

A young Black man with a short haircut, wearing a white V-neck sweater, is smiling warmly at the camera. He is sitting at a desk, leaning forward with his arms resting on a newspaper. The background is a softly lit indoor space with a framed picture on the wall and some greenery.

# *msc* CURRENTS

MENNO SIMONS COLLEGE • WINTER 2011

**Dean's Message**

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**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

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MSC is a College of Canadian Mennonite University;  
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# IMAGING A FUTURE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE

Dr. Richard McCutcheon, Dean of Menno Simons College

As we start a new year, I have been reflecting on the work of a great scholar and Quaker mentor Elise Boulding, whose work has influenced many in the area of future studies and peace research. Elise suggested that to transform the world into a more peaceful place, we must first create an image of what such a world would look like. "Imaging" the future is not about pie-in-the-sky daydreaming. It is about the real task of applying our creativity and passion, tempered by reason and intellectual inquiry, into a clear picture of where exactly it is that we want to go together into the future. To image the landscape of a more peaceful, just society is a realistic and necessary task.

As I image MSC entering a new year, I wish for all of us to participate in the imaging of an institution that nurtures nonviolent social

change agents, whether they be student colleagues, staff, faculty, or community supporters of the College. I hold to an image of a dynamic learning community that extends beyond the walls of our home at 520 Portage Avenue, breaking down barriers that create sadness and injustice, violence and brokenness—barriers so recently illuminated by the tragic shootings in Tucson.

Image a world in which resources and education are channeled for the benefit of all people, where political and social action is guided by the principles of nonviolence and restorative justice.

What image sustains and guides you? I believe we all have a role to play in imaging a better future, and that the College can be a vessel for nurturing our images and helping to bring them to fruition.



*What can keep imaging from being escapist is that it is grounded in a deeper spiritual awareness of the human condition, grounded in an intellectual awareness of human folly, and grounded in an historical resonance with human groupings from the earliest hunting and gathering bands, whose oldest tales tell us of fireside imaginings of human beings living together in a green and lovely world, in peacefully shared abundance, knowing love and joy.... as long as we can imagine a better world with minds adequately equipped for the complexities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we will be able to work for it.*

**Elise Boulding (1920–2010)**



## IN MEMORY OF RUTHY CHARLOT OCTOBER 4, 1973 ~ OCTOBER 15, 2010

Ruthy Charlot was a much loved instructor at Menno Simons College. In her short life, she touched so many lives with her warmth, compassion, intelligence, and wisdom.

In memory of Ruthy, the family has established the Ruthy Charlot Memorial Fund to sponsor post-earthquake Haitian students at Menno Simons College in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and research on pulmonary embolism.



# Menno Simons College Celebrates 20 Years

Reflections on Past, Present, and Future of the College

By Laura Tait and Monica Derksen

“The future is in our hands,” remarked the Dean of Menno Simons College (MSC), Richard McCutcheon, who spoke at the MSC 20th Anniversary Celebration held at the West End Cultural Centre (WECC), November 12th, 2010.

The evening started with a welcome reception in the foyer of the WECC, enhanced by the live soundtrack of Papa Mambo. The lively music from the mezzanine helped to energize guests and encouraged them to re-connect with former colleagues and professors, as well as make new connections.

The program, hosted by Associate Vice President of MSC, Ruth Taronno, focused on MSC’s journey, of 20 years and the potential that lies ahead.

“My first class was me, another student by the name of Martin Rempel, and the Professor,” commented past faculty member and first registered student, David Falk. “In the second term, there were five of us, and that 250% growth rate continued over the next number of years.”

Speakers reflected on their own experience at MSC and how that community continues to shape their lives.

“In one of my first spring classes, there was a student from South Africa, a student from North Africa, a student from Palestine, a student from Latin America and our Professor was from Bangladesh,” reflected 4th year International Development Studies (IDS) student Naomi Happychuk. “It really gave me a new understanding of interconnectedness, which is a core value here at Menno Simons College.”

After the program the audience enjoyed a concert by Keith and Renee. Keith, a former student at Menno Simons College, told the audience that they would focus the first half of their performance on conflict resolution, or “break-up songs”, and the last half on international development.

Through the *Free the Children* foundation, they have traveled and performed for two summers in Kenya, Africa, and Dubai and have also performed in 150 schools across Canada, speaking to youth about positive change. They shared images, video and personal stories of how these experiences have changed their lives.

The evening wrapped up with a birthday cake and more mingling. Guests were invited to view a display of architectural plans that are being considered for the major renovations scheduled to take place at MSC in the spring of 2012. There was also a slide show presentation of images that were collected from various people and events in the college’s history.

This celebration acknowledged the contribution that the entire community has made in shaping the college, through engaging the stories of this community. Community involvement is a key value at the college, which was evident in the ten sponsor representatives who attended the event: IRCOM, MCIC, NEEDS Centre, MCC, LITE, John Howard Society, Mediation Services, Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council Inc., Choices Youth Program and Project Peacemakers. These, among others, have shown support in many ways to the college. Dean McCutcheon asserted that the communities’ shaping of MSC has allowed it to become a place where

future students “can come in and help to become the roots of a new world.”

For the past 20 years, Menno Simons College has been a community for many people with diverse backgrounds. This celebration was to acknowledge all of those who have been involved in the MSC journey, from 20 years ago, to now and beyond. It is through the dedication and passion of the people in this community that there is plenty in store for the future of MSC.



## Faculty Research

### Anna Snyder Associate Professor, Conflict Resolution Studies

Last year marked the 10th anniversary of the UN Resolution Security Council 1325, a global mandate for the inclusion of women in all peacemaking, peacebuilding, and peacekeeping operations and for the protection of women in armed conflict. The anniversary became the occasion for many conferences focusing on women and peace around the world. It also drew attention to the new global indicators for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the launch of several national action plans, including Canada's.

Dr. Anna Snyder presented on women and peace at three of these conferences: July 2010, in Sydney Australia at one of the oldest peace studies associations in the world, the International Peace Research Association (IPRA), where she presented the paper "A Gendered Approach to Building Refugee Peace Capacities" for the IPRA Gender and Peace Commission; the 50th Anniversary of Voices of Women for Peace Canada Conference in Toronto in November; and MSC's Peace and Justice Studies Association conference in Winnipeg in October. Dr. Snyder also attended the international conference "Precarious Progress", sponsored by the Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice in San Diego,

California with the purpose of evaluating the new UNSCR1325 indicators.

Hearing about Australia's work on women and peace was a highlight of the conferences. Dr. Snyder and Susan Nandutu, co-conveners of the IPRA Gender and Peace Commission, organized a special event at the IPRA conference co-sponsored by the Australian International Women's Development Agency (IWDA), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid), and UNIFEM. The event titled "Exploring Activist's Experiences of Progressing UNSCR1325 in the Pacific Region" provided an opportunity to share experiences of progressing the recognition of women's roles in conflict prevention, resolution, and peace-building.

To make the year even more eventful, Dr. Snyder and Dr. Brian Rice who participated in Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in summer 2010, also presented a co-authored paper titled "Reconciliation in the Context of a Settler Society: Healing the Legacy of Colonialism in Canada" for the IPRA Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission.

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### Jerry Buckland Professor, International Development Studies

Financial Exclusion and Poverty in Canada' is a research project that began in 2006 and was funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The research project examined the problem of financial exclusion, the inability to access appropriate financial services, which for many low-income households, compounds their poverty. The project sought to understand the causes and consequences of financial exclusion in inner-city neighborhoods in Winnipeg, Toronto and Vancouver. The project also sought to understand responses to foster financial inclusion and greater financial



capability that come from community organizations, financial service providers and governments.

While there are still some methods being completed, the bulk of the four-year research project wrapped up last spring and summer with meetings in Toronto, Ottawa, and Winnipeg. A variety of research methods were used by a core team of ten researchers plus numerous students and community residents who participated as research assistants and participants. These methods include field methods

such as questionnaires and life histories and quantitative methods such as the analysis of national surveys. One

of the most demanding tasks, which is still underway, is the creation and analysis of a data set of bank branch locations in the three cities over a three-year period.

The final meetings were organized with community residents and organizations in Toronto and Winnipeg, with bankers in Toronto, and with policymakers in Toronto and Ottawa.

Another research method that is still being worked on is the financial diaries. This method involved a panel survey method with 15 participants in Toronto and Winnipeg. The method involved collection of data on daily budgeting and participants' long term financial and life planning.

For more information about the project, visit the website at: <http://financial-exclusion.uwinnipeg.ca>

# MSC Co-Hosts International Peace Conference

Caitlin Eliasson, MSC Alumni, 2010 PJSa Conference Administrative Assistant  
 Recipient of the 2010 PJSa Next Generation Peacemaker Award

Committed to the sharing of visions and strategies for social change, the Peace and Justice Studies Association (PJSa) is the most expansive North American non-profit organization. Each year the PJSa holds a conference which, in its decade long history, has been hosted in the United States. With the vision of CMU Vice President Earl Davey, the dedication of MSC Dean Richard McCutcheon as Conference Chair, and the support of the University of Winnipeg Global College as co-host, Menno Simons College played a prominent role in defining the PJSa as a truly international organization. Over three hundred participants from throughout North America, and as far as Switzerland, India, and Malaysia, assembled in Winnipeg for the October 1-2 event. Randall Amster, the Executive Director of the PJSa, passionately reminded us that, in a world increasingly divided by borders, this coming together that MSC fostered is an exceptional achievement and a hopeful sign for future cross-border gatherings.

We were all welcomed to the land during the opening ceremonies at Thunderbird House. Aboriginal elders commenced with blessings followed by plenary speaker and recipient of the PJSa Social Courage Award, Chief

Ovide Mercredi. The standing ovation that met Chief Mercredi's poignant call to listen to buried voices was an indication of the group's inspired commitment to be fully engaged in the event theme of gender, identity, and security.

In addition to featuring eight internationally renowned plenary speakers, the conference was an occasion for practitioners and scholars to share their expertise. A workshop with Peace Educator Award winner George Lakey, a film on the

Winnipeg General Strike, or a visit to the Youth Summit coordinated by MSC student James Janzen—with over fifty scheduled presentations throughout the two days, options were varied and many. As countless participants commented, it certainly was a pleasure to have friendly MSC student volunteers present to help them efficiently navigate the campus.

The conference closed with a banquet and awards ceremony at CMU, an evening made particularly special by CMU's Coreen Froese

and Dr. Jarem Sawatsky who arranged to have the Nobel Peace Prize nominated 1000 Faces of Women surrounding guests in the beautiful Great Hall. Most extraordinarily, we were privileged to have one of the most prolific of these women among us: Peace Education pioneer Betty A. Reardon. Thank you to Ms. Reardon for her dedication to women's voices and thank you to the PJSa and MSC for nurturing opportunities that inspire the carrying on of this important peace work.

## Youth Peacebuilding Camp 2010

David Pankratz, Director of the Institute for Community Peacebuilding

For the third year in a row, Menno Simons College played a significant role in the annual Youth Peacebuilding Gathering. The Institute for Community Peacebuilding, together with five other partners, brings together youth from diverse backgrounds in order to break down barriers and help build positive relationships across cultural divides that are difficult to cross in other contexts.

This year's Gathering featured 60 youth participants and 20 adults in various capacities – many of whom are current MSC students or graduates.

The Gathering is based on several theoretical conflict resolution models, including transformative learning, conflict hypothesis and identity-based conflict theories. Each day was designed to achieve a number of objectives and started with dialogue sessions in the morning, followed by arts session (dance, theatre, drumming, etc.), then regular camp activities in the afternoon and mass events in the evening.



By deliberately constructing a context in which the youth are placed in consistent groups for some activities, and encouraged to interact with others in other activities, their sense of fixed boundaries for the kind of person with whom they can relate is eroded and replaced by a trust for 'the other' that no other context has provided.

We have been very pleased with the success of the Gathering. One youth summed up the experience of many by saying, 'I made friends with people I never thought I could be friends with.'



# E PRACTICUM

## Alexis Goertz International Practicum

**B**arefoot and all smiles. Hot sun above, banana leaves brushing my face and tall grasses kissing my ankles, I tramp into the African bush with the people who know it intimately. The adventure of the unknown was thrilling and nerve-racking. Each mud hut we passed offered its own air and ambiance of contentment and simplicity-living.

I, Alexis Goertz, spent a year in Mozambique, Africa as a part of my practicum with MSC. I was a Female Youth Advisor in which my main objective was to widen the horizons of the 44 rural girls I worked with. I like to know a little about a lot (jack of all trades, perhaps master of none), so I exposed these girls to things previously unimaginable to them. It was their first time seeing pencil-crayons, cameras,

a white girl! The development of their minds and creativity started at the most basic level, even though some of these females were in their mid-twenties. This gave me a great opportunity to use my skills and knowledge from things I had previously read and studied in classes at MSC.

*Barefoot and all smiles. Hot sun above, banana leaves brushing my face and tall grasses kissing my ankles...The adventure of the unknown was thrilling and nerve racking.*

Participatory local development emphasizes the participation and idea-generating of the local people, in which I centered most of my energy in order to empower these people. With this experience under my belt, a couple new

languages in my head, and the ability to be able to practice the skills I learned in classes at MSC, I am ready for another adventure in the development field!

Since the start of the Menno Simons College practicum program in 1995, hundreds of SIDS and CRS students have taken part in practicum placements in Winnipeg and in at least 56 countries world-wide. Our well-established and exciting practicum program is one of the cornerstones of our academic programs. Conflict Resolution Studies and International Development Studies students get a chance to put their theory into practice and get hands-on experience while earning academic credit towards their major. Many students feel that their practicum experience had a profound impact on their academic experience and on their worldview.

Ruth Taronno, Practicum Director



## Kedeen Cummings Local Practicum

This summer I embarked on a local practicum at Newcomers Employment and Education Development Services Inc (N.E.E.D.S Inc.). There were two main reasons why I wanted to do a local practicum. One of my reasons for taking Conflict Resolution Studies was because of my interest in working with immigrants in their resettlement process. As an immigrant myself, I know how difficult the transition period can be. I am from a tight-knit family and we moved here in 2006. Within months of arrival, my family had many conflicts that arose because of resources, simple misunderstandings, adaptation and changing cultural values. This practicum gave me the opportunity to work in an area that I am passionate about, reducing the gap between theory and practice and making me more efficient and knowledgeable in the field. Second, I chose to do a local practicum because Winnipeg

is home. This is where I plan on establishing my professional life and a local practicum allowed me to start to create a home-based network.

My placement at N.E.E.D.S Inc was with the Youth Program that caters to immigrant children between the ages of 12-17. My onsite supervisor and several other staff members are alumni of Menno Simons College. They never ceased to assist me in making the connection between theory and practice. They made my practicum one filled with many learning opportunities to improve and build new skills. My practicum experience has further solidified the fact that I chose the right program of study and has made me even more passionate about working with immigrants.



# FALL GRAD 2010

On October 17, 2010 graduates of MSC celebrated their achievement during an intimate brunch at the Winnipeg Art Gallery’s Storm Restaurant. This fall there were fourteen graduates in total.

“With the sun streaming through the windows, it offered a bright, intimate setting,” says Monica Derksen, MSC’s Student Services Coordinator.

CMU President Gerald Gerbrandt and Richard McCutcheon, Dean of MSC and Social Sciences at CMU, offered welcoming and encouraging words to the group, followed by the presentation of certificates.

*“...the MSC Grad brunch was my favourite part of convocation day. It was a very intimate group, and I really felt that it was the perfect way to finish this phase of my life.”*

“For me the MSC Grad brunch was my favourite part of convocation day. It was a very intimate group, and I really felt that it was the perfect way to finish this phase of my life. Dr. McCutcheon spoke eloquently and from the heart, and the other staff and faculty were very kind and caring, really showcasing to my family why my experience

with Menno Simons has been such a positive one. Rituals are important, and while the convocation ceremony itself marked the completion of the educational program, the brunch was the opportunity to celebrate the experience with my nuclear family as well as my MSC family. It was just a lovely event,” says Gaelene Askeland, a three-year IDS graduate.

Out-of-town guests of the graduates came from across Canada, including Kelowna, Saskatoon, and Toronto, and as far away as Edinburgh, Scotland.

Following the brunch, MSC graduates joined their classmates for the University of Winnipeg’s formal Autumn Convocation, which awarded degrees in graduate programs, theology, science, education, arts and business administration.

## Fall class of 2010

### Conflict Resolution Studies

3-Year B.A.

Carol Chabbert

Shannon Forbes

Tiffany Gilkes

Allison Hisco

D’Arcy Lower

Midya Shekh Agai

Thomas Urish

### International Development Studies

3-Year B.A.

Gaelene Askeland

Madeline Kramer

Ribka Melesse

### Double Major

4-Year Honours B.A. / 3-Year IDS

Natalia Giraldo Gomez

4-Year B.A. / 3-Year IDS

Shanise Burgher

Pamela Ormonde

4-Year IDS / 3-Year CRS

Stanford Unrau

# The Impact of MSC Students and Alumni

Monica Derksen

At the 20th Anniversary Celebration in November, one of the speakers was Noelle DePape, a graduate of Menno Simons College from 2001. She celebrated the impact of MSC in the local and global community through her remarks:

*Today, we see social justice in action, with many of MSC's graduates dedicating their careers to community development/empowerment and conflict transformation both locally and globally.*

*In our own backyard, MSC's legacy lives on in the inner city of Winnipeg. Over the past three years, I have been running IRCOM, an NGO that supports refugees. A disproportionate number of our staff have International Development Studies degrees and even more of our colleagues from partner agencies are MSC graduates. No matter where you turn in Winnipeg's inner city, there is yet another MSC alumni doing exciting and*

*important work.*

*My partner Lindsey, also a Menno Simons grad, works in community economic development. He and his colleagues have concluded that Menno*



Noelle DePape



Joel Marion

*Simons College itself is a foundational institution for creating social justice in our city because of the number of grads who work in community development in Winnipeg. That is a great achievement.*

*We need people on the ground, inside and outside our systems, who have vision and who can look beyond the present to create long term solutions for peace, sustainable development and inclusive, equitable communities (and MSC prepares*

*people for just that).*

Not only do we acknowledge and celebrate our students and alumni but the *Uniter*, UWSA's weekly publication, has taken note also. Volume 65, number 14 was published on December 2, 2010 and celebrates Manitobans under 30 who are making a difference in our world. Of the 30 individuals featured, five are MSC students or alumni. In this issue you can read about Joel Marion who is working at Global College, Anneliese Schoppe who is interested in food security, Jamil Mahmood who is working to develop the Spence neighbourhood, Robin Bryan who is passionate about the environment, and Muuxi Adam who created a film that features Canada's Somali community. These are just a few of countless individuals who could have been featured.

The impact of MSC reaches far and wide and we are looking forward to what the next 20 years will bring.

## Alumni Profile

JUDY (MORRIS) LINCOLN, GRAD 2003

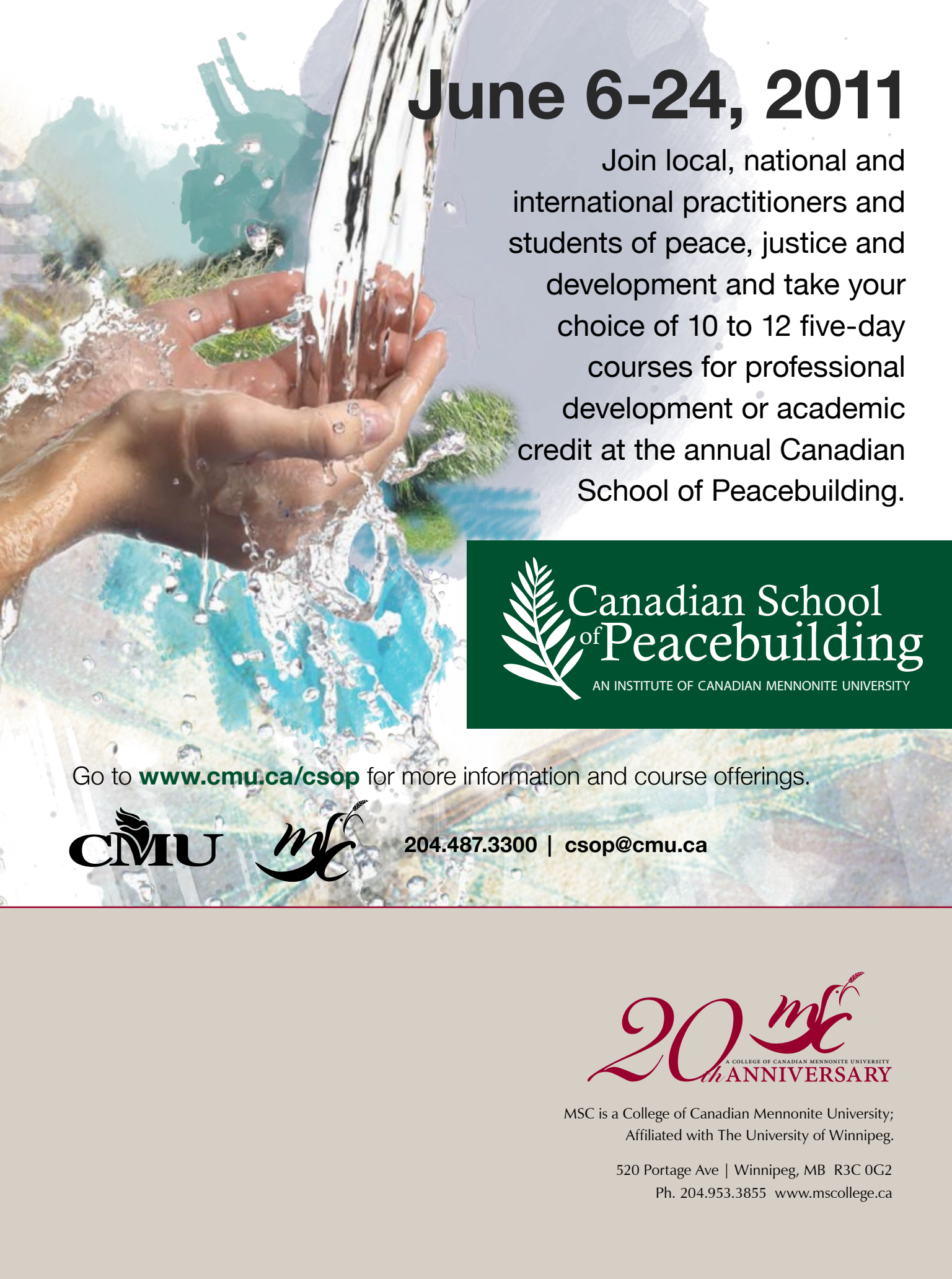
My first introduction to international development wasn't in the classroom but, like so many others, in experiences overseas. When I registered for university, International Development Studies (IDS) wasn't my intended program of study. However, after an intro course, I realized that the perspective taught at Menno Simons College (MSC) truly resonated with me. Learning about previous plans for development, models and ways forward from a peace and social justice position resonated with my world view.

The years at MSC shaped my path as an adult and gave me personal and professional opportunities—from meeting my spouse and good long-term friends to the continued involvement in governance issues for Canadian Mennonite University and bringing a MSC alumni voice to the table. The investment

that MSC made in me is invaluable. The interpersonal relationships I developed helped me with my paid and voluntary work with non-profits in Ottawa and helped me to clarify what I was looking for in a career. People. Relationships. A shared world view.

As an alumni, I am always so proud to tell people of the experiences that started nearly a dozen years ago, and to share the unique opportunities MSC offers. I feel fortunate to work with volunteers every day and to be able to take what I learned in school and present development to them in an accessible way through Fair Trade."

*Judy is currently the Manager of the two Ottawa locations of Ten Thousand Villages.*

A hand is shown holding a stream of water that falls over a globe of the Earth. The water is clear and splashes as it falls. The globe shows continents and oceans in shades of blue and green.

# June 6-24, 2011

Join local, national and international practitioners and students of peace, justice and development and take your choice of 10 to 12 five-day courses for professional development or academic credit at the annual Canadian School of Peacebuilding.



Go to [www.cmu.ca/csop](http://www.cmu.ca/csop) for more information and course offerings.

**CMU**



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**20<sup>th</sup>**  **ANNIVERSARY**  
A COLLEGE OF CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

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