

Grebel *Now*

THE CONRAD GREBEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 21, No. 2 Winter Term 2005

Leaving a Lasting Imprint - by Linda Ruby

The alumni of Conrad Grebel University College were saddened to hear of the death of professor and past president, Dr. Rodney Sawatsky on Nov. 27, 2004.



Rod was a key figure around the college during the 1970's and 80's, and will be remembered for his lively discussions with students and his exemplary teaching. He had a passion for engaging young minds in critical thinking and faith issues. He was often seen engaged in discussions with students following Chapel services, around the table after Community Supper, or informally in the Grebel cafeteria at lunch time. He always

seemed to enjoy interacting with Grebel students, peers, and colleagues. He will be remembered for those conversations and the role he played in helping to shape students' faith, values, and career directions.

Rod's Religious Studies course, "Sects, Cults, and New Religious Movements" was so popular in the early 1980's that it had to be held in a large lecture hall on the main campus to accommodate all the Grebel and non-Grebel students wanting to take the course. I remember especially, his demonstrated respect for people of other religious faith traditions, shown through his interactions with guests he invited to speak in class. One particularly memorable class for me was a night he invited some members of the Hare Krishna to speak. I do not recall much of what was discussed that evening, but I do remember the tone of respect he established in that

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J. Winfield Fretz - Founding Father

Just two months after the death of former president Rodney Sawatsky, the Conrad Grebel community is mourning the loss of its founding president, J. Winfield Fretz, who died on January 24, 2005 in North Newton, Kansas following a brief illness.



Winfield, Marguerite and their family came to Waterloo in 1963 from Bethel College in Kansas where Winfield had been professor of Sociology. Winfield served as President of Conrad Grebel College until 1973. He continued teaching Sociology until his retirement in 1979 when he and Marguerite returned to Newton. She predeceased him in March 2002.

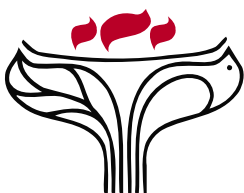
When Winfield was invited to become president, Conrad Grebel College was still more of a dream than a reality. However, under his guidance, a faculty was hired, a building was constructed, students were recruited, and the dream was realized. Grebel became the fourth of four

affiliated denominational colleges at UW.

Upon his retirement in 1979, Winfield was appointed Professor Emeritus of Conrad Grebel. In 1983, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the University of Waterloo, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree "in recognition of his distinguished service as educator, scholar, administrator and humanitarian." Throughout his career, Fretz authored numerous publications and several books on Mennonites.

Grebel was fortunate to have Winfield and son Tom attend the College's 40th anniversary alumni reunion in August 2003. He enjoyed that opportunity to reconnect with former students, faculty and staff immensely.

Do you have fond memories of Winfield? We're collecting stories about him for the next issue of Grebel Now. Send your story to "Grebel Now" at the address below or email it to greblweb@uwaterloo.ca by June 1st, 2005. Please include your name and grad year.



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Lasting Imprint

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lecture hall that evening and the admiration his guests had for him. He obviously had developed a rapport with his guests and had earned their respect and appreciation as a Mennonite academic and a representative of the Mennonite faith. In that course, I also recall feeling proud of my Mennonite heritage and faith as Rod addressed questions from other students about the Mennonite sect. As an educator, he was a role model to us as he modeled respect and tolerance for people of different faiths.

Another example of Rod's engagement with others was the many long, intense discussions that took place in the faculty lounge with the likes of Jim Reimer, John Miller, Arnold Snyder, Tom Yoder Neufeld, and John Rempel. For the few years I was on staff at Grebel after graduating, I was privileged to witness these lively conversations on a daily basis! The faculty lounge was the perfect gathering place for these academics who never missed an opportunity to question, discuss, debate, and even spar with their colleagues. Rod often initiated and certainly always entered into these lively discussions.

One memorable image is that of Rod stroking his beard, listening to a colleague's ideas, and then leaning forward in his chair as he jumped into yet another intense academic debate. That was indeed Rod's passion!

Rod will be remembered for all of this and so much more. Good teachers leave their imprint on the lives of their students and on the institutions of which they were a significant part. Rod Sawatsky certainly was a good teacher.

Linda Sauder Ruby graduated from UW in 1986 with a degree in English. She then worked on staff at Grebel from 1986-88.

Building Bridges to the Church and World

The Sawatsky Visiting Scholar Fund

To honour Lorna's involvement and Rod's tenure at Grebel, the College has established the "Rodney and Lorna Sawatsky Visiting Scholar Fund." To support this fund please contact Fred W. Martin at 519-885-0220 x381 or fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca

The purpose of this program is to bring a renowned scholar, practitioner or performer to the Grebel community for at least a week at a time. This person will be integrated into an academic program of the College, such as Peace and Conflict Studies, Religious Studies, Theology, Sociology of Religion, Mennonite Studies, Sociology, Literature, History, Music and the Arts. During this time, there will be op□

Supper, Brown Bag Lunch, etc. as well as a major public event such as a lecture, workshop, concert, seminar, or dinner.

Loss of a Visionary - Rod Sawatsky

On November 27, 2004, Dr. Rodney James Sawatsky died at home in Waterloo at the age of 60 after a courageous struggle with brain cancer.

Rod was born on December 5, 1943 in Altona, MB. He graduated from Canadian Mennonite Bible College in Winnipeg and Bethel College in Kansas before earning graduate degrees at the University of Minnesota (MA in History) and Princeton University (MA and PhD in Religion).

Rod's career and life-long passion was education within the Christian college environment. He taught briefly in Didsbury, AB and at Canadian Mennonite Bible College before coming

to Conrad Grebel University College in 1974, teaching in the area of History, Religious Studies, Mennonite Studies, and Peace and Conflict Studies. He served the College as Academic Dean from 1974-89 and as President from 1989-94. During those years, Rod was instrumental in the development of the College's Graduate Program and the establishment of the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre. The Sawatskys were key figures in the Grebel community, as Rod and Lorna hosted many College functions. They were also wonderful ambassadors, representing the College to the broader church, ecumenical, artistic and scholarly communities.

"Rod Sawatsky's vision and passion for

liberal arts education were instrumental in shaping the academic program at Conrad Grebel," says President Henry Paetkau. "He helped to forge the close relationship the College has with the University of Waterloo. Rod's vision extended beyond undergraduate education to graduate theological education which would serve the leadership needs of the church. He left an indelible imprint on the College."

In 1994, Rod was appointed president

of Messiah College in Grantham, PA. There he articulated a new mission and identity statement and a strategic plan that emphasized excellence, diversity, fostering international study and

a spirit of service and engagement in society. His visionary leadership resulted in an increase in enrollment and an unprecedented expansion of campus facilities and programs.

In June of this year, Rod and Lorna returned to Waterloo to be near family and friends. In the last months of his life, Rod completed a book, "Gracious Christianity," together with a colleague and enjoyed many stimulating conversations with friends and former colleagues. Not only was Rod passionate about education, he was passionate about life, his family and his friends. He loved travel, music, the arts and engaging conversations. He will be remembered for his inspiring leadership, love of learning, fun-loving spirit, and abiding principles.



L-R Frank H. Epp (President), Walter Klaassen (Chaplain), John Weber, Rod Sawatsky (Academic Dean), Paul Cornies. John and Paul were two early M.A. students who worked with Frank and Rod, all teaching courses in the History Department. (1978)

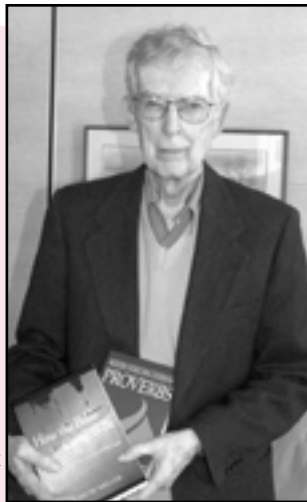
A Life of Surprises - John Miller

John Miller, Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at Conrad Grebel, has been very busy in his retirement. In addition to teaching courses in the Graduate Studies program, John has had two books published in recent months: *Proverbs* (Believers Church Bible Commentary series); and *How the Bible came to be: exploring the narrative and message* (Paulist Press).

John says that his life so far has been full of surprises. He was surprised by his decision to study the Bible, by being invited to teach at Grebel, and now by having two of his books come out in the same year! After writing *How the Bible came to be*, John says that the Proverbs commentary came together incredibly fast, even though the thought of it was first conceived 20 years ago.

When asked to comment on his achievement, John said "While you can't define your legacy, I consider this book (*How the Bible came to be*) to be my legacy."

Both books are available from The Bookshop at Pandora Press - www.pandorapress.com



New Music Lab: where the arts and technology meet

Dale and Cheryl Brubacher-Cressman have always enjoyed making music. During their time at Grebel they were involved in Chapel Choir and enrolled in music courses. Music continues to be an important part of their lives. Together with their daughters Kiah and Letitia, they have acted, danced and sung in musical productions in their hometown of New Hamburg. This coming May's production of "Annie Get Your Gun" will once again see the family united on stage.

When the opportunity came up to help Grebel re-introduce its "Music and Technology" course, they were willing to provide a financial gift to make it happen.

The donation was used to buy synthesizers, software and other hardware for 10 stations in the "Technological Arts Lab" on campus at UW where the class is taught. In addition, three complete stations are set up in a lab at Grebel where students have access to the equipment for completing assignments. The "Music and Technology"

course is a comprehensive study of music and technology, including electroacoustic music, computer and MIDI applications, soundscape and multimedia composition, music and the web, all supplemented with digital studio work. This course had not



Tessa Hoffman demonstrates her musical composition to Cheryl Brubacher-Cressman in the three-station research lab at Grebel.

been offered since David Huron left the faculty in 1997. "We are extremely pleased to be able to bring this course back", noted music department chair, Ken Hull.

"Music Technology is so pervasive in today's culture and the UW campus is an obvious place to encourage conversation between the arts and

technology. This course has a broad appeal and filled very quickly."



PACS Field Studies

To develop the crucial dimension of practical experience in conflict intervention and resolution, the PACS program offers field studies opportunities to provide students with on-site work experience to complement their theoretical learning.



"My internship in Timmins, Ontario with Mennonite Central Committee and Mushkegowuk Council showed me how little I know about life in northern Ontario, especially life in the First Nation communities. My education in environmental studies and peace and conflict studies found a welcome home as I worked on issues surrounding natural resource development and conflict, environmental clean-up, and economic justice. I left my internship with an eagerness to learn more about northern Ontario, so this semester I'm enrolled in a Canadian Studies course entitled 'Current Issues in Native Communities in Canada'."

- Jonathan Schmidt, 4th yr. Environmental Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies student

"My internship in Africa was a life-altering experience that has awakened me to my responsibility as a global citizen to try with all of my being to dedicate my every action to improving the world. I now see that even in Canada I can be part of AIDS prevention and care, if I only take the time to look for the opportunities. While in Africa, I saw people live through hardship that I could never imagine; through war, violence, discrimination



and disease. The deepest lesson that has been imparted to me is that there is hope. The women that I worked with lived

every day with hope of a change tomorrow for their children. I realized also that my education is a tool that I can use to prepare myself for helping people, and since I have come back, I am more focused in my studies. Overall, I am grateful for the chance I had to learn from these women about the true meaning of strength, and to see how beautiful the human spirit is in the midst of difficulty. I will never be the same person, and Africa will always be in my heart."

-Maeghan Ray, 4th yr. Political Science and Peace and Conflict Studies student

The Conrad Grebel Review

If you missed the 2003 Assembly of the Mennonite World Conference in Bulawayo or Nancy Heisey's 2004 Bechtel Lectures at Grebel, just pick up the Fall 2004 issue of The Conrad Grebel Review! Articles in this Omnibus issue include:

Particular and Universal: Shaping Twenty-first Century Anabaptist Identity(ies)
and Shared Convictions Martyrdom as Metaphor: Aspects of Global Anabaptist Witness
both by Nancy R. Heisey

"Sharing our Gifts in Suffering and in Joy" and "We Give What we Have" *by Siakra Traore*

Bounteous Blessings in Bulawayo *by Barbara Nkala*

More than an Event *by Dothan Moyo*

Heaven on Earth *by Thomas E. Frank*

Cameras Can't Catch the Spirit *by Erv Wiens*

No Longer Strangers: The Family Circle has Widened

by Doris Dubé

Why We Need the

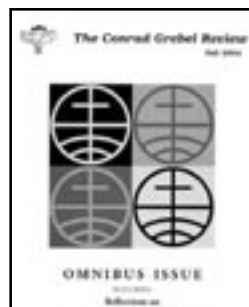
Mennonite World Conference *by David Wiebe*

Anabaptist or Mennonite? Interpreting the Bible

by C. Norman Kraus

A Sixteenth-Century Anabaptist Social Spirituality

by Thomas Finger



For single issues or subscriptions, contact: The Conrad Grebel Review, Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G6, 519-885-0220 x242 or cgreview@uwaterloo.ca. Visit the website at grebel.uwaterloo.ca/cgreview

Women of MCEC Award Winner

Sarah Pinnell, Conrad Grebel Master of Theological Studies student, has been awarded the Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Theological Studies Award. This award is given annually to a female student, preferably from an MCEC congregation, who shows interest in a church related vocation.



As a student in the Biblical/Theological stream, Sarah was drawn to the MTS program because of her previous studies at Grebel and her interaction with the Grebel faculty. As she took more courses at Grebel in her undergraduate years, she "realized the depth of theological studies and the amount I did not know, but wanted to know."

Sarah attends First Mennonite Church in Kitchener, Ontario and helps with Thursday night youth programs there. She is also writing the multi-age Sunday School curriculum for the *Gather 'Round Curriculum* which will be released in 2006 for

all Mennonite Churches in Canada and the USA through the Brethren Press and the Mennonite Publishing Network. In her future, Sarah sees a combination of more study and continuing church involvement and development.

The Agnes Giesbrecht Choral Music Scholarship

As one of Grebel's newer scholarships, the "Giesbrecht Scholarship Fund" supports and promotes choral music and training among students enrolled in Grebel's music program. Recipients of the scholarship have a strong academic record, are actively involved in the music program, possess excellent vocal skills, and demonstrate a keen interest in choral music, including the Russian Mennonite choral music tradition.



This scholarship was established in memory of Agnes Giesbrecht, who developed her voice in high school and continued her choral pursuits in various mixed and ladies' church and community choirs. She married John B. Giesbrecht of Vineland, ON in 1949 and nurtured her family's faith and love of music at her church.

During her high school years, Agnes developed a close friendship with Professor Helen Martens, the first head of the Music Department at Grebel. Agnes' husband John had a long term association with and chaired the Board of Conrad Grebel University College. These connections, as well as their children's attendance at the College and a grandson's affiliation with the Chapel Choir there, make this award a natural fit for a modest memorial of Agnes' life and musical interests.

2004-2005 Scholarship and Award Winners

Conrad Grebel proudly congratulates these scholarship and award winners. On behalf of these students, Grebel wants to thank all those who have set up memorial scholarships and awards to honour members of their family. We also thank friends who have given freely to these funds over the years.

Entrance Scholarships

Kristina Friesen, Sherri Friesen,
Vanessa Gerber, Kyle Gossen, Kim
Harder, Eric Martin

Upper Year Residence Award

Suzanne Bender, Sandra Dyck

Clemens Music Scholarship

Christopher Head, Sarah Widmeyer, Terry
Vaskor, Jennifer Black, Melissa Djurakov

Becky Frey Scholarship

Maeghan Ray

Lucinda Robertson Scholarship

Amy Cressman, Michael Turman

Shantz Travel Fund

Suzanne Bender, Leah Reesor, Alexis
Wenzowski, Chris Cowperthwaite

Robin Coupland Jutzi Scholarship

Jennifer Toews, Lydia Twining

Good Foundation Scholarship

Rebecca Janzen, Sarah Johnson

Sauer Family Award

Angie Goertz, Dora Marie Goulet

George E. Schroeder Award

Adam Feiner, Luke Keller

Grebel Student Award

Suzanne Bender, Tyler Bowman, Erin
Calder, Jacquie Harms, Lisa Hines,
Amanda Hooykas, Amy Howard, Darren
Kropf, Laura Oulahen, Leah Reesor,
Katie Robertson, Celeste Dickson,
Andrea Donaldson, Kristen Nighswander,
Natai Shelsen, David Smith, Dan
Swartzentruber, Joel Westberg

Jacob Andres Scholarship

Vaughn Climenhaga

WMCEC Award

Juanita Laverty, Sarah Pinnell

Magdalena Coffman Scholarship

Kerrie Engler, Chris Jarvis, Michelle
Cameron

Jacob H. Janzen Scholarship

Taylor Martin

Arnold Gingrich Award

Kaitlyn Lankin, Sarah Johnson, Brian
Kelton

Clifford Snyder Memorial Bursary

Stefan Cherry

Ministry Inquiry

Kaitlyn Lankin, Sarah Johnson



1960's Reunion

As the sun set on another regular Grebel Saturday in November, an energetic and talkative group of people began to fill up the new John E. Toews Atrium. With just a few grey hairs among them, over sixty Grebel alumni from 1964 to 1970 gathered to reminisce, reconnect, and relive their days at Grebel. After a delicious meal, Arnie Dyck MCed the evening, which featured a specially written song by Karen Enns (words on the left of the page), a slideshow compiled by Ed Papazian (ordering details below), a "Grebel today" presentation, and of course, everyone joined in singing the Conrad Grebel theme song.

University of Waterloo Alumni officers remarked on the excellent turnout for the



reunion, commending the group for the biggest homecoming event this year! A big thank you goes out to the planning committee who made this event such an amazing success!

"The people we reconnected with as alumni were the same honest unassuming people they were as students. They all have values that are real and have a solid basis for life." - *Brian Westgarth Taylor ('69)*

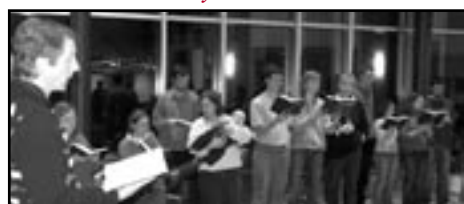
"For me, the years rolled away as I caught sight of faces familiar even after 35 years and joined in a rousing rendition of "We love you, Conrad". While reminiscing with my 60's roommate, Marge Snyder and other dorm neighbours during a delicious meal, I realized that Conrad Grebel still felt like home." - *Carol Fay ('69)*



Alumni Carol Sing

Kitchener-Waterloo area alumni of all ages were invited to the First Annual Alumni Carol Sing in the John E. Toews Atrium this December. The acoustics in the atrium were a joy to experience as alumni and their families shouted out favourite carols.

To be invited to other alumni events, be sure we have your email address!



CG Pioneers by Karen Enns (sung to the tune of "The Happy Wanderer")

1. It was in the fall of '64
That CGC opened its doors
To students from east, west and north and south
From near and very far.

CHORUS:

CGC-----, CGC-----,
Conrad Grebel, you were home away from home,
CGC-----
A home away from home.

2. When some arrived they were surprised
To see no hitching posts.
They asked around and then they found
Horses and buggies wouldn't be around.
3. That first weekend the place looked strange -
Some doors were missing, no spreads on our beds,
The carpets weren't in, the drapes weren't hung
Our new home wasn't quite done.
4. Those first few days we nearly starved -
The food it was not great.
We had creamed carrots, creamed beans and corn
All served upon a bun.
5. We all wrote letters home to Mom
And begged her to please send food.
The Zwiebach and cookies arrived quite soon
And then we all felt good.
6. Community suppers were the rule
They happened four nights a week -
We all dressed up and had to be there
Suits, ties, nice dresses and neatly combed hair.
7. We had a Director of Residence,
Mother Ellis was her name -
She was oh so old and very strict
But most of us usually obeyed.
8. Does anyone remember the big blackout
In November of '65?
We were filled with fear and were very sure
That the Russians must be near.
9. In the wintertime, when things got dull,
The boys put on a show.
They practised so hard and learned to dance
Up high and very low.
10. They performed "Swan Lake" for us one and all
They did their very best.
We laughed so hard, we nearly cried -
Our stomachs nearly burst.
11. As time went on, we became good friends,
Chatting in halls, rooms and back stairwell.
We broke some rules but had such fun
We wished we could do it all over again.
12. We have not mentioned nearly all
The good times that we had.
When graduation came, we all were there
And some were rather sad.

Renew Your Memory!

How many pictures do you have from your days at Grebel? Chances are, the earlier you attended, the fewer pictures you have. Here's your chance to enhance your photo album from your school days.

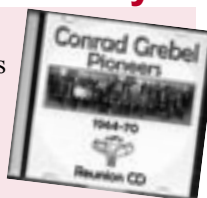
Available now, for the low price of **\$10**,
you can get your very own

Conrad Grebel Pioneers (60's) Reunion CD.

This CD contains over 50 jpeg pictures from the early days, as well as almost 200 pictures from November's reunion.

*To order your CD, send \$10 (includes shipping) with your name and address to
"Grebel Reunion CD"*

140 Westmount Rd. N. Waterloo, ON N2L 3G6



People

Melanie Cameron ('96) has recently published her second book of poems, entitled *wake*, which was a finalist for the Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award. Currently Melanie is continuing her writing and is Poetry Co-Editor for *Prairie Fire* magazine. She lives in Winnipeg with her husband, **Mark Morton**, who is also a writer and CBC Radio journalist. To read UW's monthly alumni e-newsletter's profile on Melanie, visit: alumni.uwaterloo.ca/alumni/e-newsletter/2004/october/melanie_cameron.html



Dave ('00) and Emily (Chadwick) Jaarsma ('99) have excitedly embarked on the adventure that is home ownership, having recently bought their first house together with a friend from church. The new homestead is located in North York, steps from the Finch subway stop. Dave is working on a long-term contract as a technical writer for the IT department at the Greater Toronto Airport Authority and is teaching a tech writing course part time at Seneca College. Emily is working as a recreationist at the North York Seniors Centre, a mere six-minute walk from their new digs.

Phyllis Tribby (MTS'94) is living in Colorado and pastoring at Arvada Mennonite Church. While she and her husband **Ken** are enjoying their time with Arvada, they both miss their friends in Ontario and try to keep up with what is happening in the Canadian Mennonite world. They manage to visit at least once each year and spend what little time they have there checking on their daughter Amanda and reconnecting with friends.



The Conrad twins had healthy baby girls! **Charles ('95) and Donna Conrad** welcomed **Natalie Rebecca** into their lives on July 12, 2004 and **Suzanne ('96) and Lindsay McWhinnie** welcomed **Adele Katherine** on May 20, 2004. The cousins enjoy hanging out on a regular basis and everyone is doing great!

Jacques ('96) and Lisa ('00) Branch are proud to announce the arrival of their first child, a daughter, **Katrina Vivian** born on October 26, 2004. Jacques continues to love working as a family physician and doing emergency shifts at local hospitals. Lisa graduated earlier this spring from the University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Education and is currently substitute teaching in high school math and physics.



Ruth Anne (Nigh) Engle ('93) and her husband **Phil** welcomed **Allison Emma Ruth** into their family on March 10, 2004. She was born in Camp Hill, PA. Meredith, 2, has transitioned well to being a big sister.

After a valiant five year journey with cancer, **Rebecca Lefneski ('90)** died on November 22, 2004. Her primary interest was music, teaching piano, playing the "squeeze box" and singing. She loved harmonizing with sing-along for Seniors, at campfires, annual corn roasts, festivals and home parties. She loved her garden and all the joys of canning, baking – even sauerkraut making. Her many interests included theater, concerts, movies, dinner get-togethers and times at a cottage on a lake – especially at sunset time. In her late 30's Rebecca realized her dream to teach - attending UW, then teachers college, and completed her E.S.L Teachers certificate. She then spent 7 years in Seoul, South Korea at the International School, delighting in further adventures with travels in 7 South East Asian countries.



Jim Jordan ('88) and his wife **Shelly** have made what can only be described as a God-orchestrated move to Calgary in March. Shelly is taking a Master of Arts in History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Calgary and volunteering at Ten Thousand Villages, while Jim is still working as part of a multi-site team for Nortel as a software designer. They are still the keepers of three cats, too many books, an overgrown back yard, and several vitality-impaired plants. Jim is excited about finally putting his MDiv (Canadian Theological Seminary, 1996) to use by participating in a church plant at Sema Community Church, a new daughter congregation of Dalhousie Mennonite Brethren Community Church. Jim has done some preaching there, and has seen God work in people's lives through the Alpha program.

Cindy Lebold ('87) and Scott Beech ('88) added **Thomas Joel Lebold Beech** to their family on March 22, 2004. He's a new brother for **Isaac (7.5) and Micah (4.5)**.

Grebel Students 2004-05



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 Communication Coordinator, Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON N2L3G6 or greblweb@uwaterloo.ca

Linda Burr ('85) and John Calvert are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, **Alice Marie**, born October 25, 2004 in Ottawa. Linda is currently on maternity leave from her position as Publication Officer with the National Research Council's Research Press, where she edits and oversees the publication of a monthly scientific journal. John is a software consultant.



drawn to L'Arche Daybreak community in Toronto, where she was "radically transformed through the challenge and experience of living with diverse others." Clara demonstrated some of the fun they have by leading the audience in a song, with John, a L'Arche resident, on spoons. Although Clara no longer works at L'Arche, she is still connected to the program.

Rebecca Steinmann ('00) and Jeremy Bergen were married on October 9, 2004 in New Hamburg, ON. They are currently living in Toronto and are loving the diversity of food, films, and people that the "big city" has to offer. Rebecca is interning in the Policy & Advocacy department at World Vision Canada (focusing on peacebuilding issues). Jeremy is



would be happy to hear from friends at rebeccasteinmann@yahoo.ca or jeremy.bergen@utoronto.ca.

working on his PhD in systematic theology at the Toronto School of Theology and works part-time as the coordinator of the Anabaptist-Mennonite Scholars Network. They

Taking the Next Step

Grebel Students from 10 years ago may remember Raga Alphonsus, a PACS Diploma student from Sri Lanka. After coming to Canada to escape from Sri Lankan conflict, Raga intentionally chose to do his



diploma at Grebel because of the peace background. He came to Grebel to study, reflect, and learn skills related to development and conflict resolution relevant in the violent context

of his own country. A decade later, Raga returned to Grebel (2004) to complete his diploma, taking a short break from the peacebuilding he has been working on ever since he returned to Sri Lanka.

Raga works for ZOA Refugee Care (www.zoaweb.org), a Dutch-based organization that facilitates meaningful and lasting improvement in the living conditions of people affected by conflict or natural disaster, as a sign of Christian compassion. As the team leader for the Mannar district in Sri Lanka, Raga works with over 1400 families in community rehabilitation and larger projects. During the slow, long-term civil war, over 60,000 people have been killed, with many more being displaced from their homes. Raga works with people returning to their villages after 15 years to find nothing left of their homes. He helps to organize the building of roads, wells, and schools, and arranges for counseling for people affected by the conflict. Raga is very interested in peacebuilding between the Tamils and the Singhalese and stresses their need for a sense of co-existence with each other. He also emphasizes the importance of working at a community level to create peace on the ground, so it will infiltrate up.

Raga says that he struggles to apply his education to his work - to "move beyond" just getting the skills, to actually making a difference with "the next step." According to Raga, there are a lot of resources available for Sri Lanka, as well as a lot of interest in the conflict - they just need *human* resources. They need culturally sensitive people who are willing to commit themselves patiently for the long haul. Raga invites interns considering long term career involvement in international peace work to explore working with him and his colleagues at ZOA.

You can contact Raga at zoaraga@sltnet.lk

Clara Frascchetti ('90) was a recent guest



speaker at Grebel's Community Supper, speaking about L'Arche, an international network

of faith-based communities creating homes and day programs with people who have developmental disabilities. After being an active student at Grebel, she wanted to continue living in a community. Clara was

College Notes



Grebel has recently hired two new people!

As well, there have been a few transitions within the current staff.

Marianne Mellinger is the new **Coordinator of Leadership Formation**. Her role is to work actively at coordinating and promoting the pastoral leadership education activities of both Mennonite Church Eastern Canada and the College. This role will build connections among students, congregations, the seminary in Elkhart, as well as with other graduate programs. Marianne also teaches some MTS courses at Grebel and works as a pastoral counsellor.



Mary Lou Klassen is Grebel's new part-time **Peace and Conflict Studies Administrative Assistant**. Mary Lou was most recently on an MCC term in Uganda for seven years where she and her husband Dave were the country co-representatives. After moving

back to KW this summer, she has been studying in the MTS program's biblical/theological stream. Mary Lou is no stranger to Grebel, having graduated with an RS major and a PACS option in 1997. Mary Lou is taking over PACS responsibilities from Mary Lou Schwartzentruber and Ann Snider, who have gone to full time in their other jobs of IPACS Certificate Program Manager and Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Students and Chaplain, respectively.

In other changes, Chris Matsuda has added the job of GTS Administrative Assistant to her current position of Administrative Assistant to the Academic Dean, while Ruth Steinman has changed to full-time Assistant Librarian.

One final note, I (Jennifer Konkle) will be on maternity leave until January 2006. At this moment, a very competent replacement Communication Coordinator is being hired, and this person will be taking care of the next two issues of Grebel Now. Please be kind and send in lots of "People Information"!

Grebel Student Council Musical

Wed., March 16 - Sat., March 19, 2005

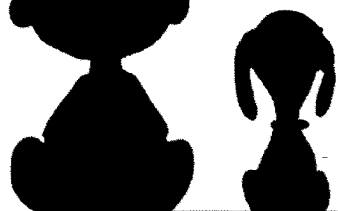
8:00pm

The Registry Theatre

122 Frederick St. Kitchener

Tickets: \$10

on sale in Grebel's Main Office



YOU'RE A GOOD MAN,
CHARLIE BROWN

Directed by Dora-Marie Goulet

Produced by Adam Feiner

1970-75
Grebel Reunion

Alumni from the 1970-75 era, save
this date for your alumni reception:

Saturday, October 29, 2005

This is one event
you won't want to miss!

Details will be in the
Spring Grebel Now

Calendar of Events

Bechtel Lecture with Dr. Fernando Enns	March 16-17, 2005	7:30pm
Grebel Student Council Musical	March 16-19, 2005	8:00pm
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown- Registry Theatre in Kitchener, for tickets call 519-885-0220		
April Fools Cafe	April 3, 2005	3:00pm
Church Theatre in St. Jacob's featuring Ed Janzen and No Discernible Key, for tickets call 519-885-0220		
Convocation - Theatre of the Arts, ML	April 17, 2005	2:00pm
Toronto Alumni Family Fun Day with Chapel Choir - at Willowgrove Farm	April 23, 2005	3:00pm
contact Fred W. Martin for more info 519-885-0220 x381 or fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca		
Ottawa Alumni Gathering with Chapel Choir - Supper and Concert at Ottawa Mennonite Church, contact Fred W. Martin for more info	April 24, 2005	5:30pm
519-885-0220 x381 or fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca		

Mennonites: A Peace Church in Conversation

2005 Bechtel Lectures with Dr. Fernando Enns

Dr. Fernando Enns, teacher of systematic theology and ecumenical studies at Heidelberg University in Germany, is Grebel's 2005 Bechtel Lecturer. He will be speaking on **Mennonites: a Peace Church in Conversation**. Wednesday's lecture will focus on *Dialogue and Diversity in the Ecumenical Movement*, while Thursday's lecture will deal with *Identity and Tolerance in a Pluralist Society*.



"Dr. Enns is an active participant in the ecumenical conversation on non-violence and peacemaking," said President Henry Paetkau. "His European experience offers North American Mennonites another perspective on what it means to be a Peace Church in the global context of the 21st century. We're extremely pleased to have him address this important subject at this critical juncture in history."

"Fernando Enns is a highly respected German Mennonite scholar and church leader," said Professor Tom Yoder Neufeld. "What I find most intriguing is the way he has been a critically important Anabaptist presence in the highest ecumenical circles of the World Council of Churches, pushing the worldwide

church to place itself more fully behind violence reduction and peacemaking.

The WCC's 'Decade to Overcome Violence' would not have happened without him."

A pastor in the German Mennonite Church, Enns also serves as vice-chairman for the Association of Mennonite Churches in Germany.

Dr. Enns holds a Doctor of Theology degree from the University of Heidelberg.

Author of several books and numerous articles, Dr. Enns specializes in ecumenism, ecclesiology and ethics, peace theology and peace ethics, and historical peace churches such as Mennonites, Quakers, and Brethren.

Don't miss Dr. Fernando Enns, the 2005 Bechtel Lecturer, March 16 & 17 in the Conrad Grebel Great Hall at 7:30pm.

Refreshments will be served at 7:00pm on Wednesday, and a reception will follow the lecture on Thursday. For more information, call 519-885-0220 x223.

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