



Central
District
Conference

A conference of
Mennonite Church USA

focus

August 2019

KNOWING CHRIST'S LOVE—ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

CDC members graduate from seminary

Three students connected with Central District Conference congregations participated in the May 4 commencement service of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS), Elkhart, Indiana.

Pratik Bagh of Kutela-Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India, graduated with a Master of Arts: Theological Studies. He was selected to receive this year's Student Ambassador Recognition Award for his contributions to a program in which international students represent AMBS in constituent congregations. He anticipates working as lead pastor of an Indian Church in Pittsburgh, Pa., as part of a yearlong government-approved professional training program. He also will continue as an AMBS student in the Master of Divinity program, majoring in Theological Studies: History, Theology and Ethics.



Bagh previously earned a Bachelor in Theology and a Bachelor in Divinity from Allahabad Bible Seminary in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India. He is a member of Jhilmila Mennonite Church in Jhilmila-Saraipali, Chhattisgarh, which is part of the General Conference Mennonite Church of India. He also is an associate member of Hively Avenue Mennonite Church in Elkhart. He and his wife, Shabnam Pratik Bagh, have one daughter, and his parents are Prem Kishor Bagh and Shubhkanti Bagh of Vill-Kutela Saraipali, Dist-Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh. Bagh's uncles, Anil Bagh (MATS 1998) and Prem Bagh (Certificate



1996), are also AMBS graduates.

"The history and theology taught at AMBS in Anabaptist perspective are unique, and I found them very meaningful," Bagh said. "They not only informed me but also challenged me to grow in reliance on God and inspired me to take my share of responsibility towards my neighbor. It is a transforming experience to learn about some Anabaptists' core stances in the past as well as even today in the 21st century, such as pacifism."

Yukino Ohyama of Sapporo, Hokkaido, and Tokyo, Japan, graduated with a Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies. She is exploring a Bible translation mission assignment. Previously, Ohyama earned a Bachelor of Arts from International Christian University in Tokyo, majoring in linguistics. Her home congregation is Japan Mennonite Shiroishi Christian Church in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan, which is part of the Japan Mennonite Christian Church Conference. She also is a member of Hively Avenue Mennonite Church in Elkhart. Her parents are Hiroaki and Nobuko Ohyama of Tokyo and Osaka, Japan, respectively.



Renee Epp Reimer of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, graduated with a Master of Divinity with a major in Christian Faith Formation. Reimer, who completed part of her degree through AMBS's MDiv Connect program



Photos by Jason Bryant

CDC members graduate from seminary (continued)

while working at Rainbow Mennonite Church in Kansas City, Kansas, also has been selected to receive this year's Award for Excellence in Preaching from the seminary's Church and Ministry Department. In August, she will begin as Associate Pastor of Faith Formation at Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton, Kan., a congregation of Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. She previously earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Bethel College in North Newton.

Reimer's home congregations are Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church in Sioux Falls, a congregation of Central Plains Mennonite

2019 CDC graduates from Goshen College

Suzanna Griest, of Oak Park, Ill., graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in business, with a minor in global economics. Suzanna is the daughter of Darrell and Julia Griest and attends Chicago Community Mennonite Church.

Andrew Nussbaum, of Galena, Ohio, graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in TESOL, with minors in art and writing. Andrew is a member of Columbus (Ohio) Mennonite Church and his parents are Jerry and Virginia Nussbaum.

Tanner Engle, of Decatur, Ind., graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in nursing. Tanner is the son of Gregory and Nedra Engle and his home congregation is Emmaus Road Mennonite Fellowship in Berne, Indiana.

Rae Ann Miller, of Elkhart, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics, and with a minor in Bible and Religion. Rae Ann is a member of Silverwood Mennonite Church in Goshen and is the daughter of Darren and Sheri Miller.

Conference, and Rainbow Mennonite Church, a congregation of Western District Conference. She has attended Silverwood Mennonite Church in Goshen, Ind. Her parents are Ray Reimer (MDiv 1983) and Rosie Epp (MAPS 1977, MDiv 1983) of North Newton. Her uncle, Delvyn Epp (MDiv 1973), is also an AMBS graduate.

"There are few places where break time is as rich as it is in the AMBS community, and while these times have been cherished during my year on campus, it is the relationships I have built with faculty and fellow students that I will miss the most when I graduate seminary," she said.

Loren L. Johns retires from seminary

Loren L. Johns, Ph.D., professor of New Testament, retired June 30 from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Ind., after 19 years of service.

Johns joined the AMBS faculty in 2000 as academic dean, serving for seven years before becoming a full-time member of the teaching faculty.

Prior to coming to AMBS, Johns was a pastor and overseer in Allegheny Mennonite Conference and from 1993 to 2000, he was a professor of religion at Bluffton (Ohio) University.

Johns and his wife, Rachel, have attended Southside Fellowship in Elkhart. This fall, they will travel to SEMILLA, the Latin American Anabaptist seminary in Guatemala City, Guatemala, where they will serve as host and hostess of the Casa Emaús guesthouse and where he will teach some courses. After a year there, they will move to Stuart, Fla.



Photo by Jason Bryant

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