

- 2 2011 graduates
- 6 Graduates urged to share inheritance with others
Two new faculty members
- 7 Kropf retires after 25 years
Your gifts at work
- 8 Panorama

Summer 2011
Volume 21 Issue 3

AMBS window

Lots of surprises

Sara Wenger Shenk, President

I have often been surprised this year. Surprised by the quality of the people at AMBS, and how much fun it is to work with them. Surprised by the vast network of friends who believe in AMBS's mission. Surprised by the many alumni who tell me how transformative their experience at AMBS was. Surprised by how much I love this work (having been amply warned that I must still be in the honeymoon phase). Surprised by the beauty of northern Indiana (though now you all think I'm kidding—but I stand as witness yet again today after a 20-mile bike ride on the Pumpkinvine trail). Above all, I've been surprised by AMBS students who over and over again inspire the community with their spirited readiness to lead us into a hope-filled future.

One of the delights of spring semester is that chapels often include seniors reflecting back over their years of study at AMBS. The stories I heard this year were about surpris-

ing discoveries, profound learning and confirmation of giftedness for leadership.

Nathan remembered being surprised that when he left for seminary, his father didn't give him a speech about working hard or making the most of an opportunity that many Christians in the world don't have. Instead, his father told him "to seek God's transcendence."

In his chapel talk, Nathan acknowledged not really knowing then what that meant. But the formation that happened for him in his three years at AMBS has given him glimpses of what transcendence means.

Carrie remembered being surprised by the revelatory word a visiting pastor spoke that resonated with her own sense of calling: "I am a pastor, because I can't not be a pastor." After having left another career to prepare for pastoral ministry, Carrie realized with a deep sense of rightness that she is an advocate for children's nurture

and a storyteller because she simply cannot be any other way.

This year has been rewarding in many ways. We've hired two exciting new faculty, begun to renovate our beloved chapel, fully endowed our first faculty chair in Missional Leadership, hosted several outstanding conferences and much more.

But what brings me the most joy is seeing our graduates provide leadership as theologically articulate, scripturally grounded, prayerful practitioners of the transcendent good news of Jesus Christ. And the surprise is that I can't imagine any work that would be more fulfilling than serving the church in this learning community, with its Anabaptist vision and resolve to educate leaders for God's reconciling mission in the world. ●

Twenty-eight graduates honored at commencement

Twenty-eight graduates were honored at the AMBS commencement service on May 21, 2011. They received the following degrees:

MDiv Master of Divinity

MAPS Master of Arts: Peace Studies

MATS Master of Arts: Theological Studies

MACF Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Fridbert August *MDiv with concentration in pastoral care and counseling.* Pastor of IEMAV (Igreja Evangélica Menonita Água Verde) in Curitiba, Brazil. Fridbert and Monica Heinrichs August, his wife, are the parents of two children.

Amanda Beachy *MDiv.* Will join the pastoral team at Washington Mennonite Church, Washington, Iowa. Currently she is a member of Kalona (Iowa) Mennonite Church, and her parents are Merle and Marlinda Beachy of Kalona.

Alicia Buhler *MDiv with a concentration in pastoral care and counseling.* Will complete an advanced practicum in chaplaincy and pastoral counseling and foundational training and a practicum in Gestalt Pastoral Care before moving back to Canada to pursue an assignment in spiritual care. Alicia is a member of Pineridge Fellowship Chapel, Hudson Bay, Sask., a congregation in the Evangelical Mennonite Conference. Her parents are Fred and Irene Buhler of Hudson Bay.

Raymond Epp *MAPS.* Director of Menno Village Naganuma in Hokkaido, Japan, and instructor at Rakuno Gakuen University. Ray and Akiko Aratani, his wife, are Mission Associates with Mennonite Mission Network. They have four children. He is a member of Bethesda Mennonite Church, Henderson, Neb.

Anton Froese *MDiv.* Pastor of Tres Palmas Evangelical Mennonite Church in Paraguay. Tony and Marisa, his wife, have three children. His parents are Peter and Nety Froese of Steinbach, Man.

Virginia Gerbrandt *MDiv.* Pursuing a pastoral ministry assignment. Virginia is a member of North Leamington United Mennonite Church, Leamington, Ont. Her parents are Esther and Gerald Gerbrandt of Winnipeg, Man. She also is the granddaughter of an AMBS graduate, Henry Gerbrandt.

Jonathan Gerig Meyer *MATS in theology and ethics.* Jonny is adjunct professor of philosophy at Goshen College,



Amanda Beachy, Alicia Buhler, Virginia Gerbrandt, Jonathan Gerig Meyer, Sandra Groeltz. **Not pictured:** Fridbert August, Raymond Epp

Goshen, Ind., and he works with OddBird, a web development firm. In the future he anticipates doctoral studies in ethics. He is married to Hannah Gerig Meyer and is a member of Benton Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind. He is the son of Rich Meyer and Brenda Hostetler Meyer, a graduate of AMBS, and the grandson of Marian and Darrell Hostetler, also an AMBS graduate.

Sandra Groeltz *MDiv with a concentration in pastoral care and counseling.* Pursuing a Clinical Pastoral Education placement for 2011–2012. Sandie attends Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Elkhart. She has one daughter.

Scott Janzen *MDiv with a concentration in theological studies.* Exploring opportunities to serve in higher education. He is married to Christa Janzen is a member of Bethesda Mennonite Church, Henderson, Neb.

Christine Kampen *MACF with a concentration in Christian spirituality.* Christine is a half-time pastor of Highland Community (MB) Church in Abbotsford, B.C. She is the daughter of John and Betty Kampen of Abbotsford.

Christine Holsopple Kauffman *MACF with a concentration in Christian spirituality.* Will work in the area of spiritual direction and explore assignments involving health and ministry. She is married to Jeff Kauffman and they have two sons. She is a member of East Goshen (Ind.) Mennonite Church.

Justin King *MATS with a concentration in biblical studies.* Justin is a member of Zion Mennonite Church, Archbold, Ohio. His parents are James and Darlene King of Archbold.

Ryan Lumley *MATS with a concentration in biblical studies.* Ryan is a member of Church of Faith in God, and his parents are Scott Lumley and Annette Robertson of Charlotte, Mich.

Carrie Martens *MDiv.* Has been invited to co-teach the AMBS course Human Development and Christian Formation and will volunteer at Belmont Mennonite Church in the area of Christian formation. In December Carrie will return to Canada to pursue a pastoral ministry placement. Carrie is a member of Berghaler Mennonite Church of Altona, Man. Her parents are Rudy and Edna Martens of Altona.

Rosanna McFadden *MDiv.* Serves part-time as a member of the pastoral team at Creekside Church of the Brethren in Elkhart, Ind. She is married to Tim McFadden and they have three children.

Beth Miller *MDiv with a concentration in pastoral care and counseling.* Will complete an extended program of Clinical Pastoral Education at Genesis Hospital in Davenport, Iowa. Beth and Marcus Miller, her husband, have two adult children. She is a member of Kalona Mennonite Church, Kalona, Iowa.



Scott Janzen, Christine Holsopple Kauffman, Justin King, Carrie Martens, Rosanna McFadden, Beth Miller. **Not pictured:** Christine Kampen, Ryan Lumley

2011 Graduates

Sun Ju Moon *MDiv with concentration in biblical studies* Sun Ju will participate in Dong San Korean Methodist Church as youth pastor for one year. She and Dong Ju Park, her husband, have two daughters. Her parents are Chang Yong Moon and Eun Sook Shin of Wonju, Kangwon in South Korea.

Rachel Nolt *MDiv.* Rachel is married to Steven Nolt and they have two daughters. She is a member of Eighth Street Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.

Matthew Pflederer *MDiv.* Pursuing a ministry assignment. He is a member of Faith Mennonite Church, Goshen Ind. His parents are Robert and Lorraine Pflederer of Goshen.

Nathan Ramer *MDiv.* Will serve as pastor of Wellman Mennonite Church, Wellman, Iowa. Nathan is married to Erin Ramer and he is a member of Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church, Harper, Kan.

Jeffrey Reese *MACF with a concentration in Christian spirituality.* Will continue as pastor of Hope United Methodist Church of Edwardsburg, Mich., a position he has had for 18

years. Jeffrey and Carin, his wife, have two children.

Miles Reimer *MDiv.* Will continue as associate pastor of First Mennonite Church of Hutchinson, Kan. He is married to Kathy Landis and is the son of Marie and Peter Reimer of Winnipeg, Man.

J Andre Shenk *MDiv with a concentration in theological studies.* Exploring work for a variety of non-profit organizations. Andre is a member of Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster, Lancaster, Pa., and his parents are Juanita and Jonathan Barter of Branchport, N.Y.; and Elvin and Jonelle Shenk of Lancaster.

Jeremy Shue *MDiv with concentration in mission and evangelism.* Serves part-time as Minister of Outreach at Silverwood Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind., and is pursuing opportunities that will combine business and ministry. He is married to Laura Shue.

Sarah Thompson *MDiv.* Will do a summer internship with Pace e Bene through the Beatitudes Society and in August will begin a Mennonite Central Committee assignment in

East Jerusalem, Israel/Palestine, working with Sabeel, a Palestinian Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center as a research assistant. Sarah is a member of Prairie Street Mennonite Church, Elkhart, Ind., and her parents are George and Karen Thompson of Auburn Hills, Mich.

Mark Tiessen-Dyck *MDiv.* Mark is married to Melissa Tiessen-Dyck and is a member of Home Street Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, Man. His parents are Esther and Dan Epp-Tiessen of Winnipeg.

Jim Tormey *MDiv.* Will be pastor of Seminary United Methodist Church, Roanoke, Ind. Jim is married to Kathy Tormey and they have three children. He is a member of Goshen First United Methodist Church, Goshen, Ind.

Joshua Weaver *MATS in theology and ethics.* Will continue as a research consultant with Fourth Freedom Forum in Goshen, Ind. Josh is married to Julia Gingrich. Previously he was a member of First Mennonite Church in Bluffton, and now is a member of Prairie Street Mennonite Church, Elkhart. ●



SunJu Moon, Rachel Nolt, Matthew Pflederer, Nathan Ramer, Miles Reimer, Andre Shenk. Not pictured: Jeffrey Reese.

Faculty gives awards to graduates

AMBS faculty select students to receive special awards, presenting these at the Dean's Breakfast the day before commencement. This year's awards are as follows:

Alicia Buhler: Certificate for excellence in pastoral care and counseling

Scott Janzen: Millard Lind award for excellence in Old Testament interpretation

Justin King: Perry B. Yoder award for excellence in Hebrew exegesis

Carrie Martens: Certificate for excellence in Christian formation in work with children

Rosanna McFadden: Certificate for excellence in Christian formation dedicated to worship and the arts

Jonny Gerig Meyer: John Howard Yoder award for excellence in peace studies

SunJu Moon: Gertrude Roten award for excellence in Greek exegesis

Jeremy Shue: Certificate for excellence



Sun Ju Moon receives a certificate for excellence from AMBS Professor Ben Ollenburger.

in vision and leadership for missional vision of the church

Sarah Thompson: Marlin E. Miller award for creative work in theological studies

Mark Tiessen-Dyck: Willard M. Swartley award for excellence in New Testament interpretation ●



Jeremy Shue, Sarah Thompson, Mark Tiessen-Dyck, Jim Tormey, Joshua Weaver.



Artwork commissioned by the graduating class and created by graduate Rosanna McFadden provided a backdrop for the AMBS commencement service on May 21. Speaker Heidi Neumark, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of Manhattan, New York, gave the commencement address.

Graduates urged to share their inheritance with others

With the words “God’s justice and God’s peace” from the first hymn in *Hymnal: A Worship Book* as a backdrop for the commencement service on May 21, speaker Heidi Neumark began her address with a well-known Old Testament story of injustice.

Dr. Neumark, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of Manhattan, New York, used the story from I Kings of King Ahab coveting Naboth’s vineyard as a starting point. “You have labored in a vineyard and come from a long heritage with deep roots,” she said.

The Lutheran pastor insisted, “The fruits we produce are not Mennonite grapes and Lutheran grapes packaged for our own constituencies. You have received your inheritance for others, for the sake of shalom in the world.”

Recounting also how God directed the prophet Ezekiel to confront Ahab for the murder of Naboth, Neumark said, “You will be called on to go down and confront injustice. You will be called on to be sure the church is not annexed onto the status quo ... to go down to those who are suffering and even those causing pain.”

The author of *Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey in the South Bronx*, a book used in several AMBS classes,

concluded with a reminder from John 15, quoting the verses in which Jesus says that he is the vine and those who remain in him will bear fruit.

The painting that served as a backdrop for the commencement service at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, was commissioned by the graduating class as a gift to the

seminary. It was created by Rosanna McFadden, an artist who is a member of the class and a pastor at Creekside Church of the Brethren in Elkhart.

For more photos and a fuller story of commencement, visit www.ambs.edu/news-and-publications/news/commencement-2011 ●

Two new faculty members appointed

Safwat Marzouk and Allan Rudy-Froese will join the AMBS faculty this summer.

Safwat, who is completing Ph.D. studies at Princeton this summer, will teach Old Testament. He holds a Master of Divinity from Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt. In addition to completing doctoral studies, he is serving part-time as pastor with the Arabic American Evangelical Church in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Allan, a 1992 Master of Divinity graduate of AMBS, is a Ph.D. candidate at Emmanuel College, Toronto (Ont.) School of Theology. Allan will teach preaching and public communication, including biblical storytelling and missional preaching. He has been a pastor of Mennonite congregations in Manitoba and Ontario, has led workshops for preachers in several locations in Canada and writes a monthly column on preaching in *Canadian Mennonite*. ●



Kropf retires after 25 years of teaching

When Marlene Kropf started school, she came home every day and taught her younger sister what she had learned. She already had an “impulse to tell someone else what I was finding exciting,” Marlene said.

That love of both learning and teaching has continued through Marlene’s life. She taught high school English first in public schools in Portland, Ore. Then she and Stanley, her husband, went to Jamaica with Mennonite Central Committee where she taught for two years.

“The most significant turning point in my life was the years in Jamaica,” Marlene said. She described living with fear at a violent time in Kingston. “I found myself without intellectual or spiritual resources to cope with everyday debilitating violence. I didn’t know how to pray.”

When they returned to Portland, Marlene searched for resources to help her. Marcus Smucker, later a professor at AMBS, was her pastor and had begun groups in the congregation for spiritual direction and growth. Marlene joined one of these.

Then Marlene attended a silent retreat led by Mary Herr, a spiritual director and co-founder with her husband, Gene, of the Hermitage near Three Rivers, Mich. “God met me in that silence in a vivid and personal way that I had seldom experienced,” Marlene remembered. “I was astonished how present God was.”

Following this, Marlene committed herself to praying through the Psalms,

making each one very personal. That took two years, but “the Psalms had become mine. The intimate relationship the Psalmist had with God had become mine, too.”

When she and Stan moved to Elkhart, in part to accept assignments with the Mennonite Church, Marlene began studying at AMBS. Very quickly she moved into seminary teaching.

Marlene combined her AMBS teaching with work for the denomination, first with Mennonite Board of Congregational Ministries, then Mennonite Church USA. She has led workshops and retreats in all Mennonite Church Canada area churches and all but one Mennonite Church USA area conference.

As her formal teaching career ends, Marlene reflected that seeing students flourish is the greatest reward, especially seeing “a student find a pathway to God that is illuminating to them.”

At a celebration in Marlene’s honor, Rebecca Slough, academic dean, noted Marlene’s contribution in organizing the ministry of spiritual direction at AMBS, in which one-fourth of the students each year participate. Rebecca also pointed out the unique weaving together of preaching and worship in her teaching and in the book *Preparing Sunday Dinner: A collaborative approach to worship and preaching*, coauthored by Marlene, June Alliman Yoder and Rebecca (Herald Press, 2006).

In retirement, Marlene is looking forward to living a more contemplative



life and to being closer to family members after she and Stan return to the northwest. However, she wonders, “What am I going to do with what I keep learning? Teaching has been an integrating experience, so how will I keep integrating what I’m learning?” ●



Your gifts at work

Each year, the AMBS library acquires around 800 books and renews approximately 420 journal subscriptions. The collection encompasses several thousand audiovisual items and an increasing number of digital multimedia items along with more than 115,000 volumes and the journals.

Your contributions help to fund the \$80,000 annual budget for acquisitions, including online databases and electronic resources. These are essential

for keeping current with worldwide scholarship that has an impact on Mennonite faith and practices.

Thank you for your gifts that continue to make the collection one of the best for Mennonite and Anabaptist perspectives on ministry, biblical studies, history, theology, and peace and justice studies. This serves not only students, but also community borrowers and online patrons throughout the church. ●

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: Mary E. Klassen
Designer: Nekeisha Alexis-Baker

Distributed three times a year as a supplement to *Canadian Mennonite* and *The Mennonite*.

Keep in touch with AMBS

AMBS Calendar

www.ambs.edu/calendars/events

Facebook

www.facebook.com/followAMBS

iTunesU

www.ambs.edu/iTunesU



A seminary of
Mennonite Church USA and
Mennonite Church Canada

panorama

Pastors Week 2012

Loren Johns, Ph.D., professor of New Testament, will be the featured speaker at Pastors Week, Jan. 23–26, 2012, working with the book of Revelation. Visit www.ambs.edu/pastorsweek for updates.

Two new online courses this fall

Faith, Film and Fiction, taught online by Gayle Gerber Koontz this fall, gives opportunities to discuss issues of how faith is portrayed in our current culture. More information at www.ambs.edu/faith-film-fiction

Social Theory for Christian Peace-

makers, taught online by Gerald Shenk, will bring life experience and direct observations from the frontlines of activism into conversation with the theological convictions that inform public witness. More information online: www.ambs.edu/social-theory-peacemaking

Weekend classes this fall

If you are able to come to the AMBS campus for weekends during the fall, consider enrolling in a weekend class:

- Mennonites in Mission
- Anabaptist History and Theology
- Creation Care: Theology, Ethics and Spirituality
- Conflict, Communication, and Conciliation

For specific dates and times, visit www.ambs.edu/academics/courses/fall

Mission lectureship in October

A celebration of the completion of the Global Mennonite History project will coincide with the biennial Shenk Mission Lectureship at AMBS, October 27–29. The event includes discussion sessions, evening celebrations and a banquet featuring missiologist Jonathan Bonk. A fall weekend course—Mennonites in Mission—will draw on this conference. For information, visit www.ambs.edu/mission-lectureship ●

David L. Habegger receives 2011 award



David L. Habegger, whose contributions to the church include congregational and conference ministry and denominational service, has received the 2011 Alumni Ministry and Service Award from AMBS.

Beginning pastoral ministry in 1946, David served as pastor of congregations in California, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Montana, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania. He is a visionary leader who was in on the beginnings of a number of ministries, such as Mennonite Church of the Servant and Churches United for Peacemaking in Wichita, Kan.; and Church Community Services and Samaritan Center in Elkhart, Ind. He served on committees for most of the U.S. regional conferences of the GCMC—Pacific, Western, Central and Eastern, in addition to serving on a South Central (MC) missions committee. He began attending GCMC denominational gatherings in 1941 and was a delegate to all sessions from 1953 to 2001.

David has visited all 50 U.S. states and four Canadian provinces, pursued genealogical research in Europe and led tours to Europe and the Middle East.

In 1949, David earned a bachelor of divinity degree from Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Chicago. Later, he also earned an M.A. from Northwestern/Garrett Theological Seminary and a Rel.D. from Claremont School of Theology.

David now lives in North Newton, Kan., moving there from Newton after the death of LaVeta, his wife, in 2008. He is actively involved in deacon and visitation ministry with Bethel College Mennonite Church.

David will be honored at the Western District Conference sessions in North Newton, Kan., in late July.

AMBS names one or two graduates each year to receive the Alumni Ministry and Service Award, recognizing either long-term service in or significant contributions to the church. ●