

# GREBEL NOW

Conrad Grebel University College Magazine

## “MUSIC AND...”

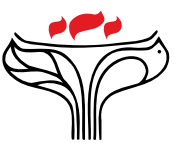
### The Inexpressible, Intangible “Music AND”

Exploring the musical intersections with other disciplines and cultural contexts

### Alumni Tie Music into Their Lives

Profiles of alumni who have merged their interest in music with another field

SPRING 2023



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## Music and So Much More

Music has been a core aspect of Grebel’s academic programming and residence life since the College was founded almost 60 years ago. Grebel has always advocated for interdisciplinary approaches with the purpose of providing a

rich academic and residence experience that awakens surprising ideas and interesting partnerships. This issue of *Grebel Now* focuses on the idea of “Music AND,” and highlights the unique and creative ways that Grebel faculty, students, and alumni are meshing music with other fields to express their diverse interests.

*Front Cover: Students took the stage for Something Rotten! in April. Photo by Devin Blankespoor*

This issue also showcases many student voices and initiatives that demonstrate the vibrancy of Grebel life. We celebrate student and faculty achievements, mark transitions and milestones, and look forward to a sustainable future.

We are preparing to celebrate Grebel’s 60th anniversary next year, and we hope you will join us for the activities, including a six-decade reunion and a gala dinner. More details are on the back page. See you soon!

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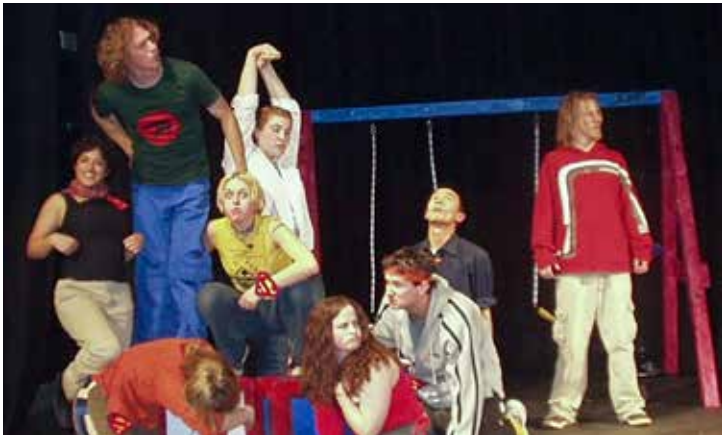
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

# Musicals and the Magic of a Multi-Year Residence

BY MARCUS SHANTZ, PRESIDENT

In 2002, students Kirk Schmidt and Leigh McClymont had an idea that Grebel students could produce a full-scale Broadway musical. It was an ambitious and seemingly unrealistic dream. But they wrote a business case and pitched it to Student Council. One year later, Grebel's production of *Godspell* opened for a four-night run. Asked about that first production, Kirk reflected that "When we sold out three out of the four nights, we knew we had tapped into something within the Grebel zeitgeist."

Twenty years and nine productions later, Grebel students continue to present musicals. This year's show was an impressive production of "Something Rotten!" an irreverent and ribald comedy set in Shakespearean London. Close to one hundred students were part of the production—as actors, lighting and sound technicians, choreographers, costume designers, stagehands, and musicians in the live orchestra.



"Godspell" 2003



"Something Rotten!" 2023



Kirk Schmidt is pleased that the experiment has become a mainstay of Grebel life. "When we started it, I think there was always hope that it could become a tradition. We knew that there was a good chance of that happening, as long as someone took up the mantle."

The singular thing about Grebel's musicals is that they are entirely self-organized by our students. They are not an official program of the College. No one tells students to make it happen. No one receives academic credit. How is it possible that students come together to present a full-scale Broadway musical every two years?

Part of the answer is that Grebel's residence is a multi-year community. Unlike many universities and colleges, our residence includes a large cohort of upper-year students who live side-by-side with the first-years. We also stay connected to students who move out of our residence through our associate program.

Upper-year students offer leadership, mentoring, and orientation for first year students. Living here for multiple years gives upper-year students a sense of personal investment in the College, and a sense of responsibility for the community. They also pass traditions down from year to year—and the musical is just one example.

I rely on upper-year students to tell me how the College can do better, and they often take initiative to address gaps and issues on their own. For example, years ago, students noticed that first-year students were nervous about writing resumes and attending interviews for their first work term placements. In response, Grebel's Student Council created a new leadership position, the "Co-op Representative," tasked with coaching and mentoring first-year residents through the co-op process. This year, students voted to add an "International Student Representative," in response to the growing number of overseas students living at Grebel.

I'm delighted that Grebel is known for positive student experience, however I can't take much credit for it. To a large extent, our students create their experience together, without much direction from administrators like me. Our primary role as administrators is to safeguard an environment that enables students to build and lead community on their own. Grebel's commitment to a multi-year residence—and the leadership of upper-year students—is a big part of that empowering environment.

# The Inexpressible, Intangible “Music AND”

BY MARK VUORINEN, CHAIR, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

Conrad Grebel University College is home to the University of Waterloo Music program. Tucked into spacious facilities on the lower level of the College “across the creek” from the sprawling campus of the University, the Department of Music welcomes a diverse student body to learn about and to make music. Over decades, hundreds of students have graduated from Waterloo with degrees in Music, and tens of thousands more have taken courses or participated in music ensembles. The Department of Music is large enough to create a vibrant and creative community of music-making and learning yet small enough that students get to know faculty, staff, and each other, personally.

In Grebel’s Music Department we often refer to studying “Music AND.” This terminology, though seemingly incomplete, is, nonetheless, apt for a number of important reasons.

First, the phrase recognizes that many of the students we teach in our classes, or who make music in our ensembles, come from all across the University campus to complement their programs in Math, Engineering, Health, Environment, Science, or from other programs in the Faculty of Arts.

Second, “Music AND” represents a lens through which we can see music at its myriad intersections with other disciplines and cultural contexts. The Music program embraces a strong liberal arts orientation, and explores the role of music in human life. Core areas of music history, theory, and performance are enriched by a global music dimension, with courses addressing questions at the vital intersection of disciplines, such as *Health and Healing*, *Popular Music and Culture*, *Music and Film*, *Music and Peace*, *Music and Landscape*, *Music Cognition*, and travel courses taught in various international locations.

And third, “Music AND” is a description of how we strive to experience music in our daily lives. Music is a powerful vehicle for bringing people together in community, for inspiring social change, for elevating worship, and for helping to better understand the world around us as it engages the mind and body on every level.

Musical curiosity brings students to try a course or two in musicology or music theory, or to take individual lessons in our Music Studio program. And, our ensembles are filled with students whose love for music has brought them to sing in a choir, play in the orchestra or Jazz Ensemble, or learn to create music by playing in the Balinese Gamelan Ensemble while they complete programs in an array of diverse fields.

These academic and performance offerings enrich the experience of students while they are on campus. Sameeksha Naik is a Mechatronics Engineering student who plays French horn and serves as the primary conductor of the University of Waterloo Concert Band, a student-led ensemble. She has studied *Music Theory* and *Conducting* at Grebel and has said that “Playing in ensembles has given me a chance to know people outside of my program and I have a strong network of peers and alumni as a result.” She even noticed a jump in her grades when she started getting more involved with music. “It really contributed to my overall performance and well-being in engineering,” she added.

The idea that studying and participating in musical activities can contribute to an overall improvement in well-being and health is something we often hear from students. Math student Michael Chung is taking a minor in music (a collection of eight courses and ensembles) and agreed that music has been an important part of his undergraduate experience, making his “studies really fun and fruitful.” He added that the music activities have been “a great complement to my math courses, and participating in them has helped me with my overall well-being and mental health,” during busy terms.

There is no shortage of research that indicates the positive effects that participating in music has on both individuals and groups of people. Choral Canada, a national arts service organization for choirs and choral singing, has developed a curated list of scientific studies as part of its advocacy work that points to the physical, psychological, social and spiritual value of singing in community ([choralcanada.org/en/curated-research](http://choralcanada.org/en/curated-research)). To those who sing in choirs, these positive benefits are well known and are part of the reason they have joined in the first place.

Architectural Engineering student Isabel Crant has experienced the benefits of joining a music ensemble this year. When asked about the role that music plays in her life at Waterloo, she said, “I don’t often get the chance to experiment with fields outside of my program. Chamber Choir has helped me feel connected to my musical background and it has introduced me to wonderful people within the ensemble. I truly recommend any student with an interest in music to join school ensembles—it’s been one of the most enriching experiences I’ve had here at UWaterloo.” And many of these benefits are enjoyed by musicians who play instrumental music together as well. Each year hundreds of students do “Music AND” as they sing and play in Grebel’s musical ensembles, both for credit and as an extra-curricular activity.

Mark Vuorinen is an Associate Professor of Music and Chair of the Music Department at Grebel, where he teaches courses in conducting and conducts the University of Waterloo Chamber Choir. He is also Artistic Director of Kitchener-Waterloo's Grand Philharmonic Choir and The Elora Singers.



The concept of “Music AND” is also core to many of the courses that we offer in Music. While our students study curriculum in music theory, history, world music and performance, the department has also developed a number of courses that focus a lens on the places music intersects with other disciplines. In fact, our 100-level music and culture course, *How Music Matters* (MUSIC 110), was designed with exactly this in mind. Recognizing that students must have a basis for the study of music that includes a wide range of music from a variety of historical eras and geographies early on in their studies, music faculty co-designed this new course to focus attention on music as it intersects with cultural topics such as “Music and...” love, death, politics, protest, war, censorship, identity, in concert and in everyday life. This co-taught course introduces students to areas of teaching specialities of several faculty members with the goal of leading students towards upper-year courses focusing on the convergence of music and topics such as health and healing, peace, landscape, and music and worship.

Finally, there is the experience of music as an intersection of the intellectual and the emotional. Academic pursuits naturally seek to develop an understanding of music and its cultural surroundings and how it is constructed—and even what meaning it holds. We also strive to encounter music as a stimulus of emotion. Music elevates the joys and wonders of life. It helps us sort through grief and sorrow. It helps us confront the challenges of life and engages the mind, body, and soul on every level. We feel chills upon hearing an especially moving piece of music. This is a whole other kind of “Music AND!”

Music and music-making inspires us. Music helps create joy and helps process grief. Music brings together communities. The Balinese Gamelan so aptly does this by giving every member an integral part to play. They rely on each other to complete the interlocking rhythms. And, our Chapel Choir brings together community in its song, as it elevates worship, connecting students, faculty, and staff through the shared experience of drawing breath together and releasing it to create vibrations of sound, a sensation unlike anything else. There is an element of the intangible in these expressions of “Music AND,” something inexpressible, and that is part of what makes us come back for more.

Whether it's by singing in a choir, playing in an instrumental ensemble, or taking a course, “Music AND” means something different for everyone. For Hannah Rivers, a Systems Design Engineering student, it has been an integral part of her university experience. “Not only has doing music at Grebel brought a lot of joy to my degree through getting to develop my artistic abilities, but it has also helped my academics by adding structure to my weekly schedule with choir and increased my average through fascinating Music courses which are a wonderful break from my technical classes.” She added, “I have met so many new friends through choir and through the Music program at Grebel, which has enriched my social life and helped me to meet people who have different perspectives and come from different backgrounds.”

Mark Vuorinen directing the University of Waterloo Chamber Choir





# Music is Instrumental to Many Waterloo Students

BY FARAH JURDI, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP WRITER

Students choose to integrate music into their university life for various purposes—to pursue their musical passion, be part of something bigger than themselves, or to build meaningful friendships. We asked a group of students from all faculties at the University of Waterloo to tell us how Music connects with their other academic pursuits. Their answers reveal that Music has contributed to a stimulating interdisciplinary environment, revealing surprising partnerships between different fields of study.



**JEWEL MARIE DELOS REYES** chose the Music Program at Grebel because she was “always arts-oriented growing up” and she wanted to continue her passion in music throughout university. “I love brainstorming ideas or finding solutions to complex matters. Arts and Business effectively combines both of my passions into one program,” shared Jewel, who just completed her final term, majoring in Music and minoring in Human Resources Management. She used her co-op program as an opportunity to explore careers that combine her interests as seamlessly as her studies do.

With heavy workloads, students have found that adding music to their degrees provided an essential balance in their student life. “I could not think of my life without music. Even in university, I craved the balance between creative arts and logical science,” said **ASHLEY JOHNSON**, a fourth-year Medicinal Chemistry student with a Music minor. “Music provides a wonderful break for my brain from all the equations and molecules and uses it in a different way.”



Practising music together in ensembles gives students the chance to learn from a diverse group of talented peers and staff, and find themselves part of a welcoming community. “I was able to meet so many different and unique people who I share common musical interests with through ensembles,” said **BRANDON LEE**, a third-year Honours Arts and Business student who plays with the Balinese Gamelan Ensemble.



**SHAYAN SAEBNOORI-ZHANG**'s personal philosophy is that university is a place to seek out passions and discover what you are interested in. "Music is a large part of my life, regardless of my career," said Shayan, who is in his final term of Computer Science with a minor in Music. His interest in computer science was planted when he took a programming course in high school, but he also grew up loving and appreciating how playing music fosters social connections and community building, especially in the Bahá'í faith community in which he grew up. "Having musical knowledge to any degree is a very useful tool in social contexts; it has a strong power of bringing people together and making connections with others," he added. Shayan has been enrolled in Orchestra@UWaterloo for eight terms and participated in the Instrumental Chamber Ensemble as well. "My student life absolutely would not have been the same without ensembles. The CS program stimulates certain parts of your brain, and sometimes it can feel overwhelming. Having music as a creative outlet is very beneficial for my mental health and overall motivation because of the variety of challenges that it involves," he shared.



Participating in ensembles helps students from all corners of UWaterloo to connect with others who share their love for listening, playing, and exploring music. That is one of the reasons why **HANNAH RIVERS**, a fourth-year Systems Design Engineering student minoring in Music Studio for voice, would not change her experience for the world. "One of my favourite things about making music in classes, Chamber Choir, and University of Waterloo Choir is the quality of the musicianship. In other facets of my life, I'm lucky to find a few people who are musical to sing or play instruments with, but at Grebel, so many people are such great musicians!" she explained. "It really is a pleasure to work as a group and create something beautiful."

Whether exploring music for personal fulfillment or credit, being in ensembles is often an artistic escape for students. Although Kinesiology and Music are seemingly different disciplines, **ANA HILL** finds beauty in how they intertwine. "Music is naturally a fantastic way to initiate movement, from tapping your foot to full-on dancing! It motivates us while we exercise so that we can increase our stamina and improve overall performance," she said. Ana plays alto saxophone in the Jazz Ensemble and is grateful for the space she found at Grebel. "Weekly rehearsals are a great escape and provide a sense of community and creativity in a welcoming environment."





# ALUMNI TIE MUSIC INTO THEIR LIVES

Tyler Reidy provides music therapy in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Grand River Hospital.

Grebel aims to be a space for conversation and connection among people of diverse backgrounds and academic disciplines. Because Grebel administers the University of Waterloo's Music program, the College naturally attracts musically talented students from every faculty at Waterloo. Some Grebel alumni have gone on to have remarkable careers in music performance, composition, conducting, and teaching. Others have chosen to combine their love of music with other passions in complementary fields. The following profiles highlight a sampling of alumni who have merged their interests in music and another field. We asked: How are you combining music with another field or interest? How has this fusion enriched your life, taken your life in an unexpected direction, or led to an accomplishment you're proud of? How did Grebel inspire this path?

## TYLER REIDY (BA 2018)

Certified Music Therapist (MTA) at Grand River Hospital, Guelph ON

I've combined my interests in music and in psychology to consider the impact of music therapy for individual development, health, and wellbeing. I was most intrigued by the impact that music could have on children in a hospital setting and how music could be harnessed as an aid for developmentally-focused support. Music Therapy was the perfect blend of music and psychology for me, as I was able to utilize my passion and knowledge within the context of health care. When I found out about music therapy, I pursued graduate studies in music therapy and became a certified music therapist with the Canadian Association of Music Therapists (CAMT).

When I consider my original goals of becoming an elementary school music teacher 10 years ago, I would never have considered music therapy as an option because I did not know it existed. I am now a full-time music therapist, primarily working within the children's program. I provide support to patients in the Inpatient Children's Unit, Outpatient Pediatric Oncology Clinic, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), and the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). My work context often uses music for the developmental needs for premature infants/babies in the NICU, for supporting children and families during scary procedures in the hospital, and being able to facilitate meaningful interactions with music reminiscing with seniors and their loved ones. I can't think of a more special place than being able

to create meaningful musical experiences with individuals who are in very vulnerable and frightening times of their lives, and being able to make those times more tolerable, normalized, and safe.

Grebel was my launching pad into this intersectional interest. I studied flute and had a keen interest in learning more about music in various contexts. The courses that I found most impactful were Maisie Sum's *Music, Health, and Healing*, and Laura Gray's *Music and Aesthetics*, and *Music and Landscape*. These courses gave me the knowledge and freedom to explore my interests of music therapy with ongoing support, which led me to completing my undergraduate thesis in intersections between music education and music therapy with Professor Gray. As a student, I felt inspired, welcomed, and motivated, and I can honestly say that I would not be where I am today without the encouragement of members of the faculty.

## NICOLE SIMONE (BASC 2016)

Senior Software Developer, Shopify, Kitchener ON

I have always been passionate about music, but I also love math, science, and technology. Day-to-day I work as a software developer, while also remaining very active in the local music community as a pianist, including with the University Choir at Grebel and with various theatre companies. I love being able to continue exploring multiple areas I'm passionate about.





Combining music with my engineering studies while at Waterloo led to many amazing opportunities. I was able to combine both areas in my fourth-year engineering project, where my group used image processing to detect the movements of a conductor's baton, and we brought the project in to test in the conducting class I was taking at the time at Grebel. While on a co-op term in

New York working as a software developer intern, I was also able to take several classes at Juilliard toward my music major. I even met my husband in the engineering jazz band while at school!

Seeing so many students in my music classes while at Grebel who had other majors outside of music helped inspire me to know that it's possible to continue pursuing multiple fields, and that you don't need to choose just one.

## JESSE MATAS (MPACS 2022)

Musician, Treaty 1; Winnipeg MB

In songwriting, combining music with other fields is part of the job description. When I think about songs I've heard that have really moved me, they always seem to reach deep into other aspects of life. Whether they're from personal experience, a family history, a response to a social situation or an expression of a feeling, they're always drawn from another field of interest. I always try to keep this in mind when writing. One of the beautiful parts of writing songs is that I never know what a song is going to be about until it comes.



Photo: Adrienne Macdonald

When it comes, it often requires researching a new field. Recently, I've been writing a lot about human to non-human relationships, something I also explored in formal research and essays during my MPACS degree. In a way, songs are the canvas I have to paint the world. What I choose or am called to paint requires research in other fields of study. Then I must communicate this research through a combination of words and music.

Bringing these fields of study into my musical practice has certainly enriched my life in ways I never have imagined. I feel blessed to have toured around the world, playing to thousands of people. I have also loved conversing about the topics that I've written about, like live organ harvesting in China or Site C Dam. Music has given these topics a platform. I love the feeling of it all coming together.

I was extraordinarily grateful for Professors Jennifer Ball and Karen Sunabacka, the supervisors who worked with me to combine music with PACS during my graduate studies. I am also grateful to Professors Nathan Funk and Reina Neufeldt, the department chairs, who approved the research. All of my other professors and the student body have been incredibly supportive of this music and Peace and Conflict Studies combination. I have loved talking colleagues about the song I wrote during this time and how it connects PACS.

## BRANDON LEIS (WLU 2004)

Teacher, Director, Conductor, Performer, Kitchener ON

I'm combining music with my passion for teaching and focus on community. In 2015 I helped develop an undergraduate program in the emerging field of Community Music at Wilfrid Laurier University, where I have been teaching since 2009. I regularly teach courses, lead workshops, and generate scholarship in this field.

This fusion of music with community, through a postmodern approach to the arts, has redressed some of the imbalances that persist(ed) as the study and practice of music-making became professionalized and institutionalized over the last few hundred years. This new approach to music-making and its facilitation enables greater participation, inclusion and diversity. I thoroughly enjoy being a part of where and how Community Music manifests itself locally and around the world. I currently apply these practices as a teacher at WLU, as a church music director at Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church, as the Artistic Director of the Menno Singers, and, while currently covering a sabbatical leave, as the director of Grebel's Chapel Choir.



One of the key tenets to Community Music, and its most appealing factor to me, is its 'acts of hospitality through an open door' mandate. This resonates strongly with Grebel's intentionality toward community building through the practices of Community Supper, filling a table, open door policy, loud hours, and the rest of the non-formal activities and ethos allowing individuals to be known and to get to know others.

## JANE RAMSEYER MILLER (BA 1984)

Artistic Director, GALA Choruses, Minneapolis MN

I recently transitioned out of conducting One Voice Mixed Chorus, a 125-voice LGBTQ choir in Minnesota after 27 years. I also work as artistic director for GALA Choruses ([GalaChoruses.org](http://GalaChoruses.org)), facilitating a network of around 200 LGBTQ choirs throughout North America. While my degree was in Psychology, I had more music credits than psych when I graduated. In working with conductors, I always say that I utilize both degrees every day. So much about conducting is about supporting and motivating people, about navigating emotions, about listening to the music but also listening to the experiences of singers in the ensemble.



As a conductor, I spend significant rehearsal time facilitating conversations with singers about the music we are performing, the text and context of the composer, and how a composition touches issues in our own lives. One of my last concerts with One Voice, titled “Sound Mind,” explored the intersections of music and mental health and was profoundly moving as we were coming out of the pandemic.

During my 27 years with One Voice I commissioned more than 50 new choral works, mostly by BIPOC and LGBTQ composers. Giving voice to composers who are less visible in the published music world is a passion of mine.

During the pandemic I also produced a choral concert/film culminating after four years of collaboration with Ojibwe and Dakota artists in Minnesota. *Remembering: Singing Water* and *Bayard Rustin: The Man Behind the Dream* are two projects that have been huge career accomplishments. They can both be viewed at [OneVoiceMN.org](http://OneVoiceMN.org).

Interestingly, I moved to Minnesota with a household of Grebel friends. We chose St. Paul as a place to live together in community and work in local nonprofits. Grebel classes in PACS and living in community both offered skills that I use in facilitating group conversations and in my non-profit work. Grebel gave me a space to hone communication skills, community organizing, music making, and encouraged me to find ways to challenge and change the world around me.

## BRIAN RUDY (BES 1989, BARCH 1993)

Architect and Partner, Moriyama Teshima Architects (MTA), Toronto ON

I have always been fascinated at the connections and similarities between the mediums and the making of architecture and music. Both, in their own way, require considerations of structure, rhythm, proportion, pacing, crescendo, and mood. To create both requires a mixture of intuition, logic, composition, and creative collaboration between experts. Through my career, I have tried to keep both pursuits active and even combining them at times when I have the opportunity, for example, to compose and record music for an architectural animation. My last full length “album” called *Museum*

was inspired by having completed several museum projects, as well as the work we are doing at MTA to achieve a high level of sustainability on our projects. It is a musical examination of the themes of how society looks backward to preserve its history mixed with the forward-looking challenges of climate change.

It’s easy to underestimate the ways in which music can enrich one’s life—it is such a visceral, emotive yet structurally precise medium.

I strongly believe that my work as a musician deepens my skills as an architect in many ways, including confidence, presentation skills, compositional decision making, creative collaboration, and probably in many non-measurable ways as well. I think I’m a better architect because of music, and a better musician because of architecture.



I’m a huge fan of Grebel, having met my wife (Judy Penner) there, and having both of our boys (Alex and Adrian Rudy) attend there as well. I even worked professionally at Grebel when our architectural firm designed the recent kitchen/dining expansion. I have deeply fond memories of playing music in the reverberant stairwells of the residence, playing talent shows, meeting and collaborating with musically talented friends—many of whom I still have to this day. Grebel provided the perfect community to support and enrich these very formative years of both my musical and architectural education.

## HENRY WINTER (BA 1988)

Retired teacher, musician for seniors, St. Agatha ON

I spent 33 years in the history and social science secondary school classroom. Bringing relevance and understanding of stories from the past to students in the present was a very fulfilling career. My formal time with teenagers in the classroom has ended, but I now have the opportunity to facilitate connections with a different

age group. I get to create space for seniors to relive some past memories and offer modern perspectives through music.

I get to see the incredible power of music every time that I perform. Music can act as a time capsule by unlocking memories from a forgotten period. I get to see how good music combined with a good story can allow for emotional connection—to self and others. Music inspires, motivates, provides perspective, challenges, calms and energizes—I get to see these realities play out in my new career. This new venture is more fulfilling than I ever dreamed possible!





Although I did not study music formally, Grebel allowed me to develop and hone my musical interests. Making music with friends in the reverb-saturated stairwells, singing in Chapel Choir, being introduced to the various musical styles of my peers, and performing at student-run talent shows were all ways that Grebel encouraged my passion for music. Choosing a path at university can be difficult, but Grebel allowed me to pursue a formal study of the social sciences while supporting my non-academic development of music. For this I am very, very grateful! I guess you could say that my current hybrid music and storytelling career was sprouted back in the 1980s when Grebel was my hangout.

## SARA FRETZ (BA 1998)

Music Therapist and Psychotherapist, Kitchener ON

In my career, I use music clinically in therapy to achieve non-musical goals to promote physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing. Music is a unique and powerful tool for healing. I have also done additional training in Vocal Psychotherapy, which is defined as the use of the voice, improvisation, song, and dialogue within an analytic orientation to promote intrapsychic and interpersonal change. This method combines singing and the use of voice with depth psychology, Jungian analysis, and trauma theory.

Music Therapy has transformed my life and led to many accomplishments I feel proud of, such as working with women in the Headingly Correctional Centre in Manitoba, where in

collaboration with an Indigenous Elder, we used traditional drumming and singing to transform the lives of women in prison. I developed a music therapy program at Lutherwood in Waterloo for youth 12-18 who had fallen through the cracks as young offenders, I helped stigmatized children and adults find their voice at Corizon Family and Community Services in Kitchener, and at the Brant Community Healthcare System, and I worked with Indigenous women in Vancouver's East Side to help them find empowerment and self-expression through

vocal psychotherapy. Now I work with women and children to help find their voice as they take steps to end the cycle of violence and abuse. The power of music transcends words and allows for the opportunity to connect to our deepest sense of self and wisdom.

I went to a performing arts high school majoring in music. I was passionate about singing and music and also loved psychology, but did not know there was a way of combining these interests. When I chose to go to the University of Waterloo for Psychology instead of the University of Toronto for voice, it was because of Conrad Grebel College. I wanted to immerse myself in the Grebel experience and connect with my own history as a Mennonite. At Grebel I led Chapel Services as the Music Convenor and sang in Chapel Choir. I took Professor David Huron's *Psychology of Music* course, and it changed my life. I learned that there was a place where music and psychology could meet in a field called Music Therapy. I was deeply inspired by how music could heal us physically, emotionally,

mentally and spiritually. Len Enn's Chapel Choir also influenced my journey, bringing to life my love of music as a prayerful and spiritual expression of my faith. My experience under Len also shaped my identity as a therapist. I have continued to be inspired by Len Enns through my continued participation in the DaCapo Chamber Choir.

## SARA MARTIN (BA 1997)

High school librarian, Manager, DaCapo Chamber Choir, Kitchener ON

I am the Manager and a founding member of the DaCapo Chamber Choir, having sung with the choir in all of its 25 seasons. Grebel fostered this love of music and showed me how music can be a powerful tool for peace and social change. DaCapo rehearsals (in the Grebel Chapel!) are still a weekly highlight for me. Although my day job is a high school librarian, my Grebel undergrad—in particular, my experience singing with the Chapel Choir, under director Leonard Enns—has profoundly shaped my “side career.”

Having completed an undergrad in Arts, Applied Studies, Co-op and therefore no longer eligible to sing with the Chapel Choir anymore, I and a group of other graduates convinced Leonard Enns to form a new choir—the DaCapo Chamber Choir in 1998. A few years into the choir, my undergrad/co-op advertising and marketing experience led me to volunteer to help out with the logistics related to running the choir. Two decades later, I am still the logistical arm of the organization.

I am extremely proud of the work we've done with choir—bringing meaningful programming to our audiences, commissioning new works from emerging composers, performing at the Mennonite Arts Weekend in Cincinnati, Ohio, and so much more. Not only do I get the joy of performing, but I can use my organizational skills to collaborate with Len and help the organization that has enriched my life so profoundly.

One of the most rewarding experiences was the release our third CD recording, *NewWorks*—a compilation of 10 years of entries to our national *NewWorks* choral composition competition. Not only did I get to work with my amazing graphic designer sister, Heather Lee (also a Grebel grad!) on the packaging (which we also did for our two previous releases, *Shadowland* and *Still*), but I got to put my ears to the test and produce the CD along with director Leonard Enns and recording engineer Earl McCluskie. To have played a key part in sharing the incredible work of living Canadian composers, sung by our phenomenal choir, is an experience I will take with me long after I retire from arts administration.



Sara Martin and Grebel Professor Emeritus Len Enns consult a score while editing the DaCapo NewWorks CD.



Photo: Janice Lichti

## NICK MALDONADO (BA 2013)

Sales Manager, musician,  
Kitchener ON

Through networking at gigs, going to local shows, and even chatting with clients at work, I've been able to bridge the gap between the professional and personal spheres in a genuine way. It has led to paid gigs in town, session work recording guitar and backing vocals for a few local artists, recording albums with several bands at different times, and forging some great friendships too.

I'm very lucky to have been involved with the scene in the Waterloo region, meeting artists from different backgrounds. People light up when they discover a shared passion, and that is as true in our social lives as it is in business! Several years ago, our band performed on the big stage at Centre in the Square during the 25th annual Arts Awards Gala, and a couple of us became committee members afterward. I would put that experience up there with opening for I Mother Earth and recording at Noble Street Studios. Having music as a creative outlet gives me ways to channel the joys and stresses of life into something that, hopefully, everyone can appreciate.

Grebel has always been an inclusive space and a central hub for music at UWaterloo with high academic and community standards. Both the staff and residents help to inspire success in each other and keep those four-part harmonies alive. Whether working on a project or practicing, at Grebel I always knew that I could be myself with confidence. Being able to walk down the hall to the Chapel for Chamber Choir or Water Boys practice in such a rich-sounding space, and still play my guitar at talent shows was such a treat. I probably owe some fellow residents an apology though—I should have made better use of the practice rooms!

## STEVE DRIEDIGER (BASC 1996)

Hardware designer, musician, sound technician, Ottawa ON

As an amateur church musician, I find it amazing to see how sacred music combines text with melody, harmony, rhythm, and dynamics to express what words alone can sometimes only say incompletely. Coming from a high-tech profession, I am equally amazed at how amplitudes and phases of competing frequencies (pure tones) combine to create not only the pitch and volume of those notes but also their timbre and even the words themselves. On Sundays when I'm not involved with singing or playing guitar from the front of our church (Ottawa Mennonite), I'm generally involved with the technical aspects of sound and streaming from the back. Sitting between those who are singing/playing and those who are in the congregation, the tech becomes an extension of the voices/instruments, with everything from mic placement to monitor levels, and from feedback to EQ affecting the worship experience of everyone involved.



During the pandemic, life moved online, and the technical aspects required for worship changed. As singing together over Zoom simply does not work, I began producing virtual recordings for worship services. It started small, by collaborating with a good friend to record some guitar duets and grew to larger virtual ensembles. Together with my daughter, Rachael, we also worked with our church choir to produce choral recordings with about 30 voices to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. It was very meaningful to hear our voices raised "together" in praise once again, at a time when even being in the same room was considered dangerous.

My musical contributions are at the intersection of faith, community, and technology, and I can see how my time at Grebel nurtured all three of those aspects. David Huron's course *Computer Applications in Music* provided interesting food for thought on how technology can contribute to our musical world. Singing together in Chapel and hearing the Chapel Choirs of Len Enns and Ken Hull were truly inspiring, but jamming with friends in our rooms, the resonant stairwell, or around the retreat campfire made me realize how well music can connect us and foster community. Similarly, technical "jamming" with Grebelite friends and classmates inspired me in other ways, letting me see tech design as a creative outlet, not entirely unlike musical outlets.

## LAURA ENNS (BES 2013)

Community musician and Live-In Host of Brubacher House,  
Waterloo ON

As a community musician, I am interested in facilitating participatory musical experiences for social impact in diverse community contexts. I am always looking for ways to bring together my love of music with my interest in social and environmental justice.

It inspired me to pursue my dream of studying at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick, where I completed an MA Community Music in 2016 and had the opportunity to lead music workshops for asylum seekers living in Limerick. I also enjoyed spending the following year travelling and visiting Christian Intentional Communities in Europe and the UK, such as Taize, the Iona Community, and Corrymeela, where I learned a lot and honed my skills in leading music and worship in church settings. Unexpectedly,





this led me back to Waterloo, where I served as Coordinator of Worship and Community Engagement at Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church. I have also had the opportunity to explore my broader interests in arts, culture, and museum leadership as Live-In Host of Brubacher House at UWaterloo, where I now live and work with my husband Joshua and our two children.

I have so many wonderful memories of music-making at Grebel. Although I never took a music course, I spent time singing and leading music in Chapel, and jamming with friends there as we rehearsed trad songs and indie covers for coffee houses and Taste of Grebel. This led to creating original folk music and releasing two studio albums with fellow Grebelite Dan Root as Quiet in the Land. Since getting involved in church and community music more professionally, many of my work opportunities have come through Grebel connections. The rich culture of music, faith, peacebuilding, and Mennonite heritage at Grebel continues to inspire me as I find expression for these aspects of my life journey through my work and parenting.

### CHARLES DICK (BA 1979)

Owner, Courier Printing Co. of Allen County (retired), currently Charles Dick Luthiery, Spencerville IN

While in university, my cousin Evan Miller and I got a book by David Russel Young on building a steel string guitar. After visiting Jean Larrivee's shop in Toronto, we built a guitar in the basement of his house. After moving to Edmonton, Alberta I worked for a short time with a well-known luthier, Frank Gay, building and repairing guitars. I've continued to build mainly guitars, but also mandolins and an occasional banjo, ukulele, and violin.

As a hobby, guitar making provided me with a connection to the music I loved. Especially rewarding was building a couple of mandolins for my Grebel roommate, Dave Neufeld. I also built a classical guitar for Nathan Gundy, another Grebel alumnus.

The excellent musicians and friends and acquaintances I played guitar with at Grebel helped inspire the direction my hobby took and continues to take. Also, Helen Martens' excellent music courses were a great addition to my education.



### TIMOTHY BERGEN (BA 1976)

Violin Maker/Restorer at George Heintl & Co. Toronto, Kitchener ON

Music has always been very central for me from an early age, beginning with singing in church children's choirs, playing violin from a young age to the present day in many different styles, and singing and playing mandolin and guitar in various ensembles. Yet, I couldn't visualize music as a career, and switching academic tracks, became intensely interested in biblical and religious studies first at Canadian Mennonite Bible School (now CMU), and then at Conrad Grebel College (now CGUC). Upon graduation with a Religious Studies BA, and again not able to visualize a career in this field of interest, I discovered what did become my career back in the music world—violin making/repair/restoration, and completed a three-year diploma at the Newark School of Violin Making in Newark, England. Working as a luthier has combined elements of my personal interests and strengths in a most satisfying way: a musical ear, a fascination with what makes people tick, a kinesthetic satisfaction of using my hands, eyes, and ears in creating this specialized type of fine musical instrument woodwork.



My career itself was quite an unexpected direction, and my life has certainly been enriched by the multifaceted fusion which is my work. I have enjoyed the challenge of solving the technical/structural/sound problems that violins, violas, and cellos have presented. I've enjoyed the relationships and trust with musicians that has developed over many years. I've enjoyed the collegial atmosphere in the George Heintl violin shop in Toronto, where I've worked for more than 40 years. I've completed a number of long-term restorations of old Italian instruments from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries that were challenging, including some with famous names such as Stradivari, Guarneri, Guadagnini, and Rugeri. But I must say that helping a young student achieve the best sound and playability possible on their own humble instrument, and seeing their eyes light up with the improvements made, is always as satisfying as anything I do.

When I attended Grebel, I was in the intellectual mode of enjoying the academic exploration of many interests and questions that felt really important. I loved studying the basis for biblical faith and theological knowledge, the psychological understanding of human development and relationships, and the history of my Anabaptist background and of social justice. I loved being able to pick and pursue my own path, learning broader perspectives from my profs and their courses. I valued my classic liberal arts education at Grebel! I think it left me in a position of being open to what caught my attention, of noting, valuing, and accepting my own strengths and weaknesses. It allowed me to "follow my bliss", even when it meant leaving my past bliss—the academic world—behind in the end. What I learned at Grebel, not least of which was a sense of confidence and openness to what is new, has always been part of me and informed me in every facet of my life and career.

## NIAMH BROWN (BA 2016, MTS 2023)

Spiritual Care Coordinator, Fairview Seniors Community, Cambridge ON

Music is a vital part of my ministry work at Fairview Seniors Community, where I have been the Spiritual Care Coordinator for four years. Throughout my work at Fairview, and especially during the pandemic, music has been a source of connection, reflection, meaning-making, comfort, and wellness (emotionally, mentally, spiritually and relationally) for the residents. During worship services, hymn sing programs, small group conversations, and one-to-one visits, I incorporate music that is relevant to their needs. I especially integrate music as a source of spiritual support, wellness, and comfort, most importantly in palliative care.



Integrating music into my vocation of spiritual care enhances the care and support that I can offer to residents and their families. Music brings reassurance in times of change or difficulty, or levity and connectedness in times of celebration. Music has also been a source of great fun and enjoyment at Fairview, both throughout our 80-year history, and especially in these past three years of the pandemic, when we've found joy through a virtual choir, outdoor hymn sing programs, a music-filled Christmas pageant, a music-centred mindfulness reflection program, and many more musical events and activities. Using my background in music to serve the community where I work is a source of

deep meaning, joy, and satisfaction for me personally. It is also meaningful when we can welcome volunteers with musical gifts to share with our residents!

As an undergraduate student and resident at Grebel, I was fortunate to participate in many Music Department courses and ensembles, and also courses and placements through the Church Music and Worship specialization. A Ministry Inquiry Program placement at Parkwood Mennonite Home, facilitated by Grebel, provided me with initial experience with chaplaincy that has grown into a meaningful career and vocation. The skills, background and interest I developed in music at Grebel have been an important foundation for my use of music on a daily basis in my chaplaincy work. My undergraduate studies in Music have provided a meaningful foundation for my graduate studies in Grebel's MTS program.

# Music, Memories, and Belonging in Residential Care

BY JANE KUEPFER, SCHLEGEL SPECIALIST IN SPIRITUALITY & AGING

"I don't have much of a singing voice anymore," is something I often heard when I first started inviting people to hymn sings. No wonder. In their 90s, without many people to talk to, let alone sing with, over the past few years of masking, our voices have deteriorated. And mine wasn't great to start with. (My failed audition for the Grebel Chapel Choir 30-some years ago is evidence of this.)



Regardless, I sing, in public, more than I would ever have imagined, and encourage others to do the same. "That's why we put all our voices together, and then it sounds good!" I respond. And they come, and we sing.

Thursday mornings are energizing—I travel the length of the 'supportive care' hallway:

"Will you come sing with us?"

Peter—we need your voice!

John—can I borrow your extra chair for our hymn sing?

Frieda—we're singing this morning, remember your glasses!"

And they come. Those who don't have the physical stamina to join the circle that day often request that I leave the door open to include them.

We use the classic *Sing Your Way Home* songbook, but many of this generation know most hymns by heart—a wonderful gift, especially when dementia is relentlessly erasing newer memories. We sing and chat, music familiar from childhood evoking memories and emotion.

"That one (*In the Garden*) brings a tear to my eye—I can see my mother singing in the kitchen back in Arkansas when I was a boy."

From a man who had a career in ministry and is now deep in dementia, "I know all these songs. I am a chaplain, and I know these songs—in Dutch too!" and he goes on to sing, harmonize, and live into his identity.

A woman, living with aphasia, no longer speaks but nods along to the music, with a smile and bright eyes. She knows, and belongs in this shared experience of worship and community.

We've been singing for months now. Voices are noticeably stronger from this weekly opportunity to use them. And we have such fun! "I haven't felt this happy since I was 12," one man quipped after singing *There's a Church in the Valley by the Wildwood*. And we actually DO sound good, together!



# New Lichti Voice Studies Award Supports Singers

BY FARAH JURDI

Vocal music students at Grebel and UWaterloo are now supported by a new scholarship open to students enrolled in Music Studio in voice and in Music Department choirs. The “Lichti Voice Studies Scholarship Award” was graciously established by Daniel Lichti, an Associate Professor Emeritus of the Faculty of Music at Wilfrid Laurier University (1998-2017).

Given Grebel’s richly talented musical community, the Lichti Voice Studies Scholarship Award is directed toward students who show “great potential and excellence in singing,” explained Mark Vuorinen, Music Chair. “This scholarship provides support—perhaps also attracting new students who may not have had a chance to enrol due to financial burden.”

“It’s my hope that this support will inspire a naturally gifted young singer to explore further vocal studies,” said Lichti. While a singer’s passion for music and song comes from their heart, Lichti highlights the importance of further pursuing vocal studies at the post-secondary level. “Singers are just getting comfortable with their adult voices and can now begin to explore music that is appropriate to their voice types. The musical skills they will acquire by singing in a choir will augment and enrich the individual training they receive in studio, and will expose them to a truly unique and valuable sense of community.”



## UPCOMING CONFLICT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

Conflict Management Certificate workshops at Grebel attract a diverse group of participants, including actors, dramaturges, dancers, filmmakers, producers, and directors. This foray into the arts enriches the learning experiences of all who are involved.

Join us this summer for a Conflict Management workshop, either in person or online. Choose from core workshops, such as “Effective Communication and Negotiation Skills” (June 8-9), led by Grebel alumnus Mark Weber or “Understanding Conflict Foundations,” delivered online by Paul Okoye (July 10-13). Don’t miss the opportunity to explore the value of “Peacemaking Circles” with Kay Pranis and Jennifer Ball in managing conflict situations (June 14-17).

Stay tuned for updates on an event for local church members October 12-13. Sign up now: [uwaterloo.ca/conflict-management](https://uwaterloo.ca/conflict-management)

## Music Camp Approaches

BY FARAH JURDI

Ontario Mennonite Music Camp pairs exceptional musical instruction with all the fun of summer camp. The two-week camp is hosted at Grebel August 13-25, and is open to youth aged 12-17. OMMC is a partnership between Grebel and Mennonite Church Eastern Canada.

OMMC is filled with fun—including campfires, ensembles, recreation games, and musical productions—and the people who run the camp make all the difference. Mykayla Turner (BSC 2020) and Emily Rempel are the 2023 co-directors. During Mykayla’s time at Grebel, she participated in several music ensembles and was Student Council President. In 2019, Grebel granted Mykayla the Eby Leadership Award to acknowledge her leadership that improved the quality of community at the College. She is currently finishing a Master of Sacred Music degree at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. “I’m most excited to introduce campers to music from a variety of sources in a supportive, community-oriented environment,” she said.

“I am thrilled to be returning to OMMC this summer!” said Emily, who graduated from Canadian Mennonite University with a Bachelor of Music degree and has worked in music, church, and educational settings in both Kitchener and Winnipeg. “My favourite part of OMMC is seeing the intersection of music, community, and play,” said Emily. She looks forward to sharing laughter, memories, and her love for music with campers this summer.



Mykayla Turner



Emily Rempel

[grebel.ca/ommc](https://grebel.ca/ommc)

# Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre Activity Ends

Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre (TMTC) will end its operations this spring, following a decision of the Conrad Grebel University College Board of Governors at its February meeting.

TMTC was founded in 1990 by a consortium of Mennonite institutions as a graduate teaching and research centre, affiliated with the Toronto School of Theology (TST). Grebel assumed responsibility for TMTC in the year 2000 and has operated the centre since then. “Many factors fed into our decision to close TMTC, and ultimately our best judgment was that Grebel needs to direct its limited resources toward our in-house programs, including the Theological Studies Department,” announced Grebel President Marcus Shantz in a statement to TMTC stakeholders.

Shantz convened consultations with the TMTC Advisory Council in 2019 and has been in conversation with partner institutions like Canadian Mennonite University and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary over the past few years about the future of the centre. “TMTC has been an important program for many people, and I understand that there is disappointment and sadness in this direction,” said Shantz. “However, we have also heard acceptance and support for this decision from long-term TMTC stakeholders, institutional partners, our faculty, and our Board.”

Although TMTC’s work convening Anabaptist-Mennonite students at TST will end, Grebel will continue its academic affiliation with TST, maintaining an opportunity for students to engage with the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition. “TST students will continue to be able to take courses offered in Grebel’s Master of Theological Studies program, and Grebel professors may continue to teach and supervise students at TST,” noted Troy Osborne, Grebel’s Dean.

In recent years, TMTC’s activities began to reach beyond Toronto, and it is hoped that many of these activities may continue with the support of other institutional partners. These gatherings have included a biennial graduate student conference, the “Mennonite Scholars and Friends” forum at the annual American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature meetings, and the online Anabaptist-Mennonite Scholars Network.

“Together with other Mennonite colleges and seminaries, we hope to find ways to continue connecting Anabaptist-Mennonite graduate students wherever they are located,” said Carol Penner, Chair of Grebel’s Theological Studies Department.

Current TMTC Director and Grebel Professor Jeremy Bergen, whose affiliation began in 1999 as a graduate student, and who has

also served as staff person, teacher, and advisor, reflected on the program’s influence. “It’s hard to sum up the impact TMTC has had on the Mennonite theological ecosystem over its 33 years. TMTC has been formative for well over 100 graduate students who have in turn contributed important research, written influential books, and shaped church and educational institutions,” he explained. “Many serve as faculty members and church leaders. TMTC has not only brought an Anabaptist-Mennonite perspective to conversations at one of the leading ecumenical centres of theological learning in North America but has also contributed to critical and challenging discussions within Mennonite communities. Even though this one institution is closing, its legacy is embodied in the lives of many.”

Plans are underway for a closing event in the fall and a final edition of the *TMTC Now* newsletter.



TMTC founding board, 1990. TMTC was originally sponsored by institutions and educational agencies of the General Conference Mennonite Church and the Mennonite Church. *Photo courtesy of Mennonite Archives of Ontario*



Professor A. James Reimer in front of the Toronto School of Theology where TMTC kept an office for many years, 2008.



# Renewing an Inspired Community: A Strategic Plan Update

In April 2022, the Grebel Board of Governors approved the new “Strategic Plan 2022-2025 | Renewing an Inspired Community.” Since this adoption, the College has shifted some of its resources to the four areas of focus which centre attention on these core strategic areas: the student experience; relationships with key partners in the university, church, and wider community; excellence in learning; and resilience for the future. **The chart below details some of the progress made in 2022-2023.**

Read the full Strategic Plan at: [uwaterloo.ca/grebel/strategic-plan](https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/strategic-plan)



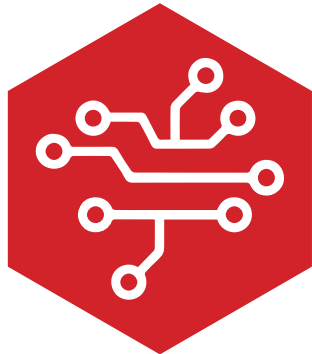
## CENTRING ON STUDENTS

- Offered on-site support from Shalom Counselling services to students and associates.
- Connected MPACS alumni with current MPACS students in a networking exercise at the MPACS 10th anniversary.
- Engaged students living on campus for actionable feedback on programs, facilities and community life.



## ENGAGING OUR PARTNERS

- Signed a Memo of Understanding to articulate Grebel’s relationship with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada.
- Began productive negotiations to renew old agreements with the University of Waterloo.
- Launched “Grebel-to-Go” program to connect faculty expertise with MCEC congregations.



## EXPLORING NEW PATHWAYS FOR LEARNING

- Continued work towards decolonizing our curriculum supported by Indigenous Knowledges and Anti-Racism experts from UWaterloo’s Centre for Teaching Excellence.
- Invited Dr. Darla Schumm to the College as the 2023 Sawatsky Visiting Scholar, who addressed themes of inclusion and disability in classes and in her public lecture.
- Partnered with Canadian Mennonite University to offer online courses open to Grebel MTS and CMU students.



## BUILDING RESILIENCE

- Completed an inventory of upcoming maintenance, repair, and replacement projects, requiring an investment of \$5.2M by 2033.
- Included a record high draw of \$363k for program funding in the 2023-24 budget from the endowment portfolio.
- Set a greenhouse emissions reduction target of 35% from 2019 levels by 2030.
- Ended the TMTC program following extensive consultation.

# Cherished Spaces and Treasured Memories

At the end of each year, several graduating residence students are invited to reflect on their time at Grebel and offer words of wisdom to the rest of the Grebel community at Chapel or Community Supper. Here are several of this year's reflections.



## JOCELYN BRETZLAFF

Bachelor of Science, Honours, Health Studies, Pre-Clinical Specialization, Experiential Education Certificate

It was here at Grebel that I lived, laughed, and learned important life lessons, like how it's not actually necessary to sleep every night, and how you really shouldn't trust anyone who tells you the Cookie Mascot is "one size fits all," lest you end up in the parking lot with your pants at your ankles. But more importantly, this is where I met so many incredible people that have since become truly dear to my heart. At Grebel, I became part of a community that not only knows how to have fun together, but also how to support one another through the tough times. Because let's face it, life isn't always peaches and cream. Sometimes, global pandemics just pop up out of nowhere and completely disrupt life as you know it. Other times, mental health challenges claim the life of a friend and you experience a loss like you've never experienced before. I wouldn't say that university has been easy, but it has certainly been easier knowing that, as the wise Troy Bolton once said, "We're all in this together."

So, thank you Grebel. Thank you for adopting me into this home where I have made memories and friends that will last a lifetime. Thank you for pushing me to become a better leader and learner. And, most of all, thank you for being a community that chooses to love and support even in the least peachy of circumstances. Moving forward, I hope that I will choose to do the same, no matter where I end up.

As my time here comes to an end, I'm gonna be your mom for just a second and encourage you all to continue to make good choices. Keep choosing to love unconditionally, laugh uncontrollably, live like you're the main character in a totally epic-sauce movie (because you are), and importantly, as the wise Henry Stevens once told me, "Always go to bed, unless it's worth it."



## VICTORIA LUMAX

Bachelor of Arts, Honours, Peace and Conflict Studies, Rhetoric, Media, and Professional Communication

I remember walking into Grebel on Move-In Day in 2018, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. In my senior year of high school, I won "Most likely to achieve world peace," so I knew that I had a lot of hard work ahead of me. I have always been a highly involved person, and this continued into my experience at Grebel for the past five years.

There are few corners of Grebel that I didn't find my way into, even with three terms online. I lived in residence for three terms, in the apartments for three terms, and was an off-campus associate for four terms. I was involved with Orientation Week, PACS Living-Learning Community, Peace Society, Student Council, Chapel Committee, Talent Shows, Grebel conferences, the Centre for Peace Advancement, and I also took PACS, Religious Studies, and Music courses.

There were many times at Grebel where I felt really connected. At other times, I struggled to fit in. There are a lot of ways I've changed over my undergrad, but there are also a lot of ways I've not. There are many ways Grebel frustrates me, on administrative and theological levels, but there are also a lot of ways it encourages me to keep hoping for a better, more caring world. I'm grateful that God sustained me over these difficult years.

Now, as I graduate, I reflect back on the late nights writing mediocre papers and the university dreams I never got to fulfill, but also the blessings of knowledge and joy of relationships. The people of Grebel are so genuine and make me feel that the future is in good hands. As I conclude my time as a Grebelite, I leave with a lifetime of memories and a wealth of gratitude.





## HANNAH BERNSTEIN

Bachelor of Applied Science, Honours, Nanotechnology Engineering, Co-op Research Certificate

I lived at Grebel in the residence and apartments for ten terms—with 12 different roommates. When I first moved in, I thought I'd live here for a year and then move out, because that's what I thought people did. But I quickly learned that Grebel is so much more than a residence, thanks to its interdisciplinary mix of students in varying years and programs, and the unlimited ways to get involved.

In my first year at Grebel, I learned that the Menno Run is lots of fun and a great way to meet others. I reignited my love of card games and realized that even though I am not musically talented, there was still a space for me at talent shows. I also connected with upper-year mentors in my program, many of whom still help me today.

Subsequent years brought the adventures of the Fairy Quad Mothers, the launch of PeaceTech Living-Learning Community, and the joys of being an Orientation Week Leader. It brought Ramen Tuesdays and toothbrushing parties to celebrate the permanence of all-gender washrooms. Third year brought many masks. And even my final year brought new opportunities like the MEDA trip.

Some key lessons learned over my time at Grebel: 1) Spring term really is the best term, even if you don't play veebs. 2) Dutch Blitz is a competitive sport. 3) I'll never be too old to dress up for Halloween. 4) Every term is an opportunity to make new friends. 5) Dancing is fun, especially if it's at 6am before class or on stage with a mannequin head on. 6) And Grebel is a home away from home.

Grebel is a place where I've made lifelong friends and memories, and I'm so thankful to have called Grebel my home for the past five years.



## HAYDEN EPP

Bachelor of Science, Honours, Biology, Psychology minor, Environmental Biology Specialization

I lived at Grebel for four out of five years of my degree and I have loved being part of this community. I've been on Larger Leadership Team, I've been a don, and on Chapel Committee. I came to Grebel in my second year of university. This is the most significant decision I have ever made. It changed my life in the best way.

I remember a conversation when I first lived at Grebel, talking about faith. At some point in the conversation, I was thinking out loud and said something along the lines of "I suppose if God is love, then I believe in God." It's a simple idea, but it hadn't occurred to me until that very moment as those words fell out of my mouth that it might just be this simple. I don't need all the answers. I know that love is real! I experience it all the time. Plus, the mystery of it all is pretty awesome.

The thing that exists between all of us here in this community, I've realized, is not different from the "God" thing or the "Holy Spirit" thing or the "capital L Love" thing. Because I have noticed this, it is really no wonder that Grebel has had such an impact on my faith. If what I believe is true, then I so clearly encounter God on a daily basis in my interactions with everyone in the Grebel community. I'm not convinced that there's any human space more sacred than a Grebel table. After graduation, I think the challenge will be to find spaces like this in our post-Grebel lives. I think that our time here has taught us how to recognize these spaces, and even how to create them. I think the world will be better for us going out and finding ways to fill the table wherever we end up. I'm so grateful to all of you for your part in teaching me these things.



Class of 2023 Undergraduates

# Convocation 2023: Transformation Happens in Community

BY FARAH JURDI

At the end of April, Grebel's graduating class of 2023 celebrated the end of their university journeys with one of the College's beloved traditions—Convocation. Although many students had yet to finish final exams and papers, the afternoon served as a congratulations recognizing the hard work, drive, and dedication that undergraduate and graduate students had put toward their degree. Alongside their peers, families, faculty, and staff, graduates were blessed into their new beginnings with a heartfelt goodbye and warm wishes.

"You've each been important members of our College community for the past few years and we are grateful to have known you," said Grebel President Marcus Shantz. After a territorial acknowledgment that touched on the Mennonite history of settlement in Waterloo Region, he introduced Jean Becker, Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Relations at the University of Waterloo, who gave the keynote address.



Jean Becker

From climate change prevention to reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, Jean acknowledged that the world needs help, and that she can count on Grebelites to work toward a transformation. "Armed with the education you have received here, with a focus on justice and peace, I hope that you go out in the world and be a helper," said Jean.

As more than 100 students crossed the stage, each shared their plans, hopes, and dreams after graduation. From further education, travel, marriage, and budding careers, to having coffee with loved ones, this year's graduating class aspires to make a difference in the world.

A bright, golden sunflower sat upon the stage to honour Kaitlyn Roth, an undergraduate student who passed away in 2022 and would have graduated this year.

Hanne Kuhnert, graduating with a BA in Psychology and Business, was the undergraduate valedictorian and delivered an inspiring speech to her peers. "There is a lot of pressure in our society to be independent—to be self-made, struggle, sacrifice and take pride in what you have achieved without help. I don't think it is worth it," said Hanne. "Community is hard. It takes commitment, trust, compromise, and humility. It requires honesty, vulnerability, forgiveness, and acceptance. As we have learned from our time here, maintaining relationships can be

challenging, but it is so rewarding. I truly believe it is our best chance at living happy, healthy, and sustainable lives. I encourage you to help one another share the load of life—both the joys and the sorrows."



Hanne Kuhnert



Mollee Moua

Mollee Moua, a Master of Theological Studies graduate, delivered the valedictory speech on behalf of the MTS and Master of Peace and Conflict Studies graduands. Her speech was filled with gratitude for the support and sacrifices that help graduate students complete their studies throughout life's challenges.



“I am sure every person here has received encouragement and inspiration during their time at Grebel,” shared Mollee. “I have been inspired to think critically and differently; to not accept things as they are. I have been inspired to speak up and to speak the truth as I have seen and experienced it. It is through the encouragement, honesty, and vulnerability that I have experienced through community that has empowered me to stand here in front of you all. It takes a community to raise a graduate student.”

A song and prayer of gratitude and blessing were shared to mark this momentous transition in the lives of students. “Parting ways at graduation does not mark the end of the Grebel experience, but rather the beginning of new opportunities to share the transformation that happens here with the wider world,” said Grebel’s Interim Chaplain Jessica Reesor Rempel. “Together, as a Grebel community, gathered in this place and scattered throughout the world, may each of you be blessed as you seek wisdom, nurture faith, and pursue justice and peace.”

Watch the full 2023 Convocation service

[youtube.com/watch?v=Qh1035b0ZV8](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Qh1035b0ZV8)



2023 MTS GRADUATES: (l-r back row) Jacqueline Haycraft, Laurel Rounds Fretz, Zachary Stefaniuk, Jared Vander Meulen. (l-r front row) Clayton Robert Conrad Culham, Mollee Moua, Niamh Brown, Bonnie Drudge. (Not pictured) Rosemarie Chambers, Peter van Oordt



2023 MPACS GRADUATES: (l-r back row) Zerihun Addisu Kinate, Nicholas J Bejarano, Rebaz Khursheed, Trish Owens. (l-r front row) Daisy Georgia Bilous, Fariba Atkin, Sue Dick, Annie Oldenhof, Sydney Thorburn, Sidra Khan, Jennifer Deborah Smith. (Not pictured) Qudsia Hussain Alvi, Alli Cobb, Rafaella Creus Cordovez, Madeline Docherty, Brandon Gascho, Tamara Kotenko, Alexandra McDonald, Del Plummer

## ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNER

BY ZOE BEILBY, PACS COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

This March, four Grebel students competed in the C. Henry Smith Oratorical Contest—an opportunity for students from Mennonite and Brethren in Christ colleges and universities across Canada and the USA to discuss peacebuilding and social justice issues.

Faraja Kapepa Sadi’s speech won first place and a cash prize. She is a first-year international student from Zambia, studying Peace and Conflict Studies and Psychology at UWaterloo. Her speech, titled “The Armour of God: Waging Peace on a Hostile World,” explored Ephesians 6, where Paul calls the people to put on the armour of God. She framed this passage within the context of peacebuilding, asking questions about how this war-like language fits into the idea of peace. Faraja ended her speech explaining how the armour of God is really a call for believers of God’s strength to equip themselves with the character of Christ and of peacemakers: “Let us be encouraged, therefore, to put on the full armour of God, and wage peace on this hostile world that so desperately needs it.” Her speech will be submitted to the second stage of this bi-national competition.

Watch Faraja’s speech: [youtu.be/UyihtowybZ8](https://youtu.be/UyihtowybZ8)







Grad Dessert



Winter Chapel services took the format of fireside chats

# #Grebelife

**BY BEL CAIRNS  
STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

It's been a busy but fun term. Members of Student Council and Larger Leadership Team organized events for various facets of the Grebel community, including mocktails, upper suppers, an Easter egg hunt and weekly events like apartment socials and games nights. Student Council collaborated with PACS Society and Music Society to host a fundraising coffee-house in support of relief efforts for the earthquakes in Syria and Turkiye. The Environment Team pollinator garden initiative continued raising money by selling greeting cards.

Our first-ever International Student Representatives, Jane Sheng and Darley Dau, organized a very well-attended "Chinese Culture afternoon" in collaboration with the on-campus calligraphy "Ink-Wash club."

With the nice weather, students are gathering on the patio to eat, study, chat and play chess.



Talent Show



Winter 2023 End-of-Term Banquet and Masquerade



Fort-building



A beautiful spring day



Mocktails



Raising money for a pollinator garden



# 2022-2023 Award Recipients

This year, 190 students received \$526,551 in scholarships and awards.

Congratulations to our students and thanks to donors who have supported these award funds.

## MUSIC

**Agnes Giesbrecht Choral Music Scholarship**  
Joseph Conway

**Clemens Scholarships in Music**  
Joseph Conway, Kayla Burmaster, Veronica Champagne, Leah Dau, Hannah Nobel

**Evanov Radio Group Music Award**  
Jewel Delos Reyes, Hannah Rivers, Alissa Van Gaalen, Yi Ye

**Ford-Harrison Church Music Award** | Craig Garnham, Ellen Siebel-Achenbach

**Helen Martens Choral Award**  
Tessa Hedrick, Vladimir Mlotschek, Chloe Shantz, Hannah Rivers

**Jean Caya Music Award**  
Jessica Ernewein, Chloe Shantz

**Judy Dyck Music Volunteerism Award**  
Jewel Delos Reyes, Anya Murray

**Rudolf and Hedwig Rempel Music Award** | Ashley Johnson, Matthew Metwalli, Anya Murray, Josiah Ropp, Aria Scerbovic

**Stutzman String Award**  
Frank Wang, Karen Fu, Chris Fang, Bardia Kian, Shayan Saebnoori-Zhang

## PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

**Becky Frey Student Scholarship**  
Samuel Farkas, Victoria Lumax, Elizabeth Robertson, Yasmin Wallace, Nancy Williams

**Elliot C. McLoughry Fund Scholarship**  
Samuel Farkas

**Lina Wohlgenut Award**  
Khadijah Gumah, Faraji Sadi

**Mary and Walter Hougham PACS Award**  
Joshua Cheon, Anna Mahler, Julian Riches, Carissa Yoder, Jahdae Simon, Abigail Weber

**PACS Internships Award**  
Katrina Janzen

**Peter C. and Elisabeth Williams Memorial Fund Scholarship**  
Eden Graham

**Vic and Rita Krueger Family PACS Award**  
Joshua Cheon

## RESIDENCE

**Alice Eisen Leadership Award**  
Colin Funk, Oliver Lingertat, Alana Matsuo

**David Regier Student Award**  
Noa Baergen, Hannah den Bak, Megan Hudson, Mateya Hughes, Tom Iagovet

**College Anniversary Legacy Award**

Devin Blankespoor, Jared Dyck, Cole Fehr, Sarah Guenther, Kyle Dyke, Abi Kowalski, Mia Lutz, Anya Murray, Isabel Song, Leah Thompson, Maya Valdez, Luke Van Decker, Thao Vu, Jordan Li

**Dorothy Bechtel Entrance Award** | Grace Wideman

**Eby Leadership Award**  
Hannah Bernstein, Isobel Flindall, Serina Ykema-King, Justin Zwart

**George E. and Louise Schroeder Residence Award**  
Hanne Kuhnert

**Good Family Residence Award**  
Maya Kaekiza

**Good Foundation Scholarship**  
Kara Brunsting, Bel Cairns, Kyle Ferrier, Aria Scerbovic, Kaelyn Vanderniet, Selah Woelk

**Grebel Student Award**  
Dylan Cudmore, Simon Friesen, Abby Krueger, Amy Matsuo

**Hildebrand Family Award**  
Kayla Burmaster, Jonathon Kambulow, Joel Kambulow, Victoria Lumax, Isabella McCloskey, Ian Miedema, Maya Morton Ninomiya, Isabel Neufeld, Joycelin Van Caulart, Elizabeth Schnurr, Alissa van Gaalen

**Jacob Andres Achievement Award** | Simon Friesen

**Joan Weber Award**  
Megan Hudson, Jordan Li

**Klaassen Religious Studies Award** | Asa Suderman-Gladwell

**Lucinda Robertson Scholarship**  
Helen Engelhardt, Joel Woods

**Marpeck Leadership Award**  
Jared Dyck, Matthew McParland, Josiah Plett

**Matthe 23:35 Award**  
Abi Kowalski, Alexandra Moran, Chloe Shantz

**Mennonite Diversity Award**  
Kalkidan Ararso

**Mennonite Matching Funds**  
Ruth Charette, Thomas Fieguth, Riley Koop, Asa Suderman-Gladwell

**Nathan Paul Krueger Wiebe Award** | Elijah Birley

**Peaceworks Technology Solutions Award**  
Hannah Bernstein

**Richard and Betty Dyck Volunteerism Entrance Award**  
Claire Bradley, Daniel Larkin, Benjamin Hollingsworth, Riley Koop

**Robin Coupland Jutzi Award**  
Emilie Chase, Thalia Criollo Guerrero, Sarah Hammond, Sebastian Lingertat, Leah Schapansky

**Sauer Family Award**  
Elijah Birley, Emma Kirke

**Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Diploma Scholarship**  
Nick Heide, Josh Lobe, Erin Movold

**Spirit of Generosity Award**  
Joshua Cheon

**Spirit of Grebel Award**  
Hanne Kuhnert, Colin Funk

**Stauffer Entrance Award**  
Nicholas Heide, Gia Zhou

**Student Council Award**  
Amani Ciccarella, Timothy Khoo, Timothy Peters

**Upper Year Residence Award**  
Quinn Andres, Ruth Charette, Sarah Driediger, Grace Enns, Hayden Epp

## MASTER OF PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

**Global Conflict Management and Transformation Award**  
Shadrach Kamyori, Sidra Khan, Thaissa Kubo De Arruda, Paniz Sadri, Noman Sajjad

**Gopal MPACS Award**  
Fatoumata Maiga, Paniz Sadri

**Lina Wohlgenut Award**  
Fatoumata Camara, Shadrach Kamyori, Fatoumata Maiga

**John and Louise Miller Hope for the World Fund**  
Thaissa Kubo De Arruda

**Malcolm X PACS Scholarship**  
Garth Yarde

**Mennonite Diversity Award**  
Shadrach Kamyori

**MPACS Impact Award**  
Nicholas Bejarano, Fatoumata Camara, Shadrach Kamyori, Valeria Navarrete, Noman Sajjad, Garth Yarde

**MPACS Internship**  
Qudsia Alvi, Nick Bejarano, Rafaela Creus Cordovez, Alexandra McDonald, Annie Oldenhof, Jennifer Smith, Amanda Truong

**MPACS Student Support**  
Qudsia Alvi, Nicholas Bejarano, Daisy Bilous, Allyson Cobb, Rafaela Creus Cordovez, Hayley Dick, Susan Dick, Madeline Docherty, Katia Emami, Brandon Gascho, Shawna-Kay Harrison, Sidra Khan, Zerihun Kinate, Maurice Kotsier, Thaissa Kubo De Arruda, Fatoumata Maiga, Murtoza Manzur, Zachary Matthews, Colin McCartney, Alexandra McDonald, Annie Oldenhof, Munawar Rana, Mohammed Rebaz, Paniz Sadri, Noman Sajjad, Jennifer Smith, Sydney Thorburn, Amanda Truong

**Rotary Peace Scholarship Award** | Sidra Khan

**Schultz Huxman MPACS Award** | Fatoumata Camara

**Vic and Rita Krueger Family MPACS Award**  
Zachary Matthews, Valeria Navarrete, Munawar Rana

## CONFLICT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

**Landau Family Scholarship**  
Jillian Harris, Shaina List, Jesse Matas

## THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

**Clifford Snyder Memorial Bursary** | Rosemarie Chambers

**Emerson and Elsie McDowell Theological Studies Scholarship**  
Laurel Rounds

**Full Time TS Tuition Award**  
Amaka Achebe, Bradley Bauer, Niamh Brown, Conrad Buhler, Clayton Culham, Susan Fish, Jacqueline Haycraft, Ryan Jedynak, Donald Justrabo, Joshua Martin, Jeff McCrea, Devan Munn, Laurel Rounds, Margaret Sherk, Zachary Stefaniuk, Peter Van Oordt, Jared Vander Meulen, Joel Wallman

**Graduate Student Support Fund**  
Rosemarie Chambers

**Jacob H. Janzen Award**  
Conrad Buhler

**Jane Plas Scholarship**  
Rosemarie Chambers, Mollee Moua, Zachary Stefaniuk

**Magdalena Coffman Scholarship**  
Abate Mergia, Sylvia Terzian

**MCEC/Grebel Pastoral Leadership Award**  
Peter Haresnape, Mollee Moua, Elizabeth Weber

**Mennonite Diversity Award**  
Charles Sourov Biswas

**Pastoral Training Award**  
Bradley Bauer, Zachary Stefaniuk

**A. James Reimer Award for MTS**  
Brad Bauer, Jacqueline Haycraft

**Reimer Scholarship in Theological Studies**  
Zachary Stefaniuk

**Stephen Family Theological Studies Entrance Award**  
Amaka Achebe, Christy Rajan

**WMCEC Theological Studies Award**  
Elizabeth Weber, Laurel Rounds

## TORONTO MENNONITE THEOLOGICAL CENTRE

**A. James Reimer at Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre Award**  
Hyejung Yum

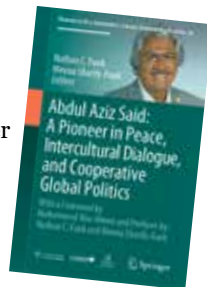
# A Sampling of Scholarship

In addition to classroom teaching, faculty and other academic personnel at Grebel accomplish a wide range of scholarship and service in the academy, church, and community. Here is a sampling of recent activities and achievements.

**ALICIA BATTEN** published “Early Anabaptists and the Pauline Tradition,” in *Reformatorsche Paulusauslegungen*, ed. Stefan Krauter and Manuel Nägele. History of Biblical Exegesis 5. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2023, 383-98.

**JEREMY BERGEN** published “Papal Apologies for Residential Schools and the Stories They Tell,” *Journal of Moral Theology* 12, no. 2 (2023): 48-62, available online.

**NATHAN FUNK**'s book *Abdul Aziz Said: A Pioneer in Peace, Intercultural Dialogue, and Cooperative Global Politics* (co-edited with Meena Sharify-Funk) was published by Springer in 2022. He also co-presented a paper on peace professionalism with Philip Onguny at the March 2023 International Studies Association convention in Montreal.



**PAUL HEIDEBRECHT** delivered a University Colloquium entitled *Engineering Peace?* at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, VA, in January 2023.

**JANE KUEPFER** was a recent guest on the *#ElderWisdom – Stories from the Green Bench* podcast, and fielded questions for a webinar hosted by the Ottawa Renfrew Dementia Society. She will be convening the 10th International Conference on Ageing & Spirituality at Grebel in June.

**ERIC LEPP** curated the exhibition “Your Wall Can(not) Divide Us” on display in the Grebel Gallery from February 1 to May 31. This photography exhibition showcases his research on graffiti in conflict-affected societies.

**DAVID Y. NEUFELD** published “‘Under the Guise of Christian Generosity’: Anabaptist Responses to Poverty in Reformed Zurich, 1600-1650,” in *‘Do Good unto All’: Charity and Poor Relief across Christian Europe, 1400-1800*, ed. Timothy Fehler and Jared Thomley (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2023), 108-29.

**REINA NEUFELDT** presented a paper on *Civil Society and Peacebuilding: Emancipation, Domination and the Difficult Spaces Between* at the International Studies Association Convention in March 2023.

**KATE KENNEDY STEINER** presented a performance-lecture titled *Music, Liturgy, and the Making of Medieval Scotland* for the annual Benjamin Eby Lecture at Grebel. She also presented a paper, *The Mass According to W1: Tropes at St Andrews*, at the North American Academy of Liturgy in January 2023.

**DEREK SUDERMAN** led two 3-hour workshops in the winter term: *Rediscovering the Doctrine of Discovery* for Waterloo Region Mennonite churches in January with 100+ participants, and *The Gospel According to Jesus* for the MCEC Church Planters’ Gathering in April with approx. 80 participants.



**MAISIE SUM** was invited as a panelist for the organized session on Music Theory and Ethnomusicology: Towards Methodological Synergy at the 2022 Joint Annual Meeting of the American Musicological Society (AMS), Society for Music Theory (SMT), and Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM). She gave a talk titled *Paving Pathways and Respecting Ritual Practice: The Value of Multiple Methodologies in Gnawa Music Research*.

**KAREN SUNABACKA**'s composition *Never to Return* (2013) for string orchestra was performed by orchestras in Toronto, New York, Winnipeg, and Ottawa between January and April 2023. Her piece *Born by the River* was performed by the Nova Scotia Symphony (and also was recorded and later broadcast on CBC) and by Sinfonia Toronto.

**MARK VUORINEN** received a 2023 JUNO nomination in the Classical Album of the Year (Large Ensemble) category for his recording with The Elora Singers, *Radiant Dawn: Music for Advent and Christmas*.





## Peace Scholar Brings Depth, Curiosity, Originality

BY JEN KONKLE, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Dr. Eric Lepp (BA 2005) will join the Grebel community as Assistant Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) on July 1, 2023, becoming the College's newest tenure-track faculty member. With expertise in conflict transformation, theories and practices of nonviolence and resistance, and peace and social justice movements, Eric brings experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm to this role at Grebel and the University of Waterloo.

"We are delighted to welcome Dr. Eric Lepp as a faculty member in Peace and Conflict Studies at Grebel" said Reina Neufeldt, PACS Chair. "Dr. Lepp brings a passion for student-centered teaching, an exciting research portfolio and deep commitment to understanding and engaging with local and international grassroots peace initiatives."

Eric holds a PhD from the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at the University of Manchester. He completed an MA in Peace Studies at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, and a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Waterloo. Eric serves as an Honorary Research Fellow at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at the University of Manchester and was a Curriculum Fellow with the International Centre for Nonviolent Conflict in Washington, DC.

"Eric is a gifted educator in Peace and Conflict Studies, with a knack for bringing students with quite different perspectives into conversation with one another," said President Marcus Shantz. "His classroom is

a place of curiosity, good humour, and deep learning." With 10 years of international and domestic teaching experience, Eric has taught both at an introductory level and graduate level, received teaching awards, and participated in curriculum development.

"As an instructor who sees classroom education as having real-world applicability, I try as much as possible to be responsive to student passions, with the aim of teaching them how solid analysis can augment their understanding of problems they care deeply about," explained Eric. "I seek to empower students to challenge taken-for-granted assumptions to act boldly as agents for change by making meaningful contributions to society locally and globally."



Eric is familiar with the PACS program as an alumnus of Grebel and a former staff member. This winter he co-curated an interactive exhibit in the Grebel Gallery titled

"Your Wall Can (Not) Divide Us" that features photos of vibrant street art and graffiti from conflict-affected areas around the world as well as an interactive graffiti wall.

"Eric's scholarship in graffiti and side-by-side peacebuilding focuses on the relational dimensions of analysis and peacebuilding," noted Troy Osborne, Grebel's Dean. Eric exemplifies this research approach in his PhD thesis, "Side by Side in the Land of Giants: A study of space, contact and civility in Belfast." "Having already received grants in support of his research, Eric demonstrates a research trajectory that reveals a scholar with depth, curiosity, and originality," Osborne added.

A number of fellowships and external grants have supported Eric's work, including a recent grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. He has also published in *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development*, *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, and *Qualitative Research*.

"I am looking forward to working with the faculty, staff and students in the Peace and Conflict Studies program to intentionally chart our direction together through theories and practices that are emerging in response to our increasingly polarized world," remarked Eric. "I am excited to bring my passion for the classroom and my growing research agenda to compliment the excellent work already being done in the PACS program."

# Celebrating Ten Years of MPACS: Pursuing Transformative Peace and Justice

BY FARAH JURDI

The world is filled with unique and diverse communities and cultures, friendship and family, love, and the resilient human spirit. However, the world is facing turbulent times with polarization, systemic violence, armed conflicts, and oppression on the uprise. “The Master of Peace and Conflict Studies community strives to transform conflicts, repair harms, and build flourishing communities,” said Reina Neufeldt, Chair and Associate Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at Grebel.

The tenth anniversary of the MPACS program at Grebel and the University of Waterloo was celebrated on March 4, 2023. The celebration event brought together upwards of 80 guests, including 42 alumni and most of the faculty and staff involved in the program’s establishment, growth, and mission during the last decade. Since its establishment, there have been 147 MPACS graduates and a passionate team of faculty, staff, instructors, and administrators working to advance peace locally, nationally, and globally.

The anniversary served as a reflection on the past decade. It was an appreciation of how inspiring change can ripple into hope and healing in the world, and it was a look ahead at a community that is pursuing transformative peace and justice together. The program comprised a guided networking activity, a lively reception, and alumni reflections on how MPACS and Grebel impacted their lives.

Hari KC, a 2015 graduate, explained how the MPACS program “planted seeds of interest” in his life, guiding his subsequent PhD in global governance and post-doctoral teaching at Wilfrid Laurier University. “My education and the values I learned from the MPACS program continue to guide my thoughts and actions,” said Hari. He then quoted the Hindu Mantra of Upanishad: “From ignorance, lead me to truth. From darkness, lead me to light. From death, lead me to immortality. Peace, peace, peace.”

“MPACS is more than an opportunity, it is a passport to more opportunities,” remarked Emily Singh, a 2019 graduate who is now the Arbitration and Professional Standards Coordinator for the Toronto Real Estate Board. “As a student, I thought that these concepts only applied to big world conflicts,” shared Emily. “Now, I apply these profound ideas on a micro-scale to the disputes that I help resolve as an arbitrator.”

Amanda Bellefeuille, a 2017 graduate, credits the MPACS program for building leaders who “turn tough ground into the soft soil that is needed for peace to grow.” Amanda is now the Knowledge in Action Manager for the Student Commission of Canada. “I remind myself every day that peace can happen, and I am a part of it.”

Grebel’s 2022 Distinguished Alumni Service Award was awarded to Issa Ebombolo (MPACS 2017) for his significant contribution to the church community, nation, and world through his leadership, dedication, and commitment to promoting peace and justice. “This world-class college gave me the best and progressive knowledge in the field of peace and conflict studies,” said Issa. In his video, he thanked faculty, staff, and current students in MPACS who continually inspire him to create an impact in people’s lives and the world. Although Issa was not able to travel to Canada to receive his award in person, his daughter Faraja Sadi, a PACS student at Grebel, accepted the award on his behalf.



Issa Ebombolo, 2022 Distinguished Alumni Service Award Winner

“Looking to the future, I see MPACS bringing learning from our graduates into our classrooms as well as finding ways to support their work outside of the classroom,” said Reina. “We are committed to providing a rich learning community for students, and finally to being leaders in the field of peace and conflict studies over the next decade.”



A decade of MPACS graduates





# Mapping Systems Clarifies Complex Problems

BY SELAH WOELK, PROGRAM ASSISTANT, KINDRED CREDIT UNION CENTRE FOR PEACE ADVANCEMENT

This April, Grebel hosted the University of Waterloo campus finals of the Map the System student research competition, a culmination of several months of work and research for student teams. A global competition developed by the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford University, Map the System provides an opportunity for students to explore some of the most pressing issues of our time—from climate change to food insecurity—using a systems-thinking lens.

This was the fifth year that the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement facilitated this opportunity for students in any level and program of study at Waterloo. Out of 55 teams who applied, five finalists were chosen to compete for prize money generously donated by Kindred Credit Union, MEDA, and the Waterloo Institute for Complexity

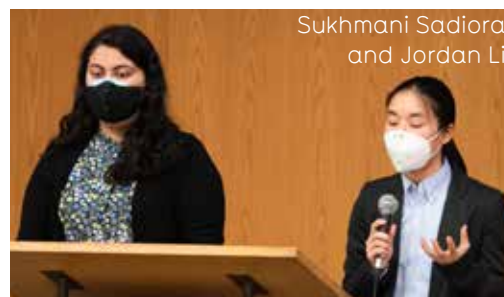
and Innovation. This year's winning team that will move onto the Canadian regional finals in May included an active member of the Grebel student community, Jordan Li.

A fourth-year Environmental Science student, Jordan's passion for creating positive change has been seen in roles at Grebel as Student Council Vice-President, Peace Society representative, and Grebel Orientation Committee Leader, and this passion shone through in her Map the System presentation. Jordan's team tackled the topic of Wetland Management in the Region of Durham, Ontario out of an interest in addressing the devastating loss of wetlands in Southern Ontario.

Jordan collaborated with Sukhmani Sadiora and Adriana Ceric, who study Environmental Studies and Civil Engineering, to explore the

many facets of this complex problem, from proposed provincial legislation encouraging the development of new housing to the importance of listening to Indigenous voices. Jordan noted that "the research process opened my eyes to how complex and interdisciplinary the issue of wetland management is."

Each of these students was completing a co-op work term, and Jordan's co-op experience doing research into wetland health and composition informed both their research and a passion for the topic. "The function of wetlands is essential to the health of all other ecosystems—it's amazing how they bridge the gaps between water and land for many organisms, filter water, mitigate flooding, and much more. For this reason, I think it's especially important that wetlands are protected and well-managed."



Sukhmani Sadiora  
and Jordan Li



## EBY LECTURE

Grebel Music Professor Kate Kennedy Steiner gave the 2023 Benjamin Eby Lecture, speaking on "Music, Liturgy, and the Making of Medieval Scotland." The lecture included the performance of medieval liturgical music made at the Cathedral of St. Andrews to celebrate Saint Andrew's relics, showing how liturgical music shaped history.

Watch the 2023 Eby Lecture [grebel.ca/eby](https://grebel.ca/eby)



## SAWATSKY LECTURE

The 2023 Rod and Lorna Sawatsky Visiting Scholar lecture was delivered by Dr. Darla Schumm, Associate Provost and Professor of Religious Studies at Hollins University in Virginia. Titled "The Power of Misfitting: Disrupting Sinner, Saint, and Super Crip Controlling Images," her talk focused on the different images religious communities ascribe to disabled peoples.

Watch the 2023 Sawatsky Lecture [grebel.ca/sawatsky](https://grebel.ca/sawatsky)

## Garden Is a Symbol of Faith and Hope

BY EVA BOOKER, POLLINATOR GARDEN COORDINATOR, 3RD-YEAR STUDENT

Grebel will be creating a pollinator garden in the spring term! This garden will consist of a variety of native, pollinator-friendly perennials and shrubs, along with a picnic table, educational signs, and paths. We hope that it will be an eye-catching and inviting spot for Grebel students and anyone passing by.

As one of Grebel's spring co-op students, I will be coordinating the creation of the garden. I have experience working at several urban farms in the past and have already begun planning for this project. I hope to have the plants well-established by the end of this season and will set plans in place to ensure they continue to thrive. My ultimate hope is that the garden not only raises awareness about the ecological crises we are facing, but also becomes a tangible, fingers-in-dirt symbol of hope and faith amidst these crises.



One way you can contribute right now is by making a donation to the project or by purchasing greeting cards designed by Grebel students, available at the reception desk. All funds from card sales will help us to purchase hardy seedlings and other important items for the garden! We will be involving volunteers in this project, so keep an ear out for those opportunities as well. We look forward to connecting with you more as this project progresses!

Consider a donation to help fund the garden: [grebel.ca/donate](https://grebel.ca/donate)

## Generosity Is on the Table



Earlier in the year, Grebel students were really behind the 8-ball when their pool table broke right in half! After a request for help in the College e-newsletter, the Thomas family—Phil and Marg (parents of Grebel alumni Neil and Graham)—stepped in and generously donated their table. The Thomas family shared that many Grebel friends had played KERP on this table in its previous life.

We are so grateful for this generous response. Ben Hollingsworth from Student Council notes, “we’ve saved huge amounts of money because of this donation. Now we can put funds toward improving student life in other ways. The generosity of the Thomas family is one of the things that makes life at Grebel so special and allows for students to really engage in community life. Thank you so much for your willingness to help the newest generation of Grebelites.”

It is gratifying to see our community respond to our student needs!

## GREBEL FUND SUPPORTS OUR MUSICIANS

Donations to the Grebel Fund support our Music Department. This includes free admission to the Noon Hour Concert series, and support for choirs and ensembles such as the Gamelan and the Orchestra@Waterloo. Offering a full slate of opportunities in Music provides students with an important balance to their studies and supports student wellness.

Thanks to all our donors who provided over \$375,000 to the annual Grebel Fund this year!

[grebel.ca/giving](https://grebel.ca/giving)



# ALUMNI CONNECTIONS



In March, Grebel alumni met in Toronto where Mark Weber (BA 1994) shared some ideas and observations about work in the post-pandemic environment and current organizational and managerial challenges. Mark and Marcus Shantz were roommates at Grebel. Their discussion, of course, included stories from their Grebel days.



In January, Grebelites gathered with other University of Waterloo alumni at an event in Ottawa that featured a conversation with senator Peter Harder (BA 1975, LLD 2005) (pictured top middle), who served as Grebel's Student Council president in the early '70s. Peter and Grebel President Marcus Shantz shared memories and engaged in topics that ranged from diplomatic and trade relations with China, to the current war in Ukraine, and how it relates to the experience of Mennonites living in that area.

## 60 FOR 60 STORIES YEARS

To celebrate Grebel's upcoming 60th Anniversary, we want to share stories about notable Grebel alumni!

*Who should we feature?*

Send us a note to suggest alumni who live into Grebel's values, are making an impact in the world, show leadership, or are simply doing cool things.

[uwaterloo.ca/grebel/alumni-stories](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/alumni-stories)



## New Endowment will Fund Archives Activity

BY FRED W. MARTIN, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

Supporting Grebel programs and capital campaigns has always been a priority for Grebel alumna Anita (Lehn) Tiessen (BA 1981) (second from right in photo) and her late husband Bob Tiessen (BMath 1974). While Bob was an actuary and loved numbers and spreadsheets, one of his favourite hobbies was history. He loved to expand his knowledge of world events and had an interest and respect for Mennonite history, particularly his own family's history. One of Bob's retirement projects was to sort through all the photos and documents left to him when his parents passed away. Some of these artifacts were donated to the Archives housed at Grebel, and have resulted in the Franz and Anna Tiessen fonds.

Bob passed away in 2022 at the age of 71. In February 2023 Anita established the "Robert J Tiessen Archival Community Education Endowment Fund" in honour of Bob's passion for Mennonite history.

The Mennonite Archives of Ontario, located at Grebel, will use earnings from this fund to support community presentations, digitization projects, and the creation of archival exhibits.

"Community education is where archives come alive," said Archivist-Librarian Laureen Harder-Gissing. "We provide it in many ways—from in-person talks to uploading digitized content that could be seen anywhere. I'm excited that this gift will help us continue connecting people to the past."

"We rely on donations from the community to operate the Mennonite Archives of Ontario, because they are not publicly funded," explained President Marcus Shantz. "This generous gift will reliably contribute more than \$10,000 each year to help us run the Archives, which are a vital part of Grebel's service to the Mennonite community."

Anita feels that making a donation to Grebel in Bob's memory honours both Bob and the place that Grebel had in his life. "Setting up an endowment to support the Grebel Archives will ensure that historical artifacts, and in particular Mennonite artifacts, will be preserved and live on to be available to teach future generations and scholars about this history," she said. "I know that Grebel is well equipped to manage this endowment and to ensure that the earnings from it will be used for the purpose intended, as long as the Archives and Grebel will continue."

# People

**Chris Derksen** (BES 1097, MA 1998, PHD 2001) was given UWaterloo’s 2022 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. He is an expert on snow, lead author, and research scientist with Environment and Climate Change



Canada where he investigates the role of snow cover in the climate system and the implications of climate change on snow, including freshwater availability, Arctic ecosystems, and the carbon cycle.



**Elinor Snell** (BA 1995) spoke at Community Supper in the winter and reflected on all she loved about Grebel when she was a student. She even brought along her grad class reflections from 1995! In addition to being a teacher, Elinor makes documentaries, and she shared about her process to the audience.



**Sue Campbell** (BA 1986) published her book *Spirit Refresh: Reflections to Comfort, Challenge and Deepen Your Relationship with God Throughout the Year*. The book has been endorsed by a variety of denominational church leaders.



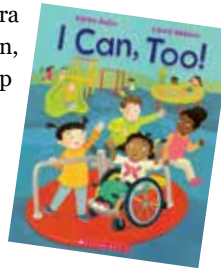
**Angie Koch** (BA 1999) spoke at Community Supper in November. She shared her journey to becoming a small-scale organic farmer, encouraging students to eat local, connect with community, and take risks. Angie has been the owner and farm manager of Fertile Ground CSA since 2007.

**Hannah Hill** (BES 2020) married **Alroy Almeida** in August 2020. She shared this photo from the wedding “featuring wonderful friends from my Grebel years.” l-r: **Conrad & Cassia Mann, Rylan & Lynn Skelly, Dolores & Paul Penner, Hannah Hill & Alroy Almeida, Colin, Ronen, & Faith Friesen, Jared Baribeau, Jonathan Smith, and Olivia Cullen.**



**Stephanie DeWitt-Orr** (BSC 2001, PhD 2006) returned to Grebel in February as a Community Supper speaker, with by her husband **Brian Orr** (BASC 1998) and their children. She is Associate Professor of Health Sciences and Biology at Laurier, and she discussed her research on SARS-CoV-2 including the back story on how unprepared we were for a Coronavirus in early 2020.

**Karen (Lange) Autio** (BMATH 1981) is pleased to announce the publication of her latest children’s books. *Kah-Lan and the Stink-Ink, Making Seaker, and Paddle-to-the-Sea. I Can, Too!* is a picture book (Scholastic Canada) illustrated by Laura Watson: a story of inclusion, accessibility, and friendship dedicated in memory of her daughter Annaliis. Karen lives in Kelowna, BC, with her husband **Will** (MMATH 1980) who retired in July 2022.



**Seth Ratzlaff** (BA 2014, MPACS 2018) co-wrote a book with **Clarence Cachagee**. *North Wind Man* is a biography in which Clarence Cachagee courageously shares his challenging and inspiring path to becoming a helper and leader in his community. It is a multi-generational healing journey that reveals cycles of trauma and oppression, beauty and resilience.



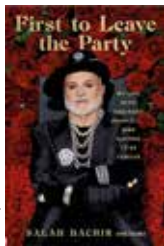
**Majid Mirza** is the co-founder and CEO of ESGTree, a Grebel Peace Incubator participant. He is demonstrating that ESG investing is an effective way to bring about positive change. His work has earned him a place among the 50 emerging leaders reinventing how Canada does business. Mirza also established the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies Malcolm X Scholarship award at Grebel.



Music Professor Emerita **Carol Ann Weaver** gave a Noon Hour Concert at Grebel in March, sharing a set of pieces called *Poland Parables*, her musical setting of Connie Braun’s poetry describing scenes shaped by WW II. **Mary-Catharine Pazzano** (BA 2021) was the vocalist, along with cellist **Ben Bolt-Martin**.

**Cassie Myers** (BA 2018) was awarded the 2022 Young Alumni Award from United College. She is the CEO and founder of Lunaria Solutions, helping brands improve their equity and inclusion strategies through audits. She also is actively involved in her community. She mentors young girls solving social problems, and she also helps survivors navigate sexual violence at the Waterloo Region Sexual Assault Support Center.

**Salah Bachir**, an alumnus from the ‘70s, recently released a new book called *First to Leave the Party*. It described as “A marvellous and compulsively readable collection of stories from the life of Salah Bachir—philanthropist, art collector, movie industry insider—who through his sheer joy of life, art, giving back, and human interaction has endeared him to some of the most famous and creative people in modern history.”



**Maria Steinman** (BA 2011) and her husband **Danny** spent two weeks in the fall travelling across Switzerland. Besides taking in the beautiful views of mountains, lakes, medieval cities and other “typical” tourist activities, she also enjoyed spending time researching Anabaptist history and visiting some historical sites, including the childhood home of Conrad Grebel!



## IN MEMORIAM

**Larry Goucher** (BES 1973) - April 16, 2022

**Celeste Lee** (BA 1981) December 4, 2022

**Kristine Jantzi** (BA 1990, MA 1992) April 22, 2023 (pictured right)



**SEND US YOUR NEWS!**  
Email [grebel@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:grebel@uwaterloo.ca)



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Find all event details at [grebel.ca/events](http://grebel.ca/events)

THURSDAY  
JUNE  
02  
7:30PM  
2023

## Beers and Bites Alumni Event

Join alumni from all four colleges for drinks, snacks and tours.

JUN  
04  
-  
07  
2023

## International Conference on Spirituality and Ageing

10th annual conference coming to Grebel in June 2023

SUNDAY  
JUNE  
25  
1:30PM  
2023

## Blue Jays Game

Enjoy Jr. Jays days together with family and fellow Grebel alumni.

MONDAY  
JULY  
10  
7:30PM  
2023

## The Place of Memory: Reflections on the Russlaender Centenary

SUNDAY  
JULY  
23  
10:00AM  
2023

## Niagara Alumni Bike Trek

An summer alumni bike trek from Port Colborne to Vineland.

AUG  
13  
-  
25  
2023

## Ontario Mennonite Music Camp

Combining music education with classic camp activities for students grade 6-12.

SUNDAY  
SEPT  
10  
2:00PM  
2023

## 60th Anniversary Alumni Picnic

A day of family-friendly activities on the Grebel green, with a picnic dinner.

WEDNESDAY  
OCT  
11  
6:00PM  
2023

## GALA DINNER

Celebrate Grebel's 60 years of impact! With special guests from every decade, we'll recreate a Community Supper and raise money for residence facility renewal projects.



Hosted by Eric Friesen BA 1967.

[uwaterloo.ca/grebel/60](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/60)

## Commemorating 500 years of Anabaptism: Friends of Grebel European Tour

May 2025

With Grebel History professors as your guide, visit sites of early Anabaptist importance in Switzerland, the Netherlands, and along the Rhine.



[uwaterloo.ca/grebel/events/anabaptist-tour](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/events/anabaptist-tour)

## A STROLL DOWN MEMORY LANE

'80S ERA GREBEL REUNION  
Saturday, June 3, 2023 4:00 PM EDT  
[grebel.ca/reunion](http://grebel.ca/reunion)



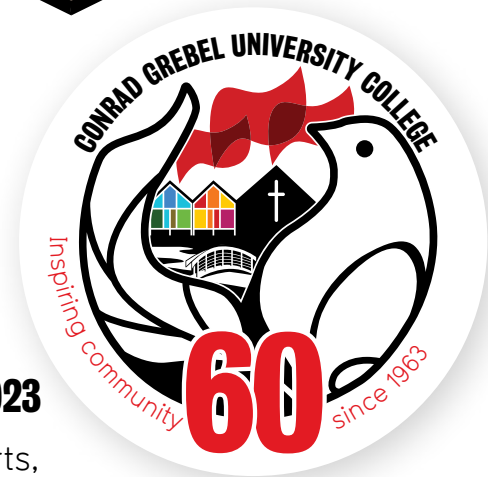


# Celebrate 60 years of inspiring community!

Get ready to join the celebration as Conrad Grebel University College prepares to commemorate the College's 60th anniversary in 2023-24. With a range of exciting events and special reunions planned throughout the year, Grebel's 60th promises to be an unforgettable experience for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the College.

- **Alumni Picnic | Sunday, September 10, 2023**
- **Gala Dinner | Wednesday, October 11, 2023**
- **Three-Choir Celebratory Concert | Saturday, November 25, 2023**

Get involved in these anniversary events and more including concerts, reunions, and further celebrations by visiting our website.



 [uwaterloo.ca/grebel/60th](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/60th)

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