



a l u m n i n e w s

A M B S ■

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*"Sing a new song to the one who has said, Behold, I make all things new."**

We have entered the season of Pentecost celebrating the coming of Christ's Spirit among us and the varieties of gifts given through the Spirit. This summer issue of *AMBS Alumni News* celebrates the Spirit gifts of many persons connected with AMBS—alumni, faculty and staff—from years past and into the current year; Spirit gifts shared in multiple ways, all over the world. As an extended alumni community, let us celebrate the ways God's powerful presence has been expressed in the lives of these AMBS friends.
— Louise Wideman
Alumni Association president

*"New earth, heavens new"
by Harris J. Loewen

AMBS celebrates 50th anniversary and dedicates new library

On April 25 and 26 friends of AMBS gathered for two days of celebration on the Elkhart campus. After a dedication service in the Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount, worshippers processed to the library, lounge, gallery and bookstore to pray for each space. Visit www.ams.edu/anniversary-dedication for stories and photos.

Helen Kruger receives award

Helen Kruger of Saskatoon, Sask., is the recipient of the 2008 AMBS Alumni Ministry and Service Award. She will receive the award at the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly in Winnipeg, Man., in July.

Education has been a theme through Helen's life, starting when she was a teacher in a country school in Saskatchewan at 17. Over the next 50 years, she was dean of women at Rosthern Junior College and taught at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate and in Clinical Pastoral Education programs. She earned a B.S. in nursing at Bethel College, North Newton, Kan., in 1958, an M.R.E at AMBS in 1961, an M.A. in English in 1974, an M.A. in German in 1980, and an M.Div. at AMBS in 1996.



Provided

Helen is noted for her strengths in connecting with others, her ability to effectively address issues and her persistence even in difficult situations. She has helped to foster acceptance of women in ministry by the way she provides pastoral care and is sensitive to other's needs.

She was the first woman to serve on the board of MBS, beginning in 1974. In

addition, she became one of a small group of women who are certified teaching supervisors in CAPPE, the Canadian association of chaplains. She and William, her husband, served as co-pastors of Foothills Mennonite Church in Calgary and later as interim pastors in Swift Current. Helen has served on the boards of Mennonite World Conference, the General Conference Mennonite Church and the Commission on Education of the General Conference, and was vice chair of the Saskatchewan Mennonite Conference. She also has written Christian education curriculum materials.

With this award, the AMBS Alumni Association expresses thanks to Helen for a lifetime of service to the church. ●



Mary E. Klassen

Two new alumni association nominees

Mandy Yoder and Catherine Koziatek

Two alumni are being nominated to serve on the Alumni Association Executive Committee: Mandy Yoder of Indianapolis, Ind., and Catherine Koziatek of Elkhart, Ind.

To affirm Mandy and Catherine as new members for the Executive Committee:

- send an e-mail message to Ron Ringenberg, alumni director, rringenb@ambs.edu; or
- return the enclosed post-card.

If affirmed, Mandy will serve as vice-president of the committee for two years and then president for two years. Catherine will serve a three-year term as member-at-large. They will replace Louise Wideman and Joann Kaiser who is completing the term of Jill Wright.



Provided

Mandy Yoder

I am a 2003 graduate of AMBS (M.Div.) currently serving as associate pastor at First Mennonite Church in Indianapolis, Ind. My areas of focus at FMC are pastoral care and Christian formation for children

and youth. Right now I am really looking forward to the youth group's summer service experience with DOOR in Chicago.

However, following that service trip I will be leaving my position at FMC to move with my family to the Goshen-Elkhart area where my husband, Jon Schrock, has accepted a new job. Also a part of my family is my one-year-old son, Noah. Noah is looking forward to being closer to both sets of grandparents once we move north. He hopes that living closer will allow them to spoil him even more.

In my free time I enjoy the following activities:

(1) playing with Noah, (2) taking walks with Jon and Noah, (3) sleeping, (4) eating, (5) reading novels, (6) telling my family's story through scrapbooking and blogging, and (7) watching home shows on TV. I am eager to join the AMBS Alumni Executive Committee because I am very grateful to AMBS for my own education and formation and because I believe deeply in the contribution that AMBS makes to the church. But more importantly I have heard that the Alumni Executive Committee is a fun group of people that laughs a lot. ●

Catherine Koziatek

I was born in Draveil, France (south of Paris), to a French father and American mother. I grew up in Provence and graduated from high school and business college in France.

After moving to the U.S. in 1985, following an internship, I worked for a French-based aviation company in Grand Prairie, Texas. While there, I studied business at the University of Texas at Arlington. When I moved to Indiana for family reasons, I studied and graduated with a B.A. from Indiana University, South Bend.

I started attending Trinity United Methodist Church in Elkhart, my grandmother's church, and that is where I felt the call to full-time ministry most strongly and where

this call was affirmed and nurtured.

September of 2000 saw my starting seminary at AMBS, a great milestone. Just two weeks prior, I had gone on the Emmaus Walk, another milestone

While in seminary, I served as a student pastor for two years at New Carlisle UMC. I graduated from AMBS in July of 2004 with a Master of Divinity, with an emphasis in pastoral care and counseling. My first full-time appointment was in Frankfort (Lafayette District). My second appointment was in Granger, and since June of 2007, I am the pastor of Elkhart Bethel UMC.

On March 12, 2008, I was approved for ordination as a full elder by our Board of Ordained Ministry. The ordina-

tion ceremony will take place during our Annual Conference at Purdue University, West Lafayette, on May 31.

I enjoy reading, walking, watching movies, traveling, baking and crafts. My husband, Steve, likes reading, cars, working on computers and building models. Steve and I have been married for almost 19 years and we have three cats, Fluffy, PT and Salem. ●



Mary E. Klassen

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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 574 296-6229 mklassen@ambs.edu

Alumni Director: Ron Ringenberg

Alumni Association Executive Committee:

Louise Wideman, president
Darrell Fast, vice president
Myron Schrag
Pamela Yoder
Joann Kaiser

Alumni News

John R. Martin (ThB 1955, BD 1960) was honored on January 23 at Eastern Mennonite Seminary for more than 50 years of ministry.

Rachel Siemens (MDiv 2007) was installed as pastor of Wadsworth (Ohio) Mennonite Church on Nov. 11, 2007.

Ingrid Friesen Moser (MACF 2002) is author of *Body Talk: Speaking the Words of Health*. The book is the fourth in MMA's Living Stewardship study series. Ingrid is MMA's stewardship of health manager.

Howard M. Snider (BD 1957) is author of *Jesus or Christ?* (Infinity Publishing 2007) addressing the role Paul played in early Christianity.

David Foncannon (MDiv 1993), was awarded third place in the fourth annual art literary competition of *Sculptural Pursuit* magazine, in the universal peace theme category. His entry was images of several sculptures in alabaster. His bluegrass band, Fireweed, has released a compact disk with his song, "Step out on the water," as the title cut.

Audrey Ratzlaff (MDiv 2007) was installed as pastor at the Yoked Fellowship of Zion Mennonite and Donnellson Presbyterian Churches in Iowa, on Dec. 2, 2007.

Thomas Meylan (MDiv 1982) and Terry Teays coauthored a book, *Optimizing Luck*, a case study on leadership practices and corporate culture of a NASA project in which Thomas was a manager.

Ordinations

Amy Nissley, (MACF 2004) associate pastor of Bethel Mennonite Church, Mountain Lake, Minn., was ordained on Oct. 14, 2007.

Catherine Koziatek (MDiv 2004), **Tom Thews** (MDiv 2004)

and **Donna Goings** (2000–2005) were approved for ordination as full elders in the United Methodist Church. The ordination ceremony will take place on May 31 at the Northern Indiana UMC gathering.

Peter G. Janzen (MDiv 1991) was ordained on Sept. 30, 2007, at First Mennonite Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. He also is an ordained hospital chaplain with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada.

Rachel Epp Miller (MDiv 2004), pastor of San Antonio (Texas) Mennonite Church, was ordained on Feb. 24, 2008.

Eric Deckert (MDiv 1997) was ordained May 6, 2007, at Salem-Zion Mennonite Church, Freeman, S.D.

Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg (current student) was ordained Oct. 14, 2007, at Zion Mennonite Church, Archbold, Ohio.

Paula Snyder Belousek (MDiv 2005) was ordained at Prairie Street Mennonite Church, Elkhart, on Dec. 2, 2007.

Births

Marta Amalia Brill Bergstresser on May 2, 2008, to **Deron** (MDiv 2004) and

Annette Brill Bergstresser (Cert 2006).

Mira Susannah Yoder on April 12, 2008, to **Pamela** (MDiv 2001) and **Bob Yoder** (MDiv 2001).

Deaths

J. Marvin Nafziger (MRE) on April 29, 2008, in Goshen, Ind.

Walter Hochstetler (MDiv 1970) on Nov. 20, 2007, in Nonington, England. He was a founding member of the Fellowship of Hope congregation in Elkhart.

AMBS News

John Rempel will advance to associate professor of theology and Anabaptist studies on July 1, in action taken by the AMBS board in April.

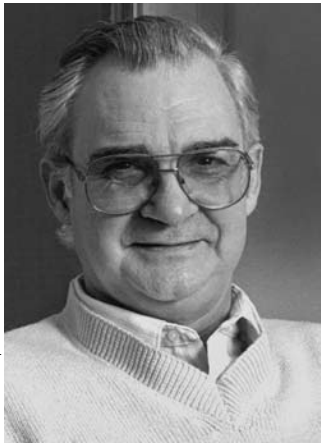
Willard Swartley, professor emeritus of New Testament, received the 2008 Dale Brown Book Award for Outstanding Book in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, for his volume *Covenant of Peace: The Missing Peace in New Testament Theology and Ethics* (Eerdmans 2006). The award is organized

After a storytelling forum prior to the 50th anniversary celebration, several alumni gathered to look at a 1959 Goshen College yearbook: Catherine Aschliman (MRE 1959), John Rempel (MDiv 1974 and faculty), Dan Zehr (BD 1962), Elaine Zehr and Janeen Bertsche Johnson (MDiv 1989 and campus pastor). Dan and Elaine are volunteers from Abbotsford, B.C., through SOOP (Service Opportunities for Older Persons). For more photos and stories, visit www.ambs.edu/anniversary-dedication



Mary E. Klassen

In Memoriam



AMBS archive photo

Joseph Hertzler, retired director of development, died Tuesday, April 15, after an extended illness. Joe had served in seminary relations and development from 1971 to 1997, and was acting

president of Goshen Biblical Seminary from 1973 to 1974. He received a B.D. from GBS in 1967 and was ordained the same year.

"Joe Hertzler was a wonderful mentor to me with his experience in development," Leroy Saner, current assistant director of development, said. "His extensive knowledge of the seminary and the constituency was a great asset to the seminary."

Early in his life, Hertzler was engaged in a landscaping business and used this experience at AMBS. He coordinating the planting of 3,000 trees on the campus and designed the small hillocks

around campus to use soil that was excavated when the seminary built the underground library room. He also enjoyed oil painting and served unofficially as the curator of AMBS's art collection. He began writing poetry in 1989, and a book of his poetry, titled *Illuminations*, was published in 2003 by AuthorHouse.

Nelson Kraybill, AMBS president, reflected during the funeral mediation on how Joe grew up in a family with very modest resources, but was able to relate to people all across the church. "He focused on building long-term relationships and knew



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how to inspire generosity in others," Kraybill said.

The funeral service was held Thursday, April 17, in the Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount at AMBS. Joe's wife, Mary, died in December 2007. ●

Jacob Elias retires



Mary E. Klassen

Jacob W. Elias, professor of New Testament, will retire at the end of this year, bringing to a close a 31-year ministry of teaching and administration at AMBS. Jake has listed several highlights of his work at AMBS:

- Jake was installed as dean on October 20, 1981, the thirteen anniversary of his ordination. He had

come to AMBS in 1977 as a lecturer and then served three years as director of field education before being named dean.

- The first sabbatical Jake took was at the Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research near Jerusalem. Experiencing the seasons of the church year in Bethlehem and Jerusalem are important memories for Jake.
- Gaining a broader global awareness came as a result of teaching at AMBS, Jake notes. Serving as sponsor for the international student group was enhanced by his opportunities to travel and teach in the Middle East, Africa, Southeast Asia and Europe.
- Teaching courses in Pauline studies gave Jake background for develop-

ing the Believers Church Bible Commentary on 1 and 2 Thessalonians (1995) and the book, *Remember the Future* (2006).

- When Lillian, Jake's wife, completed an M.Div. degree, they together responded to a call from Parkview Mennonite Church in Kokomo to work in team ministry. Jake wrote, "My identity as a pastor who teaches Bible at the seminary took shape in what promises to be ongoing involvement following my AMBS retirement."
- In addition to the very significant role Jake carried as professor of New Testament, he has added occasional, but noteworthy, administrative roles. For two years he served as vice president, 1995 to 1997, and for much of a

year he served as acting dean following Willard Swartley's heart attack. More recently he served on the library planning committee, the group led decision-making for AMBS's new library, bookstore and gallery project.

"Above all else," Jake wrote, "I celebrate the precious memories of worship, prayer and sharing with people from all over the world."

Several events on campus marked Jake's shift from teaching: an afternoon tea during Pastors Week and a banquet with faculty, staff and friends on May 10. ●

Photo: Jacob Elias greets student Christina Litwiller at a tea in his honor during Pastors Week.