, staff, and faculty. Thank you for your part in positively impacting the lives of our students who are a joy and inspiration to all of us.”
Music Professor, Maisie Sum, has spent her first terms at Grebel teaching the courses of World Music and Understanding Music. And much to the delight of Music students, she is also leading a Gamelan ensemble. The ensemble has been well-received at their public performances, including in a local Mennonite church, at Community Supper, and at a Noon Hour Concert.

"In Bali, the idea of community and spirit of interaction is highly valued, and this extends to and is reflected in their music-making," explained Maisie. "The ultimate goal of an ensemble is to achieve a unified musical expression. The notion of interlocking musical parts [within gamelan music] is a way to share work, which reinforces and reflects the practice of mutual help so important to community life."

The Gamelan Ensemble will perform on April 1 at 1:30pm in the UW Student Life Centre, April 2 at 12:30pm in the Grebel Chapel, and April 3 at Luther Village Great Hall at 7pm. You can see footage of the Gamelan at youtube.com/ConradGrebelUC

The Peace and Conflict Studies Department and the Centre for the Study of Religion and Peace at Conrad Grebel hosted Northern Irish singer songwriter, Steafán Hanvey for several days in February. While on campus, Steafán captivated students as a guest speaker/performer in Chapel, Community Supper, a music class, and a "Thursday Talk" with the PACS department. He also presented Look Behind You! - a multimedia performance that detailed how a father and son negotiated the personal and political landscapes of Northern Ireland during "The Troubles," presented through photograph and song.

Lecturer Provides a taste of South Africa

Carol Muller (left in the photo above), Professor of Music (ethnomusicology) at the University of Pennsylvania, was the 2014 Rod and Lorna Sawatsky Visiting Scholar. Muller has published widely on South African music. Her intellectual interests include the relationship between music, gender and religious studies, migration and Diaspora studies, and critical ethnography. During her visit, Muller spoke in several classes, presented in a Faculty Forum, and gave the Sawatsky Lecture entitled, A Voice in Exile, a portrait of the South African born jazz singer Sathima Bea Benjamin. Most memorable to Music students however, was the Gumboot dance workshop (pictured above), where students learned some basic steps to the South African dance - a communication method originally employed by gold miners, and now a cultural ritual. The Sawatsky Lecture recording is available at grebel.ca/sawatsky

The 2014 Bechtel Lectures in Anabaptist/Mennonite Studies invited two guest speakers this year. Steven Nolt, professor of History at Goshen College, spoke on Writing the Amish into North American History, reflecting on the ways scholars have written the Amish into narratives of life and meaning in North America. Royden Loewen, Chair of Mennonite Studies and Professor of History at the University of Winnipeg, presented about Writing low German Mennonites into a history of Canada. In this lecture he considered how the concept of ‘transnationalism’ can add depth and complexity to nation-centric histories of Canada and its Mennonites. Watch online at grebel.ca/bechtel
Sound in the Land 2014

Sound in the Land 2014 – Music and the Environment (discovering Mennonite perspectives), is both a festival with multiple concerts and performances, and a conference with papers and presentations exploring “ecomusicology” (music and the environment) from various perspectives, locally and globally. It will bring together composers, speakers, performers, sonic artists and writers, from Korea, South Africa, Europe, USA, and Canada. Keynote speakers are R. Murray Schafer, well-known Canadian composer/founder of World Forum for Acoustic Ecology, and Gus Mills, foremost South African environmentalist/researcher.

Musicians and environmentalists will be in dialogue, as we discover new ways to listen to the earth and create musical and verbal responses to the planet in this stressed time of climate change, overwhelming human population, and shrinking natural habitats.

Renowned Korean media artist Cecilia Kim will present her multi-media *Earth Songs*. Commissioned works by Larry Warkentin (orchestra), Joanne Bender (children’s choir), and Bryan Moyer Suderman (folk) will be premiered. Inter-Mennonite Children’s Choir, Rockway Collegiate Combo, Tactus Vocal Ensemble, Festival Choir, Grebel Gamelan, First Nations Choir, Waterloo Chamber Players Orchestra and Mennonfolk performers will present concerts of nature-themed music. Balanced with Dawn Chorus sound walks, outdoor performances, and papers on rural Mennonite and Amish soundscapes, natural sounds, animal and bird calls, environmental music from North America, Bali, Estonia, Korea, and Africa will be shared. Mennonite singing will abound, with Marilyn Houser Hamm leading singing at Detweiler Meeting House. Writers, poets, musicians and sonic artists will collaborate on environmental themes.

Sound in the Land will provide new ways for us to listen to and learn about the sounds and the music of our environment, and how we can enter into a larger dialogue with each other and with other dwellers on Planet Earth. Register at [grebel.ca/sound](http://grebel.ca/sound)

MEDA Trip by Emily Mininger, Peace and Conflict Studies student

On November 7th, four students flew from Waterloo to Wichita, Kansas to attend the annual Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) convention. Sponsored by Conrad Grebel and the local MEDA chapter, students were able to attend the 4 day convention and engage with the work being done by MEDA and their supporters, as well as compete in a case competition against teams from other Mennonite universities. Grebel’s participants (pictured right) were Drew Warkentin (a Systems Design Engineering student), Eric Tichbourne (an Economics student), Jono Cullar (an Environment and Business student), and Sarah MacKeil (an English Arts and Business student).

Jono Cullar found the convention to be motivating and engaging, stating that “the convention was a great opportunity to meet people from all walks of life who have similar values and want to make the world a better place through business.” Not only were Jono, Sarah, Drew, and Eric able to meet other students from all over North America who have similar values and aspirations, they were also able to see the positive changes that MEDA is making around the world through innovative business solutions.

The team of Grebel students participated in a Student Case Competition. Six teams analyzed the business practices of a real business in Newton, Kansas and came up with proposals of how to improve these practices. The proposals were then presented in a 30 minute pitch to one of the business owners and two MEDA staff, who picked the best proposal and awarded winners $100 each. The diverse team put much hard work and effort into the competition, meeting to work on their proposal for a month prior to the convention. Although Goshen College won the competition, the Grebel team recognizes that it was still a great opportunity to put the theories they have learned in class into practice through analyzing an actual business and inventing creative solutions.
Flashback Community Supper

Students celebrated 50 years of Grebel fun with a Flashback Community Supper in January. Students dressed up for supper (a skirt, tie and coat were mandatory in the 60s) and enjoyed a home-style meal of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, creamed veggies (a very frequent yet unpopular side dish when the College started), a jellied salad (think carrots and onions in Jello), and pineapple upside down cake.

Esther Etchells (’67) and Richard Dyck (’67) shared some of their memories from their time as students in the 1960s, giving current students great new/old ideas for pranks and helping them realize just how amazing their food is today.

Esther shared, “at mealtimes we had assigned seating, meaning we had to sit at the same table with the same people for 2 weeks at a time. Some pioneers recall food riots (too few yummy dishes and too little quantity), milk shortages (apparently the entire first year’s milk budget was used up in 2 months!), and night-time pilfering of almost cooked chickens from the kitchen which was then an open kitchen. More than once the resident director, Mrs. Ellis, had to call Dr. Fretz over in the middle of the night to calm things down.”

One frosh’s letter home in 1964 read: “The food at noon today was atrocious. It was ‘egg’ as the main dish. But they were cooked and some of the fried ones cut up from yesterday morning’s breakfast. They were all combined into a creamy sauce. You were lucky to get it down, luckier to keep it down. The salad was of carrots and, of all things - raisins. The milk tasted slightly sour. Well you can imagine, my stomach is shrinking. I just ate two 5-cent stamps worth of a chocolate bar to supplement my meagre diet.”

Richard recalled “pennying” or “clotheslining” the doors of residence rooms to lock people in (particularly the girls), completely filling rooms with newspaper, and the time they moved an entire VW car into the building. With no personal computers or calculators, students used a slide rule. And in computer classes it was necessary to run programs through a punch card reader at the main frame IBM computer. Richard also spoke of “romantic rendezvous” in “the Passion Pit” - also known as the lower lounge.

“There was a lot of fun,” commented Esther. “A lot of creative ideas were sparked amongst students in terms of life changing beliefs through discussions, chapel, and Dr. Klaassen’s interactions, as well as the deep example of service and sharing that Dr. Fretz, first president, modelled in so many ways. Grebel helped to shape our young beliefs and future. And Grebel has since helped to create a very large number of visible and not so visible leaders that the world can benefit from. Grebel gave us a sense of community and its importance. For some of us it has also given us friends that we’ve stayed connected with for almost 5 decades.”

Sixties Era Reunion

September 2014 will mark 50 years since students moved into the Conrad Grebel College residence. Greeted with curtain-less windows and door-less rooms, our sixties era alumni forged the Grebel culture. On behalf of 50 years’ worth of alumni, THANK YOU!!

On Saturday, September 27th, sixties era alumni are once again invited back to the College to see old friends, reminisce about old times, regale each other with stories, and to partake in some delicious food. Watch for your invitation in the mail. grebel.ca/reunion
John Paul Lederach to Receive Grebel’s First Honorary Doctorate

Conrad Grebel University College will confer its first honorary doctorate to John Paul Lederach at its Convocation ceremony on April 13, 2014.

John Paul Lederach is Professor of International Peacebuilding at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, and concurrently Distinguished Scholar at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) in Harrisonburg, VA. Previously he served as Professor of Sociology and Conflict Studies at EMU where he was the founding director of EMU’s Conflict Transformation Program and its associated institute for Justice and Peacebuilding.

At Notre Dame’s Kroc Institute, where he has taught for 13 years, Lederach also directs the Peace Accords Matrix. He is the author of 22 books, most recently When Blood and Bones Cry Out: Journeys through the Soundscape of Healing and Reconciliation (with Angela Lederach).

An internationally recognized figure for his pioneering work in conflict transformation, Lederach is involved in conciliation work in Colombia, the Philippines, and Nepal, plus countries in East and West Africa. He has helped design and conduct training programs in 25 countries across five continents.

“Lederach is an exemplary scholar and innovative peace practitioner on the world stage,” said Grebel President Susan Schultz Huxman. “He is a natural fit for Grebel’s first honorary doctoral degree because he embodies the best of our signature academic areas in peace and conflict studies, religion and theological studies, and music and the creative arts. He emphasizes the importance of Anabaptist/Mennonite education and is an inspiring teacher and storyteller.”

 Appropriately, Lederach will offer the address at this year’s convocation ceremony as the College celebrates the first graduates from the new Master in Peace and Conflict Studies (MPACS) at Conrad Grebel and the University of Waterloo. Degrees will be conferred to Master of Theological Studies graduates at this ceremony while undergrads from the Grebel residence, Music and PACS programs, who receive their degrees at the University of Waterloo convocation services, will also be recognized.

Join us for a public forum with Lederach:

Saturday, April 12, 2014, 7pm
Conrad Grebel University College, Great Hall
“Dispatches from the Burning Ground: Compassionate Presence and Faith-based Peacebuilding” with John Paul Lederach
Reception to follow.

MPAC Student Rewarded for Leadership

Conrad Grebel is pleased to announce that Janelle Saldanha, a first year student in the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies, is the inaugural winner of the Landau Family Scholarship. Janelle completed her Honors Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Political Science at the University of Toronto last year. While at school she worked with the Multiple Sclerosis Society in Mississauga, The Ontario March of Dimes, the Centre for Education and Training in Mississauga, and most recently has been volunteering as a mediator at the Dixie Bloor Conflict Resolution Centre. Janelle’s long term goal is to work more directly in the field of mediation and conflict management and she is looking forward to her upcoming internship placement at Community Justice Initiatives in Kitchener.

This Award honours the legacy of Sy Landau, a highly respected member of the Alternate Dispute Resolution community. The award promotes training for students working toward the Conflict Management Certificate. It particularly helps participants who have an interest in mediation and dispute resolution and who are giving leadership or have potential to provide leadership through application of mediation or dispute resolution skills and knowledge, with a goal of constructive social change.

Susan Baker, Manager of the Certificate Program in Conflict Management at Grebel, said “We are delighted to be recipients of scholarship funding for our continuing education program. The Landau family has had a significant impact in the mediation and peace field, and we believe that Janelle represents many of the qualities that will uphold the values and work they embrace.”

Arts Award Winner

The Faculty of Arts and Conrad Grebel University College are pleased to invite alumni and friends to a special lecture and reception on March 26. Limits to Force: Why contemporary wars are rarely won will be presented by Arts Alumni Achievement Award 2013 recipient and co-founder of Project Ploughshares, Ernie Regehr (’68).

Ernie has spent most of his life in the pursuit of the demilitarization of security, establishing one of Canada’s premier peace and security NGOs. He has published widely on peace and security, and in 2003, he became an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Wednesday, March 26, 2014, 7pm
Conrad Grebel University College, Great Hall
Limits to Force: Why Contemporary Wars Are Rarely Won
with Ernie Regehr
This event is free but registration is necessary. uwaterloo.ca/arts/alumni-special-lecture
Committed to the Field

Encouraged by MCC’s nonviolent approach to conflict resolution, Shinjita began to use her university training in order to transform these arguments. In 2007, she began the MCC Peace Program in Bangladesh and served as the administrator and program leader, training many MCC volunteers in conflict transformation strategies through workshops and larger forums. In 2008, she was nominated by the University of San Diego as one of four Woman Peacemakers of the Year. Since 2000, Shinjita’s desire for more education in conflict transformation has sent her to many parts of the world, including Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia and the University of Pannasastra in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Coming to Conrad Grebel for the Masters of Peace and Conflict Studies program was an obvious decision, made a reality by her receipt of the Rotary Peace Scholarship Award, an award established in 2013 “to support the training of graduate students and community leaders originating from areas of conflict.” For Shinjita, the award is providing support for not only tuition, but for her whole experience in Canada. ”This precious [award] has made me committed to the field, has made me strong,” she explained. ”I am very happy to be here and very grateful to the people who are involved in providing this opportunity.” The College will benefit immensely from Shinjita’s international perspective, extensive hands-on knowledge, and profound expertise in conflict transformation.

Shinjita plans to return to Bangladesh after completing her degree, and hopes to continue her work for non-profit organizations. ”This degree will make me more confident to do the same work,” she said, adding that she might even serve in other parts of the world. grebel.ca/mpacs

Rotary Award Winner Creates a Hope-filled Society

The Rotary Peace Scholarship Award is a new initiative made possible by the Kitchener-Waterloo cluster of Rotary Clubs. Created to support a student enrolled in the Certificate Program in Conflict Management at Conrad Grebel, this award helps students who demonstrate civic engagement in their community and work or plan to work in a field of Conflict Management. Marg Van Herk-Paradis is this year’s recipient of the scholarship.

Currently, Marg is the Executive Director and Community Leader for L’Arche in Stratford. Having been involved with L’Arche in various capacities for 24 years, Marg whole-heartedly believes in their motto, “change one heart at a time.” L’Arche participants inspire Marg with their resiliency and hopefulness.

Initially studying in the field of Applied Social Science and Theology, Marg worked for a number of years as a Pastoral Minister for Youth in both Canada and the United States. She also became an affiliate of the Society of Mary (Marianists) whose mission is to build communities of faith at every stage of life’s journey. ”Building community through relationship is a passion of mine and something I feel called to do both in my work and in my volunteering activities,” reflects Marg. ”My interest lies in how conflict provokes growth and therefore builds resilience in people and organizations. This in turn, I believe, can create a more hope-filled society and move towards positive community change.” uwaterloo.ca/conflict-management

Peace Speeches

Grebel is proud to announce that Jacob Winter, 2nd year International Development student, is the 2013 winner of the bi-national C. Henry Smith Oratorical Competition. This friendly contest between Mennonite and Brethren in Christ universities and colleges across Canada and the USA is administered by the Peace and Justice Ministries of the Mennonite Central Committee.

With his speech entitled “What’s your problem?” Jacob did a remarkable job in the contest and in doing so offered compelling reasons for listeners to think about their reactions or solutions to world problems.

“To design a solution, you need a proper view of the problem,” Jacob explained. He described how poverty can be defined as “less about money and malaria nets and more about humiliation, voicelessness, shame, and isolation. Poverty is broken relationships with the earth, with others, with yourself and with God. If the problem is broken relationships, then the solution is reconciliation - shalom. Building shalom is about taking away shame, demarginalizing the vulnerable, and giving voice to the powerless. It’s all about relationships.”

Hear Jacob’s entire speech on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/ConradGrebelUC
Kim Penner wins the A. James Reimer Award at TMTC

Kim Penner (MTS ’11) is the 2013 winner of the A. James Reimer Award at TMTC. Kim is a ThD student currently in her second year at Emmanuel College at the Toronto School of Theology (TST), studying in the ethics department. Her research brings together feminist and womanist understandings of the authority of scripture and the value of women’s experiences as sources for sexual ethics in conjunction with Anabaptist-Mennonite approaches to social ethics. From her work in this area Kim hopes to lay a foundation for a Mennonite-feminist approach to sexual ethics that recognizes the importance of scripture and experience as sources for sexual ethics and establishes criteria and norms for discerning their authority in community.

Thanks to the financial support of the A. James Reimer award, this semester Kim is pursuing her passion for academia and furthering her research by attending and presenting a paper at the Mennonite Church USA Women’s Conference. The title of her paper is: “Sacred yet Insufficient: The use of Scripture as a source in a Mennonite-Feminist approach to Sexual Ethics.” The award also makes it possible for Kim to progress more quickly through her degree by focusing primarily on her studies.

The A. James Reimer award is awarded annually to a Mennonite student completing an advanced degree program at TST. The award recognizes the work of Jim Reimer in establishing the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre. TMTC provides a Mennonite presence at the University of Toronto in order to engage in theological conversation at an advanced degree level and to support Anabaptist students.
On February 18, a group of daring Grebelites gathered to brave the tropical temperatures of exotic St. Catharines, prepared to learn about poverty and homelessness. We headed to the Southridge Community Church Shelter to learn how they create a home for people who don’t have one. The shelter started when Southridge Church was challenged to reach out to people in their community who were in need of basic human necessities: food, shelter and relationships. Throughout the week our group had chances to jump into life at the shelter and ultimately an opportunity to challenge all of our former assumptions about poverty. We heard countless stories of people being re-formed and of people fighting for the marginalized. It was an incredibly eye-opening and inspiring week.

On Tuesday we joined in a weekly rock-climbing outing with shelter residents, volunteers, and staff. There were only two rules: climb hard and cheer hard. On Saturday we joined the shelter residents for a euchre tournament and games night and even taught our new friends how to play Dutch Blitz! Sunday morning we gathered with residents, volunteers, staff, and church members to watch the Olympic gold medal hockey game. These encounters forced us to confront our own stereotypes and even fears that some of us had had about homeless people. Homelessness is not and cannot be an “us and them” relationship. We are all the same.

Every day we heard from various former residents of the shelter who told us their stories. Through these stories, we witnessed both brokenness and beauty. We learned that telling your story is a fundamental aspect of humanity, and that every person’s story is significant, even our own. After a week of hearing these dramatic and beautiful stories, many of us found ourselves trivializing our own stories, thinking that our lives are not as meaningful. But you don’t need to have sorrow in your life to make it worth something. Any life is one of great importance. We found that once you acknowledge your self-worth you can then devote your life to working for others and forming meaningful, honest relationships.

The shelter has a number of core values, one of which is beauty, in which they realize the need to balance beauty and brokenness. This polarity reminds me of the psalms, many of which are lamentations. It is often in these sorrowful poems that the power of beauty, God and goodness reveals itself most beautifully.

A group of 15 Grebel students travelled to Staten Island, New York for reading week, where we volunteered with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) to help with relief from Hurricane Sandy. Although this disaster happened over a year and a half ago, it continues to affect people of New York. We entered the week not knowing what types of work we would be doing or what exactly to expect. None of us had much experience with renovations but all of us came with open minds and were eager to do a lot of physical labour. In total, our team worked for about 525 hours during our time in Staten Island! We truly understood and appreciated the saying: “many hands make light work.”

One evening, a home owner told us her story about how she survived and persevered through her Sandy experience. After the hurricane, she spent every waking moment working alone to rebuild her home. On top of this, she also had to cope with the trauma of losing all her belongings. This caused our team to intentionally reflect about the value of “stuff” in our own lives, and how it can all be gone in an instant. Hearing a personal story about the hurricane gave us more meaning for the work we were doing, and also helped us realize that we were not only rebuilding houses, but also were rebuilding hope. This land owner expressed such sincere gratitude towards MDS and the volunteers for helping her to rebuild her house and her life. Her gratitude expressed the importance for people to join together, since we cannot always do it alone.

On our last day, our entire group was very fortunate to participate in a “home dedication,” where we blessed a house MDS had helped to rebuild. There was a short service which involved some reading of scripture, as well as song and prayer. It was encouraging for our team to see a family settled in their home - possible because of hundreds of hours of teamwork.

We sincerely enjoyed and valued volunteering with MDS. Our team learned about the impact and trauma a hurricane can cause on a city as a whole, as well as on individuals. We came home from our trip with a new set of handy skills, which we look forward to using in the future to rebuild more homes, and more hope!
Extending the Table
by Ally Siebert, English student

Grebel's weekly Community Suppers have long been a staple of life within our walls. Now bringing supper to the Ray of Hope community is also becoming a vital Grebel tradition.

A Christian organization started in 1967, Ray of Hope serves nightly hot meals to around 250 guests out of their community centre in Kitchener. The meals are all prepared by volunteers and cooked in homes or church kitchens. Their outreach programs began by offering support to men serving prison sentences, but now extend a supportive hand to those “struggling with crime, addiction, or homelessness.”

Grebel student participation in the hot meal program began when Ian Reed, a third-year Grebel associate, was asked to take over the program from Waterloo Mennonite Brethren Church (WMB). Ian approached the Grebel student community in Fall 2012 to recruit monthly volunteers and to solicit donations to cover the cost of the ingredients.

The support has been overwhelming. Around ten students gather on the last Monday of every month to chop onions, peel potatoes, and fry veggies for jambalaya, chilli, or shepherd’s pie - dishes that can be prepared quickly, reheated easily, and are filling. Volunteers meet the following day at the Ray of Hope community centre to make final preparations on the food, to butter mountains of bread, and to serve it in the Ray of Hope dining room.

Though often people of more visible privilege, student volunteers unanimously acknowledge that the gifts given to them by the people at Ray of Hope mean just as much as Grebel’s gift of a hot meal. As Ian puts it, the experience is important because "it exposes us to a lot of issues that we are passionate about and need to be involved in, such as homelessness, poverty, mental illness, and even drug and alcohol abuse.” It is fundamentally a learning experience, based on personal interactions. First time volunteer Molly Furness says that she was surprised by who showed up at Ray of Hope, and that her assumptions and stereotypes were broken once the night began. "The atmosphere was one of thankfulness," she observes.

Recent changes to Waterloo Region’s public health policy now make it imperative that food served to the public is prepared in a kitchen that has undergone a health inspection. This has complicated the cooking process for Ray of Hope’s large home and church-based volunteer core. Now even more important under these new circumstances, Grebel students have seamlessly continued their contribution to the program, cooking in Grebel’s industrial kitchen. While Ian is away on co-op this term, second year Grebel associate Emma Carroll has taken over the job of shopping for ingredients and managing volunteers.

With committed participants and consistent new interest, the student organizers plan to continue cooking, serving, learning, and living out their faith. It is a true “Community Supper” when the table extends outside the walls of our College.

A Time to Work and a Time to Play

Above: Peace Society organized the annual Make-A-Difference Market, to support local artisans and raise money for Mary’s Place, an emergency shelter.

Right: Students and Faculty/Staff faced off again for their much anticipated annual patio hockey game.

The Big Questions

As part of Grebel’s 50th Anniversary celebrations, Grebel residents are taking part in a “Big Questions Symposium” on March 15. Grebel has a heritage of asking big questions. Chaplain Ed Janzen remarked that “part of achieving success as a person comes from recognizing and responding and living with big questions.”

“This symposium isn’t about specific big questions. It’s about listening to four invited professors from across the UWaterloo campus share stories about how big questions changed them,” explained Ed. “It’s about sharing our own stories and finding encouragement or even some ideas for dealing with our own big questions.”

Students are excited to tackle this day!
Next Chapter Campaign Update

After years of planning and dreaming we are pleased to report that our academic expansion project is nearing completion! We are so excited to be occupying some of the beautiful new spaces. Our Music department has been enjoying a large classroom, practice rooms and studios since January. At the end of February we moved into our new office and reception area. Our archive collection is safely stored in our new state-of-the-art vault and we are now in the midst of renovating the existing library space. The Menno-nite Savings and Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement on the fourth floor is now the focus of the construction efforts and we anticipate this space will be ready on May 1.

The response to the Next Chapter Campaign has been unprecedented and we are deeply grateful for your support and the gifts from over 1,000 alumni, donors, parents and students. Already $6.2 million has been raised toward our estimated expenses of $8.7 million. We have worked hard to control our costs and as we wrap up our campaign, support is needed to help purchase furnishings and to reduce our carrying costs.

Consider an ONLINE donation grebel.ca/giving

Estate Bequest Fulfilled

Helen "Liz" Lane began her Arts undergrad degree at the University of Waterloo when she was almost 70 years old, and graduated in 1991. The highlight of her university experience was a Music and Culture travel education course in Vienna where she met and became lifelong friends with Grebel music professor Bill Maust and his wife Miriam. Bill and Miriam recall Liz as a student with a wonderful mind and spirit.

Liz considered the travel course to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience and included a planned gift for music and travel education in her will.

On December 13, 2012, Liz passed away at the age of 93. Thanks to her generosity and love of travel and adventure, the Helen ("Liz") Lane Music and Culture Award was established in her name. This award will support travel expenses for students who want to participate in a University of Waterloo Music Department Music and Culture course.
This bright space on the first floor is used for a variety of small instrumental ensembles and is now home to our Gamelan. The studio is connected to the Digital Music Lab so our musicians can record their work on the equipment in the lab. Naming opportunities remain for the Rehearsal Studio, the Digital Music Lab, and an additional study room.

Last week, Grebel’s 6th President, Henry Paetkau, stopped in to check out the finished Henry Paetkau Seminar Room. It will be used primarily for our graduate courses and is adjacent to the John Toews Atrium and the new reception area.

A Grand Opening for the new facility is scheduled for Sunday, June 22 at 3 PM.

The new section of the Milton Good Library, named for Grebel’s founding board chair, is open for business and the old section is getting renovated.

The Mennonite Archives of Ontario are at the core of our new facilities. The movable shelving has tripled our capacity to store treasures of our Mennonite heritage. Archivist-Librarian, Laureen Harder-Gissing is pleased to be using this space.

The Frank and Helen Epp peace incubator is taking shape. It will provide 6 work spaces that can be used for flexible periods of time.

The Curwin and Jill Weber Friesen Study Room

Graduates of the University of Waterloo, Curwin and Jill Weber Friesen, have fond memories of Conrad Grebel, where they met. Curwin completed a BA in Economics in 1993 and Jill a BA in Social Development Studies in 1992. They make their home in Altona, Manitoba and feel that it is important for alumni of all eras to remember Grebel and support future generations of students. The new “Curwin and Jill Weber Friesen Study Room” will be located in the renovated section of the Milton Good Library, overlooking Laurel Lake.
In the Fall of 1985 – my first year at Conrad Grebel College – a friend asked me to contribute a song to a tape she was sending to a friend overseas. So I played and recorded “Festival of Friends”, a song about absence, longing, and the joy of reunion. Little did I know at the time that the young woman who received that tape – a complete stranger to me then – would six years later become my wife.

In my second year, there was this crazy dude who developed a habit of crashing my dorm room after a hard run at the Bombshelter, because in that state, all he wanted to do was belt out Cockburn tunes and I was a willing accompanist. That friendship turned into a business partnership that remains strong to this day.

And throughout my university years, my fondest memories include my bass-playing friend and I lugging our guitars to whatever coffee house or open stage would let us on – always to play Cockburn tunes.

Those are a few examples of the many ways in which Cockburn’s music has punctuated the story of my life. And I offer them, not as an indulgence, but as a testament to the bigger story of our collective experience of Cockburn’s work. From strains of “Lord of the Starfields” coming from the chapel, to the I-Can-Almost-Play-’Foxglove’ support group that counted a goodly number of budding guitarists, Cockburn’s music was a soundtrack for our lives at Grebel. It fired our activism, it lent poetry to our explorations of faith, and it dazzled us with sheer musical and lyrical sparkle.

But when I consider Cockburn’s work, the thing I feel most is gratitude – for what it meant to us personally, for bringing us to consciousness, and for its own merits as just plain fantastic music. May there be many more years of it! It’s an honour, with these recollections, to be able to say, “Thanks, Bruce.”

Grebel is coming to a town near you!

Niagara Alumni Event
May 24, 2014 at 4:00 pm
The Good Earth Food & Wine Co.
Beamsville, ON
Join us for visiting and wine tasting with Grebel Friends & Alumni from Niagara!
$10/person
grebel.ca/reunion

Waterloo Region Alumni Event
Wednesday, May 21st at 5:30 pm
Brubacher House
North Campus, UWaterloo
We invite local KW Friends & Alumni to enjoy a family BBQ with Commie supper bread, games on the grass, bouncy castle, and Brubacher House tours.
$10/person, $25/family
grebel.ca/reunion

Grebel is coming to a town near you!
people

Gideon ('01) and Brenda (Shantz) ('02) Prins, along with big brother Benjamin, were thrilled to welcome Grace Eleanor into their family on January 15, 2014. Brenda will be on maternity leave from her job as a Nurse Practitioner on the Cardiology unit at St Mary’s General Hospital in Kitchener. Gideon continues to work locally for the Federal Government managing funding agreements with organizations that promote the settlement and integration of newcomers to Canada. Gideon and Brenda are your newest Grebel alumni reps, representing the 1995-2000 era.

Lisa Weidner Adams ('88) received her Master’s Degree in Education in School Counseling. Lisa lives in Lancaster with her husband Scott and daughters Sydney (10) and Emma (7).

Ellery Penner ('13) released a 75th anniversary cookbook memoir project for her home church of Niagara United Mennonite Church. They solicited “memory-evoking recipes of all kinds” and invited submitters to include a note about why the recipe is important. Filled with family photos, fond memories, and tasty food ideas, this cookbook shows the heart of the congregation. Ellery credits a Grebel course with Marlene Epp (left) on Food, Culture & History for fueling her passion for food and thus this project.

Lyle and Cindy (Koch) ('02) Hemingway welcomed Danielle Grace in their Orillia home on Jan. 3, 2012. Her big brothers Luke and Joel (then almost 5 and 3) were simply smitten with her, and continue to be so. Cindy and Lyle have gone back to Lyle’s roots and moved out to the nearby country where they enjoy exploring in the forest, caring for a big garden and backyard chickens! Cindy has all but left high school teaching behind, supply teaching here and there, but mainly loves the freedom and joy of homeschooling. Lyle continues to work as a mechanical designer but has found chopping wood and hunting to be enjoyable simple life pleasures.

Kristen Mathies ('95, '97) welcomed to the world her daughter Julia Thandiwe, born November 12, 2012. After a year’s maternity leave, Kristen has returned to teaching at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, part-time. They enjoyed seeing people at Grebel’s 50th anniversary this summer; Julia’s highlights were the chapel windows, the singing, and the campus squirrels!

Diane Holty ('11) graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 2013 with a B.Ed for Junior/Intermediate with specialization in Vocal Music. Diane now works at Scholars’ Hall, a private school in Kitchener, as a French and Music teacher.

Brain Orr ('98) and Steven Brenneman ('98) won the 2013 “Team Alumni Achievement Medal” from UWatertio Engineering. Together with Tony Jedlovsky, Brian and Steve started a software company, Jedor. Later purchased by Sonic Foundry, and then by Sony, the company remained committed to developing cutting-edge software products and dedication to growing a dynamic team that includes Watertio Engineering co-op students and alumni.

Patrick Quealey ('02) and family recently relocated to Toronto from Ottawa to take on a new challenge as Manager of Policy and Aboriginal Affairs at Environment Canada’s regional office. Despite numerous attempts to leave the federal government, the opportunity to lead a team of six policy officers, build a network of Ontario based stakeholders, work on key policy issues and build/improve relationships with First Nations and Aboriginal peoples, was too good an offer to refuse.

Karen (Lange) Autio ('81) has completed her historical fiction trilogy about the Finnish Mäki family in early Thunder Bay with the publication of Sabotage. “German spies? Sabotage plots? Innocent people interned in camps? The danger hits close to home for battling siblings Saara and John. Can they work together to save their family? Sabotage is an adventure tale based on real espionage, sabotage, and paranoia in Canada during the First World War.” Karen lives with her husband Will ('80), a software developer with Integrity Software Solutions, in Kelowna, BC.

Deanne (Gingrich) Antoine ('09) completed her MA in Ethnomusicology at York University in Toronto in June 2012. She is now working at Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) in Waterloo as an Office Assistant. Deanne got married in October 2011.

Music alumni Mary-Catherine McNinch-Pazzano ('10), Lindsey Minaker ('09), and Deanne Antoine ('09) visited with Music Professor Laura Gray during the official opening tours of the first floor Music spaces. We love it when our alumni visit!

Master of Peace and Conflict Studies student, Hari Bahadur, was the 2013 recipient of the Helmut Braun Memorial Scholarship Award. Helmut Braun was strong student and activist at Grebel in the 80’s, as well as a local advocate for the rights of people with mental health and other life struggles. Hari has an MA in English from Nepal and has worked for the BBC World Service Trust, Carter Centre, and the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu. His interests include conflicts in South Asia, conflict resolution, transitional justice systems, civil society, social justice and diplomacy.

Grebel Faculty
Jeremy Bergen has been approved for tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Religious and Theological Studies, beginning in July. He will also assume the position of Director of Theological Studies starting in May.

Troy Osborne has been renewed for another 3 year appointment on his continuing contract as Assistant Professor of History.

Ed Janzen was renewed for 4 years as Chaplain.


Alicia Batten recently published two articles. "Rotting Riches: Economics in the Letter of James," in Vision explores passages in James which centre on the rich and the poor, with attention to some of the ancient criticisms of earning money from money and storing up wealth. “The Urban and the Agrarian in the Letter of James,” published in Journal of Early Christian History argues that James drew from the Roman literary practice of contrasting the urban with the agrarian, and uses such a contrast to undergird some of the moral teaching in the letter.

Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 7:00pm
“Limits to Force: Why Contemporary Wars Are Rarely Won”

Friday, March 28, 2014 at 7:00pm
Leamington Alumni Wine Tasting & Reception

Sunday, March 30, 2014 at 2:00pm
Stage Band Concerts

Sunday, March 30, 2014 at 7:30pm
Instrumental Chamber Ensembles

Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 7:00pm
Gamelan Ensemble

Friday, April 4, 2014 at 8:00pm
Earth Teach Me: UW Chamber Choir Concert

Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 2:00pm
Convocation

Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 5:30pm
KW & Area Alumni BBQ at Brubacher House

Saturday, May 24, 2014 at 4:00pm
Niagara Alumni Wine Tasting & Reception

May 28-30, 2014
Mennonite Education Agency Marpeck Conference

June 5-9, 2014
Sound in the Land 2014

Sunday, June 22, 2014
Ribbon Cutting for New Building

Thursday, June 26, 2014 at 6:30pm
Ralph and Eileen Lebold Fundraising Banquet

Thursday, September 26, 2014
Celebrating International Day of Peace: PACS Lecture featuring Lisa Schirch

Friday, November 14, 2014 at 9:00am
Spirituality and Aging Seminar

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Fleece blanket-$20, Umbrella-$15, Grebel mug and coaster-$5, Bridging Mind & Spirit book-$20, Women’s red zippered hoodie-$50, Men’s black zippered hoodie-$50, Women’s lilac t-shirt-$10, Unisex dust or blue t-shirt-$10, Kids Future Grebelite t-shirt-$8

Do Something BIG! EPIC Discover Peace!
PeaceCamp
July 28-August 1, 2014
Day Camp at Conrad Grebel University College for youth finished grades 6-8. Full day including lunch: $185

OMMC is an amazing place for 12-16 year olds to get together to sing & play at Conrad Grebel University College.

Ontario Mennonite Music Camp
OMMC is an amazing place for 12-16 year olds to get together to sing & play at Conrad Grebel University College.

Thursday, June 26, 2014
Ralph and Eileen Lebold Fundraising Dinner
June 26, 2014
Tickets $50 with a $25 receipt
For tickets, register online at grebel.ca/lebold
or contact Alison Enns at 519-885-0220 x 24217 or aenns@uwaterloo.ca

We've got some great Grebelwear and other branded items! Contact Alison Enns to get yours!
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