



# GREBEL NOW

## Challenging Mind and Spirit

"Thanks to the hard work of faculty, staff and Board, we've made tremendous progress in most of our strategic goals," reported President Henry Paetkau. These goals include new hiring, expanding the grad program, enhancing leadership development, and assessing needs in the library and archives as well as major facility capital needs. "I'm especially pleased with the new Mission Statement," he continued. "The process of formulating it was as important as the outcome. The extensive and lively discussion around identity and values at the core of the College helped us articulate a mission that will define and direct Conrad Grebel into its sixth decade."

Charged with the objective of accurately and concisely describing Grebel today and into the future, while strengthening its aspirational character, the Board of Governors released Grebel's new mission statement in December.

"The mission of Conrad Grebel University College is to seek wisdom, nurture faith, and pursue justice and peace in service to church and society," details the document. The statement also describes Grebel's Mennonite identity, 12 core values, and key program areas in residence, Arts, Music, Peace and Conflict Studies, Graduate Theological Studies, and the library and archives.

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President **Henry Paetkau** is on a six month sabbatical. While he's away, **Ron Mathies** is Acting President. Ron has a long history at Grebel, including that of an early UW graduate (BA in Math '62), as Director of the Peace and Conflict Studies program from 1986-1996, and more recently, as the 2005 Rodney and Lorna Sawatsky visiting scholar. "Grebel has an extremely significant mission with respect to the university, the church and its connectedness to the global community," says Ron. He will be at Grebel until the end of June.

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## The Key to Mennonite History

**Laureen Harder-Gissing ('91)** is Grebel's new Archivist-Librarian. Coming to Grebel from the Mennonite and Brethren in Christ Resource Centre where she worked as Manager/Librarian since 2003, Laureen was a freelance Mennonite historian and researcher, and published three books relating to Mennonites in Ontario. Much of her working life has revolved around helping congregations discover their history and understand current issues. She is a history graduate from UW, has a Masters degree in Religion and Culture from Laurier, and is completing a Master of Information Studies degree at the University of Toronto. Laureen also served on the board of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada in 1996-03.

"Holding the key (quite literally) to Mennonite history in Ontario is an immense responsibility and privilege," commented Laureen. "Archives are places where people bring their questions about the past—from history and human rights to family and personal identity. The archives and library here at Grebel are an important resource to individuals, congregations, and researchers of all kinds. I look forward to learning alongside them."

Many alumni will remember Laureen as student president of the College in 1988-89, as an active member of the Chapel Drama group, and as editor of the student newspaper, GrebelSpeaks. She is married to **Robert ("Gus") Gissing ('92)**. They have two children, Margaret and Peter and attend Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church.



# Alumni celebrate teaching

The numbers show that Conrad Grebel alumni are heavily involved in education. According to the alumni data, almost 9% of the 2,859 alumni on our mailing list are elementary or secondary school teachers, and the biggest employer of Grebel graduates is the Waterloo Region District School Board. This is somewhat surprising because UW does not offer a degree in Education, however graduates from a variety of programs have gone on to obtain a degree in Education.

These alumni include two educators who are active members of the Conrad Grebel alumni committee. Paul Hildebrand, who teaches at Elmira District Secondary School, and Esther Etchells, who recently retired as an elementary teacher in Waterloo, are helping to plan an **alumni event to celebrate teachers on Sunday, April 5 at 3:00 pm**. "We're always looking for new ways to help alumni connect", noted Wendy Cressman Zehr who chairs the alumni committee. "When Fred showed us the numbers it seemed clear that we should do something to recognize this unique sector in our alumni."

The afternoon reception will include ample time for visiting with old friends and give younger alumni the opportunity to network with seasoned professionals. After a short panel discussion, moderated by Ed Bergey, Acting President Ron Mathies, will present this year's Distinguished Alumni Service award.

This issue of Grebel NOW features some of our alumni in the teaching profession.

**Teacher Event**  
**Sunday, April 5 at 3:00 pm**  
All Grebel alumni and spouses are welcome to come to this event.



**Alicia Christie ('07)** graduated from UW with a degree in Music and German, and then got her B.Ed in Intermediate Senior Vocal Music and German. Before she was done school, she was offered a full time music teaching position at the International English School in Eskilstuna, Sweden, one of the top 20 schools in Sweden. She teaches voice, keyboards, and guitar to about 275 students a term. In addition to learning Swedish, she's had many fun experiences, such as mushroom picking and traveling around Europe. Alicia's time at Grebel shaped her into the teacher she is today by providing a great example of community. "It was at Grebel where the BEST example of what a community could be like was shown to me," she said. "I find that in a school creating a community of students enhances not only academics but social behaviour as well." Alicia sees herself staying in Sweden for at least another year to learn and grow from this great opportunity.



**John David (JD) Kuepfer ('93)** has been involved in alternative education for most of his high school teaching career. In 1999 he started a program to support at-risk students at Listowel DSS, a "very challenging yet profoundly rewarding experience of service." Currently, JD is in his third year teaching in a new program for conservative Mennonite students in the Avon Maitland DSB. CASE (Community-based Alternative Secondary Education) originated from a proposal he submitted and it addresses the needs of students opting out of public secondary education. Classes are held separately and strive to provide an enjoyable yet respectful environment while providing opportunities for learning new skills. Students can earn an OSSD, learn technical skills, and gain practical work experience through co-op. This well-received and rapidly growing program also offers a weekly night class, both technical and academic, particularly for students from the Low German Mennonite community. Contact JD if you have a knowledge of Low German and a love for inspiring young people to develop their potential! JD and his wife **Jane ('92)** were senior residents at Grebel ('94-'96) and now have two children, **Anna and David**.



**Marie Burkholder ('76)** is finishing her 31st (and final) year of teaching elementary school. She's spent the last 10 years teaching Jr. Kindergarten in a downtown, strongly multi-ethnic Kitchener school. She has found this so enriching that she is contemplating working with recent immigrants in a community capacity after retirement. Marie thinks that the most rewarding aspect of her work relates to the fact that she is her students' "first teacher" and she loves watching the children become caring social beings. After graduating from UW, Marie went to Europe for a year with Intermento, and returned for a teaching degree, beginning in core French. Marie's experience at Grebel taught her especially about community. "Grebel was part of my larger sustaining community which included family, extended family, and church community. I have never taken for granted the important role that this sustaining umbrella of communities has had in my life and in some way, I think I have been able to offer that same sense of community in my classroom."



**Phil Enns (MTS '93)** is a philosophy lecturer at an Islamic university (Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Kalijaga) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. In the Islamic Theology department, he teaches a variety of general courses in Western philosophy. In the Postgraduate department, he teaches courses on politics and religion, focusing specifically on democracy. While studying in Toronto, Phil was involved with a Mennonite Central Committee project that brought Muslims from Iran to Toronto for doctoral studies. After finishing his studies, MCC approached him with an opportunity to teach at an Islamic university. Phil couldn't pass up this remarkable and unique position! During his time at Grebel, Phil says that he was "pushed to reflect on the relationship between my Mennonite faith and my academic studies in philosophy. My current work on religion and democracy here in an Islamic context is rooted in those formative years at Grebel when I struggled with how to be Mennonite and do philosophy."

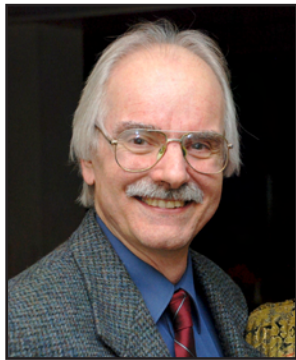


## A 34 year Legacy

Sam Steiner, archivist and librarian at Conrad Grebel University College, ended his 34-year service at Grebel in December.

"It's been a privilege to be immersed in the historical life of Mennonites in Ontario," reflects Sam. "I've helped many fascinating people in their research, ranging from Old Order Mennonite historians to radio journalists from Switzerland. The biggest change in archives, despite the unrelenting increase in paper records, has been the technological one - more than half of requests from patrons today are for digitized forms of sound recordings or photographs."

Sam came to Canada from Chicago forty years ago as a political refugee or draft dodger, inspired to take a stance after attending Martin Luther King's march to Montgomery, Alabama in



1965. Sam graduated from UW in 1973, taking many courses at Grebel which helped him find his "way back to Christian faith within a Mennonite context." He began at Grebel as the Archivist in 1974 and as a librarian in 1976, finishing an MLS degree from the University of Western Ontario in 1978.

Sam is currently the historian for Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, secretary of the Detweiler Meetinghouse Inc., and a member of the Executive of the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario. His research interests are in the area of Ontario Mennonite History. He has authored two books - a biography of the nineteenth-century Ontario Mennonite entrepreneur Jacob Y. Shantz (1988) and the history of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate in Kitchener (1995).

"Sam has made many lasting contributions in his long career. He defined the focus and the quality of the College library and built the archives into an unsurpassed collection of resources on Mennonites in Ontario," says Jim Pankratz, Grebel's Academic Dean. "His own research and publications are remarkable

scholarly and public service achievements. He is a leader in the development of The Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online (GAMEO) and has excellent working relationships with scholars and Mennonite archivists in all of the major Mennonite research centres. We are deeply grateful for what he has accomplished."



A good selection of library staff over the years came to celebrate with Sam Steiner at his retirement dinner on December 19th, 2008.

Standing: Laureen Harder-Gissing, Peter Erb, Wiraon (Apple) Evens, Betty Erb, Merri Kraemer Slagel, Bethany Leis, Irma Kadela, Tryntje Miller, Linda Hecht  
Front row: Doris Gascho, Ruth Steinman, Sam Steiner, John Good

## 2008-09 Awards

Grebel proudly congratulates these scholarship and award winners. Thank you to all those who have set up memorial scholarships and awards to honour family members, as well as friends who have given freely to these funds over the years.

### A. James Reimer Award

Andy Martin

### Alice Eisen Leadership Award

Danica Knight, Miriam Stewart-Kroeker

### Becky Frey Student Scholarship

Arielle Campion, Maria Steinman

### Clemens Scholarships in Music

Michelle Fong, Peter Gibbs,  
Deanne Gingerich

### Clifford Snyder Memorial Bursary

Ellie Huebner

### Dave Regier Student Award

Jonea Agwa, Sarah Good, Kara Gossen,  
Amy Sawatzky, Maria Steinman

### Dean's Residence Award

Lisa Farlow, Khuong Troung

### Elliot I McLaughry Award

Cassandra Mathies, John Wray

### Entrance Scholarships

Meghan Harder, Ellery Penner

### George E. and Louise Schroeder Award

Alina Balzer-Peters, Karl Reimer

### Giesbrecht Choral Music Scholarship

Mark Coffey

### Gingrich Memorial Fund

Angie Hostettler, Michael Turman

### Jacob Andres Scholarship

Caleb Yeung

### Global Conflict Management and Transformation Award

Rose Achieng Ongech, Hany Ibrahim

### Good Foundation Scholarship

Lauren Clark-Gallant, Morgan Grainger, Leah  
Harder, Angie Hostettler, Kevin Martin

### Graduate Student Full Scholarship

Kevin Guenther, Sarah Johnson, Jong Myung  
Kim, Susanne Loewen, Len MacRae, Kim Penner,  
Marta Simpson, Rafael Vallejo, Tim Wakelin,  
Dana Honderich

### Grebel Student Award

Jessica Cober, Sheryl Corkum,  
Ryan Hildebrandt, Jessica Reesor

### The Jean Caya Music Award

Chelsea Gutzman, Kathy Lawler, Cecile  
Michniewicz, Mary-Catherine McNinch-Pazzano,

### Joan Weber Award

Sarah Garland, Stephanie Gedcke

### Karin Packull Award - Kim Penner

Krueger Family PACS Award - Kelly Brown,  
Nadine Hiemstra, Rudi Oballo'ker Okot

### Lina Wohlgenut Award - Ruth Plett,

Hany Ibrahim, Rudi Oballo'ker Okot

### Lucinda Robertson Scholarship - Vanessa

Nickel, Sarah Connors, Joshua Enns, Joelle Ritsema

### Magdalena Coffman Scholarship

Marta Simpson

### MCC Peace Award

Chaylene Grieve-Saunders, Patrick MacInnis

### PACS Internships

Sarah Jutzi, Denise Whaley

### Reimer Theological Scholarship

Suzanne Loewen

### Robin Coupland Jutzi Scholarship

Mimi Hollinger-Janzen, Hannah Jantzi, John  
Wray, Justus Zimmerly

### Rudolph & Hedwig Rempel Music Award

Matthew Attard, Katelyn Harrington, Phil  
Rempel, Lindsey Minaker, Sarah Schmidt

### Sauer Family Award - Matthew Canaran,

Lukas Matthews, Ben Scott

### Stephen Family MTS Entrance Award

Kim Penner

### Student Council Award

Becky Klassen, Natasha Moes

### Upper Year Residence Award

Morley Drieger, Mimi Hollinger-Janzen, Kristen  
Ollies, Samantha Krueger, Hannah Redekop,  
Rebecca Steiner, Erik Streufert, Zachary Wiker

### William Dick PACS Field Study Award

Rosabeth Koehn

### Williams PACS Award

Adam Kramer, Patrick MacInnis, Kimberlee Walker

### Women of MCEC Award - Linda Brnjas, Lisa

Carr-Pries, Vicky Roeder Martin, Jan Steckley

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You can find the complete Mission statement at [grebel.uwaterloo.ca/aboutgrebel/mission.shtml](http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca/aboutgrebel/mission.shtml)



**Jim Pankratz** and **Lowell Ewert** have both been reappointed to their respective positions of Academic Dean and Director of Peace and Conflict Studies. President Henry Paetkau had positive comments for both faculty members. "Jim is a wonderful colleague, a fine educator, and a great administrator....Lowell was strongly affirmed for his visionary leadership, collegial style, creative teaching, and global perspective."


Nathan Funk published a book entitled *Islam and Peacemaking in the Middle East* with Abdul Aziz Said. The book begins with a set of provocative questions: How

Grebel's Great Hall was packed to capacity on the evening of November 21 to hear **Marlene Epp** deliver the 2008 Benjamin Eby Lecture on the topic of Women who 'made things right': Midwife-Healers in Canadian Mennonite communities of the Past. Marlene, who is Associate Professor of History and Peace and Conflict Studies at the College as well as the Chair of the Canadian Committee on Women's History, launched her book **Mennonite Women in Canada: A History** after the lecture.



Naming the individual women who played a vital role in sustaining the health and identity of Mennonite communities in the lecture, Marlene told their stories and described how they contributed to the communities they served. Midwives in Mennonite communities played a critical role in maintaining traditions and practices, serving the separatist community with a wide range of health services from childbirth to the less-obvious services of offering dental care, first aid for injuries and even serving as undertakers.

**Mennonite  
WOMEN**  
in Canada: A History



Marketa Tapp

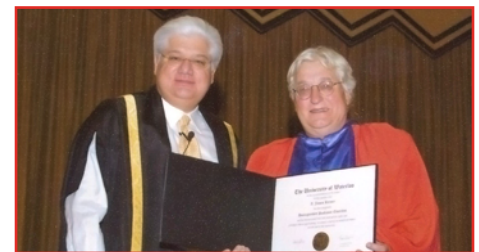
Using diaries, oral histories, church histories, genealogies, and memoirs, Epp has painstakingly pieced together a rich and fascinating story of Canadian Mennonite women that deserves to be read by women and men everywhere.

"This book will be of interest to researchers, teachers, and others who are interested in Mennonite history, Canadian women's history, Canadian church history and Canadian immigration history. Put simply, there is no parallel history of Mennonite women published in the Canadian context." --Lucille Marr, McGill University

**ISLAM AND  
Peacemaking**  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

NATHAN C. FURNE AND ABDUL AZIZ SAID

"An important book, impressive in its scope, clarity, and balanced treatment of a highly complex and controversial subject. No other work compares to it."  
- Sohail Hashmi, Mount Holyoke College



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## Rooting the Revolution

Most students can attest that the middle of every school term is filled with stress and tension as midterms loom, workloads increase, and projects pile up. This fall, Conrad Grebel University College's Chapel program addressed the need to decompress by devoting a Chapel service to finger painting, games, story time, puzzles, and belly laughs! The topic of the day was "Unless you come to me as little children" where students explored less familiar aspects of worship, such as creative and sensory experiences. This topic was part of the larger theme for the term, "Rooting the Revolution" which explored the hard sayings of Jesus.

"Chapels are a time where we can gather to embrace our differences," explained peace and conflict studies student, Jessica Reesor. "They are a time and a space where it's okay to be vulnerable as we search together for what it means to live out God's call in our lives."

"This fall's chapels were intense and students kept coming to discover what new challenge they might meet from the Word of God," summarized Grebel Chaplain, Ed Janzen. "Students are looking for a faith which is lived out at a very intense level." The group of chapel conveners tackled worship planning through rigorous small group Bible study as they prepared the services. "This is an experience in planning worship where the connection between Bible study and the worship service is as direct and as authentic as possible," said Janzen. "It all flows. It is all demanding and intense and authentic."

Incidentally, the chapels have inspired a "My First Real Sermon" preaching group where students work at preparing and delivering a full length sermon in a regular chapel service.



## Blind Peace

Passersby had to look twice as they passed the Dana Porter Library one night in November. "PEACE" was written in the windows! The photographer of the picture identified himself as knowledge integration student Eric Kennedy, and he wrote to UW's Daily Bulletin: "The blind adjustments were care of a small group of students living at Conrad Grebel. It wasn't tied to any specific topic, event or group, simply a way to cause people to think, a way to hopefully cause some passers-by to smile, and a way to have some fun in a positive and productive way."



Dean of Arts, Ken Coates, chats with **Mark Schaan** ('02) and **Patrick Quealey** ('02) on February 6th. Along with several other Grebel Alumni, they participated in a UW Alumni event in Ottawa that focused on public service.



Three great guys, Ben White, Chris Culy, and Karl Mikelson, were given the Student Life Award in Fall 2008. They received the award from their fellow students in recognition of the work and initiative they took in putting together several fall Sunday student led and planned worship services. They are an example of fine student leadership and creativity and of students taking their faith REALLY seriously.

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



## Conflict Management & Congregational Leadership

This redesigned certificate program addresses the needs of pastors & lay leaders as they wrestle with conflict, change and other challenges within their congregations. This Certificate is offered in partnership with ARC – Associates Resourcing the Church.

A recent participant in the Biblical and Theological Perspectives for Conflicted Congregations workshop commented that "we too easily and too often blow off the theological roots of our decisions and actions, and that consequently, our decisions and actions are too often ill-considered. I appreciated the effort to publicly root our conflict-resolution tools in scripture and in good theology." He found the workshop helpful in several ways: It gave him an opportunity to speak about a conflict he was facing and to receive unbiased perspectives; it was an opportunity to bring his own presuppositions under the scrutiny of scripture, guided by leaders experienced in both theology and conflict resolution; and it called him to consider scriptural texts and theological perspectives other than the ones he had been using and to bring them to bear on his situation.

**Take individual workshops or work towards a certificate.**

**Upcoming workshop topics include:**

- Hope for the Small Church
- Leading the Church Through Times of Change & Conflict
- Beyond Visioning & Strategic Planning – Transforming the Culture of a Congregation
- Intercultural Issues in Mediation

For more details go to

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

## facebook

Grebel is on Facebook and over 500 of you know it! If you become friends with "Conrad Grebel UC", you'll be able 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. Please note though, that Facebook authorities tend to deactivate organization profiles, so don't be surprised if we vanish one day. Until then, we're having fun reconnecting with all you alumni! There is also a general Conrad Grebel University College group you can join, or become a fan of Grebel.

# People

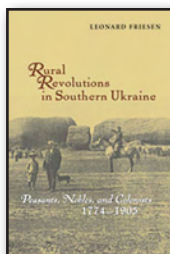


**Dave Chodos ('05)** and **Natasha Krahn ('94)** were married in Waterloo, ON on June 29, 2008. They currently reside in Edmonton, where Dave is pursuing a PhD in Computing Science at the University of Alberta and Natasha is working as a research assistant for the Department of Medicine, also at the University of Alberta.

**Travis Martin ('05)** is working on his Masters of Landscape Architecture at UBC. He is currently doing a study abroad at Wageningen University until June.

**Leila (Carvalho) ('96)** married **Rob Knetsch ('94)** and they have two beautiful daughters, **Aliyah (6)** and little **Zara (3 1/2)**. Leila is a high school Biology/Chemistry and Co-op teacher in the Toronto District School Board in Scarborough and is currently pursuing a M.Ed. at U of T. Leila spends her spare time cooking, reading and hanging out with friends. "I really miss Grebel days and whizzing around campus on my bike instead of commuting by car!"

**Len Friesen ('80, '81, '89)** has just published a book with Harvard University Press called "Rural Revolutions in Southern Ukraine". This book contributes to an understanding of Imperial Russia, as well as contemporary Ukraine, by describing and analyzing rural developmental patterns over time. It explores how, when, and why agriculturalists made adjustments to long-established agrarian and social practices, and provides a fresh perspective on the link between the end of empire and the rural developments that preceded it.



**Jessica Pigeon-Sauve ('03)** moved to Ottawa after graduating from UW and lived there for 4 years. She traveled to Spain, living in Barcelona for 4 months and did a bit of travel around Europe before coming back to Canada. Jessica got married October 7, 2006 to **Joe Sauve**. She then went to College and got a degree in HR and now lives in Toronto with her husband and her dog, Hudson. No babies yet...

**Geoff Suderman-Gladwell ('86)** will begin as principal of Linwood Public School starting this March.

After teaching in Scarborough for 10 years (and pastoring a church in Pickering) in 1987 **Ross ('74)** and **Jennifer Gerber** moved to Sturgis, Michigan to serve on the pastoral staff of Grace Christian Fellowship. They have three grown and married children and two grandsons. Ross now serves as Senior Pastor of the church (since 1998) and has just returned from his 5th trip to Uganda in 2 & 1/2 years. Ross and Jennifer have been participating as Associate Trainers with John Maxwell's "Million Leader Mandate." On this most recent trip they graduated 110 young up and coming leaders in the nation. They plan to return to Uganda regularly to further teach and train churches and their leaders. You can visit the church's website at [www.gracesturgis.com](http://www.gracesturgis.com)



**Graham Wall ('97)** and **Susan (Sims) Wall ('99)** are excited to tell you about their two boys. **Lucas David** was born May 23, 2005 in Karlsruhe Germany where the Wall family lived from August 2004-2006. They enjoyed a lot of traveling around Europe while Graham worked at Siemens. In August 2006, they returned to Peterborough. Lucas loves tools, Lego, and his new baby brother **Simon Alexander** who was born November 25, 2008. Graham continues to pursue his passion for long-distance running. In October, he ran his first marathon, and is working hard to qualify for the Boston marathon. Sue is on maternity leave from her part-time Kindergarten teacher position. Last year Sue discovered that she was teaching with Lisa, the wife of Grebelite, Terry Noble. She was amazed to learn that Terry was one of the first skybunk architects. Feel free to contact Sue & Graham at [sg28wall@yahoo.ca](mailto:sg28wall@yahoo.ca) or on Facebook!

**Amanda Cressman ('02)** recently graduated from The Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine, as a Naturopathic Doctor. She's returned to the KW area to set up her practice at Advanced Family Wellness. If you're in need of a Naturopath, let her know! She can be reached at [dr.amandasue@gmail.com](mailto:dr.amandasue@gmail.com) or at the clinic, 519-885-1231. In her spare time, Amanda enjoys connecting with friends and happy to be back in the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

**Derek Satnik ('02)** was profiled in the premiere issue of Catalyst, a publication from UW's Centre for Business, Entrepreneurship and Technology. Derek took his background in electrical engineering and his passion for the environment and founded Mindscape Innovations, a turn-key full lifecycle solutions provider for environmentally and technologically advanced homes, businesses, and communities. "Mindscape is comprised of 3 divisions that focus on different facets of green building. Energyscape focuses on renewable sources of energy, while Greenscape deals with green buildings and helping builders construct LEED and ENERGY STAR certified homes. The third division, Mediascape, specializes in "structured cabling" in homes – everything from home security to lighting and HVAC control systems." Derek was named Entrepreneur of the Year in 2008 by the Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce. Find out more at [www.mi-groups.ca](http://www.mi-groups.ca).



**Karen Yeats ('03)** and **Cameron Morland ('03)** have moved to Burnaby, BC, along with their 2-year old, **Russell**. Karen recently finished her PhD, and started this month as a math prof. at Simon Fraser University, while Cameron should be done his degree in computational neuroscience in a few months.

**Doug (MTS '94)**, and **Miriam Zehr** will be moving to Nigeria in early 2009 to serve with Mennonite Central Committee for the next three years. Doug will be teaching at the Gindiri College of Theology in Gindiri, Nigeria, a church leaders training facility of the Church of Christ. Miriam will also be teaching on the eight school campus. They just concluded 14.5 years of pastoral ministry at North Leo Mennonite Church, Leo Indiana, where Doug was lead pastor and Miriam served as Administrative Assistant, Youth Minister and most recently as Family Life Minister. They have three daughters.

**Shawna (Klassen) ('98)** and **Chad Hiley** welcomed little girl #2 on July 4th of last year. **Alyssa Jane** made **Carlyn** a big sister, and Daddy thoroughly outnumbered by ladies. Shawna is enjoying a leisurely maternity leave from her job as a prof in the Biotechnology department at Centennial College, until September of this year.

**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:greblweb@uwaterloo.ca)



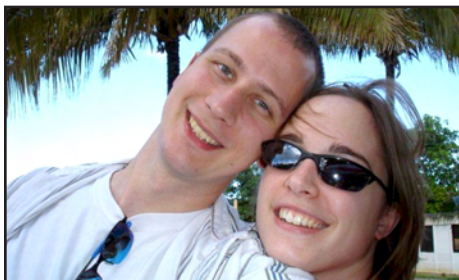
**Kirk Schmidt ('04)**

ran as an independent candidate in the 40th Federal Election in the riding of Calgary West. He earned 1,790 votes, 9th best vote percentage in Canada of the 72 independents who ran. He was profiled on CBC.ca's main page at one point during the election.



**Kara Klassen ('08)** was chosen as Renison University's valedictorian and graduated on the Dean's Honours List with a Joint Honours in Peace and Conflict Studies and Social Development Studies. Marlene Epp's course on Gender in War and Peace impacted Kara's honours thesis on rape as a weapon of war in Congo. She was recently profiled in an article about an appeal for Congo in The Record. Given her passion for peace, Kara's dream is to work with an international NGO in mediation and bridge building especially in conflict situations.

**Andrew Roth ('06)** won two tickets to Commie Supper for answering the alumni survey sent out in the fall. Did you answer yours?



**Matthew Waltner-Toews ('00)** married **Lydia Twining ('05)** two years ago and they are now living in Australia while Lydia is in med-school. Matt is working as an architect/landscape architect in Adelaide. They have no kids, no pets, potted plants galore, and one car that they try not to drive, since they are in walking distance from work and school. They have massive international-student debt... but hey, they're in Australia, so they can go surfing on the weekend!

**Jill Trenholm ('06)** is living in Sweden where she finished her masters degree in International Health and is in the process of registering for her PhD at Uppsala University. As part of her research she traveled to DRC in Africa with two Swedish midwives to research men's attitudes and perceptions towards rape as it is currently being used as a weapon of war there. "My PACS diploma serves me well as an important basis of knowledge when working with these issues," she wrote. "My PACS training was the highlight of my undergrad and I have used the skills I learnt in personal and practical ways as well as in academic pursuits."

**Meg Bauman ('03)** is a recent addition to the Grebel staff as Recruitment & Events Coordinator. During her time away from Grebel Meg was getting married, having babies, teaching at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate and completing an MA in Education. She resides in Waterloo with her husband Mike and two children, Kate (4) and Samuel (1 ½).



**Andrew Jason** was born April 23, 2008 joining **Jason** and **Bethanne (Friesen) ('02) Droppert** and their 3 year old son **Jonathan**. Jason and Bethanne own Peak Fitness in Waterloo and both work as personal trainers in the company. They do one-on-one personal training and their clientele ranges from beginners to elite athletes, students to seniors. Jason does seminars in the community and church to promote a healthy lifestyle. He is also working with the city to introduce a new extracurricular program to highschool students focused on physical activity and healthy living. [www.peakfitness.ca](http://www.peakfitness.ca)

**Craig Martin ('99)** has been appointed Assistant Professor of Business and Organizational Administration at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg.

**Gord Durnin ('87)** has returned from years of video journalism in Central America to live in Washington DC where he working on camera and edit production for Al Jazeera International's English language television news channel.

**Jennifer Thiessen ('00)** and **Nathan Scott ('01)** welcomed **Annelise Clara Thiessen Scott** into the world on January 24, 2008. Anna was born at home in Vineland and she was in such a hurry that she arrived before the midwives did! Big sister **Abigail** (almost 4) loves having a partner in crime, especially now that Anna is walking! Nathan continues to run his import business from home and Jennifer will soon be returning part time to her position as a librarian at Brock University.



**Tim Corlis ('98)** has been nominated for a Juno Music Award in the Classical Composition of the Year category. Commissioned and recorded by the DaCapo Chamber Choir, "Notes Towards A Poem That Can Never Be Written" is a twenty-six minute choral work based on the poem by Margaret Atwood. WholeNote Magazine described the piece as "a shattering experience of Margaret Atwood's nearly brutal poetry, linked with Corlis' masterful writing. It is twenty-five of the most intense minutes of listening you are likely to experience." Tim's music has been described as "atmospherically striking" and "bursting with vigour and truth." Get your cd at [cdbaby.com/cd/timothycorlis](http://cdbaby.com/cd/timothycorlis)



## REESOR Bringing Mennonite history to the Fringe Fest stage.

A set with bare tree branches and a cluster of home-made instruments is the backdrop for the powerful telling of the settlement of "Reesor". The northern Ontario railway siding west of Kapuskasing is where "Anna Wiens" and her father and brothers are dropped off after immigrating from Russia in the 1920's. Her sister Katie and Mother will "come later" according to her father. Katie is the recipient of many lonely letters from Anna as she relates the trials of homesteading in a harsh and unfertile environment.

"We wanted to bring a twist to the typical Mennonite immigrant stories we grew up with" noted UW Drama grad **Erin Brandenburg ('02)** after the January 16 performance of "Reesor". "The fact that this immigrant community faced such hardship in Northern Ontario, had limited success and ultimately moved on, is different and somehow more poignant than the other immigrant stories we often hear."

This is the type of story that needs to be told and as an actor, Erin portrays the tenderness, fear, hope and pain of this experience with grace and power.

Erin and her husband Andrew Penner, the musical director for the production, are following their passion in the dramatic world. They have also produced "Pelee" a play about the island for the Summerworks Theatre festival in 2008 and plans are in the works for a production that focuses on the Mexican Mennonite experience.



## Calendar of Events 2009

Thursday & Friday, March 26th & 27th  
7:30 pm, Great Hall  
**Bechtel Lectures**

Sunday, April 5th  
3:00 pm, Atrium  
**Celebrate Teaching - Alumni Event**

Sunday, April 19th  
2:00 pm, ML Theatre of the Arts  
**Conrad Grebel Convocation**

Wednesday, April 22nd  
7:00 pm, Great Hall  
**Public Forum on the Middle East**

April 24th & 26th  
**Chapel Choir tour**

Thursday, June 11th  
6:30 pm, Dining Room  
**Lebold Endowment Fundraising Banquet**

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

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

## 2009 Bechtel Lectures

March 26 & 27 at 7:30 pm  
Conrad Grebel Great Hall  
with Ched Myers and Elaine Enns  
**"Ambassadors of Reconciliation:  
Biblical And Contemporary Witnesses"**  
[grebel.uwaterloo.ca/bechtel](http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca/bechtel)  
or [clichti@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:clichti@uwaterloo.ca) or 519-885-0220, x24237

## Daryl & Cindy Byler PUBLIC FORUM

on the situation in Palestine and Israel



Wednesday, April 22nd at 7:00 pm

## Ralph and Eileen Lebold Endowment Fundraising Banquet

Thursday June 11 at 6:30 pm  
Extending the Table: Becoming a  
Global Community of Faith  
featuring **Ron Mathies**  
For tickets call Carol Lichti at  
519-885-0220 x24223 or [clichti@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:clichti@uwaterloo.ca)

## Celebrate Teaching

Sunday, April 5 at 3:00 pm

Conrad Grebel Atrium

This celebration for teachers includes a reception, visiting, networking, a short panel discussion moderated by Ed Bergey, and the presentation of this year's Distinguished Alumni Service award.  
**All Grebel alumni and spouses are welcome.**

## Grebel Summer Accommodations

Have your summer event at Grebel!  
Single or double rooms, 4-person apartments, classrooms, meeting rooms, and the dining room are all available for use!  
Call Meg Bauman at 519-885-0220 x24264

## Reunion!

for 1990-95 Alumni

**Saturday, September 26th**  
Reconnect with your friends at this family friendly event!  
Contact Fred Martin at [fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca) to volunteer with planning.

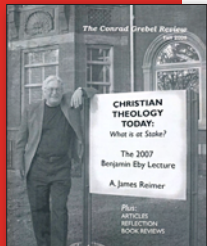
## Grebel Review

Fall 2008

**Christian Theology Today: What is at Stake?**

(The 2007 Benjamin Eby Lecture by A. James Reimer)

To subscribe:  
519-885-0220 x24242 or  
[cgreview@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cgreview@uwaterloo.ca)



## Grebel Travel Courses

**Explore the World of Paul**

with Tom Yoder Neufeld  
April 29 – May 15, 2009

**Music and Culture in London**

with Ken Hull  
May 6-20, 2009

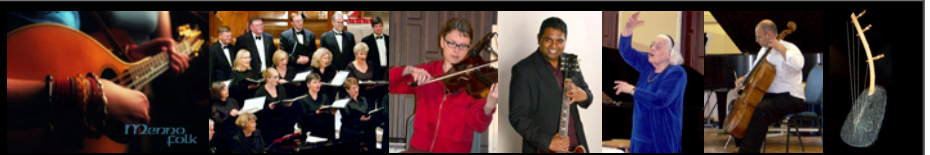
Contact [cgucacad@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cgucacad@uwaterloo.ca) for more info.



## Sound in the Lands

June 4-8, 2009  
Conrad Grebel University College at the University of Waterloo, Canada

a Festival/Conference of Mennonites & Music



South African guitarist Mageshen Naidoo, Cuban troubador Amós Lopez, Congolese composer Maurice Mondongo, Carol Ann Weaver,

Sound in the Lands 2009 brings together musicians and music lovers from across North America and around the world for concerts, performances, workshops, and academic presentations featuring Mennonite-related music making – locally, globally, cross-culturally, new, and old. Music will range from folk to classical, Afrobeat to Middle Eastern, group singing to choral, rock to alternative, bluegrass to gospel, jazz/improv/new music, and more!

**Keynotes by Alice Parker & Mary Oyer**

**Thurs. June 4** workshops, performances, MennoFolk  
**Fri. June 5** papers, chamber music concert  
**Sat. June 6** papers, banquet, multi-media collaborative concert  
**Sun. June 7** hymn singing, choral music concert  
**Mon. June 8** breakfast musical farewell

To register: Meg Bauman [infocguc@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:infocguc@uwaterloo.ca)  
519-885-0220 x24264

More info: Carol Ann Weaver [caweaver@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:caweaver@uwaterloo.ca)  
519-885-0220 x24245



[grebel.uwaterloo.ca/soundinthelands](http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca/soundinthelands)

Bender, Jeff Enns: duo pianists Redkopp and Edwards, & more!

Leonard Enns, Menno Singers, Rockway Collegiate Choir