



# GREBEL NOW

## An Extraordinary Impact on the World

Grebel's Convocation is an emotional event. It celebrates the achievements and triumphs of the graduating class. It recognizes the impact of lessons learned inside and outside the classroom. And most significantly, it marks the end of an important life stage. The world beckons.

The Grebel community celebrated the 29th commencement ceremony and 17th Master of Theological Studies (MTS) Graduation on April 19th. Fifty-six undergraduate students who have been part of the residence program at Grebel, as well as Music and Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) students, were recognized for their connection to Grebel.

**Morgan Grainger ('09)**, Computer Science and PACS graduating student, addressed the undergrad class, inspiring them to make an extraordinary impact on the world. He described how "each of us will take a small piece of Grebel with us as we move on. And each piece, though shaped by different experiences and people, will nevertheless contain the essence of this place and the principles that it represents." He encouraged his classmates to "allow that piece of Grebel to help guide us as we move on to the next stage of our lives. With the benefit of the excitement we've felt, the relationships we've developed, and the sense of responsibility that we've gained at Grebel, the world had better get ready for us." ...continued on page 4



MTS graduating class with their professors. Back (l-r) Jim Pankratz, Tom Yoder Neufeld, Arnold Snyder. Front: Jeremy Bergen, Sarah Whyte, Andrew Suderman, Derek Suderman. (absent Sarah Johnson)

## In this Issue...

Alumni at Sound in the Lands



...page 2

An Eager Learner and Teacher ...page 4

Few Words but Tons of Action ...page 5

Raising the Proverbial Barn ...page 5

On the Ball in Ecuador ...page 5

People ...page 6

Read these Books ...page 7

Coming Events ...page 8

Reunion Information ...page 8

## Peace and Justice? Dialogue in Iran

In an effort to promote dialogue between Mennonites and Muslims, Professor Jim Reimer initiated a conference 7 years ago on the topic of "The Challenges of Modernity" at which Mennonite-Christian and Shiite-Muslim scholars joined together to candidly discuss their views on specific topics. The idea grew out of an exchange program between Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and Imam Khomeini Education and Research Institute (IKERI) in which Iranian doctoral students study at the Toronto School of Theology, and Mennonite couples from North America live and study in Qom, Iran. The event was a forum for Shiite and Mennonite scholars to learn from each other, develop mutual understanding, and establish friendships.

A fourth dialogue conference occurred on May 24-27, 2009 in Iran. Seventeen scholars of religion met together for four days in Qom to discuss the theme of peace and justice. Grebel's representatives, **Jim Reimer** and **Jeremy Bergen** presented papers, while **Henry Paetkau** and **Nathan Funk** participated as official observers. Although he did not attend the conference, **Jim Pankratz** helped to organize it.

The Mennonites presented papers on biblical perspectives, the centrality of Jesus for peace and justice, pacifism, church, martyrdom, advocacy, and the history of Mennonite practices of peace and justice. Shiite presentations examined the relationship between justice and peace in the Qur'an, war and jihad, eschatology, divine mercy, and the nature

...continued on page 3



# Alumni Spreading Sound in the Lands



An action packed four days celebrating Mennonite music across borders and boundaries drew over one hundred participants to the Sound in the Lands 09 festival and conference at Conrad Grebel on June 4-8.

The event featured papers and presentations that addressed issues of Mennonite-rooted peoples and their music making locally and globally, as well as multiple concerts, performances, and workshops.

Alice Parker and Mary Oyer were the keynote speakers and **Carol Ann Weaver** conceptualized the conference and brought it to fruition.

Alice Parker, Mary Oyer, and Carol Ann Weaver examine some world music instruments



Fred Martin stands with Henry Winter who is wearing an original Mennofolk t-shirt

Sound in the Lands attracted numerous alumni who attend the sessions, presented papers, performed, composed, and helped organize the event.

The conference began with Mennofolk, featuring a variety of acclaimed and cutting edge performers from across the Mennonite spectrum and from across Canada and the USA.

Nearly 20 years ago, **Fred Martin ('87)**, then a young Mennonite conference pastor and now Director of Development at Grebel, created a festival featuring local Mennonite musicians and artists which he christened "Mennofolk." Giving modern day Mennonites a voice and place was the inspiration for Mennofolk. **Wendy Chappell-Dick ('90)** from Bluffton OH has taken this vision which has grown and spread to include the independently-run Mennofolk Manitoba, Mennofolk Michiana, Mennofolk on the Prairie (Kansas), and Mennofolk Harrisonburg (Virginia).



Andy and Wendy Chappell-Dick

**Bryan Moyer Suderman ('92)** writes songs that are deeply scriptural, musically memorable, and readily singable. His three CDs of "songs of faith for small and tall" (he is currently recording the 4th) have become favourites of families and churches across North America and beyond, with songs published in numerous hymnal, songbook, and curriculum resources. Bryan performed as a solo act at Mennofolk, as a duo with Cuban guitarist Amos Lopez, and gave a presentation on "Community Supported Music: Alternative Model for the Arts". The presentation articulated an alternative business model for the arts that is based on a different set of assumptions than the "tour! tour! tour! sell! sell! sell!" mainstream model. "Community Supported Music" is built on the "Community Supported Agriculture" model, a different way of structuring the relationship between "producer" and "consumer" as partners in a vital community process.



Bryan Moyer Suderman

**Todd Schiedel ('03)** has written about ramblings in word and song. Sometimes his songs reflect a portion of the complications surrounding the human condition. Todd performs around KW from time to time. He's currently working on his third home-spun recording which incorporates a smattering of instruments, including voice, cello, guitar and percussion.



Todd Schiedel

**Lyle Friesen ('74)** and his musical partner Bob Janzen come from vastly different places, Waterloo and Kitchener, respectively (well, Steinbach and St. Catharines, previously!) They've been playing music together since the 1970s. Their music is deeply rooted in the rich soil of bluegrass, but they've also been cross-pollinated by the blues, country, Celtic, "dawg", and world music. As a mandolinist and guitarist, Lyle has played with the Deep Dish Cavaliers and in a variety of string and new music ensembles.



Bob Janzen and Lyle Friesen

**Trevor Bechtel** is a religion professor at Bluffton University. He is the songwriter for The Anabaptist Bestiary Project, which is a rock and roll band that functions as a contemporary bestiary. Bestiaries, illuminated books that collect natural accounts of animals and offer moral and allegorical reflections on these animals, have affinities with Anabaptist reflections in that both seek a scriptural God. Trevor also led a workshop that explored the interconnections between academic theology, rock and roll, and spirituality.



The Anabaptist Bestiary Project, Trevor Bechtel on left



**Jennifer Wiebe ('07)** has pursued work in the social justice field, gaining experience with a human rights agency in Washington, DC, an ethno-religious peacebuilding organization in Nigeria, a volunteer project in Sri Lanka, and Fair Trade organization for Ten Thousand Villages. The concept for her paper, "Afrikaners, Mennonites, and Music of the Anti-Conscription" developed during her participation in a music and travel course to Durban, South Africa with Carol Ann Weaver in May, 2006.



Jennifer Wiebe

**Sarah Johnson ('07, MTS '08)** is currently a student of liturgy at Yale Divinity School. Her academic interests include liturgy, hymnody, ecumenism and congregational studies. Her first book, *Youth Worship Source Book*, a worship curriculum for high school age youth, will be available this summer. Sarah's paper on "The Political Theology of Hymnal: A Worship Book" discussed how the words and music of worship are a primary source and expression of the political theology of the Mennonite church.



Sarah Johnson

**Anna Janecek ('01)** is currently enrolled in a Master of Sacred Music programme at Emmanuel College in Toronto. Her research interests include hymnology, music for worship and issues relating to cultural diversity in worship. Current projects include serving as secretary for the Sound in the Lands 2009 planning committee and co-editing the forthcoming *Sound in the Lands* publication.



Anna Janecek

**Ann Schultz ('90)** has taught for 18 years at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate where she is the Music Department Head and also teaches French. In May 2007 she produced Rockway's first CD entitled *Pieces*. She lives in Waterloo with her husband **Steve Pfisterer ('84, '92)** and daughters Kaylen and Elizabeth. Ann gave a workshop on how to inspire young musicians to begin balancing values of heart, soul and mind while effectively expressing musical messages within a cross-cultural choral repertoire. The Rockway Choir also premiered several pieces commissioned specifically for *Sound in the Lands*.



Ann Schultz and the Rockway Senior Choir

**Geraldine Balzer ('83)** is a Professor in the Department of Curriculum Studies, College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan. She is a member of Nutana Park Mennonite Church in Saskatoon and is very interested in the roles of liturgy and music in worship. Her ethnographic study, entitled "The Preservation of a Mennonite Hymn-Singing Tradition" looks at youth and young adults who have chosen to attend a church with a strong hymn-singing tradition. When a prominent current trend seems to move away from hymnals and four-part harmony to choruses and worship bands, why are these youth remaining in churches with blended traditional and contemporary music programs?



Geraldine Balzer & Alina Balzer-Peters

Following her mother's example as a Grebel student, **Alina Balzer-Peters**, originally from Saskatoon, has completed her second year of school at UW in Women's Studies and Music. Being a voice major and after taking a recent trip to South Africa, Alina has developed a keen interest in the power of words through song. Her paper, "Songs of Struggle – Anabaptists in the Apartheid?" focused on several powerful African women of song who have overcome extreme hardships and triumphed over daunting circumstances have crafted songs evoking strong emotion from South Africans and people around the world.

Menno Singers has been an active part of the Kitchener-Waterloo choral community since 1955. The 45-voice choir now includes secular works, hymns and oratorios. The choir anticipates a fall release of music by local composers, including some performed at *Sound in the Lands '09*. Many Grebel Alumni are or have been a part of the choir. The picture on the right shows just a few:

**Justin Martin ('02), Mark Diller Harder ('89), Paul Fieguth ('91), Mary Martin ('69), and Marie Burkholder ('76).**



Menno Singers

## Iran ...continued from page 1

of the international political order. Participants presented papers rooted in their own tradition's theological understanding of the nature, mandate and implications of peace and justice. Formal and informal discussions provided opportunities to find commonalities, clarify differences, and respectfully engage each other.

The relationship between justice and peace emerged as a key theme of the conference. Both sides agreed that the human pursuit of justice and peace ought to be rooted in God's justice and God's peace. Both have a future-oriented hope for justice to be fully realized upon the return of Jesus and/or the twelfth Imam. Both Mennonites and Shiites are minority groups within Christianity and Islam, and have experienced persecution that shapes their perceptions of the world.

A difference emerged in the discussion of how to move from sacred text to contemporary context. One Mennonite scholar argued that the social location of the interpreter or the community of interpretation will partly shape what peace or justice looks like in practice. A Shiite scholar countered that the meaning of the Qur'an is always clear; perspective should not affect its meaning.

While Mennonites have preferred to speak about the church rather than the state as the community of peace and justice, Shiite dialogue partners asked whether this is a consistent position for assimilated U.S. and Canadian Mennonites who benefit from the prestige and power of their states whether they like it or not.

After the conference itself, IKERI arranged for a tour of the city of Hamadan, including a shrine to those honoured as martyrs from the Iran-Iraq war, the synagogue of the ancient Jewish community, and the Ganjnameh cuneiform inscriptions of the Persian Empire. In Hamadan and Qom, the group witnessed active campaigning on behalf of presidential candidates.

~ from a press release by Jeremy Bergen



Henry Paetkau, Jim Reimer, Nathan Funk, Jeremy Bergen

## Grads ...continued from page 1

Guest speaker Brice Balmer reflected on the transition the graduates would soon be experiencing - moving from a community of learning to a life of adventure. While on their journey, he challenged students to take their new skills, faith, values, and friendships, and to make Grebel's mission their own: to seek wisdom, nurture faith, and pursue justice and peace in service to church and society.

Representing this year's three MTS grads, **Sarah Whyte (MTS '09)** stressed the importance of asking "why" and how each person has a story worth telling. She described how experiences shape us, and how it is better to wrestle and embrace each life experience.

## Special Mention

Congratulations to Music Honours Student, **Cecile Monique Michniewicz ('09)** who



photo by Chris Hughes

received both the Faculty of Arts Departmental Award for Distinguished Academic Achievement AND the Governor General's Silver Medal at the UW Spring 2009 Convocation. The Governor General's Medal is the highest award

that can be presented to an Undergraduate student. Students must have an overall average of 90% to qualify and typically the

deans must decide between candidates whose grade range is mid-90s or higher.

**David Neufeld ('09)**, who also graduated with a PACS minor, received the History Departmental Award for Distinguished Academic Achievement, while **Timothy Rudd ('09)** was Grebel's Peace and Conflict Studies Departmental Award winner.

Not only was **Morgan Grainger ('09)** chosen to represent Grebel's graduating class, but he was also chosen as the Faculty of Math valedictorian.

**Kevin Martin ('09)** spoke on behalf of the Applied Health Sciences and Environment as valedictorian for his class.

Congratulations to Grebel's new alumni on your academic achievements!

Congratulations Grads!

Craig Aldred, Jesse Auspitz, Jonathan Bell, Kelsey Bowman, Emily Buck, Lauren Clark-Gallant, Sarah Connors, Anne Sarah Csima, Daniel Draper, Darlana Dyck, Reuben Eby, David Ens, Robyn Farlow, Leah Feddema, Deanne Gingerich, Kara Gossen, Kyle Gossen, Morgan Grainger, Kimberly Harder, Leah Harder, Maria Heemskerck, Benjamin Hiemstra, Ryan Hildebrandt, Angela Isaac, Matthew Keoshkerian, Hannah Klassen, Nadeem Lawji, Jocelyne Lelievre, Kevin Martin, Stephanie McCaig, Jason McDowell, Ashleigh McMullen, Diana Merino, Diego Merino, Cecile Monique Michniewicz, Alison Murray, Lysa Marie Osti Neutel, Laura Otterbein, April G. Postnikoff, Robert Pringle, Timothy Rudd, Sarah Elizabeth Schmidt, David Schulz, Athalia Snyder, Erik Streufert, Ben Thayer, Justin A. Tisi, Khuong Truong, Christina Vannelli, Timothy Weber, Jonathan Weston, Kyle Wheaton, John Wideman, Benjamin Winter, Janna Youngblut, Amanda Zehr

2009

## Vic Winter: An Eager Learner and Teacher

The halls of education have been where **Vic Winter ('75)** is at home. From the fall of 1972, through the completion of serving as Senior Residents in 1978, Conrad Grebel University College was a second home for Vic. He and his wife **Marilyn** have kept in touch with Grebel through their children, as all three have also lived and studied at Grebel - **Art ('05)**, **Jesse ('07)** and now **Ben ('09)**.

Vic has had a long career in education, shaping and influencing the lives of many students. From 1980-99, Vic taught English in the public system with the Essex County and served as English department head for 9 years. In 2000 Vic began working at United Mennonite Educational Institute (UMEI) in Leamington as Principal. Providing academic and institutional leadership in a small school like UMEI demands a lot of energy, tenacity and vision. He has provided strong leadership to dedicated and creative faculty members and students who have been enthusiastic about their small school experience.

One of these graduates, **Sandra Dyck ('06)** nominated Vic for Grebel's Distinguished Alumni Award. She noted that "with fewer than 100 students, UMEI is a small, close-knit high school, and our teachers often take on the role of mentors, friends, and even baptismal witnesses. With no official guidance counselor hired by the school Mr. Winter took on this role, answering questions and helping to guide us in our future planning." She reflects the comments of many UMEI grads as she observes that, "Grebel is naturally at the forefront of Mr. Winter's mind when it comes to post-secondary education, and students at UMEI are well aware of both the residence and academic programs that Grebel offers."

Clearly Vic's career in education is a model of service and leadership for the alumni of Conrad Grebel University College. To celebrate this commitment, Vic was presented with the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Service Award at this year's convocation. When receiving the award, Vic graciously said "I thankfully accept this award on behalf of the many teachers who have come and will continue to come out of Grebel." He encouraged each graduate to "take the Grebel experience with you as you live!"



Vic, Marilyn, and Ben Winter



## Few Words but Tons of Action

"Students in residence love food outside of regular cafeteria hours," explained Erik Streufert of London, Ontario. Last year, every Monday night, Erik and his sidekick, Amanda Zehr, could be found roaming the halls of the residence, sharing their homemade cookies with others.

This fourth year Urban Planning student lived in the Grebel Apartments again this year and wanted to do something on a grander scale. "I enjoy baking and serving others," said Erik as he outlined his very successful and seasonally appropriate Harvest Festival projects.

Spearheaded by Erik but planned and executed by numerous volunteers including the people in his apartment, the Apple Harvest Festival sold tasty apple related treats made from local produce and organic local flour. The Pumpkin Harvest Festival featured baked goods made from a jack-o-lantern carving contest the evening before. A Christmas Cookie Harvest Festival and carol sing was soon followed by the Erik Harvest Festival of waffles and coffee cake, in honour of Erik's birthday. In March, the Heifer Harvest Festival raised enough money to purchase a water buffalo by selling homemade bagels and doughnuts. Since all the necessary supplies were purchased and donated by Erik, the money raised - nearly \$1000 - was all given to various charities.

When choosing the different charities, Erik and his apartment mates took great care in the selection. Wanting to help both local and global efforts, the charities were picked by their specific purposes. Erik also researched the organizations to make sure that they actually showed results. "My Mennonite faith influenced this action - giving to others (like mutual aid) and being a servant," explained Erik. "These are the areas that I connect most with my faith. They are also interests which I would like to pursue in the future, possibly getting a PACS diploma and working overseas with a development agency when I graduate."

"Grebel students, faculty and staff have all benefited from Erik's love and care for people, and his passion and drive to make our world a better place," said Mary Brubaker-Zehr, Director of Student Services. "He is brilliant, creative, and phenomenally humble. He's a man of few words but tons of action. His actions speak volumes and have shown us all how to enhance community life and improve our world."



Angie Hostetler and Erik Streufert received the Spirit of Generosity Award at the Winter Banquet. The award is given by the Mennonite Foundation of Canada to students who have demonstrated his or her generous spirit in identifiable practical ways. The Foundation also gives a donation to the charity of the recipient's choice.

## Raising the Proverbial Barn by Eric Kennedy

Trips, especially service projects, tend to have a natural "high" that lingers for some time. You've worked together, you've been mentally refreshed through manual labour, you've been around old and new friends, and you've experienced the "trip of a lifetime." But, is there something deeper than that short lived rush?

During reading week, 25 students left their rooms at Grebel and piled into vans for a southbound migration. Though we followed the tracks of many peers bound for beaches and vacations, Spring Break 2009 with Mennonite Disaster Service brought us something very different - the promise of early morning alarms, hard manual labour and far more gnats than we could imagine.

MDS knows the story well: You arrive for an orientation and settle in for the night. Virtually everyone underestimates how much

food they need to pack for lunch the first day on the site, and absolutely everybody learns to appreciate a good night's sleep. The teams work together well, and you look back fondly on all the progress we made.

Four months have now come and gone. The gnats' bites have healed and the homes have been handed over to their new families. The buildings may no longer be in our hands, but the memories certainly are.

One evening after my return, I was interrupted by a friend during one of my long stories. "Eric," she said, "you don't need to tell me any more. I can see it on your face and in your smile." Though it may be four months later, that smile hasn't faded from any of our faces. The experiences we shared in Louisiana really did change us. Having raised the proverbial barn together, we are a more trusting, open and close group of friends than before. Having seen a different world, we're quicker to listen and slower to judge. Having served, we better understand our faith and our humanity.

Was the trip and investment worth it? Four months, four years, forty years from now, we will be profoundly impacted by how we served with MDS. The impact of such service ripples forward, shaping the people we become in a substantial and meaningful way. Four months later, Louisiana still matters, the bayou still flows through my mind, and the experience still shapes who we are.



## On the Ball in Ecuador

Global Studies and Spanish student, Hannah Redekop (centre) and 4 other Grebel students - Emily Zielman, Jeremie Raimbault, Catherine Duncan, and Sandra Regier - traveled to Duran, Ecuador over reading week to participate in Keri's Kids, a week-long soccer camp for children. They helped with Bible lessons, singing, crafts, as well as coaching the kids during the daily soccer games.

Keri's Kids 2009 is now the fifth annual soccer camp that Hannah has organized. It is named in honour of a friend and teammate who passed away from cancer, and it provides soccer balls, jerseys and Bible school materials, while working alongside Ecuadorian youth to minister to the children of Duran.

This is the first time that Hannah took other students with her to help out.



photo by Rachel Clayton

# People

**Patrick Quealey ('02)** completed a Masters of Environment and Development (Merit) at the London School of Economics in 2004 and married **Elizabeth Creary** in 2007. He has worked for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade since 2004 primarily on issues related to the United Nations climate change negotiations. More recently he has taken a position in the United Nations and Commonwealth division. In the course of his professional and personal pursuits Patrick has experienced exploded luggage, midnight negotiations at gun point, standing in front of a moving train to ensure that it actually stopped, and using vinegar in self defense. In spite of this, or perhaps because of it, there's nothing else he'd rather be doing. Patrick can be reached at [patrick.quealey@international.gc.ca](mailto:patrick.quealey@international.gc.ca).



**Darlene ('05) and Jonathan Schmidt ('05)** welcomed a new baby girl, **Leah Beverley Schmidt**, on Sunday January 25, 2009. Leah, Darlene and Jonathan are settling into life together as Jonathan finishes his Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Calgary and Darlene enjoys a maternity break from her job as an elementary school teacher.

**Ryan Wiens (MTS '08) and Michelle Cameron (MTS '06)** have settled happily in the small rural community of Sackville, NB. After completing his MTS and MSW at Laurier, Ryan found work as a clinical therapist with Cumberland Mental Health in neighbouring Amherst, NS. He is very pleased to be doing this kind of work so soon in his career and to be part of a very strong and supportive team. **Tess** (5.5 yrs) and **Simone** (2.5 yrs) are enjoying the arts and the outdoors in their new area, while Michelle is home full-time for now and plans to complete a certificate in Conflict Resolution from U.P.E.I. that she started prior to her MTS degree.

**Hiba Khaled ('07)** just finished her Master's degree in Edinburgh, Scotland. She absolutely loved the city and culture and learned a lot from her research. She will be back in the UK in September as she goes to medical school at Queen's University in Belfast. Having visited the school and city already, she is very excited to go there to continue her education.

**Michael Turman ('08)** is working as a Youth Pastor at First Mennonite Church in Kitchener.

**Diane (Hagan) ('79) and Mike Drake ('81)** live in Windsor and have five children, **Natalie** (26), **Joel** (24), **Holly** (24), **Caroline** (20) and **Kevin** (17). The youngest two still live at home. Diane works as a caseworker for City of Windsor Social Services and is pursuing post-secondary studies in addictions. Mike worked in quality control and quality assurance for pharmaceutical companies in Toronto and Windsor for 22 years. Four years ago he decided to change careers and went to teachers college. He now is a supply teacher, teaches night school at St. Clair College, and is a fitness instructor. He still plays hockey. Diane and Mike are involved in a ministry to refugees. They can be reached at [drakemad48@hotmail.com](mailto:drakemad48@hotmail.com)



**Alex Wiens ('07)** was one of just 15 Ontario students to make the prestigious Honour Roll for top marks on this year's Canada-wide Uniform Evaluation (UFE). The UFE is an important component of the Chartered Accountant qualification program, which includes prescribed education, practical experience and examination requirements. Alex is currently articling at Deloitte & Touche LLP in Windsor. "Becoming a Chartered Accountant has provided me with the opportunity to work in a dynamic and interesting field," says Alex. "Working with clients to produce tangible results has been a very rewarding experience." Alex married **Chani Harder ('07)** on June 13 in Leamington. Chani will be working at UMEI teaching math and possibly other things in the fall.

**Greg Litchi ('86)** is serving as the chair of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners, a national organization that promotes philanthropy. Greg is employed by The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation as Senior Director of Major Gifts. He and his partner **Garth** live in Toronto.



This June, **Mark Yantzi ('69, '78)** retired as executive director of Community Justice Initiatives of Waterloo Region – the organization that he founded in 1978. In 1974, Mark was part of the birth of what is now seen as the origins of Restorative Justice as a result of the infamous "Elmira Case" - when Yantzi suggested that 2 teenage vandals meet with their victims to apologize and determine restitution. The move sparked what has become a worldwide movement in restorative justice. Reflecting back on his 35 year career, Yantzi is most encouraged by the number of people who have "caught the vision."

**Bill Schwarz (MTS '07)** is the new Academic Dean at Western Christian College, located in Regina, SK. Western offers several undergraduate degrees in ministry and hosts a private Christian High School. Bill is looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities that will accompany this role.

**Caralee Good ('04)** has been working now for 3 years as an Registered Nurse on the cardiac unit at SickKids Hospital in Toronto. She did her BScN at U of Toronto after her UW degree.



**David Chodos ('05) and Natasha Krahn ('94)** are pleased to announce the arrival of **Samuel Robert Krahn Chodos**. Sam was born on March 30, 2009. He was in too much of a hurry to wait for the midwife so he was delivered by his daddy in an unplanned homebirth! Sam and his parents currently live in Edmonton, Alberta and he spends his time drooling, eating and occasionally sleeping.

**SEND US NEWS!!** Grebel Now's People section is the most popular part of this newsletter. Help keep it interesting by sending in your updates. **Job, family, travel, or volunteer info** is all exciting to us. We'd especially love to hear from our earlier era alumni. **What are your retirement plans? What satisfying projects have you worked on in your life? What planned or unexpected journeys have you taken?** Send your news to: [Grebel Now, Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON N2L3G6 or greblweb@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:Grebel Now, Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON N2L3G6 or greblweb@uwaterloo.ca)



**Panteli Tritchew ('79)**, has been teaching in China at the Kwantlen Polytechnic University for short terms over the past 16 years. He recently taught in an exchange at the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in Goungzhou City for 5 weeks ending in June when he returned to Vancouver. Goungzhou City has about 10 million people. He notes, "Over here, they call a place with 1 million people a 'town'. I feel safe here because they summarily execute murderers --just one of the benefits of living in a police state."



**Dr. Ronald J.R. Mathies**, Grebel's Acting President from January-June 2009 was granted an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by the Bluffton University on May 3rd.

Ron has devoted much of his life to international development, spending over 4 decades as an administrator and educator in Canada, Malawi and Swaziland. He served as director and associate professor of peace and conflict studies at Grebel for 10 years before joining MCC as executive director in 1996. In 2005, Ron became executive director emeritus at MCC.

Ron accepted the degree as a tribute to the thousands of MCC colleagues, board members and volunteers, partners and participants around the world who have shaped and implemented the vision of serving in the name of Christ.

In June, Ron was the speaker for the Ralph and Eileen Lebold Endowment for Leadership Training Fundraising Banquet. He spoke on "Extending the Table: Becoming a Global Community of Faith". The banquet raised almost \$20,000 to help fund the ministry component of the Master of Theological Studies program.

Thanks Ron, for a productive 6 months!



Ralph & Eileen Lebold visit with Gudrun & Ron Mathies after the Lebold Banquet

**Kathleen Cleland Moyer ('81)** received an honourable mention in the 2009 Herman Voaden National Playwriting Competition (through Queen's University) for her recent play, "Friendly Fire". This is a national contest with many entrants and is judged by leading Canadian playwright Sharon Pollock. This award is gratifying because it gives Kathleen some unbiased independent confirmation of her talent. Kathleen feels very honoured by the recognition, joking that she's probably the only playwright on the list who put their play on in a barn!

**Sara Brubacher**, Peace and Conflict Studies and Religious Studies student was selected to be Grebel's 2009 C.H. Henry Smith



Peace Speech winner. Her speech, "Planting Olive Trees: Giving Voice to the Voiceless" was thoughtful, provocative, well delivered and reflected much personal integrity and engagement.

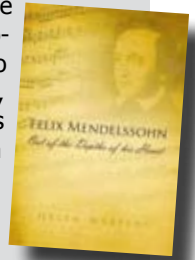
Sara is interested in doing peace and justice work in the Middle East in the future. She says being at Grebel "is definitely preparing me for my future. I have grown while facing hard questions about my faith and my view of the world. I feel like my classes and the atmosphere at Grebel are helping to build a reservoir of knowledge and inner strength which I will be able to draw on in difficult times."



Brubacher House Museum and the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Museum in June. UW historian Ken McLaughlin discussed the early Mennonite presence in Waterloo, and also the beginnings of the Brubacher House Museum, in his talk, "Saving the John E. Brubacher House: Giving the Past a Future." Birthday cake and tours were offered at Brubacher House after the lecture. Above, live-in Brubacher House hosts **Bethany ('06)** and **Brandon Leis** enjoy some cake after giving tours.

## Read these books

**Helen Martens** has just released a book, "Felix Mendelssohn: Out of the Depths of his Heart". As a musicologist, she was Grebel's first music professor, teaching from 1965 to 1993. This exciting new book, based on the personal letters of Felix Mendelssohn, gives an intimate view of this extraordinary composer's life. Helen, who devoted nearly 30 years to the study of Mendelssohn, conducted her research in six countries in Europe and North America during summers and while on sabbaticals from Grebel. Canadian friends of Grebel can order the book directly from Helen for \$24.95 including postage. [helenmar@shaw.ca](mailto:helenmar@shaw.ca)



Retired History Professor, **Werner Packull** and his wife **Karin**, along with a project archivist at Grebel, **Linda Huebert Hecht** held a book launch this winter.

Linda's new book, "Women in Early Austrian Anabaptism: Their Days, Their Stories" contains previously untold stories of women persecuted for their faith during the early years of the Reformation. In the turbulent years of the early 1500s, women chose to express their personal faith publicly through adult baptism, which was outlawed by the state.

Werner and Karin's newly translated book, "From the Tyrol to North America: the Hutterite Story Through the Centuries" by Astrid von Schlachta, details the Hutterite sojourn. It is an all-too-human story of prejudices and quarrels, but also of endurance, repeated beginnings and visions of a new era.

## Faculty Travels

- Ken Hull led the Music and Culture travel course in London and Oxford
- Tom Yoder-Neufeld was a tour leader to "Explore the World of Paul" in Greece and Turkey
- Derek Suderman attended conferences in Winnipeg
- Henry Paetkau spent a portion of his sabbatical in Jerusalem
- Jim Pankratz, Henry Paetkau, Ron Mathies, Derek Suderman, Tom Yoder Neufeld, and Carol Ann Weaver are attending the Mennonite World Conference in Paraguay

## Calendar of Events 2009

Saturday, September 26th  
Conrad Grebel  
1990-95 Era Alumni Reunion

Sunday, November 1st  
Chapel Choir release concert

Friday, November 13th  
Conrad Grebel  
Spirituality and Aging Lecture

Friday, November 27th  
Conrad Grebel  
Benjamin Eby Lecture

[grebel.uwaterloo.ca/aboutgrebel/events.shtml](http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca/aboutgrebel/events.shtml)

## Conrad Grebel chapel choir

director: leonard enns



## The Spirit Sings

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## Grebel Review

Winter 2009

The Mennonite  
Experience in  
Paraguay

(The 2008 Bechtel Lectures  
by Alfred Neufeld)

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Call Meg Bauman at 519-885-0220 x24264

## ONTARIO MENNONITE MUSIC CAMP August 9-21, 2009

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

[GREBEL.UWATERLOO.CA/OMMC](http://GREBEL.UWATERLOO.CA/OMMC)

## 1990-95 Alumni Reunion

## AND FAMILY FAIR

Saturday,  
September 26th  
2:00-4:00 pm

**\$10 per person  
\$25 per family**

Watch for an invitation in the mail and by email. Registration will soon be available via UW's alumni website.

**Reconnect with your friends at this family friendly event!**

There will be food and activities for the kids and lots of opportunity to visit and catch up with old friends.



Planners include Teena (Wagner) Snyder, Kim Wideman, Vicky Roeder Martin, Ian Climenhage, and Fred W. Martin.

## facebook

Become friends with "Conrad Grebel UC", to see pictures from past years, tag your friends, watch a few videos, and get brief communication from Meg Bauman, Jen Konkle, and Fred W. Martin via status updates. There is also a general Conrad Grebel University College group you can join, or become a fan of Grebel.