

Thank you

On November 24, students marked Tuition Freedom Day. That's the date after which the money they collectively pay for tuition no longer covers CMU's expenses. After that date support from the Government of Manitoba, churches, conference and individuals carry us through to the end of our budget year (April 30). On that day, students paused to say thanks to donors. A few comments from students:

"Thanks for supporting CMU. It has been one of the most significant and formative experiences of my life."

"My time at CMU has been of inestimable value to me. I feel I've gained a wealth of knowledge. Thank you so very much!"

"Your support has allowed me to not only to get a post-secondary education, but also to apply my education in outreach and ministry."



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Greetings from CMU! Our theme verse for the year comes from John 17:21, where Jesus prays that those who believe in him "may be one, just as you are in me and I am in you." At CMU, we seek to live out that verse as students from over 30 denominations seek to become thoughtful Christian leaders in church and society through studies in the arts, music, music therapy, theology and church ministries.

It has been a very good year for CMU; in April, 2008 66 students graduated from our Shaftesbury campus, 70 graduated from our Menno Simons College campus, and 81 completed the Outtatown program. This academic year we have 1,678 full or part time students. Of that total, 618 are taking courses through our Shaftesbury campus and 1,060 are at Menno Simons College, our campus at the University of Winnipeg. There are 85 students from from Mennonite Brethren churches at CMU this year.

In October our strength and quality as a university was recognized when we became a member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, or AUCC. This is a very significant step; by being made a member of the AUCC we have received, so to speak, the "Gold Seal of Approval." This means, among other things, that CMU's degrees are now recognized, and that students can more easily transfer credits to other schools.

A few other highlights:

- We added new programs in Business & Organizational Studies and Disaster Recovery Studies, the former with the support of Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) and the latter in partnership with Mennonite Disaster Service. We also added four new faculty in the areas of business, psychology, biology and music therapy.
- We received a gift of \$1 million for our library.
- We offered resources to the church through events such as our annual Church in Ministry Conference, which saw over 160 people from across Canada come to address the issue of "The Witness of Preaching." John Stackhouse spoke to students, pastors and the community on the subject of "Four Questions Christians on Shouldn't Ask" at our annual series on presenting Christ in a post-Christian world. Other lectures covered topics such as the future of the Mennonite Church, food and faith and the role of art, body beauty and faith.
- Eighteen students participated in Ministry Quest, a joint CMU-Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary program to help them discern whether they are being called into pastoral ministry; nine students spent reading week in Alabama with MDS; and 135 students did practicum service assignments in Canada and around the world.
- Financially, we ended the 2007-08 budget year with a slight deficit, which we were able to cover from previous surpluses. For this we are thankful to God, and to you. But we know that the next year will be difficult for CMU, as it will be for many other organizations, ministries and individuals. We hope you will continue to remember CMU as you consider your donations this year.

Finally, last year marked the tenth anniversary of the founding of CMU. It was on November 18, 1998, that representatives of Concord College, Canadian Mennonite Bible College and Menno Simons College signed a Memorandum to create the university. That date is significant because that is when the colleges and their owners-Mennonite Church Canada, the Manitoba Conference of Mennonite Brethren, and the Friends of Menno Simons College-agreed to take the risk of working together for the cause of Mennonite higher education in Canada.

By every measure, I think we can say that their hopes for this venture have been realized-the risk has paid off. CMU today is a strong and vital part of the church's mission in Canada, preparing leaders who are ready to give good answers for their faith, no matter where God calls them to serve.

Thanks for your support for CMU!
Gerald Gerbrandt, President