Hard Work, Tangible Results
by Nathan Henderson, 2nd year Arts & Business

On February 16, 2013, a group of 20 fearless students and leaders packed their bags, squished into three minivans, and made their way down to the small town of West Liberty, Kentucky. Their purpose: to help repair and build houses that had been decimated by a tornado with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS). The result: a jam-packed week full of singing, pranking, little sleep, and working through cold, rain, and shine.

Throughout the week, multiple groups worked on projects and helped out where needed. Whether it was building a deck, sanding and painting a nearly finished house, or erecting a roof atop the bare bones of a soon-to-be home, everyone pulled their weight. And we cannot forget those who stayed back to help in the kitchen to provide fantastic meals and snacks once we got home.

Tom Yoder Neufeld’s Impact is Immeasurable

A remarkable colleague and dear friend, Tom Yoder Neufeld, retired as Professor of New Testament at the end of December 2012. A large ‘cast of characters’ from the college and the wider church community bid Tom farewell, celebrating almost thirty years of outstanding, award winning teaching, several significant books and dozens of publications that are widely praised. In addition, Tom delivered scores of speeches and sermons filled with insight, energy, and a remarkable personal presence. Tom can at one moment pointedly challenge the direction of a conversation and then just as quickly make a play on words leaving colleagues laughing and groaning.

Invited to Grebel and Waterloo to teach Bible and Peace, Tom was associated with the Peace and Conflict Studies program throughout his career. He taught 6 different undergrad courses in Religious Studies and 6 graduate Theological Studies courses, and developed, taught, and supervised 3 Distance Education courses. He also taught graduate courses at the Toronto School of Theology, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary and Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Tom’s 6 year leadership as Director of Graduate Theological Studies was a seamless transition from the original Director, Jim Reimer. Tom was a strong champion of the program and he was an effective advisor to students.

continued on page 3

continued on page 10
I asked Grebel students at Community Supper at the opening of the Winter term: “What New Year’s Resolutions should we have for Conrad Grebel in 2013?” This is an especially good question as we are poised to celebrate the College’s 50th anniversary. In the fall of 1963, Grebel offered 2 classes: “The left wing of the Reformation” and “The Sociology of the Family,” both taught by college president, J. Winfield Fretz, a Sociology professor, from Kansas. There were about two dozen students and two faculty, including Fretz.

We have come a long way since then. Today, we teach 4200 students, 337 affiliate with student services and residence life, we have 2 graduate programs, 14 full time faculty and 33 part-time faculty, 38 staff, and in terms of facilities—an 8.7 million dollar academic expansion project for library and archives, music, community education, a new entrance, and the MSCU Centre for Peace Advancement!

So, we’ve been on quite a growth trajectory these past 50 years. But still, we need focused aspirations for 2013 - achievable New Year’s resolutions!

“Be BOLD in what you do, Grebel”

Harvey Taves was one of the founders of Conrad Grebel. Here was a man who before his untimely death at age 39, worked tirelessly and patiently for 6 years to get the Mennonites in Ontario to embrace the idea of starting a Mennonite college on a public university campus. He was a persistent risk-taker and courageous visionary of the best kind! One of his favorite expressions was: “Mennonites should not be the Quiet in the Land.” We need to be visible in our witness!

When Harvey and others first mentioned the idea of a Mennonite College on the campus of the University of Waterloo, there was bafflement, suspicion and outright rejection by the larger Mennonite constituency in the area. Detractors on the right dismissed the idea of a Mennonite College as “too worldly” or “too expensive.” Detractors on the left, many with ties to Goshen College in Indiana, dismissed the idea because a Waterloo campus would compete with Goshen for students and donors and as one noted Mennonite theologian of the day suggested: “There were simply too few qualified academics in Ontario to hire to do the job right.”

Taves was unflappable. He was a master of diplomacy. Without being dismissive or discouraged with either of these formidable blocs of naysayers, he quietly worked behind the scenes to line up support.

Shortly before Grebel’s charter was finally granted in 1961, Taves wrote this: “One thing seems absolutely certain to me, and that is that the young person who maintains his faith in the face of opposition is in a much better position to represent that faith once he enters professional life. For this reason, starting a Mennonite college that is affiliated with uWaterloo is worth the risk.” Worth the risk, indeed!

So with the boldness of Harvey Taves in mind, I asked students to envision with me how the MSCU Centre for Peace Advancement might be worth the risk! A centre that will occupy 6,000 square feet of a new fourth floor: a centre committed to research, training and community engagement around an expansive definition of peace: building healthy communities here and around the globe.

I invite all our Grebel supporters to partner with me in thinking boldly, passionately and creatively about Grebel in 2013!

Maybe, just maybe, when students are sitting here in the year 2063, preparing to celebrate a Grebel centennial, they can be reminded of the bold, creative and passionate things we launched here in 2013 and beyond.
Tom Yoder Neufeld’s Impact
continued from page 1

Tom’s outstanding teaching was recognized by the University of Waterloo in 2002 when he was awarded the Distinguished Teacher Award. Over the past ten years students have ranked his teaching in the top 10th percentile of university faculty. Students most often commend him for being a dynamic and energetic teacher who provides substantive and interesting course material, challenging their previously held opinions in a respectful but compelling way.

“My love for the scriptures began as I sat in Tom’s undergraduate classes, as he ignited my curiosity and helped me to see that these texts are deeper and richer and far more surprising than I could have imagined,” reflected one of Tom’s grad students. “He has modeled responsible and creative scholarship.”

Professor Marlene Epp recalls “the comforting sound of Tom’s voice through paper-thin walls - the ‘murmurs of mentoring’ as he extended his gift for teaching large classrooms on Jesus or Paul, to one-on-one guiding of individual students and their ups and downs.”

Since there are no other full-time Bible faculty at the University of Waterloo, Grebel’s Bible faculty are the Bible “department” for Waterloo. According to Old Testament Professor Derek Suderman, “Tom’s impact, not only at Grebel but at the University of Waterloo, can hardly be measured. When John Miller retired in the early ’90s, Tom was essentially the Bible department at Waterloo all by himself for over a decade.” Reflecting on his progression from a student in Tom’s class to a colleague, Derek says “I have learned much from you, Tom. You have insisted that Christian scholars not be limited to one ‘testament’ or another, and have put this conviction into action both in your teaching and scholarship. You have shown how a commitment to academic excellence and scholarly rigour can enliven and deepen discussions in the church; you have also demonstrated how a deep and abiding commitment to the Church and its Scripture should inform, prod, and critique scholarly inquiry.”

Tom Yoder Neufeld has been conferred the honorary title of Professor Emeritus.

New Global Music Prof will Help Expand Cultural Horizons

Conrad Grebel and the University of Waterloo are both committed to global engagement as a core value and a priority in its strategic plan. As a way to help Grebel discern what that means in the context of its mission and the needs of its Music Department, Grebel has hired Maisie Sum in a special appointment.

“As a young, talented ethnomusicologist, Sum possesses expertise gained from a recently completed Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia, and significant international experience,” commented Grebel President, Susan Schultz Huxman. “She also brings an engaging, warm presence that will serve her well as she interacts with students inside and outside the classroom.”

“The Music Department is thrilled with the appointment of Maisie Sum,” remarked Music Chair, Laura Gray. “With her rich interdisciplinary musical background, Sum brings a unique and fresh perspective to conversations with colleagues, students, and the wider Mennonite and Waterloo communities.” Sum is competent in several languages and has studied a variety of musical instruments.

“Music is one way we can understand and come to appreciate the various cultures and peoples with whom we share the world,” explained Sum. “Learning what music is, and what it means to people, requires that we listen carefully and deeply, and open our ears, minds, and imagination.”

“Maisie Sum exemplifies global music,” said Jim Pankratz, Dean at Grebel. “She has studied music at university, transcribed it in homes in Morocco, lived among people who are making music in Africa and Bali, and learned to play instruments from a number of regions of the world.”

Looking forward to her July 1st, 2013 start date, Sum is most excited about being part of “a strong, intimate, spiritual, and diverse community where different cultures, worldviews, and disciplines meet and interact.” Students can expect Sum to introduce them to unfamiliar sounds, to facilitate their discovery of global music by demanding them to actively participate as listeners and music-makers, and to encourage them to ask questions and make connections with their own beliefs, values, and practices.
Alumni in Theatre

Theatre Answers Questions

Since she graduated from Waterloo in Drama, Erin Brandenburg ('01) has been making a name for herself as a theatre creator and playwright in a very specific genre of local history theatre. Combining a documentary style of theatre with a strong creative license, and inspired by stories, songs, or experiences in Southern Ontario history, Erin has worked with some equally talented people on a series of theatrical projects.

Most recently Erin and her husband Andrew Penner created a concert/theatre performance, BOBLO, based on the memory of an amusement park called Boblo on an island in the Detroit River. Produced at The Theatre Centre in Toronto, BOBLO was their biggest and most memorable project to date with a 5-piece live band and over 10 performers.

Other theatre projects Erin has worked on include: Petrichor - a play with music about a vegetable farm in Southern Ontario and a family of migrant workers who are Mennonites from Mexico, Detroit Time Machine - a music and performance project with a live band playing instruments made from recycled and reclaimed material plus video and live projection, Reesor - based on the experiences of a community made up of Mennonites from Southern Russia in Northern Ontario, and Pelee - based on the myths and history of a small island in Lake Erie. Erin has also been the production coordinator and an actor in Small Town Murder Songs; and the casting coordinator for The Conspiracy - both film projects.

"Usually I have some questions about a particular aspect or event in a community, and doing a project like this is a good excuse to ask questions and to try and find some answers myself," Erin explains about her theatre topics. "It usually comes from looking back at where I grew up and wondering why things are the way they are or why nobody knows about it." During the research part of her writing, Erin has visited the Mennonite Archives of Ontario that are housed at Grebel on numerous occasions. "When I was in school, I didn't appreciate the wealth of resources and materials that exist there - but that very information has been a tremendous inspiration for my work."

Erin’s next plans involve working as a director in the Academy at Soulpepper Theatre and remounting some of her work that’s recently premiered and taking it on the road. kitchenbandproductions.blogspot.ca

A Life-long Passion

After graduating with a degree in Psychology and Peace and Conflict Studies at Waterloo, and then a B.Ed. from Toronto, Kathleen Cleland Moyer ('81) worked primarily in conflict resolution and restorative justice. But with theatre as a life-long passion, Kathleen has always found ways to incorporate theatre into her work and community life. In 1991 through her work at Conflict Resolution Network Canada, she toured Caught in the Middle (focusing on Grade 8 girl conflict) that toured over 90 schools in Ontario. In 1997, thanks to the Frank Epp Memorial Fund, Kathleen created and produced RedBleu, a play about English/French conflict. In 2003, as a fundraiser and to honor the passing of her sister Rosemary, Kathleen wrote and directed a comedy/drama performed in Rick ('85) and Louise Cober Bauman's barn (Barn Talk) that explored family relationships, conflict, and grief.

As a Grebel student, Kathleen fondly remembers forming a touring troupe with Robin Jutzi ('83), Esther Willms ('81), John Moyer ('83) (now Kathleen's husband), and several other students. The group traveled to area churches with a play written by Robin that critiqued the escalating growth of the military industrial complex, multi-national corporations in the developing world and the inadequacies of the Christian response. "Robin was truly an original. It was impossible not to be impacted and inspired by Robin. I had never met anyone like him, before or after. He was brash and crass, and some thought cynical, but underneath he was a person of very deep faith, conviction, and compassion," reminisced Kathleen. "Sometimes it was uncomfortable to watch Robin's plays, but he definitely did not lack courage."

Kathleen’s most recent play Nowhere, Ontario is also a courageous step forward. As Kathleen’s first drama, the story examines the human consequences of World War I in the small Ontario town of Berlin (now Kitchener), addressing the question, “what happened when English and German Canadian families who had been living peacefully side by side for 100 years were suddenly ‘enemies?’” The play explores themes of identity and loss, grief and friendship. Grebel connections in the cast of Nowhere, Ontario are too numerous to mention, but Kathleen especially wants to highlight 9 year old Joel Klassen, son of Brent Klassen('90) and Val Steinman ('91), who "steals the show.”

Nowhere, Ontario will play at Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts in Kitchener, May 9-11, 2013. Visit www.backyardtheatre.ca for information and tickets.
Looking at the Meanings of our Lives

Bob (‘69) and Marlene (‘70) Neufeld met at Grebel in the ’60s as they studied Geography and Sociology, respectively. Influenced in the direction of intentional community and healthy relationships, Grebel’s values set them on their life’s trajectory.

Married and living in Ottawa since 1970, Bob taught grades 1-8 for 30 years, specializing for the last 13 years in teaching children to read and write using an experiential body-centered approach. For several years he taught his approach to new teachers in the faculty of Education at the University of Ottawa. Marlene worked at a variety of careers including as an Early Childhood Educator, welfare worker, and manager in social services, getting a Masters of Social Work in 1995.

Since 2002 they have worked together helping couples create closer loving relationships. With Marlene as a social worker and Bob as a coach, they offer a two-on-two model of helping couples learn life-changing relationship skills, using an experiential body-centered approach. [www.marleneandbob.com]

Bob and Marlene’s life passion has centred on creating community on physical, emotional and spiritual levels. They focus their volunteer efforts on the intentional community that they’ve lived in since 1997, as well as their leadership of Dances of Universal Peace, which are “simple, meditative, joyous multicultural circle dances.”

The couple became involved in “playback theatre” 7 years ago. They discovered the transformational power of storytelling in this form of improvisational theatre in which audience members tell stories from their lives and then watch the essence of their stories enacted on the spot. “As actors we have learned to tune in to the deeper meanings of the stories, listening for the spirit, the heart and soul of the stories, and to trust our fellow actors to be in sync with us,” reflected Bob.

Giving Life to Convictions

Theatre of the Beat, “a traveling theatre troupe who tries their darnedest to challenge and inspire the communities they find themselves in,” was born at Grebel. The group premiered their first play together, Gadfly: Sam Steiner Dodges the Draft last April. Members of TOTB include Johnny Wideman (‘09), Rebecca Steiner (‘12), Kimberlee Walker (‘12), Katie Cowie Redekopp (‘11), Leah Harder Wideman (‘09), and Benjamin Wert. In the past year, this group has traveled internationally, performing 3 different plays at 20 venues for a total of 42 performances.

Describing TOTB’s mission, artistic director and actor Johnny Wideman uses the example of a Venn diagram. “We’d have one circle to encompass the artist community, the church community in the other, and TOTB would snuggle into the place between them. Existing in both the Mennonite church community as well as the secular, artist community, we can push boundaries from inside both, challenging two diverse groups with the same message and medium.”

The troupe produces socially conscious work that provokes discussion, hoping that communities will be inspired to work for peace and justice. According to Rebecca Steiner, TOTB’s general director, “A good play challenges actors to give life to words as they act them out. A good play can also challenge a community to give life to their own convictions by acting on them.”

Johnny credits the advice of a professor for the direction they’ve taken. She said that you can’t find work that inspires you, then make your own. With the spirit of entrepreneurs, Theatre of the Beat is forging ahead. Rebecca says it’s energizing to “find oneself knee-deep in a creative process that is life-giving, that builds community, and that speaks to something greater than just us.”

Last year, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario commissioned the writing of Forgiven/Forgotten - about a community thrown into turmoil upon learning that an offender will be serving the rest of his parole in their midst. Torn between wanting to be welcoming, yet feeling concerned for the safety of their community, Forgiven/Forgotten explores the implications for relationships, families, and congregations when confronted by crime.

The premiere performances are at the Conrad Centre in Kitchener, April 19-20, and then it will go on the road across Canada. TOTB will be touring the 2013 Summer Fringe Festivals of Toronto, Winnipeg, and Edmonton with This Prison or: He Came Through the Floor.

Theatre of the Beat hopes to continue to be a creative resource in Anabaptist circles.

To host a Theatre of the Beat performance, commission a new work, or want to be involved somehow, visit [www.theatreofthebeat.com]
Inspired by Anne

Grebel students had a special treat at Community Supper this term, when Grebel alumna and acclaimed stage actor Glynis Ranney made an appearance as a guest speaker.

As a student in 1985-86, Glynis focused on liberal arts such as religious studies and sociology. After her first year at Waterloo, she moved with her family to Charlottetown, PEI. That summer Glynis saw the theatre production of Anne of Green Gables and “though I had always loved theatre up until that point,” she explained, “I found a new passion for it upon seeing ‘Anne’ at the Charlottetown Festival.” She decided to make theatre her focus, and switched to Dalhousie University to finish her degree, majoring in theatre.

In fact, Glynis was so inspired by Anne of Green Gables, that after five years of practice and hard work, she landed the role of ‘Anne’ in Charlottetown. “It was a joy to do it, and truly a dream come true,” described Glynis. “The show has such heart and spirit - it will always stay with me, and my time doing the role of Anne remains one of the most beautiful and meaningful experiences in the theatre that I have had.”

Since then, Glynis has worked in regional theatres across Canada for 25 years, including 8 seasons with the Shaw Festival, 2 seasons with Stratford Festival, and 3 seasons with the Charlottetown Festival. Favourite roles have included ‘Laura’ in The Glass Menagerie, ‘The Fly’ in Happy End, ‘Jinny’ in Anything that Moves, ‘Nellie’ in Floyd Collins, and ‘Anne’ in Anne of Green Gables. She is currently performing Lucky, a children’s music drama written by Grebel’s instrumental chamber ensemble director, Ben Bolt-Martin. Glynis is also doing a Toronto show in the spring called Falsettos.

“ Theatre is a place where one can be empowered. Music is healing to me. On a fundamental level, this is something that feeds me and helps me to be well in the world,” Glynis told Grebel students. “Whatever you do, it should be something that makes you feel alive and gives you a sense of well-being.”

During her visit to Grebel, Glynis gave a workshop for Grebel students who are mounting their own production of Anne of Green Gables in March. Rachel Pauls, co-director, commented on the workshop: “Glynis is amazing! She is so easy to talk to and she really helped cast members flesh out their characters. It was fantastic to talk so candidly about the play with her.”

Glynis lives in Stratford with her husband and Stratford Festival actor Mike Nadajewski and their 4-year old son Emrys.

Anne of Green Gables
Saturday & Sunday, March 23 & 24 at 2:30pm and 7:00pm

The Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts
36 King St. W.
Kitchener, ON

Grebel students are mounting an ambitious musical project - Anne of Green Gables. This March, 28 Grebel actors from first to fourth year will work with a competent crew and pit orchestra to bring this classic Canadian story to life. Drawing from Grebel’s home-grown talent in both the residence and academic programs, this production shows just how gifted our students are.

Co-director Rachel Pauls has especially enjoyed the community building aspect of working on the play. She encourages anyone, “whether you just like the story, if you love Grebel, want to come and support our students, or all of the above, come see Conrad Grebel University College Student Council’s Production of Anne of Green Gables: The Musical.”

Rachel compares the musical to her experience of Grebel. “We believe that it is everything that Grebel is. Community. Even in the play, the community and the characters are part of the community of Avonlea, just like we are part of Grebel’s community. We have even jokingly started calling it Anne of Green Grebels.”

Get your tickets at the Grebel main office (519-885-0220) or at the door before the show. Students/Seniors - $13, Adults - $15
Music Camp Pulls People Together

One of Ontario Mennonite Music Camp’s board members, Reuben Janzen-Martin (‘99) has a long history with the camp. Remembering his time as an OMMC camper, Reuben recalls good friends, crazy camp games, and a shared love of music (including an impromptu concert on a city bus!) Reuben later became a junior counselor at the camp, appreciating the work behind the scenes. After his experience at OMMC, Reuben moved into the Grebel residence as an electrical engineering student. Reflecting on the similarities, he mused “I’m not sure if OMMC is more like residence life or if residence life is more like camp – but in both I found opportunities to make great friends and share common activities.” Now Reuben is on the board of OMMC, enjoying the “enthusiasm the campers have for life and music.”

OMMC is a unique combination of indoor and outdoor, urban and rural, formal and informal. Professionally trained musicians/staff mix with camper led campfires and chapels. Campers play traditional outdoor active camp games like capture the flag but stay in residence dorms instead of cabins. At the end of the two week camp, the campers share their talents at a final concert that includes a musical. Music Campers love the energy and excitement of being in a group with a common interest. Music pulls them together and builds community.

Two exciting things at OMMC this year are: 1) the celebration of the camp’s 30th anniversary - all OMMC alumni and other interested people are invited to a musical reunion on Sunday, August 18th. 2) The camp is now offering a guitar master class, celebrating this wonderfully versatile instrument found everywhere from campfires to worship services.

August 11-23, 2013 Register at: grebel.ca/ommc

Peace Camp: Local Actions, Global Impact

Grebel student and this year’s Peace Camp Coordinator, Sarah Klassen, is gearing up for another great week of games, crafts, speakers, and field trips for youth, ages 11-14 at Grebel’s summer day camp with a social justice twist. Working with the theme of “Local Actions with Global Impact,” campers will look at the actions they can take in their daily lives that can help the global community, like choosing fair trade chocolate and caring for the environment.

One of the most unique aspects of Peace camp is the experiences campers get during the week. The speakers and activities, while fun and engaging, also educate the campers on peace and community building. Sarah explains, “they get to hear from inspiring people and have eye-opening experiences, either in the great hall, like when we acted out resolving the fictional conflict between the Piennuts and the Jehlees, or while on field trips, like our visits to the Working Centre and House of Friendship’s Sunnydale Community Centre.”

Peace Camp continues to benefit from a generous 5-year grant from the Lyle S. Hallman Foundation.

July 29-August 2, 2013 Register at: grebel.ca/peacecamp

Landau Legacy

by Sue Baker

In 1998, Lowell Ewert, Director of Peace and Conflict Studies at Conrad Grebel, was approached by Sy & Barbara Landau and Rick Russell (established and highly regarded professional mediators and educators) with a collaborative proposal to provide conflict management and mediation training at the College. This proposal became the building blocks for Grebel’s Certificate Program in Conflict Management, which currently has over 500 enrollments each year.

In December 2012, Sy Landau died following a private battle with cancer. With his training as an engineer and a career as a human resources specialist, Sy was a highly respected member of the alternate dispute resolution community. The ADR Institute of Ontario recognized Sy’s contribution to the field through an unprecedented financial donation to the new Landau Family Scholarship Fund available for students enrolled in a Peace and Conflict Studies program at Grebel.

Known for his integrity, organizational ability, and sense of humor, Sy was the perfect companion to Barbara, his wife of almost 50 years. As a lawyer, psychologist and certified family mediator, Barbara has worked to help reform family mediation, volunteers tirelessly in dialogue and initiatives between the Jewish and Muslim faith, and on issues related to the value of women in society. Barbara is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. The Landau family includes Daryl and Niki who have made their own contributions to the field of Conflict Management.

The loss of Sy will be felt by many, and we at Grebel echo one of the many tributes received. “Sy was a great guy – we are all better for knowing him.”
As a student living in residence, your world starts to shrink. The campus becomes the universe and it seems like you rarely interact with anyone outside of your own academic context. So when the opportunity came to do a service-learning trip with a focus on homelessness, I was excited. This experience would be different: here was my chance to get out of my comfortable, homogenized social world and do something meaningful. I assumed that working with “the homeless” would be a challenging and very rewarding experience. The plan was to spend a week at a homeless shelter that one of our student leaders had worked for in St. Catharines, Ontario.

What drew me into this experience was the learning component of the trip. We were going to serve the homeless shelter in practical ways such as cleaning the dorms and the kitchen, as well as volunteering at a “Coldest Night of the Year” walkathon in the downtown core. The emphasis was on interacting with and learning from the people affected by the shelter.

When Reading Week began, two vans of Grebelites headed down to St. Catharines. I braced myself for the uncomfortable situations I would “power through” and learn from, but I could not have been more wrong. Starting on the very first evening, we joined the shelter community for an evening of rock climbing. Yes, you read that correctly. It was an incredible experience. The leaders of the rock climbing program had mentioned that the program had two components: climbing and cheering, with an emphasis on the latter. Connections happened naturally as we instinctively cheered each other on. It suddenly wasn’t “us and them” anymore. It was just us.

As we progressed through the week, there was one aspect of the trip that stood out among the rest. Each night, someone from the shelter community would share their story. We were moved by the stories of people who had experienced crippling addictions, disabling mental health, abuse, and other unimaginable struggles. But it was not the heartbreak and pain that moved me as much as the hope and restoration that they now exuded. Each of the individuals sharing said, “I wouldn’t change a thing.” Every person we talked to was so full of life. Better yet, they were committed to sharing their stories in order for others to learn and grow. Beauty burst forth from the brokenness of their pasts and our group was inspired.

Through every experience we could see the blossoming friendships between every individual in the group. Residents and associates who previously did not know each other became close friends, sharing stories and laughter together. The group of students who left, as cheesy as it sounds, came back as a sort of family. Nothing brings people together better than spending all hours of the day together in close quarters, and seeing every fault and strength in sharp detail.

We were blessed beyond measure by the MDS long-termers led us and took us under their wing. Whether it was Karl’s tutelage, Elmer constantly calling Felipe Gonzalia “Felipi,” or Linda’s loving hugs, these wonderful people will be remembered for the love that they showed for us, silly university hooligans that we are. All in all, it was an amazing trip, where God showed us the fearsome power of a fallen creation, and also the restorative love that serving provides.

**Beauty from the Brokenness** by Jacob Winter, 1st year International Development

Through every experience we could see the blossoming friendships between every individual in the group. Residents and associates who previously did not know each other became close friends, sharing stories and laughter together. The group of students who left, as cheesy as it sounds, came back as a sort of family. Nothing brings people together better than spending all hours of the day together in close quarters, and seeing every fault and strength in sharp detail.

We were blessed beyond measure by the MDS long-termers led us and took us under their wing. Whether it was Karl’s tutelage, Elmer constantly calling Felipe Gonzalia “Felipi,” or Linda’s loving hugs, these wonderful people will be remembered for the love that they showed for us, silly university hooligans that we are. All in all, it was an amazing trip, where God showed us the fearsome power of a fallen creation, and also the restorative love that serving provides.

Through every experience we could see the blossoming friendships between every individual in the group. Residents and associates who previously did not know each other became close friends, sharing stories and laughter together. The group of students who left, as cheesy as it sounds, came back as a sort of family. Nothing brings people together better than spending all hours of the day together in close quarters, and seeing every fault and strength in sharp detail.

We were blessed beyond measure by the MDS long-termers led us and took us under their wing. Whether it was Karl’s tutelage, Elmer constantly calling Felipe Gonzalia “Felipi,” or Linda’s loving hugs, these wonderful people will be remembered for the love that they showed for us, silly university hooligans that we are. All in all, it was an amazing trip, where God showed us the fearsome power of a fallen creation, and also the restorative love that serving provides.

As a student living in residence, your world starts to shrink. The campus becomes the universe and it seems like you rarely interact with anyone outside of your own academic context. So when the opportunity came to do a service-learning trip with a focus on homelessness, I was excited. This experience would be different: here was my chance to get out of my comfortable, homogenized social world and do something meaningful. I assumed that working with “the homeless” would be a challenging and very rewarding experience. The plan was to spend a week at a homeless shelter that one of our student leaders had worked for in St. Catharines, Ontario.

What drew me into this experience was the learning component of the trip. We were going to serve the homeless shelter in practical ways such as cleaning the dorms and the kitchen, as well as volunteering at a “Coldest Night of the Year” walkathon in the downtown core. The emphasis was on interacting with and learning from the people affected by the shelter.

When Reading Week began, two vans of Grebelites headed down to St. Catharines. I braced myself for the uncomfortable situations I would “power through” and learn from, but I could not have been more wrong. Starting on the very first evening, we joined the shelter community for an evening of rock climbing. Yes, you read that correctly. It was an incredible experience. The leaders of the rock climbing program had mentioned that the program had two components: climbing and cheering, with an emphasis on the latter. Connections happened naturally as we instinctively cheered each other on. It suddenly wasn’t “us and them” anymore. It was just us.

As we progressed through the week, there was one aspect of the trip that stood out among the rest. Each night, someone from the shelter community would share their story. We were moved by the stories of people who had experienced crippling addictions, disabling mental health, abuse, and other unimaginable struggles. But it was not the heartbreak and pain that moved me as much as the hope and restoration that they now exuded. Each of the individuals sharing said, “I wouldn’t change a thing.” Every person we talked to was so full of life. Better yet, they were committed to sharing their stories in order for others to learn and grow. Beauty burst forth from the brokenness of their pasts and our group was inspired.
MSCU awards $5000 to PACS Students

The Peace Advancement Challenge, launched in September by Grebel and Mennonite Savings and Credit Union (MSCU), was pleased to recognize the winners this March. The purpose of the challenge was to inspire undergraduate students to explore creative peacemaking and connect them with organizations working for peace. Emma Stainton, a 3rd year student will receive $4000 to further her idea of a peace presence on local buses to the next stage. Her initial proposal is to introduce an advertising campaign in Waterloo Region buses that promote peace and present tangible ideas for riders to work for peace in the community and at home.

Nadine Hiemstra, a 4th year PACS major will receive $1000 to continue her work on reframing the value of people living with disabilities. The focus of this proposal is to create workshop forums for those with disabilities and mental illness and others to interact. Both winners will be connected with mentors from the jury to take their ideas to the next stage. The jury was made up of representatives from Grebel, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario, Mennonite Economic Development Associates, MSCU, Project Ploughshares, The Tamarack Institute, Sustainable Waterloo Region, and The Working Centre. This broad collaboration anticipates the spirit of the newly created MSCU Centre for Peace Advancement.

2012-2013 Award Recipients

Grebels 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 given freely.

Jean Caya Music Award
Natasha Herrera, Jane Honek, April Mansfield, Laura McConachie, Sophia Werden Abrams

Clemens Scholarships in Music
Corey Cotter Linforth, Meaghan McCracken, Christina Park

Evanov Radio Group Music Award
Michelle Dao

Rudolf and Hedwig Rempel Music Award
Matthew Attard, Michelle Dao, Laura Easson, Niamh Kinsella, Janelle Mary Santi

William Dick PACS Field Study Award
Rhiannon Ball

Becky Frey Student Scholarship
Laurie Fusilier, Jessica White

Global Conflict Management and Transformation Award
Babina Kharel

Walter and Mary Hougham PACS Award
Cassandra Bangay, Claire Davies, Meghan Morrison

Vic and Rita Krueger Family PACS Award
Katrina Draper

Elliot I. McLoughtry Fund Scholarship
Claire Davies

PACS Certificate Bursary
Ikeoluwapo Aderounmu, Benjamin

Bauman, Kaye Crawford, Rod Friesen, Kalem Hans Hammervan, Sue Klassen, Gwyneth MacNeich, Eva Natalia Ramirez Rello, Dawn Toering Boyes, Jessica White, Ben Winokur

PACS Internship Award
Cassandra Bangay, Shelley Buss, Laura Coakley, Michelle Donaldson, Danielle Hoover, Rachel Krueger, Radhika Shankar, Stephanie Van Pelt

Peter C. and Elisabeth Williams Memorial Fund Scholarship
Nadine Hiemstra

Lina Wohlgemut Award
Hannah Enns, Babina Kharel

MPACS Student Support
Benjamin Bauman, Kely Brown, Patricia Dorsey, Rod Friesen, Noe Gonzalez, Muhammad Khalid, Babina Kharel, Rachel Reist, Ellen Sikorski, Jahan Zeb

Magdalena Coffman Scholarship
Carmen Ramirez

J.H. Janzen Award
Michael Turman

Full Time MTS Tuition Award
David Alas, Isaiah Boronka, Chris Brnjas, Rafael Duekersen, Melanie Kampen, Vincent Kong, Jake Martin, Carmen Ramirez, Andrew Stumpf, Michael Turman, Kyle Wijnands, Dustin Zender

Graduate Student Support
Michael Turman

MCEC Pastors Award
Ben Cassels, Dawne Driedjer, Ken Driedjer, Sean East, Joshua Penfold

The Jane Plas Scholarship
Michael Turman

Reimier Scholarship in Theological Studies
Isaiha Boronka, Kyle Wijnands

Stephen Family Theological Studies Entrance Award
Chris Brnjas

Theological Studies Transitional Award
Norman Dyck

Jacob Andres Achievement Scholarship
Nicole Lee

Dorothy E. Bechel Award
Maggie MacDonald

College Anniversary Legacy Award
Emma Bartel, Nic Cober, Jonathan de Leyer, Sam Desroches, Tim Dyck, Rebecca Eerkens, Perry Everett, Tyler Good, Heather Ikert, Michelle Koop, Janessa Mann, Kaitlin Norris, Rachel Pauls, Steve Pauls, Ian Reed, Natalie Robert, Erin Scott, Thomas Scott, Sally Sue, Rebecca Skolud, Leah Toews, Cassie Wiens

Alice Eisen Leadership Award
Justine Alkema, Johnny Friesen

Arnold C. Gingerich Memorial Fund Award
Felipe Gonzalez

Good Foundation Scholarship
Jonathan Cullar, Joel Derksen, Emily Mininger

Grebel Student Award
Rachel Dyck, Michael Funk, Alison Scott

Hildebrand Family Award
Sawyer Hogenkamp, Stacey Kuypers, Melissa Murchinson, Andy Wenger

Robin Jutzi Scholarship
Natalie Chan, Julia Martin

David Regier Student Award
Laura Martin, Aaron Neufeld, Alina Rekhopf, Graham Watson

Residence Entrance Award
Kenny Hildebrand

Lucinda Robertson Scholarship
Michelle Metzger

Rockway Diploma Award
Joel Becker, Liza Klassen, Rebekah Winter

Sauer Family Award
Sam Desroches, Emily MacTavish

George E. and Louise Schroeder Award
Lori Reimer, Alyssa Wilson

Stauffer Entrance Award
Kerstin Balzer-Peters, Gibe Shim

Student Council Award
Katy Moes

Student Services Award
Matthew Klassen

Upper Year Residence Award
Ben Brubaker-Zehr, Rachel Gingrich, Austin Penner

Volunteerism Residence Entrance Award
Jessica Clancy, Hannah Enns, Lily Hwang

Johan Weber Award
Steve Pauls, Jessica White

Nathan Paul Krueger Wiebe Award
Laurie Fusilier

16 students received matching funds from Grebel for Student Aid from their congregation.
Fundraising for the building project continues to progress with almost $5.8 million in gifts and pledges! The bookshelf image below captures the range of people who have helped write the next chapter for Grebel, including our students! Student Council has committed $30 per term from each on-campus student to the building. Student Council President Emily Menninger says “the students are eager to see the finished renovations and are happy to support the project. With easier access to library study space, increased practice rooms, an enhanced atrium, and the possibilities that are opened through the Centre for Peace Advancement, the new space is sure to be an exciting addition to Grebel life.”

In addition to 270 students, over 200 alumni have made contributions. Parent support has also come from 41 households. The board is 100% behind this project and there has been generous support from faculty and staff. As of February 15, 926 donors have contributed.

“The breadth of donor support for this project is truly remarkable. It is also humbling to see donors who are making memorial donations and family tribute gifts — making use of this project as a way to honour others,” noted Scott Beech, who heads up the Campaign Advisory.

Planned gifts continue to be a critical component of capital fundraising at Grebel, including the Next Chapter Campaign. Donors who include Grebel in their estate plans are able to leave a lasting legacy. Development Director Fred Martin notes that “our practice is to use these special gifts for capital projects - either buildings or endowments.”

Donations comprise the vast majority of the revenue for this $8.7 million project. “Our hope is to continue to generate support to cover more of the outstanding $3 million,” said Rick Shantz who chairs the Finance and Development committee. “The board has committed $700,000 of reserve funds to this project and capital grants from our grad studies program will also be used to support grad student spaces.”

FOR UPDATES VISIT grebel.ca/building

Centre for Peace Advancement Update

Since the announcement of the addition of the 4th floor to create the Mennonite Savings and Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement there have been many conversations about how this space will be shaped and used. Some of the 6,000 square feet is designated for growing graduate programs in Theological Studies and PACS, with a seminar room and common space for grad students to meet and interact. The floor will also include an art gallery for exhibits, readings, and even coffee houses. Arrangements are being made to include space for the return of Project Ploughshares to Grebel.

Development Director, Fred Martin has been asked by the board to help shape a business plan, governance model and recruit members of an Advisory committee. “While final decisions on faculty offices have not been made we do anticipate some office space availability for other organizations and individuals,” noted Martin.
The Ron and Barbara Schlegel Community education room is taking shape. It will be on the main floor and its large windows will bring in lots of light and inspiration for participants in our Conflict Management Certificate program.

Construction update

Winter construction has its challenges, but the team at Nith Valley Construction have done an admirable job of moving the project forward. Progress is being made on the first floor for the new music facilities. The second floor has been tarped in and heated and in early February the 3rd floor was poured. In February the block laying for the archive vault was started.

Renovating and making connections to an existing building is challenging. Over Christmas the main office and reception area were closed in order to make the first steps in renovating this space. Modified steel work was required to create a central stairway adjacent to the elevator in the atrium.

Director of Operations Paul Penner says that “we anticipate a staged opening with the first and second floors being completed in the fall and a full opening in February 2014.”

At this point we are within our overall budget of $8.7 million. We had savings on some initial tenders but have extra expenses due to additional engineering and steel work, related to connections to the existing building.

Frank and Helen Epp Peace Incubator

One of the most creative initiatives in the Centre for Peace Advancement (CPA) is a work space designed for peace ‘start-ups’. These may be grad students, researchers, visiting peace practitioners, artists, consultants and others focusing on peace building. Members of the Epp Peace Incubator will have access to meeting rooms, networking and mentoring relationships that will be coordinated by a director of the CPA.

Fundraising to name the space in honour of Frank and Helen is proceeding well as over $40,000 has been raised toward the goal of $50,000.

John and Helen Dick Music Practice Room

John and Helen Dick have supported Mennonite educational institutions throughout their lives and many of their children attended Conrad Grebel. John served as a board member from 1975 to 1982 and 1986 to 1990. The Dick’s have been generous supporters of the College over the years and four of their children attended Grebel; Ernest, Marlene, Ken and Sharon. A love of music has also been a large part of John and Helen’s life and the lives of their children and grandchildren. This includes music in church settings, folk festivals, harp performance and other settings.

In celebration of John’s 90th birthday and as a tribute to their parents, the family made a gift of $20,000 as part of The Next Chapter campaign to expand and enhance Music facilities at the College. This gift will be used toward the construction of a Music Practice room known as the “John H. and Helen Dick Family Music Practice Room.” It will be located on the first level in the heart of the music department.

(1-r) Marlene Neufeld ’70, Kenneth Dick ’79, Sharon Johnston ’78, Ernest Dick ’69 and Ed Dick, with John H. and Helen Dick in front
Sawatsky Lecture by Melanie Kampen, TS Student

In spite of a snow storm, Gerald Gerbrandt delivered the 2013 Rod and Lorna Sawatsky visiting scholar lecture at Conrad Grebel through the college’s website on February 8. Dr. Gerbrandt is professor emeritus at Canadian Mennonite University (previously CMBC) where he served in various roles as professor, academic dean, and president over many years. The title of his talk was “Where the Church Thinks: The Role of the Christian Scholar.” Of particular concern was the role of scholars in Mennonite communities of faith. Gerbrandt suggested that the Christian church in North America is undergoing a process of religious ferment. Theologians such as Phyllis Tickle and Brian McLaren have also noticed that something akin to a “rummage sale” is taking place across denominations. To say the least, the church is changing.

One of the pertinent tasks of the church during a time of ferment becomes navigating and negotiating the changes and possibilities for reform. How do we think about the changes taking place? Enter the Christian scholar. Alice Gallin once said that “the university is where the church does its thinking.” Such a claim will ring more true for some denominations than for others. Indeed, as Gerbrandt astutely observed, “we have tended not to think of the university, especially as a Mennonite people, as where we think through issues around the changes taking place in the church.” Gerbrandt sees the Christian university as a unique institution that not only preserves and disseminates knowledge and tradition, but simultaneously has the capacity to test, refine, and even reform tradition. And this is a gift to the church. The university is premised on critical thinking, and as a result of this, it becomes a place where we can be unsatisfied with “the answers of the past and the consensus of the day.” In the university, spaces are created for thought experiments; there is willingness to risk in new ventures. Inevitably, some of these ventures will be dead ends or dead wrong, as Gerbrandt noted. But, the creation of new knowledge requires risk, and therefore “faculty have a right to be wrong.”

Gerbrandt concluded his lecture with a call both to the church and to Christian scholars. He urged the church to affirm the task of the Christian scholar in this time of religious ferment. The labour scholars put into studying the history, thought, and practices of the church is a gift to the faith community. He also reminded Christian scholars that they do not hold a privileged position concerning knowledge in the church, but that they are always part of the wider hermeneutical community. Certainly the task of the Christian scholar is to think, and to transform living by thinking. But this is never uni-directional; thinking is also transformed by living. Thus the role of the Christian scholar is to be a thinker and also a practitioner of the faith, such that the two are hardly dissociable. Ultimately, it is our hope in God’s providence that encourages us to move forward into new horizons, to imagine and compose new forms of Christianity.

Watch this year’s Sawatsky Lecture online at grebel.ca/sawatsky
people

As Executive Director at the House of Friendship in Kitchener, John Neufeld (’96) received a “Top 40 Under 40” in Waterloo Region Award. He was recognized for serving individuals in need and building and developing communities by collaborating with others for the greater good. Jeremy Steffler, a grad of Grebel’s Certificate Program in Conflict Management and now an instructor with the program, was also on the “Top 40 Under 40” list. He was recognized for actively advocating for diversity, equality, and social justice.

Eric Lepp (’05) replaced Mary Lou Klassen (’97, ’10) as Undergraduate Officer and Field Studies Coordinator in PACS. Since graduating from Grebel/UW six years ago Eric has managed to cram a lot of amazing experiences into his life, including completing an MA in Peace Studies at the Kroc Institute, projects in Taiwan, Thailand, and the Philippines, working as an employment counsellor in Ottawa and serving as a TA at WL. Mary Lou Klassen began at Grebel in an administrative assistant role in 2005 while she completed her MTS (2010). She was instrumental in helping to make PACS a major, adding the Master in PACS, led various initiatives like Peace Camp, and taught in some PACS courses. Mary Lou and her husband Dave have returned to work with MCC in Jos, Nigeria.

In the annual Grebel faculty/staff/student patio hockey game, faculty and staff managed to actually win the game! (It’s possible there were some questionable antics going on.)

Hannah Redekop (’11) (left) spent the month of January at Christian Peacemaker Teams training. At a Peace Society gathering, she reflected on her training. In April, she will begin a 3 year term with CPT in Colombia.

Sarah Jane Gibbs (’11) was a performer at one of Grebel’s Noon Hour Concerts. As a cellist, Sarah Jane now freelances, is a performing soloist and a chamber musician, a private music instructor, and a member of Trio Aquadulci, the Kindred Spirits Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Toronto.

MPACS student, Barry W. Bussey, has received the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his work to support religious liberty in Canada and abroad. The award is granted to Canadian citizens who have made “a significant contribution to a particular province, territory, region or community within Canada, or an achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada.”

After graduating from McMaster Divinity College in 1972, Bruce Coombe (’68) served churches in Wyoming, Oshawa, and Simcoe, ON. He retired in 2005 and lives in Simcoe with his wife, Susan, volunteering at an area Young Offenders Center leading groups on Values and Behaviour using the disciplines of yoga and meditation and is active in an Ontario wing of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America.

In Memory of Margaret (Lampshire) Epp (’67)
How do you begin to describe our gentle friend, Marg? Her friends used these words: Marg was loving, giving and forgiving, accepting, happy, fun loving, with a twinkle in her eyes. She was cheerful, positive, gracious, and willing to take on any problem. She was vibrant, intelligent, a true teacher, uplifting - a role model and mentor to many. Marg was always known for her dimples and smiles. She was a good friend to all. She was my roommate.

Bromwen Wallace, a Canadian poet said; “Some things we never get over. We just learn to carry them gently.” We never want to forget Marg; just carry her memory gently in our hearts forever.

With much Love,
Jackie and the Girls of Conrad Grebel, 67-68

Mary Martin (’69) passed away on January 15, 2013 after a battle with cancer. Wife to Ken and mother to Philip (’99), Justin (’02), and Nicholas (’04), Mary was a teacher and an active community member. She volunteered for House of Friendship, and on many committees at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Chesley Lake Camp, Mennonite Church of Eastern Canada, Breslau Mennonite Church and Fairview Mennonite Home. She loved spending time with her 3 grandchildren, working in the garden, cooking, making sausage, doing yoga, and spending time at her Chesley Lake cottage with family.

Nolan Andres (’97,’98) began PeaceWorks Technology Solutions 17 years ago, driven by a passion to empower organizations that make a positive difference in the world. Nolan resigned as CEO at the end of 2012. At a farewell evening for Nolan, Paul Penner (’83) presented Nolan with a Grebel tie. A group photo of past and present PeaceWorks employees was taken, highlighting many Grebel connections and alumni. Nolan has since begun a new role as Chief Information Officer at the Mennonite Savings and Credit Union.

We want to know what you’re up to! Send your updates to grebel@uwaterloo.ca
This summer, Grebel (or Conrad, Connie G, CGC...) will mark its 50th Anniversary. This is a momentous occasion! Your 50th Anniversary Committee has been planning this amazing reunion for a long time already. Mark August 23-25, 2013 as a weekend you do not want to miss! People are what make Grebel special, so all of our celebrations include YOU!

**Sixties Era Saturday**

**Brunch** - for the pioneers of the College to reconnect. Ed Bergey will host a program and share slides and memories. Email Esther Etchells (’67): mennogo@yahoo.ca

**Frosh Wash 1991**

**A meal in the ’60s**

**Pricing:** $20 per person, $50 per family
**Grebel Had Talent** and we’re sure you still have some! Recreate your favourite act from talent shows gone by. Share your newly acquired entertaining skills (or lack thereof)! To sign up to perform or to request a favourite act from the past, email Wendy Chappell Dick ('90) wendy@mennofolk.org

**50th Anniversary Committee**
Fred W. Martin, Hendrike Isert Bender, Ed Janzen, Wendy Cressman Zehr, Jen Konkle, Marlene Epp, Cheri Otterbein, Susan Schultz Huxman

**Ultimate tournament coordinator**
Mike Skeoch ('08) mikeskeoch@gmail.com

**Kids activities coordinator**
Kendra Whitfield Ellis ('00, '04) peter_and_kendra@hotmail.com

**PACS reunion** – Katie Cowie Redekopp ('11) kmcowie06@gmail.com

**Music** – Lynne Dueck ('95) lynnedueck@alumni.uwaterloo.ca

**MTS** – Amanda Zehr ('09, '12) amandalee.zehr@gmail.com

**Talent Show** - Wendy Chapell Dick ('90) wendy@mennofolk.org

**Chapel Choir Reunion** - Jennie Wiebe ('99) jenniewiebe@alumni.uwaterloo.ca

**Sixties Brunch** - Esther Etchells ('67) mennogo@yahoo.ca

---

**Fun for all ages** - with an ultimate Frisbee tournament, crokinole, kids activities, "era rooms" specifically for each decade plus Music, PACS, and MTS rooms.

---

**Wear your Bow Tie to the Fretz Bow Tie Gala on August 23**
Get out your bow ties and formal wear and mark August 23rd for this gala kick-off event to the 50th Anniversary celebration. Grebel, along with MSCU, will honour the legacy of our first president and a founding member of the Credit Union. Hosted by John Rempel, this evening will feature fun music, delicious food, and a unique Grebel silent auction. Funds raised from this event will help reach the target of $50,000 to name the Fretz Seminar room in the MSCU Centre for Peace Advancement. Bow ties will be available for purchase.

$100 per ticket ($70 charitable receipt) Available from: Alison Enns at 519-885-0220 x24217 aenns@uwaterloo.ca

---

**Chapel Choir Reunion** - Under the direction of Len Enns, singers will practice several songs for the Sunday Celebration Service. Jennie Wiebe ('99) is coordinating this. Sign up now: uwaterloo.ca/grebel/choir-reunion

---

**All College Retreat 2005**

---

**Chapel Choir 1979-80**

---

**Children of Eden 2008**

---

**Grebel Talent from the ‘90s**

---

**REGISTER ONLINE AT**
grebel.ca/50th
UPCOMING LECTURES

Bechtel Lectures

Professor Chris Marshall,
University of Victoria,
Wellington, N.Z.

Violence, Victimhood, and Recovery: Insights from the Parables of Jesus
Thursday & Friday, March 14 and 15, 2013

Eby Lecture

Professor Leonard Enns,
Conrad Grebel, Waterloo

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”
Friday, April 12, 2013

Songs For This Day: Len Enns’ Finale

The end of April 2013 marks 35 years that Professor Len Enns has taught Music at Grebel. As he prepares to retire, Len’s Chamber Choir is going on one last tour. With a finale concert at Sharon Temple - a national historic site and museum in Sharon, Ontario (north of Toronto) - it is sure to be a memorable and emotional event. A Quaker sect called the Children of Peace built this temple which has been called a “living instrument”. This acoustically exquisite space will create an unforgettable concert of Songs For This Day on Saturday, April 27, 2013 at 7:00 pm, followed by a celebration reception for Len.

In choral music, “the instrument is our voice. It’s a group and communal expression that exemplifies being a community, even when voices don’t blend perfectly,” explained Len. As he prepares to change focus (planning to balance composing with time spent on DaCapo Chamber Choir,) Len says that he can’t think of a more rewarding job to have had. He said that he will miss the students the most - “that’s where I get my energy. It’ll be a challenge to fill that hole.” Len said he would love to have all the people he’s sung with over the years to be in a choir together “…so many talented people!” This dream can come true! Len will be leading the Chapel Choir Reunion Choir August 23-25, 2013. Sign up to sing with him one more time!

uwaterloo.ca/grebel/choir-reunion