

# Grebel *Now*

THE CONRAD GREBEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 20, No. 1 Fall Term 2003

## 40 Years of Community

by Marlene Epp

When does a college begin? When someone has an idea and a committee is formed? Or does it begin when the first classes are taught? When a building goes up? Or when it has a name? Regular meetings to envision a Mennonite college of higher education began already in 1959, though the anniversary date chosen for Grebel is 1963. In that year, the first president, Dr. J. Winfield Fretz, took office, and taught the first classes – “Sociology



of the Family”, and “Left Wing of the Reformation”. The first faculty member, Walter Klaassen, arrived the next year as did the first resident students.

In Grebel’s case, it was a shared idea and a name that were the first seeds of the college. In 1959, a study group of Ontario Mennonite

leaders was formed to explore the idea of establishing a Mennonite residential college in Waterloo. They were mindful of the fact that some 600-700 Mennonite young adults were enrolled at Universities across Canada and believed that the education of these students would be enhanced if they lived in an environment shaped by Christian-Anabaptist values. Before long, they also imagined an academic program that could serve the university, based on those same values.

Had some of the ideas raised in those early meetings been realized, this college might have looked quite different than it does today. For instance, it was very close to being called Marpeck College, after 16<sup>th</sup> century Mennonite leader and engineer, Pilgram



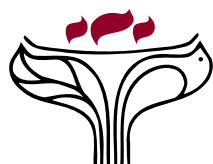
Marpeck, and situated at the corner of King and Allen streets on Bauer Industries property in downtown Waterloo. It could have been called many other things – Koinonia College, Prince of Peace College, Michael Sattler College.

One early board member grudgingly voted for Conrad Grebel, but scrawled at the bottom of his ballot: “Frankly, I’m not sold on any of these names.” By late January 1960, well before the ‘birth’ of the college, Conrad Grebel College was chosen, based on the point that Grebel the man had become symbolic of the very beginning of the Anabaptist movement.

There was much creative energy at work in the four years preceding the college’s opening. The early leaders believed they were responding to a crisis and taking great risks. They were actually embarking on a venture that was quite radical for its time. Affirming the presence of



*John Neufeld and Winfield Fretz, both founding fathers of Grebel, look at a picture of themselves laying the cornerstone in the chapel. (note picture at left - Winfield Fretz, Milton Good, and John Neufeld)*



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# 40 years cont'd

Mennonite young people on a secular university campus; bringing together a coalition of Mennonites from different historic and conference groups. While so many Mennonite colleges had chosen to separate themselves from the world, Grebel deliberately sought to participate in the world.

Like most institutions, the history of Grebel is one of co-existing change and continuity. The student body has changed constantly, on a three and four-year cycle and within that, the four-month revolving door of co-op students. Leadership has changed, there being five presidents in the 40 years. So have faculty and staff, though some have lasted much longer than others. But while the people have changed, and societal shifts have altered the ways in which people dealt with issues, there is a certain surprising, and indeed comforting, constancy to some of the challenges.

Gender balances have changed dramatically. The fact that, in its earliest idea stage, the Grebel residence was envisioned as a residence for

men, while the church colleges would share one residence for women, suggests that no one was expecting too many women to attend university. In the first pool of applicants to the residence, there were 44 men and 19 women. The imbalanced male female ratio of 2:1 was maintained well into the second decade of the school's history. This semester, there are 78 women and 63 men in rez—quite a shift.

While the gender balance in the residence has changed dramatically from the early years, other balancing issues have remained much the same. Already in the late 1960s, administrators were pondering the question of how to balance the number of 'artsies' versus 'techies' in the residence. And though the ratio of Mennonite to non-Mennonite students in residence has remained somewhat constant through the years—close to about 50 percent Mennonite although in some years quite a bit lower—so has the discussion on whether that percentage should be higher or lower. One 1967 comment reflects this: "In selecting students it becomes almost an ethical problem when the choice lies between Mennonites who are academically marginal and high-

ranking non-Mennonite applicants."

Change and continuity has also characterized Food Services. Some of Grebel's longest serving staff members have provided stability and comforting familiarity in the kitchen. The 1974 annual report noted Grebel's reputation for "good food" but the menus definitely reflect societal shifts in nutrition. A 1970s survey of food likes and dislikes listed 28 items, asking what students were interested in eating. Of those 28 items, there were 14 meats, 5 desserts, 1 beverage (choc. milk), 2 junk foods, 1 breakfast item (pancakes), 4 main course dishes, and only 1 vegetable (brussels sprouts). I don't think it needs to be said that there was no vegetarian option.

Social mores have changed—a combination of both environmental and moral standards. The first residence application in 1964 queried students on their tobacco usage: 1 replied regularly, 8 occasionally, and 53 never. Only a few years later, residence policy allowed

smoking in residence rooms and lounges, but not in the library! Now of course things have reversed themselves, but for health rather than moral reasons.

Some of those changing societal mores have been expressed most vigorously in the chapel program, where chaplains then and now have struggled with diverging spiritual needs in both form and content. Whether the issue was pews or chairs, praise chorus or Bach chorale, liturgy or informality, student-led or faculty-led, the chapel as sacred space or social space, to attend or not to attend—religious life at the college has been consistently motivated by Christian Mennonite beliefs and values. Yet the form those have taken have responded to social eras of radicalism, individualism, feminism, evangelicalism, and pluralism.

The College's academic program has also seen change and continuity co-exist over time. The dramatic growth in student numbers is perhaps most notable. In 1963-64, there were 38 student enrollments; in 2001-2 there were 3,887. The courses first taught by Fretz in '63 were representative of the academic emphasis in the early years—Religious and Anabaptist Mennonite Studies, with Fretz's particular

expertise in Sociology highlighted. Yet in the era of expansion that was the late 60s and through the 1970s, new programs took root—a Music major was first offered in 1974, and the Peace & Conflict Studies program initiated in 1976. Ten years later graduate theological studies emerged. Alongside these program areas, the College has developed and maintained its excellence in a broad-range of liberal arts courses, initially termed 'experimental courses'. Community education programs have ebbed and flowed but right from the beginning there was a strong emphasis on serving the Mennonite church and local community with courses, lectures, recitals and other events that reflected the expertise at Grebel.

The challenge of integrating residence and academic programs has confronted leaders at Grebel throughout the College's history. In 1974 the college president expressed this weakness and strength as follows: "We count and work with our students in two contexts: in our residential program and in our teaching program. The two overlap only marginally, because the majority of students in our courses are not related to the residence, and residents as a rule choose their courses throughout the University." Part of the disconnect between programs lay in the difficulty that some students had in fitting Grebel courses into their schedules. As an administrator who struggles with how best to apply the 'Grebel course requirement' I was heartened to read the 1965 annual report which noted a desire to involve Grebel students in the religious knowledge programme but the problem presented by the rigid schedules of the Science and Engineering faculties.

The first 40 years of Grebel's history have combined radical change with comforting continuity. There have been both highs and lows in these four decades. In his first annual report, Dr. Fretz observed that the College was a 'Child of the Church'. Now that the Child has reached middle age, we might say 'the best is yet to come'.



Groundbreaking Ceremony - 1963





# Looking back with Winfield Fretz

Alumni can thank Dr. Winfield Fretz for Grebel's recognizable peaked roofs, round dining room tables, and the savoury home-cooked meals. As founding president of Conrad Grebel University College, his presence at Grebel's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion was incredibly meaningful, both for Winfield and for the college community.

As someone who was in on the planning stages of the college, Winfield had the opportunity to help make decisions that resulted in the Grebel that we know today. Winfield is very proud of three contributions he made in shaping Grebel. When he first saw the architectural plans of the residence building, he "couldn't abide by it" so the architect changed the roof into a saw-tooth design. Winfield "really rejoices in that roofline. It is so much more attractive and aesthetic."

The round tables in the dining room also result from discussions with Winfield and the founders. "Round tables, rather than square, allow all people, whether it is 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, to face each other directly. It is a very natural source of discourse, and it contributes to social graces and interaction" says Winfield.

The third important decision that Winfield helped make was to hire conservative Mennonite women in the kitchen. These excellent cooks maintain Grebel's reputation as the best place to eat on campus. Winfield

thinks "the family style meals are more welcoming and integrating."

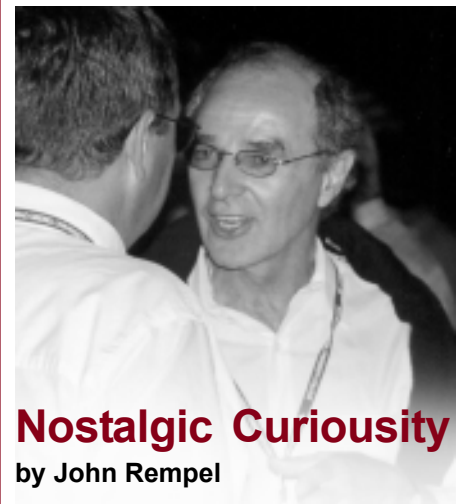
Winfield traveled from North Newton, Kansas with his son, Tom, to be at Grebel's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion. They stayed in the residence and attended every event. He enjoyed seeing the results of the building project, and took a tour of the apartments. The highlight of his trip though, was "meeting old friends, both students and contemporaries." He noted Cal and Freida Redekop, Helen Epp, and Milton and Margaret Good (Milton was also a Grebel founder) as just a few of the people he got to reconnect with.

As a 93 year old retiree, Winfield lives in a "very congenial" senior's home. When he is not out visiting his many friends and family members, he "reads and reads and reads."

Winfield passes along his greetings to all the Grebel Alumni reading the newsletter. He says "Congratulations on your good taste and judgment in choosing Grebel. I hope that this generation's students are as worthy as the past generations. And I presume they are."



*Milton Good and Winfield Fretz reminisce together.*



## Nostalgic Curiosity

by John Rempel

Grebel's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion was an emotionally intense and gratifying weekend for me as I had the privilege of knowing people from many years. For the people who returned for the weekend, it was clear from conversations that their time at Grebel had been formative, in some cases the most formative part of their education. The most common interests in the people I encountered were shared nostalgia and curiosity about what had happened in the other person's life in the meanwhile.

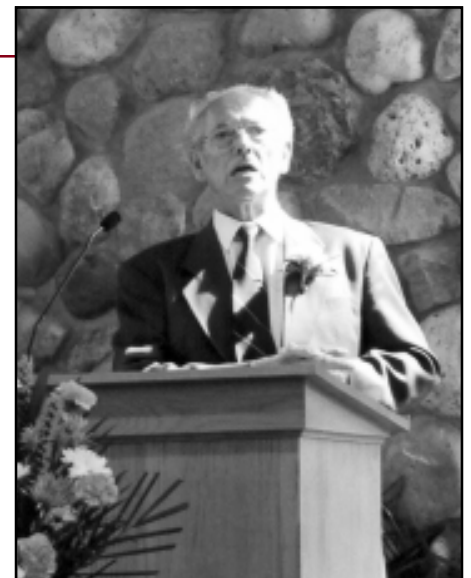
The little rendezvous arranged by Fred Martin at the Duke of Wellington evoked old and happy times. It was especially nice that the people who gathered (and stayed after midnight) were not just from one era but several. Most of the conversations were cross-generational.

The college went to an enormous effort to create an event that many people wanted to attend. We received a helpful update on building plans but I was waiting for a presentation on the college's vision for its future.

## Grebel is Holding its Place

Walter Klaassen, Professor Emeritus (1964-1991) was the keynote speaker at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Service. John Rempel, Grebel Chaplain from 1973-1989 described Walter's meditation as "a passionate and provocative address challenging the college to hold to its Christian Mission." Walter had three admonitions for the college: Don't be dazzled by modernity, think clearly about pluralism, and do not abandon the task of Christian leadership. Walter also said "recently I discovered a set of notes I made for a brief presentation at a faculty retreat, in which I referred to Norman High's vision (one of the founders of Grebel) and judged that 'we have established a reputation for academic ability and excellence in teaching and research.' Since my last teaching at Grebel in 1986 I have observed that this tradition of intellectual seriousness has continued and grown. I believe it is true today at Grebel that "having fun is learning to think."

**"I was deeply impressed with the enthusiasm of the weekend. It appeared to me that the whole event was very skillfully organized. Meeting students from the years when I taught as well as faculty colleagues was a moving and rewarding experience. The folk at Grebel know how to do it! A good omen for the future." -Walter Klaassen**



# 40th Anniversary Photo Gallery

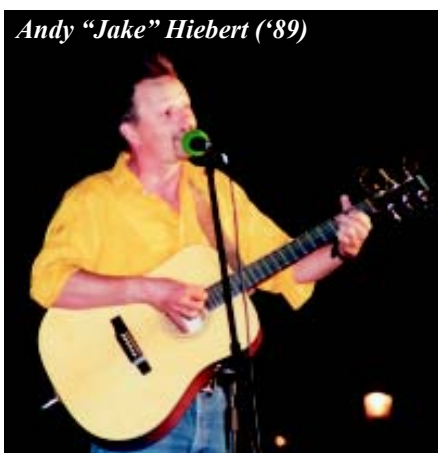


*(Clockwise-from left) Nathan Scott ('01), Martha Crealock ('99), Steve Kotev ('97), Elinor Snell ('95), James Schellenburg ('96), Karen Ellis ('00), and Jennifer Thiessen ('00)*

"Returning to Conrad Grebel after over 30 years was quite an experience. Looking at the timeline in the dining hall brought home to me just how many students have lived at the college since my era. Singing and worshipping with Leonard Enns was a privilege indeed." -**Alta MacFie ('70)**



*Louise Wideman ('85) and Rob Gascho ('87) re-enact an Eby Lecture announcement circa 1984*



*Andy "Jake" Hiebert ('89)*

"Our family had a great time at the reunion, and our kids really enjoyed the "full experience" of staying overnight, eating in the cafeteria, having the freedom to go play ping pong, watch a movie in the lounge, visit friends across the hall, etc. It was a fantastic way of giving our older children an idea of what residence is all about!" - **Cathy Maiolo ('84)**

"I had a blast jumping on the giant inflatable castle with Pete and Karen Ellis!" -**Steve Kotev ('97)**



*Cate Falconer-Lichty ('83)*

"It was great seeing some people that I hadn't seen in a long time, although I wish even more people had been there. I was happy to meet with and hear Dr. Klaassen as well as Dr. Fretz. I took three religious knowledge courses from Dr. Klaassen. He also helped marry my wife, Rosilyn, and I in the Grebel chapel and we had our wedding reception at Grebel as well. It was great to see him." **Ray Switzer ('67)**



*Sharon Johnston ('78)*

"We were really happy to see so many alumni from the 70's and 80's. The folk festival on Saturday night was a big highlight, even though it was a cold evening. It was great to talk with friends from way back and listen to songs that you hadn't heard for a long time." -**Marcus Shantz ('95)**, Alumni Committee Chair



*Ruth Martin ('72) and Ray Switzer ('67)*

## Lost!

**One cherished green sweatshirt with CGC across the front in plaid, lost at the reunion.**

**Email**

**[jkonkle@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:jkonkle@uwaterloo.ca) if you know where it is!**



## Conflict Management

20 different workshops to choose from including understanding conflict, diversity, communication, mediation, negotiation, facilitation, conflict coaching, community building and more.

Grebel Alumni receive a 10% discount.

For more information, please contact:

Mary Lou Schwartzentruber,  
Certificate Program Manager  
Institute of Peace and  
Conflict Studies  
519-885-0220 ext. 254

E-mail: [certprog@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:certprog@uwaterloo.ca)

[grebel.uwaterloo.ca/ipacs/certificate](http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca/ipacs/certificate)



Golf Shirt: \$42\*  
Travel Mug: \$10\*

\*includes tax & shipping

Are your old Grebel t-shirts full of holes? Have they been relegated to the back of the closet? Buy your new Grebel outfit today! Or carry your favourite drink - spill free - in a stunning red Grebel Travel Mug. Order yours today at 519-885-0220 or [congreb@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:congreb@uwaterloo.ca).

### Wanted: New Senior Residents

Grebel will begin looking for new Senior Residents in December. For more details, contact Paul Penner, 519-885-0220x231 or [epenner@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:epenner@uwaterloo.ca)

**Coming in November:  
the new Grebel website  
[grebel.uwaterloo.ca](http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca)  
Keep your eyes open!**

## MTS Student Profile

MTS student, Reynold Friesen, began his studies in Grebel's Master of Theological Studies program out of convenience. While working as the director of Silver Lake Mennonite Camp, Reynold began part-time studies at Grebel. "It was just a nice mix," says Reynold. "I found that my classes gave me an opportunity to reflect theologically and practically about what I was doing at camp." Finding that his studies impacted his work, and his work impacted his studies, was "kind of cool."

In addition to Mennonite students, the MTS program attracts about 40% of its students from different faith backgrounds. Reynold is very excited about the diversity in the classes that he is taking this year, saying that the variety is "just going to add to the dialogue." After being immersed in the world of Mennonites for so long, Reynold is enjoying the "outside influence to give [him] some perspective." Taking courses at the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary have added to the diversity. "They have an amazing preaching professor and that really challenged me....we got evaluated by our fellow students as well as the professor who pushed us to be the best preachers we could be."

There are three streams in the MTS program to choose from: Biblical-Theological, Historical-Cultural, and Ministry. Reynold is in the "practical stream" of ministry because he sees himself going back into church work. He thinks it



will have "an incredible impact" on how he does church. He says studying "has given me a chance to stop and reflect and see how my thinking has changed, and how I might do things differently in the church. I have a lot of hopes and dreams for the church and feel the church needs to change with the times and become a little bit more relevant."

According to Reynold, the best thing about studying at Grebel is the flexibility and the professors. He appreciates how the professors are not just teaching, but really trying to engage students. He has found "that almost everything we've talked about, even the deepest theological ideas or Biblical ideas, have had some practical implication where the professors have encouraged us to flesh out the theory. Suddenly the theory hasn't stayed theory, it's become practice."

Reynold's future plans include going back into church work, whether in an existing church, or fulfilling dreams of starting a new church. He plans to see where God's spirit leads. The MTS program has given Reynold a "wonderful, convenient space to think about church and ministry, and to reflect on where [his] life is going to go."

## The Dogmatic Imagination BY A. JAMES REIMER

available from Herald Press  
[www.heraldpress.com](http://www.heraldpress.com)  
Canada: \$15.79 USA: \$9.99

James Reimer, Professor of Religious Studies and Christian Theology at Grebel, as well as Director of Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre, just published a book of short engaging essays on core Christian beliefs or doctrines. His book, entitled **The Dogmatic Imagination: The Dynamics of Christian Belief**, is "meant to inspire readers to catch the excitement of thinking theologically about the awesome and extraordinary, as well as the mundane dimensions of life."



"Not only is Jim successful in inspiring his readers to engage in theological thinking, but he is also able to demonstrate his own excitement and passion for theological reflection. *The Dogmatic Imagination* helps to illustrate the dynamic reality of the Church's doctrines and encourages the development of new and imaginative ways of speaking about the world."

- Jacob Shelley, MTS Student

"With wisdom and wit, Reimer explores the big questions of our faith. I wish this book was available when I was a pastor teaching catechism!"

- Arthur Paul Boers, seminary professor and author

# Grebel Profs on the Road

## REFLECTIONS: In the Footsteps of Paul

Gail Bruneau ('67)

In June 2003, a group of 26 Americans and Canadians travelled to Turkey and Greece. In a two-week period, we were escorted through thousands of years of history and culture—we wandered through the ruins of the seven churches of Revelation, visited the early church of Nicaea, and examined the ruts made by chariot wheels on the Via Egnatia Road. Returning to modern Turkey and Greece, we were entertained by folk dancers, marvelled at the skill and dexterity of the weaving of Turkish carpets, shopped in bazaars, and strolled the streets sampling regional foods.

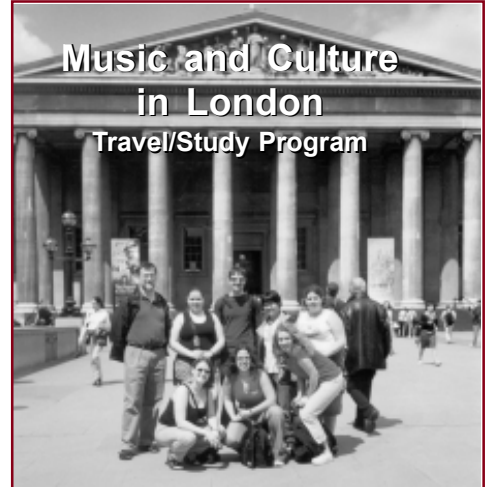
As we traced his second and third missionary trips, Paul was gradually transformed into someone we knew and understood better. We became more intimately acquainted with the man and the cultural and political milieu which he inhabited. The community of believers to whom he was writing, whether Roman, Greek or Jewish and their unique struggles zoomed into sharper focus.

Now, when reading Paul's letters, names such as Berea, Neapolis and Ephesus will conjure up a backdrop of the mountainous landscape with its Mediterranean terrain, the yellow broom, olive groves, nesting storks, and the beautiful azure sea. On stage, we perceive more clearly the rigors and danger of travel at that time, the stark coldness of the Philippian prison cell, the cruelty of the punishment suffered by the early believers in the Roman stadium, and the powerful presence and influence of the Greek and Roman gods on the population.

The very able instruction of Tom Yoder Neufeld broadened our understanding of Paul, and deepened our insight into the scope and magnitude of his missionary journeys. Tom's teaching, along with the gracious servant leadership of Wilmer and Janet Martin, reinforced Paul's message of God's grace and the challenge that we, in Tom's words, are to be the 'living letter, a love letter from Christ,' and for this message, Paul and the early Christians were willing to sacrifice their lives.

*Grebel and TourMagination are planning another tour with Tom Yoder Neufeld in May 2005.*

### Music and Culture in London Travel/Study Program



**In May 2003, Ken Hull took a group of students on a two week study tour of London, England. Student comments included:**

"What a great trip! I've enjoyed almost every minute of it! The accommodations were great and very friendly. Ken did a great job planning the trip!"

"The trip was wonderful. I had a blast! Shakespeare's Globe Theatre was awesome. Ken put a lot of effort into this trip."

*This course (credit or non-credit) will be held again in May of 2005.*

## Music and Culture in Vienna

**Travel/Study Program  
May 10-26,20, 2004**

Professor Emeritas Wilbur Maust and his wife Miriam have been taking groups of students to Vienna, Austria for 30 years. The very popular Music and Culture in Vienna course explores the music of Vienna and surroundings in its cultural context from the late 18th century to the early 20th century. Offered during the Vienna Spring Music Festival, the emphasis is primarily on concerts, operas, ballets, chamber music and masses offered during the festival. Attractions include visits to the Musikverein, Konzerthaus, Staatsoper, Volksoper, Hofburg Chapel, Augustinerkirche, the Baroque monastery of Melk, Dürstein, and Carnuntum, and a cruise down the Danube.

*For more information, contact Wilbur Maust, 519-744-5604 [wmaust@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:wmaust@uwaterloo.ca) or visit [grebel.uwaterloo.ca/music/vienna](http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca/music/vienna)*

## Bonhoeffer: LIFE AND LEGACY

**Travel/Study Program May 6-20, 2004**

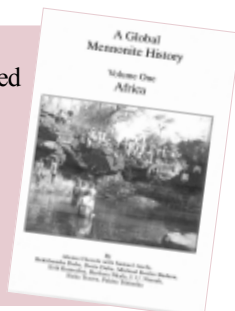


This spring, James Reimer and Peter Frick, Religious Studies professors at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, will lead a tour through Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic to visit the major sights important in the life of one of the most influential theologians of the twentieth century, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906 - 1945).

Sights will include his birthplace (Beslau), his boyhood home (Berlin), universities he attended (Berlin, Tübingen), pastorates (Berlin, and Kozalin in Poland), Confessing Church seminary which he directed (first in Zingst, then in Finkenwalde), the Benedictine monastery where he stayed during his underground work against Hitler (Ettal in Bavaria), prison and concentration camps (Berlin, Buchenwald, and Flossenbürg where he was executed).

*For more information, visit [grebel.uwaterloo.ca/gts/bonhoeffer.htm](http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca/gts/bonhoeffer.htm) or contact Jim Reimer, 519-885-0220 x234 [ajreimer@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ajreimer@uwaterloo.ca)*

This summer, Arnold Snyder, Professor of History at Conrad Grebel, was a speaker at Mennonite World Conference in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. He presented a workshop on his book *From Anabaptist Seed* about the basic teachings of Anabaptism. This book was commissioned by Mennonite World Conference, and is currently printed in 10 languages. Arnold is also the editor of the series, *A Global Mennonite History*, which is a comprehensive account of the Mennonite and Brethren in Christ Experience. *Volume One Africa* was published in time for the conference. You can buy these books at [www.pandorapress.com](http://www.pandorapress.com).





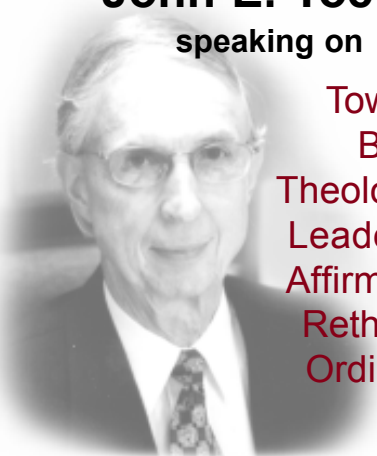
## 2003 Eby Lecture

featuring

**John E. Toews**

speaking on

**Toward a  
Biblical  
Theology of  
Leadership  
Affirmation:  
Rethinking  
Ordination**



**7:00 PM, Friday, November 7, 2003**  
*The Conrad Grebel Chapel*

## Grand Opening

The moment you have all been waiting for is here! The John E. Toews Atrium is finally finished! To celebrate the end of our major building project,

You are invited to attend an  
**Open House and  
Dedication Service**  
for the new facilities and John E.  
Toews Atrium  
at Conrad Grebel University College  
**Sunday, November 9 at 3:00 pm**

Please gather in the atrium for a brief program at 3:00 pm followed by tours of the new residence rooms, apartments, music studios and more! Refreshments will follow!



This Festival/Conference of Mennonite-Rooted People and their Music is being planned for **May 28-30, 2004** at Conrad Grebel to celebrate the wide array of Mennonite-rooted music making, from four-part to funk; jazz to 'Just as I Am'; song fest to folk; chamber trio to techno. This first-time, multi-genred, interdisciplinary event will bring together composers, songwriters, performing musicians of varied styles, writers, and scholars. For more information visit [grebel.uwaterloo.ca/soundinland](http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca/soundinland)

## Fighting for the most unsavory clients

by Anna Martin ('99)

Six years ago, I was a don jailed to the Grebel residence. Now I'm a lawyer representing the residents of the Don Jail.

Who would have figured? If you knew me then, you might recall my gift of the gab. But I'm sure you're wondering, how does life at Grebel prepare you to defend criminals?

For one thing, in a criminal defence lawyer's life, like at Grebel, the hardest fought arguments are not fought in courtrooms or classrooms, but in the dining room. It's the ordinary people — family and friends, not judges — that have a hard time understanding the importance of your job. If you've ever tried to explain the legal maxim "It's better to let ten guilty men go free than to see one innocent person convicted" to your law-and-order type relatives, you'll appreciate that spirited discussions over Commie Supper bread are excellent oral advocacy training.

Furthermore, Grebel courses can provide useful tidbits of justification for

why you defend guilty people. You can dredge up Mennonite history, and explain that without proper checks and balances, the criminal justice system can be just as oppressive now as it was for the Anabaptist martyrs. Theology is also a useful tool. It's been a while since I reviewed Jim Reimer's course notes, but

I'm pretty sure that that Jesus fellow stuck up for guilty people too.

And then there's the Mennonite service ethic. It prompts you to do crazy things like take on pro bono cases, or do Legal Aid work. A little must have rubbed off on me when as a law student, I volunteered with the Innocence Project, a clinical education programme at Osgoode Hall Law School. The Project's goal is to advocate for wrongly convicted — people who are absolutely

innocent of the crimes for which they've been convicted. By sheer chance, I got assigned to a case that is likely to go down as one of the worst miscarriages of justice that has ever occurred. My client, Romeo Phillion, spent more than 31 years in prison for the murder of an Ottawa

firefighter, Leopold Roy. He had an alibi — he was 250 kilometers away when the murder occurred. The police investigated and confirmed his alibi, but it was never disclosed to his defence lawyer. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison. Proof of the alibi was finally discovered by another student, nearly 30 later, in a sheaf of police reports. As a result, Romeo Phillion is now out of custody, on bail, waiting for the Minister of Justice to decide how to proceed with his case.

It was my work with the Innocence Project that drew me into criminal law. Working on a case like Phillion's where one is sure of a client's innocence, is a rare but heady experience. Knowing what can go wrong when police lie, or don't investigate properly, or violate a citizen's rights motivates you to fight even the hopeless cases for the most unsavory clients. It's also the highest trump card in the dinner time debate (although throwing in the Jesus example never hurts).

*Anna Martin is a Toronto criminal defence lawyer with the law firm of Pinkofskys. She advises co-Grebelites to call her anytime, and not to be alarmed by her voice mail message advising callers what to do if under arrest.*



# Transitions

After 10 years as Grebel's accountant, **Kate Kropf** (left) has left Grebel to become a controller for Ontario Refrigerated Services Incorporated, a family owned business enterprise. Reflecting back on her time at Grebel, Kate says it was a "genuinely life altering experience - in a positive way." She says she is "looking forward to new challenges in a totally new role." We will miss her breadth of experience, attention to detail, and clear, concise summaries of matters financial. Those skills helped move the College through its most difficult years financially.



As an alumnus of Grebel and a graduate of the University of Waterloo, **Jill Pletsch** ('00) (right) knows the College and campus from personal experience. As Grebel's new accountant, she brings with her not only demonstrated skill in accounting with non-profit organizations, but also an understanding of and appreciation for Conrad Grebel. Jill's expertise, energy and enthusiasm will enrich and strengthen the administrative team and the College community. We look forward to working with her!



**Karyn Mierau** ('89) is interim Dean of Students, while Mary Brubaker-Zehr takes a one year sabbatical to do her Master of Social Work at Laurier. Karen

brings not only familiarity with Grebel from years past when she and Bert were senior residents but a wealth of experience as a social worker.

If you visit the Grebel library this fall you'll be guaranteed a friendly greeting from **Lynda**

**Poljanowski**. As a new addition to the library staff, she comes to Grebel with



extensive experience having worked in both the Waterloo Public Library and the WLU library systems. Lynda is a graduate of WLU with a BA in Anthropology and a minor in Religion and Culture.

**Chris Matsuda**, Administrative Assistant to the Academic Dean, returned to her office in August after a year and a half maternity leave following the birth of Callie, her third daughter. She has eased back into life at Grebel with grace and efficiency. During Chris's leave, academic administration was in the good hands of **Rebecca Steinmann** ('00), who is now enrolled in an M.A. program at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at University of Notre Dame. You can visit the Kroc website to see Rebecca with her classmates from around the world. Welcome Chris, and best wishes, Rebecca!



We are pleased to welcome **Milagro Vargas** and **Lily Zhang** to their roles as food services assistants. Milly (as she prefers to be called) and Lily both bring to Grebel a wealth of experience from various restaurant settings. They will be working in the kitchen as well as staffing the soon



to be opened coffee bar in the Atrium.

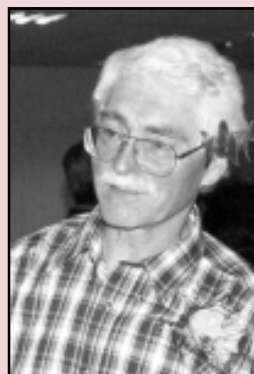
**Constantin Groza** joined the Grebel staff as a half-time custodian this Fall to help with maintenance of the new spaces added as a result of the building project. Constantin is delighted to be joining the Grebel community after having worked as a contract cleaner at both RIM Park and the Centre in the Square. Constantin is also enrolled as a mature student at WLU.



**Jeff Nowers** has replaced Jeremy Bergen as the new TMTC Administrative Assistant. Jeremy held the position for four years and has decided to concentrate more fully on completing his doctoral work. Jeff is a Th. D. student in the area of theology and ethics. He has been actively involved for a number of TMTC activities and shares the basic theological and ethical vision of the TMTC mission statement. We wish him all the best in his new appointment.



**Werner O. Packull**, Professor of History, retired on August 31 after 20 years of teaching at Grebel. A noted research scholar in the field of European and Radical Reformation History, Werner was also a much-loved teacher. His students often remarked on the time he gave and interest he showed towards them. During his year-long sabbatical in 2002-03, in addition to many other projects, Werner devoted much of his time to a book manuscript, titled "Shaping the Second Generation Hutterites: From Peter Reidemann to Peter Walpot." Werner has also been a valued colleague to faculty and staff at Grebel. His comradery and humour are already missed. Werner was given the status Professor Emeritus by the Grebel Board of Governors and was feted at a retirement dinner held on June 24. For more about Werner's career, see *Grebel Now*, Winter 2003.





# 40th Anniversary Photo Gallery continued...



"I really liked sharing the event with my daughter Rebecca. We shared a room just like when I lived at Conrad way back when. The choral involvement with such an expert conductor was a real highlight. I am Director of Music in Ottawa and I really enjoyed participating in the combined choir on that weekend. I would like to see a follow up weekend of Grebel singers to share in another music workshop reunion. Truly Conrad Grebel is a blessed place!" - **Elizabeth Spour ('71)**

"Grebel is essentially about people. This weekend was a celebration of the enduring relationships built through the common experience of being a Grebel student."  
- **Henry Paetkau ('76, '77)**, Conrad Grebel President



*No Discernible Key, with Jim Bender ('81), Dwight Steinman, Dave Neufeld ('78, 82), Fred Martin ('87, '92), and Larry (Lump) Bender.*

"How did it feel to be back at Grebel? It was like I never left. I enjoyed talking with old friends, listening to Fred Martin and his group sing two of my favourite Arrogant Worms songs, and singing in the choir. I also got my friends to try to pick out my Mom and Dad in the 1967 Grebel photo." - **Dave Switzer ('96)**



"The highlight for me at Grebel's 40th Reunion was singing in the Chapel Choir with Len Enns. Even though this group had never sung together before, we had all at one point in our Grebel life sung with Len. The coming together of such a group was a wonderful experience. I thoroughly enjoyed all of the rehearsals throughout the weekend and the Sunday service was a very powerful worship moment." - **Janice Malloy ('99)**



**Ken Hull and the Alumni choir**

**Brian Rudy ('89, '93) and Ken Stevens ('89)**



**Len Enns**



# People

**Brian Eng ('96)** married **Joanne Brown** on August 10, 2002 in Mississauga. Brian is presently a computer, history and math teacher and coaching the track and field team at West Toronto Collegiate. Brian and Joanne are presently residing in North York and would like to hear from old friends.



Their e-mail address is beng@eol.ca.

**Debbie (Froese) Peters ('95)** and her husband **John** are living in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where she teaches French at Col. John Butler Elementary School. They are currently renovating their 106 year old home, and hope to run a bed-and-breakfast in the future. Most excitingly, Debbie and John just had their first baby this past March! **Nickolas John Jacob Peters** is one of the happiest babies in the world. Debbie would love to hear from anyone at debbielouisepeters@hotmail.com.

**Henry Ensley ('95)** and his wife **Carolyn** are pleased to announce the birth of their second son, **James Bennett**. James was born on June 1, 2003, a brother for **Jonathan** who is 2 years old. Henry's family resides in Waterloo where he works for the UW Graduate Student Association.

**ALL CONRAD GREBEL ALUMNI** are invited to submit info about address and vocational changes, general updates, information about births, marriages, or deaths for inclusion in People. Please send: your **name, year graduated, address, email, photo, and news**, to Jennifer Konkle, Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON N2L3G6 or jkonkle@uwaterloo.ca  
**\*\*The first 3 people to send their update receive a free Travel Mug!\*\***

**Marian Crome ('77)** is the Property Manager of Housing Services in the Regional Municipality of Durham. She is married to David Crome, and they have 3 children – Sarah in her 4<sup>th</sup> year at UW in Pre-Optometry, Rebecca in her 1<sup>st</sup> year at Acadia University, and Mana who is in Grade 12.

**Emily Stokes-Rees ('99)** is in the last few months of completing her PhD in Cultural Anthropology at Oxford, where she and **Ian ('98)** have been living for the last four years. Emily has been busy as a Junior Dean at Pembroke College and rowing for the Oxford Women's Boat Club. Ian is one year into a PhD in computing for particle physics, and will be spending the next nine months with Emily living in Marseille, France. They can be reached at ijstokes@alumni.uwaterloo.ca.



**Jennie (Krueger) ('99)** and **Colin Wiebe ('01)** are thrilled to announce that there is a new tour guide at Brubacher House Museum. **Naomi Marie Krueger Wiebe** joined the staff on June 9, 2003 weighing 9lbs 1oz. She's quite a bundle of smiles and spends more time making eyes at the visitors than actually giving tours. While Jennie and Naomi look after the museum, Colin is finishing his Masters in Civil Engineering and will continue doing biomechanics work for his supervisor until Christmas. They're looking for a nice farm to buy so they can grow fruits and vegetables for several dozen of their friends. Email them at bhouse@uwaterloo.ca.

**Jane Ramseyer Miller ('85)** completed her Masters of Music in Choral Conduction in May at the University of Minnesota. She is in her ninth year as Conductor of One Voice Mixed Chorus along with other musical and arts gigs.



**Grace Anwen Fisher Langille** was born on April 4th 2003 at 1:55am. She is the daughter of **Sarah Fisher ('96)** and **Kevin Langille**. The three of them, along with their cats Tessa & Cecilia, live in Guelph.

**Brent Neufeld ('97)** and his wife pass along their greetings to all those Grebelites from 1993-1997. Brent just opened up his own optometric clinic in Calgary.



**Robin (Wright) Peace ('96)** writes "Our new son, **Daniel**, was born on May 27, 2003, and he brings a lot of joy to me and my husband **John**." Daniel will be a well-traveled little boy as Robin and John return to the Middle East in September 2003. John plans to teach basic computer skills to students with physical disabilities, while Robin adjusts to her new role as wife and mother. Before the birth of Daniel, Robin completed one year of Arabic language study which helps her in daily interactions with locals.



*Barbara Claassen Smucker passed away on July 31, 2003 at age 87. Barbara was a well-known award-winning author and wife of the late Donovan Smucker, who taught sociology at Grebel from 1970-81 and who predeceased her in 2001.*



**Kathleen Cleland Moyer ('81)** recently wrote and directed "Barn Talk" – a play starring her husband, **John Moyer ('83)** and a number of other Grebelites including **Rick Cober Bauman ('85)**, **Julia Gingrich ('02)**, **Christine Derstine ('84)**, **Will Loewen ('02)**, and numerous people in the crew. The Record described the production as "a darn good play" with "smart, witty, tight, and very natural writing." All proceeds went to Conflict Resolution Network Canada where Kathleen is co-executive director.

**Tim Corlis ('98)** recently won the Menno Singers' 2002 Abner Martin Music Scholarship. He is currently doing his Masters in music composition at the University of Toronto, sings in the DaCapo Chamber Choir and with a Waterloo vocal group, the Eclectics. This fall, Tim is directing the Conrad Grebel Chapel Choir while Len Enns is on sabbatical.

**Galen Peters ('98)** and **Victoria Robison** were married on August 23, 2003 at Erb St. Mennonite Church in Waterloo. Galen is working at the Mennonite Church Eastern Canada office as an administrative assistant.

## Grebel Founding Classes



(Left to right)

**Front Row:** Carolyn Snider ('69), Carol (MacIntosh) Fay ('69), Winfield Fretz, Ray Switzer ('67)

**2nd Row:** John Nelson ('70), Elizabeth Heinmiller ('68), Marjorie Snyder ('69), Arnie Dyck ('68), Kathryn Hamilton Roberts ('69), Walter Klaassen, Tim Sauer ('68)

**Back Row:** Alan Sherck ('65), Carolyn Roberts Sherck ('69), Carolyn Nelson ('69), Gail Thiffault Bruneau ('67), Lydia Friesen Church ('68), Ruth Martin ('72), Ted Roberts ('66)

As a policy analyst for Environment Canada, **Patrick Quealey ('02)** examines the international aspects of global climate change, including Canada's options under Kyoto. In July 2001, he was part of Canada's delegation to the UN climate change convention. Master's studies at the London School of Economics could be next. [patrick.quealey@ec.gc.ca](mailto:patrick.quealey@ec.gc.ca)

**Timothy Dyck ('96)** has started a three year M.Div. program at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. From 1996 to 2003, he



worked as a journalist and software reviewer for the technology newspaper eWEEK. He can be contacted at [tim@dyck.org](mailto:tim@dyck.org)

## Distinguished Alumni Service Award

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

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

**Grebel invites you to nominate deserving alumni by Dec. 31 for awarding in April.**

Send nominations to: Fred W. Martin, Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G6, [fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca)

## Alice Eisen Leadership Award Established.

Alice served as Student Council president at Grebel in 1983 and was actively involved in leadership at Grebel. She died suddenly in 1990. An alumnus has given a gift to honour her memory and support current student leadership at Grebel.

*If you would like to add a gift to this endowment please contact Fred W. Martin at 885-0220x381.*

# Thank you to all our 40th Anniversary Sponsors

Conrad Grebel thanks all the sponsors who helped make the 40th Anniversary Reunion a success.

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**Next year, on November 6th, 2004, all Alumni from 1964-1970 are invited back to Grebel to reunite with old friends! Keep that date open on your calendar. More details will be in the next Grebel Now.**