



a l u m n i n e w s

On a "learning curve"

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This newsletter continues the stream of reflections from alumni who are involved in business—or, we could say, alumni who are using their training and skills in settings that we may not always recognize as being pastoral.

Beyond this opening story, the newsletter includes a variety of information about and for alumni. Without an overall theme, this issue represents the four goals of the AMBS Alumni Association:

- Communicating about the realities of ministry.
- Promoting ongoing development of alumni by connecting them to seminary resources.
- Cultivating collegial relationships among alumni.
- Encouraging contributions of prayer, finances and student recruits.

— Mary E. Klassen, editor

My adventure into business is a rather unique journey. I was raised in a Saskatchewan farm family, wholly at home in the farm business arena.

The call to pastoral ministry led me to AMBS and from there into pastoral work, serving four congregations over thirty-five years in Canada. In addition I served several short interim periods with congregations after retirement. I had owned farm property while in seminary. My family operated the cash cropping for me, which helped with semi-

nary costs.

The role of pastor had changed after I began my ministry and I often felt that I could be more than how most people saw me as "just a pastor"! Then, on retirement, I decided to go into business, retailing commercial riding lawn mowers, primarily to agriculture.

This business connects me to my family, [my youngest brother had begun his company manufacturing commercial mowers in 1978], to skills I had developed long ago [as a farmer working with machinery] and employs

the many people skills I had acquired after seminary.

I feel comfortable working within the wider rural community, the farmer's world. Theologically, I view all relationships, including those in business, as having a spiritual dimension, and a wider world, now south central Ontario [!] as my arena.

In working with Mennonite pastoral colleagues during my thirty five years, I unfortunately found many to be quite competitive and territorial! Both qualities are uncalled for in serving people in pastoral ministry but seem to have a legitimate place in the business world. Being of a competitive nature, I found that I could release that part of me more easily, which I could not legitimately do before in pastoral ministry. I also find that I have a tendency to "over service" my customers and not charge what my business demands. I am also not comfortable with the "shameless self-promotion" the business seems to call for.

I believe that as part of the economy I am helping people identify and use a product that helps them to take care of "God's

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Mary E. Klassen

Mulugeta Zewdie Woldemichael (left) visited AMBS in September as he was enroute to a conference in Kansas. The 2003 MAPS graduate spoke in chapel and to the Mission and Peace Colloquium about his work as president of the Meserete Kristos College in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Prior to his seminary studies, he was general secretary of the Meserete Kristos Church in Ethiopia. "We have started peace teaching and it is now part of the syllabus," Mulugeta reported. "We have established a peace and reconciliation office at the national level of the church."

Kaye Ferguson-Patton and Richard Patton featured Class explores leadership in the Emerging Church

The summer course, Leadership Sea Changes in the Emerging Church, featured a variety of presenters with extensive pastoral ministry and consulting experience. Kaye Ferguson-Patton (MDiv 1999) and Richard Patton (former AMBS student) were two of these presenters, sharing from their experiences in congregational leadership.

Kaye told about the remarkable growth in the congregation she serves, Markle United Methodist, south of Fort Wayne, Ind. "The best thing to be as a pastor of a church going through change is to be the congregation's greatest cheerleader," Kaye said.

Kaye also named other aspects of the pastor's role in leading a congregation through change:

1. Be clear about your mission and core values.
2. Change yourself! Color outside the lines of



Kaye Ferguson-Patton is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, serving as pastor of Markle (Ind.) United Methodist Church. Richard Patton is a deacon in the United Methodist Church, serving as associate minister of worship arts and minister of adult education at St. Joseph United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne. Both Kaye and Richard are musicians, and demonstrated how they integrate contemporary music and technology with more traditional forms of worship to meet varied needs in their congregations.



Mary E. Klassen

3. Preach possibilities, change and transformation.
4. Look at the church as a Petri dish for transformation instead of a holding tank for the status quo.

5. You can't lead people where you are not willing to go.
 6. Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate!
- Kaye also emphasized, "Bathe everything in prayer."

The Leadership Sea

Changes course was organized by Art McPhee, AMBS professor of mission and intercultural studies. Funding for the course came from the Engaging Pastors project for which AMBS received a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. ●

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AMBS Alumni News is published three times a year by Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. It is intended to keep alumni informed about each other and AMBS. Please send suggestions for articles or information about alumni activities, honors, publications, to: Mary E. Klassen, editor
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Alumni Ministry and Service Award Call for nominations

The AMBS Alumni Association Executive Committee invites all alumni to nominate graduates for the annual Alumni Ministry and Service Awards. The purpose of the award is to recognize and celebrate outstanding ministry and service by graduates.

The enclosed nomination form gives detailed criteria. Please note that all graduates of Goshen Biblical Seminary (GBS), Mennonite Biblical Semi-

nary (MBS) and AMBS qualify.

Use the enclosed form to make your nomination by January 1, 2006. Awards will be announced in May. One or two awards are given each year.

Winners will receive \$500 toward registration fees for AMBS courses or continuing education events. ●

On a "learning curve"

(continued)

garden" i.e. their farm property and helps people take some pride in their "place."

Theologically, I find intriguing the relationship between farmers, their "tools," the land, and the divine! Psychologically, I believe that people need to be on a "learning curve" till life is done! I remain on such a "learning curve"! If anyone wants to respond to these ideas, visit me at www.deines.ca ●

Online resources for graduates

Graduates of AMBS are invited to request access to ATLAS (ATLAS), a database of web-based resources for ministry.

ATLAS includes full text journal and magazine articles from more than 70 publications. Titles include *Interpretation*, *Christianity Today*, *Christian Century*, *Journal for Preachers*, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Modern Theology* and *Mission Studies*.

The Alumni Association's subscription to ATLAS is one of the secondary resources that contributes directly to ongoing development of alumni.

Beginning January 1, 2006, ATLAS is limiting the alumni program to degree-holding graduates. In response to this change,

AMBS is now issuing the new username and password to each AMBS (also GBS and MBS) graduate who requests this login information.

The AMBS Library also will collaborate with ATLAS to gather information from ATLAS users that will improve services and contribute to ATLAS's efforts to encourage use of this collection of online articles. In the next two years, AMBS graduates who use ATLAS will have several opportunities to provide feedback for this process.

To obtain a new login, graduates may send an e-mail message to Sharon Baker (sbaker@ambs.edu). Be sure to include address, phone number and AMBS degree. ●



Several AMBS alumni were present at the 50th anniversary of AEM, Associação Evangélica Menonita (Brazilian Evangelical Mennonite Association) at a retreat centre near Gama, Brazil, July 21–24, 2005.

Back row, left to right:

Peter Siemens (MATS 1991) pastor, former moderator of AEM; Fran and Bob Gerber (former missionaries in Brazil); Suse Penner, widow of Teo Penner from Curitiba, Paraná; Teo (MBS student) was former President and Executive Secretary of AEM; Betty (CTh 1995) and Otis Hochstetler (MATS 1986), retired missionaries, still living in Brasilia; Stephen Plenert (MDiv 1998) former missionary; Dan Nighswander (MDiv 1979), General Secretary of Mennonite Church Canada, present as a fraternal visitor.

Front row:

Glenn Musselman (BD/MDiv 1969), former missionary; David Hostetler (GBS student), former missionary; Margarit (CTh 1991) and Michel Ummel (MATS 1991), fraternal visitors from Switzerland.

Alumni News

The North Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recognized several AMBS alumni: **Jill Wright** (MDiv 2002), ordained as Elder; **Catherine Koziatek** (MDiv 2004), **Charlene Harris Allen** (MDiv 2005), **Thomas Thews** (MDiv 2004), and **Donna Goings**, approved to be commissioned into probationary ordained ministry.

Amy Nissley (MACF 2005) was licensed and installed as associate pastor at Bethel Mennonite Church, Moundtain Lake, Minn., on June 12.

Jeanine Childs (CTh 2002) has completed two additional units of Clinical Pastoral Education at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, Ind. She is working toward completing a Ph.D. in psychology and is teaching full time at Taylor University in Upland, Ind. She also is continuing to work toward ordination as a deacon in the United Methodist Church.

Steven M. Nolt (MATS 1994) and Thomas J. Meyers are authors of *An Amish Patchwork: Indiana's Old Orders in the Modern World*, published in February 2005 by Indiana University Press.

Melanie Neufeld (MDiv 2005) and four others from Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich., authored the article, "I'm a Health Nut! Street drug users' accounts of self-care strategies," in *Journal of Drug Issues*, September 2005. Melanie completed an MSW degree in 2004 in the dual-degree program AMBS administers with Andrews.

Beverly L. Suderman-Gladwell (MDiv 1991) is a chaplain at Parkwood Mennonite Home in Waterloo, Ont. **Geoffrey Suderman-Gladwell** completed an M.Education in 2000 and is vice principal of a

junior high school in Cambridge.

Walter Hochstetler (MDiv 1970) lives with his wife and two daughters in the Beech Grove Bruderhof Community in East Kent, England. His activities include prison ministry and hosting guests who visit their community and peace garden. He also works part-time in the reception office and in the wood products factory.

Paul M. Lederach (BTh 1946) recently authored a book about the history of Franconia Mennonite, Telford, Pa., from 1729 to 2004: *Surrounded by Many Witnesses*. In 2003, his book about the history of Blooming Glen (Pa.) Mennonite from 1753 to 2003—*Seeking What Cannot Be Seen*—was published.

Tim Schrag (MDiv 1985) and Sue, his wife, completed their cross-country Pedaling for Peace bicycle trip. They offered this ride as a fundraising opportunity for several organizations and through this effort, AMBS received \$7,555 in gifts and pledges which will be used for peace studies programs.

Read about Tim and Sue's experiences and see photos at the web site of Mennonite Church of Normal where Tim is pastor: www.normalmennonite.com/peace.

Births

Levi Nelson to **David Moser** (MDiv 1996) and **Ingrid Friesen Moser** (MACF 2002), July 17, 2005.

Renae Elena to **Maribeth Longacre Benner** (MDiv 1998) and Darin Benner, May 23, 2005.

Levi Roshan to **Nisha S. Springer** (registrar) and **Ryan Springer** (student 1997–1999), September 4, 2005.

Contribute to an upcoming issue of AMBS Alumni News



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Monthly AMBS eNews

If you would like to receive a monthly electronic newsletter with updates on events and AMBS news, send a message to advancement@ams.edu.

Pastors Week

Pastors Week, January 23–26, 2006, will focus on events and rituals in congregational life—weddings, funerals, baptisms and communion. See more at www.ams.edu; select *Church Leadership Center*, then *Pastors Week*.

New mission statement

AMBS has adopted a new mission statement. The succinct 30-word statement summarizes what God is calling AMBS to be and do:

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary serves the church as a learning community with an Anabaptist vision, educating followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God's reconciling mission in the world.

Information about the statement is in the summer issue of *AMBS Window*: www.ams.edu/publications/AMBS_Window_summer_2005.pdf.

How do pastors respond when disaster strikes? How do pastors provide pastoral care in community crises?

These are questions the Alumni Association Executive Committee would like to explore in an upcoming issue of *AMBS Alumni News*.

If you have been involved in disaster relief or response to crisis, what have you learned that others may benefit from? Or what have you experienced that can help others prepare?

Whether your experience is as recent as the

January tsunami and fall hurricanes, or if you have been part of communities that have survived crises of other proportions in the past, share your stories with fellow alumni.

Send brief stories to Mary E. Klassen, editor, mklassen@ams.edu. These will be included in a 2006 issue of this newsletter. ●

Fund-raising continues for library and campus center

With the goal of breaking ground in spring, planning for a new facility to house the AMBS library continues.

While the library is the primary portion of the new structure, other features include:

- new space for the AMBS Cooperative Bookstore;
- renovated space (now the library reading room) for the student lounge, complete with a coffee bar;
- renovated offices for the Church Leadership Center;
- a new foyer and gathering area;
- reassigned space for offices and meeting rooms.

One overarching goal of the construction project is respect and care for God's creation. That means decisions about design, construction and sustain-

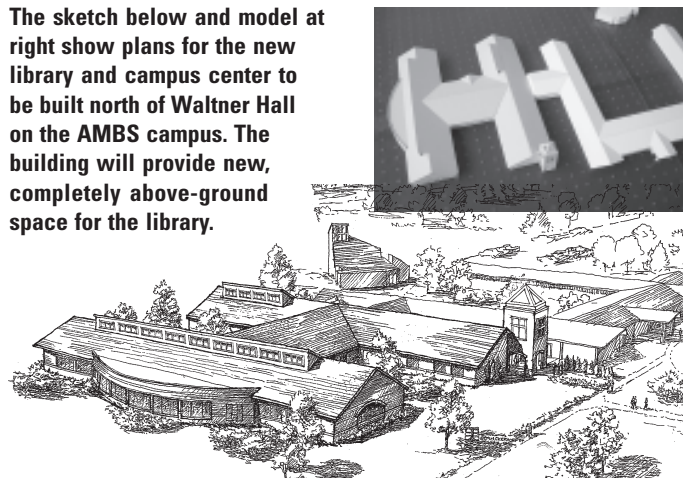
able maintenance are being made now to keep impact on the environment as low as possible.

With this emphasis on a "green building," AMBS is working to achieve gold certification according to L.E.E.D. (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Other commitments also are shaping the design:

- Hospitality to welcome scholars—both students and guests—in a comfortable and convenient place for research, study, reflection and writing.
- Integration of new technologies and traditional materials to support scholarship of past generations and contemporary authors.
- Visibility of the library—and thus the seminary as a whole—as a place for

The sketch below and model at right show plans for the new library and campus center to be built north of Waltner Hall on the AMBS campus. The building will provide new, completely above-ground space for the library.



scholarship, theological dialogue and pastoral training.

AMBS is seeking contributions to complete the funding for the project. In order for groundbreaking to occur in spring, construction costs must be pledged or in hand by December 31.

Alumni are invited to make a special gift to this project, recognizing the importance of the library in

their seminary experience. **Please consider a pledge or gift before the end of the year.**

For information and to make a gift, see the AMBS web site: www.ams.edu. Select *For Friends and Alumni*, then *Next Generation Campaign*. Or send an e-mail message to development@ams.edu; or call 1+800-964-2627. ●