



w i n d o w

A M B S

Taking up the whisk

J. Nelson Kraybill, AMBS president

Just before commencement, AMBS graduate Fred Lesakale of Kenya presented me with a wildebeest-tail fly whisk, a symbol of authority among his Samburu people. "A fly whisk ordinarily is owned by senior (male) members of our community," an attached note said. "Seniority in this case is defined by age (usually old enough to be a grandfather), successful family, and a large number of livestock."

Do chiefs carry the whisk? "We do not have chiefs," Fred said, "we have *elders*. They share authority, and each carries a whisk."

Fred's comments about shared leadership resonated in my mind as 39 gifted men and women received diplomas. A seminary, in effect, receives a fly whisk to educate and mentor those who lead.

But a seminary cannot prepare leaders alone. Every conference and congregation must make certain that those with the gift and call for leadership have mentors, education and opportunity to grow. Pastors, elders, conference ministers and denominational leaders each carry a whisk.

Recently a room full of such people from across the church gathered at a "Follow the Fire" event to imagine scenarios for the

role of AMBS in years ahead. We pondered big challenges. The Mennonite church is more culturally and theologically diverse than ever. Except for the burgeoning racial/ethnic sector, the denomination is in numerical decline. More potential students want seminary training that allows them to live at home. The world years for

the hope, reconciliation and community Mennonites enjoy.

We called the scenario-planning "Follow the Fire," because the God of Exodus and Pentecost will need to lead the way. Renewal for seminary and denomination will issue from repentance, worship and a deep sense of call.

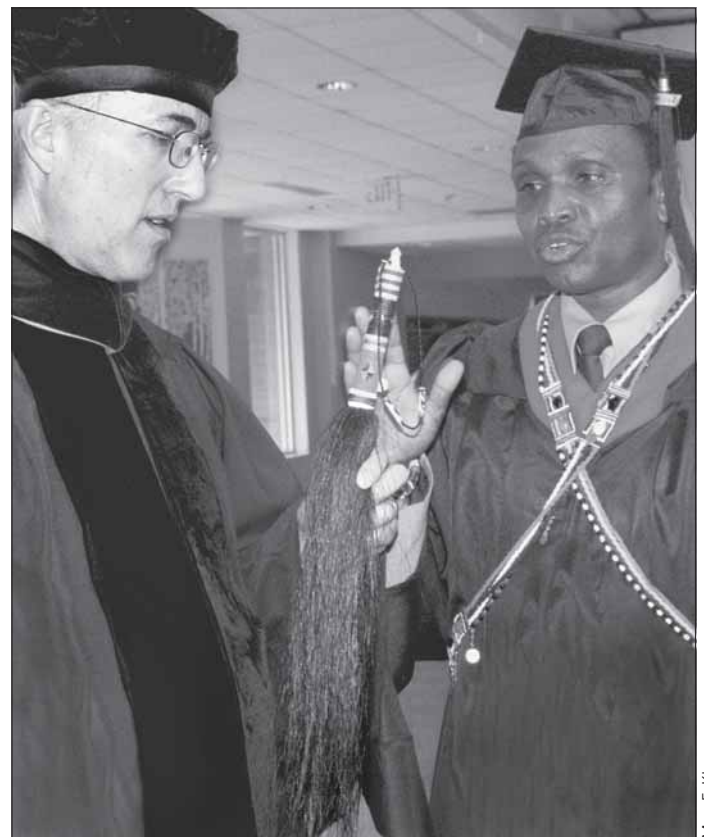
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Thirty-nine receive
degrees and certificates

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Commencement



Mary E. Klassen

Fred Lesakale, who received a Master of Arts: Peace Studies degree on May 19, gave Nelson Kraybill a fly whisk, a symbol of authority among his Samburu people in Kenya.

Thirty-nine earn degrees and certificates

Thirty-nine students graduated from AMBS on May 19, 2007.

Graduates completed these programs of study to receive degrees or certificates:

- MDiv** Master of Divinity
- MAPS** Master of Arts: Peace Studies
- MATS** Master of Arts: Theological Studies
- MACF** Master of Arts in Christian Formation
- Cert** Certificate in Theological Studies

Find out more about the graduates here and at the AMBS web site: www.ambs.edu.

Andy Alexis-Baker (not pictured) MATS with a concentration in Theology and Ethics. Will pursue a Ph.D. and work with Ted Koontz, editing John Howard Yoder's lectures on Christian attitudes to war, peace and revolution. Andy is a member of Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship, New York, N.Y. Andy is married to Nekeisha Alexis-Baker.

Kate Becker MATS with a concentration in Theology and Ethics. Will pursue graduate work in the sciences. Kate is a member of Faith Mennonite Church in Newton, Kan. She is the daughter of Bob and Donna Becker, who reside in Newton, Kan.

Alissa Bender MDiv. Will be a pastoral intern at Emmanuel Mennonite

Church, Abbotsford, B.C., then pursue a pastoral ministry assignment. She is a member of Steinmann Mennonite Church in Baden, Ont., and is the daughter of Robert and Gladys Bender, Baden.

Barbara Cross MACF. Will continue as pastor of South Milford (Ind.) United Methodist Church. Barbara is married to Donald L. Cross.

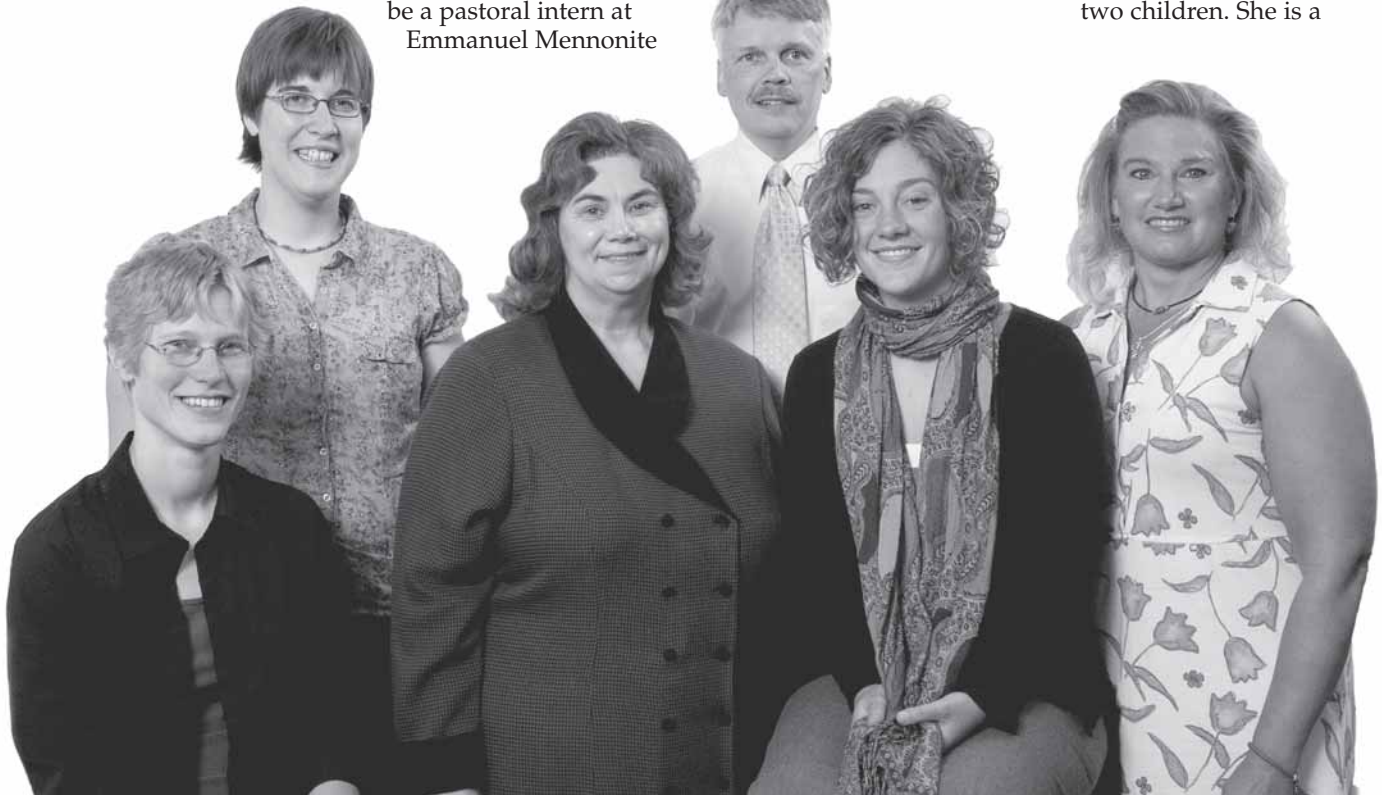
Randy Detweiler MDiv. Will continue as a member of the pastoral team of Howard-Miami Mennonite Church, Kokomo, Ind. Randy and Joy, his wife, have two children.

Brianne Donaldson MATS with a concentration in Theology and

Ethics. Will continue working in the field of muscle therapy and pursue post-graduate work while researching and writing for an associate fellowship at Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics.

LeNora Duerksen MDiv. Pursuing a ministry assignment in pastoral care, visitation and counseling. LeNora is a member of Tabor Mennonite Church, Goessel, Kan. She and Londell J. Duerksen, her husband, have three grown children.

Jenifer Eriksen-Morales MDiv. Began working as Minister of Transitional Ministries for Franconia Mennonite Conference on June 1. Jenifer and Victor Morales, her husband, have two children. She is a



Kate Becker, Alissa Bender, Barbara Cross, Randy Detweiler, Brianne Donaldson, LeNora Duerksen

member of Alpha Mennonite Church in Alpha, N.J.

Janet Funk (not pictured) Cert. Lives and works in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Joyce Gackler MDiv. Will continue as pastor of Plainfield United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids, Mich. She and Kenneth Gackler, her husband, have three grown daughters.

Christine Guth MDiv. Will continue as an associate with the Anabaptist Disabilities Network, working on advocacy and education in the areas of disabilities and mental illness. She and Bob, her husband, have two children and are members of Eighth Street Mennonite Church in Goshen, Ind. This fall Christine will teach at Goshen College as an adjunct professor in the Bible department.

Ruth Harder MDiv. Will begin in August as associate pastor at Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, Kan. Ruth is a member of Hillsboro Mennonite Church in Hillsboro, Kan, and is married to Jesse Graber. She is the daughter of alumnus Keith Harder and Judy Harder, Hillsboro, Kan.

Virginia Hartman Cert. Will continue to work as a chaplain and registered nurse at St. Rita's Hospital, Lima, Ohio. Ginny is married to Dwight Hartman and they live in Elida, Ohio.

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Taking up the whisk

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"Fire" participants—including those not Mennonite—encouraged AMBS to foster a clear Anabaptist identity. The Christian church in North America does not need another generic evangelical seminary. The strength of Anabaptism issues from our commitment both to know Jesus as Savior and Lord *and* to follow Jesus in service and peacemaking.

God is calling AMBS to strengthen new avenues of education—extension sites, courses on location

in Spanish, online classes and a denominationally diverse student body. Opportunities abound. But in order to sustain this broad vision, we also must sustain a vibrant worshipping community of face-to-face learning at Elkhart. This summer we thank God for the gift of a new library. We believe God is strengthening the core so AMBS continues to have stamina to serve a diverse, scattered and rapidly-changing church. ●



Jenifer Eriksen-Morales, Joyce Gackler, Christine Guth, Ruth Harder, Virginia Hartman

2006 Graduates

Charleen Jongejan Harder MDiv. Will be pastor of Valleyview Mennonite Church in London, Ont., with Kendall, her husband, also a 2007 AMBS graduate. She is a member of Toronto United Mennonite Church in Toronto, Ont.

Kendall Jongejan Harder MDiv. Will be pastor of Valleyview Mennonite Church in London, Ont., with Charleen, his wife, also a 2007 AMBS graduate. He is a member of Toronto United Mennonite Church in Toronto, Ont. Kendall is the son of AMBS alumnus Gary Harder and Lydia Harder of Scarborough, Ont.

Lois Kaufmann MACF. Will continue on the pastoral team of Assembly Mennonite Church, Goshen,

Ind., with responsibilities focused toward Christian formation and administration. Lois is married to Jim Kaufmann and they have four children.

Gene Kennard (not pictured) MATS with a concentration in Biblical Studies. Will pursue ordination in the Free Methodist Church. Gene is a member of Winona Lake (Ind.) Free Methodist Church.

Juanita Laverty MDiv. Will begin as pastor of Hanover Mennonite Church in Hanover, Ont. Juanita currently is a member of Pioneer Park Christian Fellowship in Kitchener, Ont. She is married to David Sararus, also a 2007 AMBS graduate and they have one son.

Sara Leaman MDiv. Seeking a position as a hospital chaplain. Sara a member of Church Without Walls, Elkhart, Ind.

Aaron Lehman MATS with a concentration in Biblical Studies. Aaron is a member of Waterford Mennonite Church, Ind. He is the son of Chris and Marilyn Lehman, who reside in Albuquerque, N.M., and his fiancée is Anne Albrecht.

Fred Lesakale MAPS. Will return to Kenya and continue working with Wamba Community Development Program, a development agency that focuses on giving children improved health service, suitable education and healthy social interaction. Fred is married to Franca Lesakale.

David Marty MDiv. Will be commissioned as a Probationary Elder in the United Methodist Church and will be pastor of Faith Chapel United Methodist Church near Huntington, Ind. He is married to Mary Marty.

Priscillah Metekai MAPS. Will work for Church World Service in Elkhart, Ind. She is a member of Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, Goshen, Ind. She is married to Elijah Metekai and they have one daughter. Priscillah came to the U.S. from Kenya, where she previously studied at Daystar University.



Kendall Jongejan Harder, Charleen Jongejan Harder, Sara Leaman, Juanita Laverty, Lois Kaufmann, Aaron Lehman

Faculty honor graduates

Mirawati Moeljono MATS with a concentration in Biblical Studies. Will begin a mission service assignment through West Coast Mennonite Central Committee as a Church Community Worker at Kristus Evangelical Church of Christ in Pomona, Calif. Mirna is a member of Gereja Kristen Muria Indonesia in Jepara, Jawa Tengah, Indonesia.

Jean Ness MDiv. Will continue as pastor of the church she is serving, Ligonier United Methodist Church. She is married to Pete Ness and they have three children.

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Recipients of the 2007 faculty awards are:

History and Theology department awards:

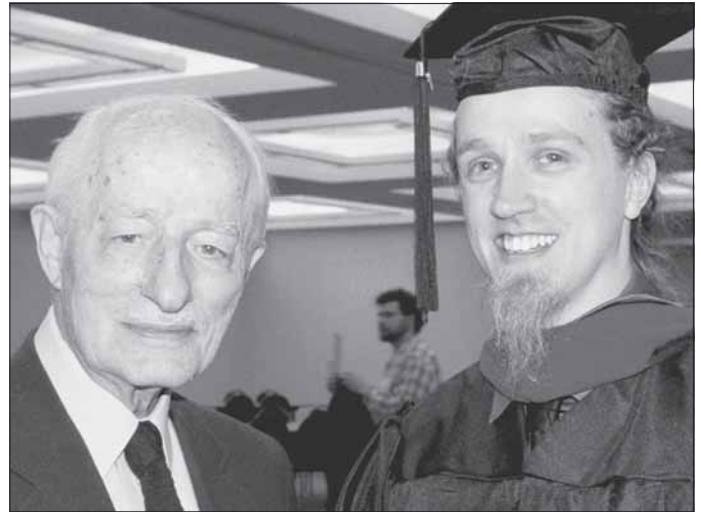
Andy Alexis-Baker—C.J. Dyck Church History
Fred Lesakale—J.H. Yoder MAPS
Diane Stone—J.C. Wenger MDiv Theological Studies

Church and Ministry department awards:

Jane Roeschley—MACF
Julie Stegelmann—MACF
Alissa Bender—MDiv
Jean Ness—MDiv
Ryan Siemens—MDiv

Bible department awards:

Christine Guth—Gertrude Roten Greek Exegesis



Mary E. Klassen

Andy Alexis-Baker (right) received the faculty award named after **C.J. Dyck**, professor emeritus of Anabaptist and Sixteenth Century Studies, and was able to meet C.J. at the AMBS commencement celebration.

Charleen Jongejan Harder—Willard M. Swartley New Testament Interpretation
Kendall Jongejan Harder—Millard Lind Old Testament Interpretation
Rachel Siemens—Perry D. Yoder Hebrew Exegesis ●



Fred Lesakale, David Marty, Priscillah Metakai, Mirawati Moeljono, Jean Ness

2006 Graduates

Audrey Ratzlaff MDiv. Will pursue a pastoral ministry assignment. Audrey is married to Aaron Ratzlaff and is a member of Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, Kan.

Jane Roeschley MACF. Will continue as associate pastor of Mennonite Church of Normal, Normal, Ill. She and Mark Roeschley, her husband, have three children.

David Sararus MACF. Will work part-time and support his family at home while Juanita Laverty, his wife, begins a pastoral ministry assignment. David is a member of Pioneer Park Christian Fellowship in Kitchener, Ont. David and Juanita, also a 2007 AMBS graduate, have one son.

Gail Shetler MACF. Will pursue Bible teaching and writing opportunities. Gail and Byron, her husband, have three children. They are members of Silverwood Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.

Rachel Siemens MDiv. Will pursue a pastoral ministry assignment. Rachel is a member of First Mennonite Church of Winnipeg, Man. She is the daughter of Lorne and Irene Siemens, Winnipeg.

Ryan Siemens MDiv. Will begin as pastor of Grace Mennonite Church, Prince Albert, Sask., in August. Ryan and Sandra Sinnaeve, his wife, are members of Lethbridge Mennonite Church in Lethbridge, Alb.

Julie Stegelmann (not pictured) MACF. Will continue working with Pathways Spiritual Retreat Center in Goshen, serving as spiritual companion, guide and director. She also will be a diaconal minister in the Lutheran Church. She and Bodie Stegelmann, her husband, have three children.

Karla Stoltzfus MDiv. Will pursue bivocational work in ministry and agriculture. Karla is a member of Spring Mennonite Church in Luray, Va., and an associate member of Benton Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind. She is the daughter of Omar and Catherine Stoltzfus.

Diane Stone MDiv. Will continue as pastor of Springport and Lee Center United Methodist Churches in Springport and Lee Townships, Mich. She has one son.

Adam Tice MACF. Will pursue an associate pastor ministry assignment. He and Maria, his wife, attend Bethel Missionary Church, Goshen, Ind. He is the son of AMBS alumnus Ezra Tice and Joan Tice, Gettysburg, Pa.

Jessica Uhl MAPS. Will pursue clinical social work in the field of mental health. She is the daughter of Roger and Sally Uhl and when visiting them in Bakersfield, Calif., attends Bakersfield Community Church of the Brethren.



Audrey Ratzlaff, Jane Roeschley, David Sararus, Gail Shetler, Rachel Siemens, Ryan Siemens

Michael Van Eerden MATS with a concentration in Church History. Will pursue work in Seattle, Wash., while Jessie Van Eerden, his wife, is Milton Center Fellow at *Image Magazine* of Seattle Pacific University.

Aaron Voth MATS with a concentration in Biblical Studies. Will pursue further study in the field of social work. Aaron is a member of Rainbow Sharing Community in Kansas City, Kan.

Samuel Voth Schrag MDiv. Will pursue pastoral ministry. Sam is married to Rachel Voth Schrag and is a member of Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita, Kan. ●

Belong to Christ

God's call is an ongoing call, bigger than what you might do for a paycheck, April Yamasaki told the 2007 graduates..

April, pastor of Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Abbotsford, B.C., addressed the graduates at the May 19 commencement service at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.

Sharing the experience of her own unexpected call to congregational ministry, April told graduates, "God's call is more than a noun, an event to look back on. God's call is a verb, a movement, a direction. What sustains me is not that God called me 14 years ago, but that God is continuing to call me even today."



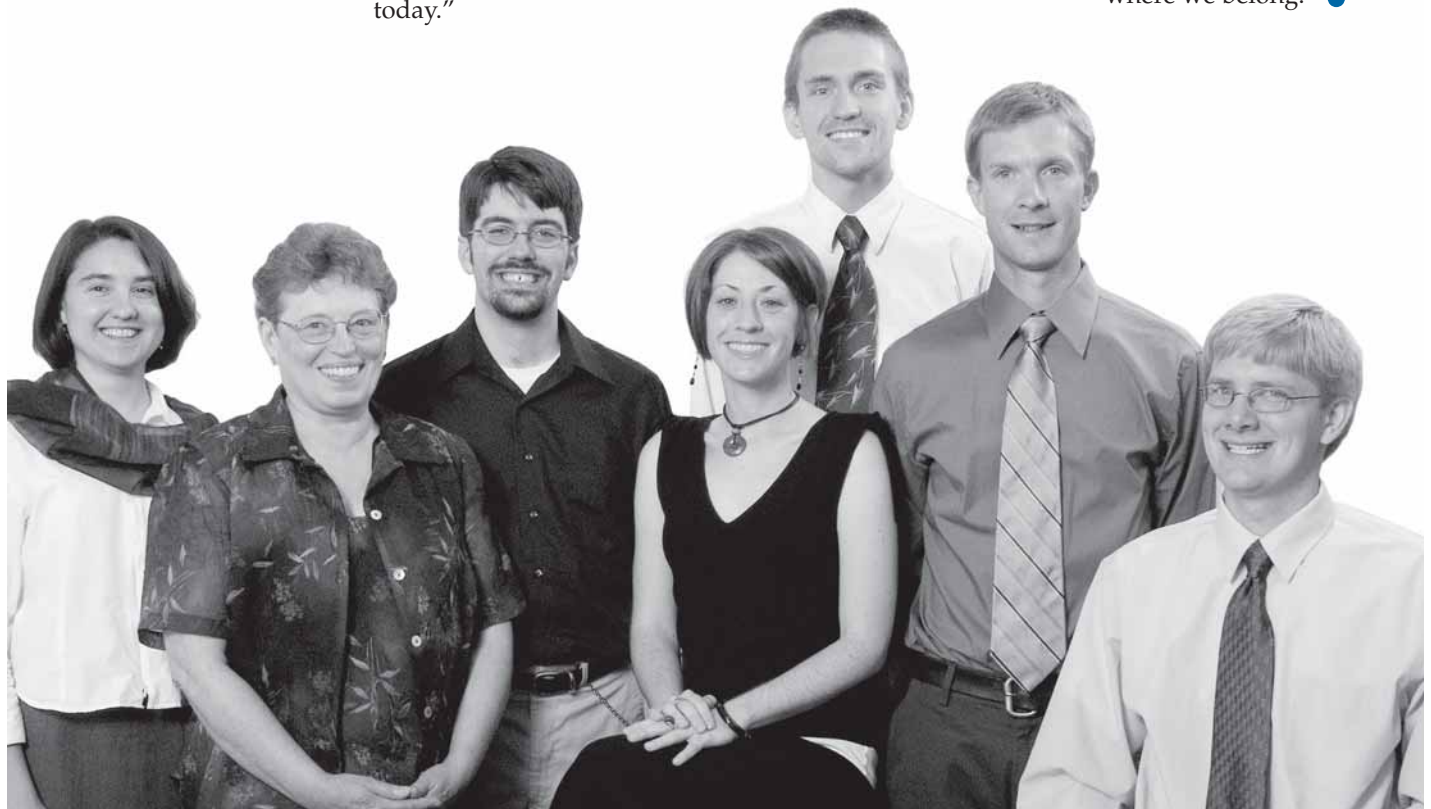
April Yamasaki, pastor of Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Abbotsford, B.C., emphasized God's call as a verb not a noun.

Mary Wiggins Klassen

Then sharing examples of people she has encountered in her ministry, she emphasized that "whatever your paid employment might be, your calling is wider than that. It is to belong to Jesus Christ."

In response to the charge to the graduates,

given by Alan Kreider, associate professor of church history and mission, the graduates sang a new hymn text written for them by graduate Adam Tice. Joining in on the third verse, the congregation sang, "Be our living guide; let your Spirit be our strength and song; with the gifts that you provide, lead where we belong." ●



Karla Stoltzfus, Diane Stone, Adam Tice, Jessica Uhl, Michael Van Eerden, Aaron Voth, Samuel Voth Schrag

Panorama



Mary E. Klassen

The AMBS library and campus center, completed this summer, will welcome students at the beginning of the fall semester. Dedication of the facility is scheduled for the weekend of April 25–26, 2008, in connection with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the beginning of AMBS on the Elkhart campus. For more information about plans for the celebration, see <www.ambs.edu/news-and-events/anniversary-dedication>.

Alumni Awards honor peacemaker and poet

Ahmed Haile of Nairobi, Kenya, and Yorifumi Yaguchi, of Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan, are the 2007 recipients of the AMBS Alumni Ministry and Service Award.

Ahmed, who received a MAPS degree in 1989, currently is a peace studies instructor at Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya. In addition, Ahmed gives leadership to Somali Christians who are studying at the university.

Yorifumi combines an unusual mix of theology, pastoral work and poetry writing. A 1965 B.D. graduate of Goshen Biblical Seminary, Yorifumi was a professor of English poetry and Bible literature at Hokusei Gakuen University in Sapporo for 33 years and edited *Poetry Nippon*, a Japanese magazine of

English poems. He also was a pastor of several churches for 40 years.

Ahmed will receive his award at the San José gathering of MC USA in July. Yorifumi will receive his award in November when AMBS President Nelson Kraybill travels to Japan.

Faculty publications, 2006–2007

A list of all the published work by AMBS faculty in the 2006–2007 year is available on the AMBS web site: <www.ambs.edu/news-and-publications/faculty-writings>. The list includes books, articles and book reviews.

New appointments at AMBS

The following are new appointments for AMBS administrators and faculty: **Rebecca Slough:** Academic dean
Loren L. Johns: Full-time faculty (formerly academic dean)
Irene Koop: Registrar (formerly director of financial aid)
Robert Rosa: Director of Admissions (formerly dean of student development at

Ashland Theological Seminary).

Fifth summer for !Explore

!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth is in its fifth summer with two groups of 15 higher schoolers participating. To find out about this summer's youth, see <www.ambs.edu/explore>. To make a gift to



!Explore, supporting this program that encourages young people to listen for God's call to ministry. See <www.ambs.edu/explore/gift>.

Updated Speakers Bureau

Information about faculty and administrators who are available to speak to your congregation or other group has been updated on the AMBS web site. Visit <www.ambs.edu/speakersbureau> to see topics and presenters along with information about how the speakers bureau works.

Alumni News

Philip K. Clements

(Bachelor of Divinity 1966) is author of *Beyond the Law: Living the Sermon on the Mount*, published by Herald Press. He is pastor of Pike Mennonite Church, Elida, Ohio.

Keith Graber Miller

(Master of Divinity 1988) and **Malinda E. Berry** (Master of Arts: Peace Studies 2000) are authors of *Wrestling with the Text: Young Adult Perspectives on Scripture*, published by Cascadia Publishing House.

Doug and Wanda Roth

Amstutz (both Master of Divinity 1996) will serve as country representatives for Mennonite Central Committee in Ethiopia, beginning in July.

Emily Toews

(Master of Divinity 2006) has been called as pastor of North Star Mennonite Church, Drake, Sask.

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The purpose of *AMBS Window* is to invite readers to call people to leadership ministries, and to provide ways for readers to become involved with AMBS through financial support, prayer support and student recruiting.

Editor and Designer: Mary E. Klassen
Graduate group photos: Steve Echols

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Associated
Mennonite
Biblical
Seminary

3003 Benham Avenue
Elkhart, IN 46517-1999
574 295-3726
www.ambs.edu