

# GREBEL NOW

Conrad Grebel University College Magazine

## SUSTAINABILITY

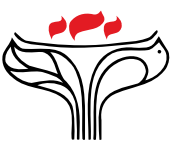
### Peace and the Environment

A Journey to Reconnect

### Alumni Take Sustainability to Heart

16 alumni reflect on the importance of sustainability in their lives

FALL 2021



Vol. 38 No. 1

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## Working Toward Sustainability

In a recent survey done in partnership with Mennonite Central Committee, Grebel alumni responded strongly on the issue of climate change. When asked to list their top three important causes or issues, addressing climate change was top for alumni, followed by clean water/sanitation and food/housing security. And when asked to describe their identity, 91 percent of alumni described themselves as environmentalists.

Front cover: Alana Matsuo and Ceileigh McAllister, Environment Reps on Grebel's Student Council inspect the new green roof.

This issue of *Grebel Now* focuses on stories and alumni profiles that illustrate the theme of sustainability. As students, Grebelites were at the forefront of recycling and composting, always pushing the College to do better. Even now, some alumni memories note frustration with the slow pace of Grebel's move toward sustainability—urging us forward. It is clear that alumni

have integrated values of creation care into their lives and, guided by new generations of students, Grebel as an institution is making new steps toward living those values as well.

This issue also includes the 2020-21 Annual Report, general Grebel news, and details for many upcoming events that will hopefully be in person!

Fred W. Martin, Director of Advancement  
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Grebel Now is published twice a year by Conrad Grebel University College. Send all comments, submissions, and ideas to: [grebel@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:grebel@uwaterloo.ca)

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

# The Long Now

BY MARCUS SHANTZ, PRESIDENT

"Now" is never just a moment. The Long Now is the recognition that the precise moment you're in grows out of the past and is a seed for the future. The longer your sense of Now, the more past and future it includes.

—Brian Eno, in *The Big Here and Long Now*

In the 2019 case of *Mathur et al. v. Ontario*, a group of young people sued the government of Ontario for its cancellation of a provincial carbon-trading law. These youth stated that the government's inaction on carbon emissions meant that they (and, importantly, future generations) would face the future hardship of a warming climate, long after the those who had created the problem were gone. The youth argued that this was age-based discrimination and a threat to "security of the person"—both prohibited under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The government of Ontario filed a motion to dismiss the claim before it could proceed to trial arguing (among other points) that the youth did not have standing to represent people in the future. But the Ontario Superior Court agreed with the youth, and decided that a lawsuit on behalf of future generations could not easily be dismissed.

The idea that future generations can make claims in the present is a radical idea in Canadian law. But it is an old concept in many traditional cultures and religions. Long ago, the Haudenosaunee adopted the principle that decisions made today must respect the well-being of people seven generations into the future. The corollary idea is found in the Torah: future generations inevitably bear the punishing consequences of present-day bad behavior.

In a famous essay, the musician Brian Eno argued that in order to live well into the future, humanity needs to develop a greater sense of "the Long Now"—that is, our deep connection in the present to the past and to the future.

When it comes to Grebel's responsibility for a sustainable environment, there is a long (and expensive) to-do list. An engineering firm just completed an environmental audit of our campus. They have suggested dozens of ways we can reduce our carbon footprint and other environmental impacts—ideas that range from replacing residence windows, to upgraded heating and cooling systems, to smart thermostats, to solar panels. The list is long, but we know that future generations demand that we work at it. Present generations of alumni and students certainly expect us to act, and they have the expertise to help us. One of our alumni led the environmental audit.

But I think that our responsibilities extend well beyond upgrades to our buildings. We are also called to foster a sense of the Long Now in our students. We already do this at Grebel—though perhaps we have not thought about it in these terms. Joining an enduring community, considering values that extend beyond oneself, exploring a faith tradition, connecting to history—all of these things enable our students to imagine a longer Now. In this issue of *Grebel Now*, the profiles of alumni and students who are working on environmental concerns provides the proof of this concept. When our students connect that long sense of Now to whatever they study here, they can discover vocations and callings that contribute to a sustainable future for coming generations.



# Peace and the Environment: A Journey to Reconnect

BY JENNIFER BALL, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

Sitting on the edge of an urban stream that runs surprisingly clear, I am nestled in the grass among a small grove of trees who are slowly releasing their yellow leaves that dance and pirouette around me. A black and white speckled woodpecker thrums on a branch nearby. Two black squirrels chase each other from branch to branch making precarious leaps, stopping only to gnaw on walnuts now so plentiful. An occasional but pervasive smell of wild leeks wafts around me and draws me in to taste. My fingers follow the grooves and ridges of the bark on a nearby tree I am getting to know. Amidst the distant urban din, there is quiet here.

This is my Sit Spot for this term, the place in nature I've chosen to visit weekly for a minimum of 20 minutes, using all six senses to explore and get to know these nature beings, journaling my reflections—just as I require of my Peace and Environment students. Sit Spots, inspired by the work of Jon Young, a renowned nature connection and culture repair mentor, form a foundational practice of this course and the basis for our exploration of the connections between peace and conflict to the environment. This is part of what sets this course apart from other environmental courses offered at UWaterloo. As many an Environmental Studies major has remarked, “I have a lot of knowledge about the environment, but I've never actually gotten to know it in this way, building a personal relationship.”



Above, Jeremy Spira begins building a relationship with a tree without the use of his sight.

Indeed, Relationship is central to the guiding framework of this course, together with Respect/Reverence, Reciprocity, and Responsibility—“the Four Rs,” as these are described by Martin Tamlyn, Manager of the Old Growth Forest Project at the Ignatius Centre near Guelph, where we usually hold a field trip. These, however, originate from a worldview that is Indigenous.

Undergirding and infusing all aspects of our study of peace and the environment is a consciousness of shifting paradigms, of the simultaneous existence of what some call the Old Story and the New/Returning Story,<sup>1</sup> which Indigenous peoples remind us is the Original Story. The Old Story, characterized by a belief that humans are superior and separate from nature; that natural resources are for human consumption; and that

there is general scarcity, leads to expectations of competition and inevitable violent conflict. We see this evidenced in the plethora of crises that are at once environmental, social, economic, and spiritual: resource wars, devastating impacts of climate change, the destruction of so much Life. This is what many Indigenous peoples call the dream or trance of the modern world.<sup>2</sup> What does it take to wake up?

In contrast, the New/Returning/Original Story is characterized by a profound sense of interconnectedness; deep valuing of inter-relatedness, of cooperation and collaboration; a sense of abundance—there being enough for all if well distributed; and a living in balance with recognition of limits to growth. Conflict is understood as an inevitable part of all relationships, necessitating the development of skills and strategies for constructively navigating it so that it might be a catalyst for positive change and cultivating a culture of peace.

We are somewhere in between stories. The Old Story is no longer working (if ever it did) and the New/Returning/Original Story is not yet being fully lived out. The reality is that most of us embody both to varying degrees. When the Old Story is unquestioned and unconscious, we live out of it without awareness of how we are influenced by it. For some, the New/Returning/Original Story is foreign, counter cultural (to the dominant culture), while for others it is familiar but colonized by ‘modernity’, and for others it's their birthright under constant threat. How do we become more conscious in our choices of which story we live into and co-create?

We come back to the 4 Rs—Respect/Reverence, Relationship, Reciprocity, and Responsibility—with ourselves, with other nature beings, and with other human beings. As we begin in our Sit Spots, many of us do our best to visit with respect, which for some over time shifts to wonder and reverence. But many of us find ourselves initially feeling and acting separate, an outsider, an observer, documenting data. This doesn't feel like relationship. It does feel calming to our stress and tech wired nervous systems. How much of this is about us and our well-being and how much about truly getting to know the ‘other’? Challenged to use our cross-cultural communication skills, we experiment with more intentionally interacting with the nature beings whose home we are visiting, desiring to make friends. Observing their non-verbal behaviour, listening deeply, checking our observations with additional research, expressing our inner thoughts and questions, offering gifts of gratitude, sometimes cleaning up garbage—gradually we stretch into experimenting with our side

As Assistant Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies, Jennifer Ball's research interests pertain broadly to women's community-based peacebuilding, Circle as pedagogy and community engagement process, community resilience, rural planning and community development, and narrative methodologies.



of reciprocity. We begin to learn names and how knowing names changes the quality of relating—from general (birds) to specific (blue jays, sparrows, crows). We try on the idea of everything being our relations—mother earth, father sky, grandmother moon, grandfather sun, brothers, and sisters. If so, what are our relational rights and responsibilities? Through our Sit Spots we come into greater connection with self and with nature. Our sense of relatedness shifts. We learn to hear voices different than our own, as well as a deeper voice within ourselves as we reflect through our journals.

We then come into Circle, another core practice through which we learn the 4 Rs. We sit in a circle with no tables and we pass a talking piece (even on zoom), creating space and opportunity for everyone to speak and be heard, but with no obligation to ever speak; presence is gift to the whole. In Circle, with the talking piece and a foundation of shared values and guidelines, we co-create a community where we all become teachers and learners, where our questions, stories, and explorations can be held, and where we learn to listen deeply to perspectives different from our own. This is where we integrate our reflections, readings, and other resources (like guest speakers and videos) into a collective co-creation of knowledge. Here we experience connection...sometimes disconnection...hopefully reconnection. Here we practice skills needed for navigating conflict and for building cultures of peace through inclusivity and dialogue across lines of difference. It is in Circle that we come into greater connection with self and with other people.

Through our practices of Sit Spots and Circle, we are settling the cortisol in our overstressed body systems, shifting our brains from fight/flight/freeze reactions, connecting our minds and hearts, allowing access to our creativity and intuition. We are activating seeds of consciousness often dormant, ancestral wisdom buried, that which is already in our evolutionary biology calling us toward living from core values that are life affirming and guide us toward wholeness. It is from this place that we want our visions and actions to come—the responsibility we hold for contributing to the emerging story. In the spirit of Einstein's admonition that no problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it, we are learning practices to help shift our consciousness.

As we explore intersections of peace with the environment, we cannot escape the overwhelmingness and despair that comes with comprehending the extent of the devastation we as humans are having on nature, the disproportionate impacts of wealthy nations that implicate us in our own lifestyles and daily habits: the violence

we contribute to through the mining of conflict minerals for our cell phones and computers; resource wars in which oil is central; greenhouse gas emissions; polluted water resulting in ongoing boil water advisories for many First Nations; logging of old growth forests; the extractive nature of industrial agriculture; and the intersections of race in the production of our food.

Responsibility brings us to the question of “what is mine to do?” Integral to answering this is cultivating a hope-filled vision of the world we want to live in, daring to dream of what does not currently seem possible. In this we draw inspiration from communities locally and globally reaching across lines of difference to collaborate in their care of the earth and thus of each other (like cultivating urban gardens on vacant lots, protecting a shared river or forest, even transborder peace parks between feuding nations). As Randall Amster, author of *Peace Ecology*, observes, “the same set of global conflicts over resources, population, and climate that are increasingly at the root of war might also be among the most potent drivers of peaceful relations.”<sup>3</sup>

In the complexity and inevitable overwhelming of the state of the world, it is about coming back to basics of our relationships. As David Suzuki notes, “What we do to the earth, we do to ourselves.”<sup>4</sup> Activist Julia Butterfly Hill admonishes, “we cannot have peace on the earth, unless we have peace with the earth.”<sup>5</sup>

Contrary to our unconscious bias, nature is not the backdrop to the stage on which we humans live out our lives. We are always living and acting in relation to other nature beings. The question is not *whether* we are in relationship but *what quality of relationship?*

I invite you to find a Sit Spot and continue your own journey in shifting and deepening your relationship with nature—in so doing, contributing to a more just and peaceful world.



<sup>1</sup>Thomas Berry, *The Dream of the Earth* (San Francisco, CA: Sierra Club Books, 1988).

<sup>2</sup>Pachamama Alliance, “Awakening the Dreamer”, 2021, [landing.pachamama.org/awakening-the-dreamer-2-hour-online-course](https://landing.pachamama.org/awakening-the-dreamer-2-hour-online-course).

<sup>3</sup>Randall Amster, *Peace Ecology* (Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2015), 6.

<sup>4</sup>Suzuki, David. (2015). *What we do to the earth, we do to ourselves* Times Colonist. [timescolonist.com/opinion/columnists/david-suzuki-what-we-do-to-the-earth-we-do-to-ourselves-1.2043193](https://timescolonist.com/opinion/columnists/david-suzuki-what-we-do-to-the-earth-we-do-to-ourselves-1.2043193).

<sup>5</sup>Pachamama Alliance, “Awakening the Dreamer”, 2021, [landing.pachamama.org/awakening-the-dreamer-2-hour-online-course](https://landing.pachamama.org/awakening-the-dreamer-2-hour-online-course).



# Greening Grebel

**CEILEIGH MCALLISTER, GREBEL STUDENT COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT REP**

At Grebel, sustainability and the environment are of great importance to students. From campfires after dark at Orientation Week, to weekends spent outdoors building community at Camp Trillium, to vibrant Environment Committee meetings, creation is a central part of life here. Recently, it has become clear that urgent change is needed to preserve and protect the natural world. To ensure that the Grebel community is doing its part to mitigate the worst impacts of the climate crisis, students have spearheaded an initiative that puts institutional sustainability at the forefront of our facility.

When I was appointed as the Environment Representative in fall 2020 with Eva Booker, another first-year student, we were conflicted. While we were extremely excited to be given the opportunity to steer Grebel towards sustainability, we were also very intimidated—we were both in our first year and talking to Student Council and College administration about sustainability issues was daunting.

As we talked to other students, we realized the importance of our role as advocates for the student body—sustainability is something that students at Grebel care deeply about. Moreover, many students believed that Grebel was not doing enough to take action on the climate crisis. In early 2021, we created a survey to quantify student needs for the administration. The results were overwhelming: sustainability was a major concern for students and they wanted to see more meaningful climate action from our community. Most notably, 98.1% of students believed that Grebel should set reduction targets in at least one of three areas: greenhouse gas emissions, waste, and water. Additionally, 96.3% of students believed that Grebel should aim to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030, as per the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

When we brought this data to administration, they were quick to act. Led by Paul Penner, the administration connected with engineering

consultants at WalterFedy to establish baseline energy and water consumption data. In the audit (conducted by recent Grebel alumnus Max Chute!) possible energy and water conservation measures were identified. Grebel also joined the Regional Sustainability Initiative, a program run by local startup Sustainable Waterloo Region. Founded by recently elected Kitchener Centre MP Mike Morrice, SWR empowers local businesses to set reduction targets. Recently, we put together a Green Team to explore and advise on next steps. This team will be instrumental in the process of setting reduction targets as well as meeting them.

Student Council was also extremely supportive of our asks, creating a sustainability initiatives fee to help finance physical infrastructure updates, which was passed in a referendum voted on by the student body. Students now pay an additional \$15 per term on top of residence fees to support our sustainability initiatives, demonstrating student commitment to this project.

In the short term, I would like to see us set ambitious reduction targets. In the long term, I would like to see Grebel not only achieve but exceed these targets. Grebel has the absolute obligation to do this: not only as an institution based on Anabaptist values that should centre creation care and principles of climate justice and equity in our operations, but as a home for students. Our future is threatened—large parts of our planet will be completely unlivable in our lifetime if we do not see immediate and ambitious change from all areas of society. Students go to Grebel to grow into adulthood, build relationships, and study for their futures. We need to do our part to ensure there is a future ahead for us to look forward to.



## ARCHIVAL SURVIVAL REQUIRES COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

Climate change is a threat to archives and other centres of knowledge. Around the world, cultural heritage and community memory is threatened by fires, floods, severe weather, and environmental conflicts. Archives require energy to maintain physical collections in stable condition. Digitization is not necessarily the answer. Server farms, data streaming, and the manufacture and use of digital devices also contribute to environmental problems. Solutions must be found. Preserving the stories of the past for the future requires the participation not only of archivists and historians, but artists, scientists and engineers.

*Fraktur drawing by Rebecca Brubacher 1892–1967*

## TIMELINE OF PAST ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Grebel has a history of early adaptation for environmental changes, much of it spurred on by student activism and encouragement.

### 1980S



Recycling was introduced by students before the Blue Box recycling program even came to UWaterloo.

Student Council created the position of Environment Representative on the Larger Leadership Team.



### 1990S



Students initiated the installation of three solar panels on Grebel's roof to pre-heat hot water.

### 2009

Grebel was Waterloo's first participant in a highly successful pilot project that tested institutional-level organic waste collection.



### 2010



Grebel installed UWaterloo campus's first electric vehicle charging station in the College parking lot.

### 2013

A team of five Grebel students applied for and were awarded grants to add a green roof to the College's kitchen expansion.



### 2018



Students requested that Grebel join Sustainable Waterloo Region as a method of accountability and as a resource. Soon after, Grebel's Green Team was formed.

### 2021

## Grebel Joins Sustainable Waterloo Region

This year, Grebel officially joined Sustainable Waterloo Region's Regional Sustainability Initiative. As a member, Grebel will share and learn best practices with other like-minded organizations. Members work to understand the impacts of their operations on environmental sustainability and aim to build a culture of sustainability among employees and engage employees as sustainability advocates while also adapting policy and reducing impact through realistic sustainability targets.

"The issues facing our community and society are all intermingled and Conrad Grebel joining the Sustainable Waterloo Region network is evidence of that," said Tova Davidson, Executive Director of Sustainable Waterloo Region. "Addressing climate change and other environmental issues all works in partnership with the creation of a better, more just world. This is a great addition to the network and we are so excited to be working with them."

Motivated by student concerns, Grebel commissioned WalterFedy to prepare an Energy and Water Audit. The lead engineer on the team was recent Grebel alumnus Max Chute (BASC 2021), who brought expertise and familiarity to the job. The final report identifies many opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through equipment upgrades and facility improvements, complete with a \$2.5 million cost estimate. This report will be the first major agenda item for Grebel's new Green Team to begin its work.

This new team includes students, staff and faculty and will meet regularly with Sustainable Waterloo Region advisors to form a plan for reducing Grebel's carbon footprint. Further concerns the group will address include larger campus culture questions like: Why is climate change an important issue? Should we change what we eat? How much should we travel? Should we use air conditioning?

"It is so inspiring to see the passion our students have to fight climate change as we work together as a college community to make our campus more carbon neutral," said Grebel's Director of Operations Paul Penner. "Our students, administration, board, and alumni are committed to implementing the suggestions that come from our newly-formed Green Team with support from Sustainable Waterloo Region."





Val Steinmann with some of her livestock  
(photo by Barry Best)

# ALUMNI TAKE SUSTAINABILITY TO HEART

Grebel Alumni are scattered across the globe, pursuing a vast assortment of vocations and lifestyles. With a focus on the care of our earth, the following profiles highlight a just a few of the interesting, intentional, and invaluable work some Grebel alumni are pursuing. We asked three questions: How do you work toward sustainability in your life? Why is this important to you? Do you have a memory of Grebel that relates to sustainability or the environment?

## VAL STEINMANN (BSC 1991)

Farmer and Community Animator, Heartwood Farm & Cidery, Ospringe, ON

We moved to a small farm 17 years ago with three small children, a fledgling desire to create a more sustainable life and my intuition that developing a relationship to land would be a step in the right direction. In the intervening years, I've hand-milked cows, raised and butchered our own pastured chickens, cut hay, spread manure and skidded logs with a team of horses, made cheese, canned produce, hung laundry, planted hundreds of fruit and nut trees, grazed goats, sheep, pigs and cattle, run a CSA (community supported agriculture) with young farmers, and generally tried to live more simply. I've grappled with the realization that my efforts to reduce my eco-footprint will never feel like they are enough, and that sustaining an environment that is spiraling into decline is not going to cut it.

I've gradually shifted from trying to do all the right things, to being curious about the connections between healing the land, ourselves and our communities. Ecological farming offers a potent context for me to practice and experience this first hand, and I've discovered that the lessons of regenerating soil and restoring biodiversity offer inspiration for work in different realms. I've always felt drawn to sharing my story as a farmer, and offering experiences on the farm; now I'm collaborating with others to develop this content to support organizational development and build community capacity for change.

I credit my Mennonite upbringing for orienting me towards a life of service, and inspiring me to be "in the world, but not of it." When I finally found my way to the work of relational and regenerative agriculture, I discovered that the antidote to despair for the world comes from doing the particular, small piece of the bigger work that gives me joy. On one hand, my farm work is just profoundly grounding for me, and on the other hand, I feel like it connects me in a small but significant way to the transformation of our cultural narrative and to the work of reconciliation and healing.

Grebel gave me a real appreciation for the power of the kitchen table to change the world. Eating good food together, starting with gratitude, listening and sharing conversation; the simple stuff of building relationships and cultivating community feel like a potent foundation for positive change.

## KEVIN RANNEY (BA 1987)

Executive Director, Sustainable Finance Solutions at Sustanalytics, Guelph, ON

Living sustainably in the context of a non-circular, fossil fuel-powered economy is challenging. I aim to make a small contribution through my work in the field of sustainable finance (which includes supporting the issuance of green bonds, among other things), and by driving an electric vehicle, avoiding food with a large ecological footprint, investing in renewable energy, avoiding waste where I can, and supporting a political party that is serious about trying to make our economy and society just and sustainable.





For many years there was a tendency to see sustainability issues as issues that kept environmentalists busy but weren't necessarily of central importance to everyone. That perception has begun to change in recent years. The impacts of climate change are arriving sooner than expected, and we are getting a clearer picture of the damage and disruption—including social and economic disruption—that it is causing and that can be expected to increase substantially in the coming decades. Sustainability challenges are clearly a matter of huge importance to all of us. Fortunately there is growing awareness and consensus, especially around the need to address climate change. Whether or not we succeed in transforming unsustainable systems remains to be seen. On good days I am hopeful.

One of my few environment-related memories at Grebel is of occasionally accompanying my inspiring friend and roommate Greg Cressman, who made regular late-night visits to the Grebel kitchen to rinse cans for recycling, which was rare and radical in those days.

Scott delivering lunch to Haudenosaunee (Six Nations) land defenders near 1492 Landback Lane.



## SCOTT MORTON NINOMIYA (BA 1998)

MCC Ontario's Indigenous Neighbours program, Kitchener, ON

When I was a Grebel associate and PACS student in 1995, I participated in a 10-day PACS course offered in Labrador where we met Indigenous land defenders from Innu Nation protecting their land from colonialism and militarization. That was a big personal awakening for me about the deep connections between environmental and Indigenous justice.

Also while at Grebel, I met my wife Melody—and as our three kids have grown, my concern about the lack of significant action to address the climate crisis has grown too. For that reason, I decided to pursue a PhD in Global Governance at Balsillie School of International Affairs (UWaterloo), researching how efforts to pursue climate justice can align with and contribute to Indigenous justice on the Haldimand Tract. I have also been heavily involved in community groups like Faith Climate Justice, and the advocacy effort that resulted in all local councils committing to a 50% reduction in local greenhouse gases by 2030.

Alongside those efforts, I have also become increasingly engaged in Indigenous justice work, leading the Truth and Reconciliation Working Group of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada since 2019. In October this year, I started a new full-time job leading MCC Ontario's Indigenous Neighbours program. I am very excited about building on MCC's many decades of relationships and good work. As settlers, and Mennonites, our work is cut out for us. We are called to dismantle the destructive colonial systems upon which our society—and our privilege—are built. Now is the time for all of us to humbly but courageously seek the upside-down Kingdom of God on this land for the sake of all who live on it. If you would like to get involved in that work, please contact me at [scottmortonninomiya@mcco.ca](mailto:scottmortonninomiya@mcco.ca).



## DAVID NEUFELD (1979–1981)

Organic Greenhouse Operator, Market Gardener, WWOOF/Intern and Guesthouse Host, local historian and writer, Turtle Mountain, MB

## MAGGIE ANDRES (BA 1983)

Teacher/Resource Teacher/Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Turtle Mountain, MB

We lived for 8 years in rural and then semi-urban Africa (with Mennonite Central Committee) immediately after Grebel, so our marriage was grounded in simple living routines/expectations. When we moved to rural Southwest Manitoba from Africa, we wanted to fit in with our Canadian neighbours, but in a way which was as consistent as possible with our African experience.

We live in a comfortable home (since building it over the past five years), but we used local materials as much as possible (rammed earth, earthen floor, the trees on our land) and rely on solar power, rain water collection, and the composting process to keep us going. We've managed to build this place on a single income, lots of labour offered by friends, great skills learned from parents and life experience, and being privileged by colonial governments.

We live on a stunningly beautiful bit of land that we care for. We encourage the treaty notion of sharing this land knowing full well that this notion goes against the capitalistic notion of ownership.

We have hosted more than 100 volunteers for weeks or months, who have wanted to learn about sustainable living, develop skills for rural living, and maintain this lifestyle in their own way. We also run a straw bale guesthouse for people who want to experience something of this lifestyle. Maggie has woven many of these ideas into the classroom experience for students.

We feel it's important to aim for a lifestyle that every person in the world can reach for and that the earth can support.

I, David, fondly remember classes led by Dorothy Friesen under the Peace and Conflict and Development Studies program at Grebel that helped me orient myself as an integral being in an unjust world.

I, Maggie, recall that Peace Society discussions and activities raised these issues and they were further discussed around the dinner tables at Grebel and later in our off-campus homes with fellow associate students.



### **GENA BRAUN (BSC 2003, MSC)**

Research  
Instrumentation  
Technician,  
Waterloo, ON

I try to consider sustainability in all of the decisions I make, both large and small. For the smaller decisions,

I try to purchase food locally, limit meat consumption, and bike to work as much as possible. For the bigger decisions, we are fortunate to have an electric vehicle, we have been able to install an air source heat pump in our home, and we switched to an electric water heater and a salt-free water softener. I am also fortunate to work in a lab that supports a variety of environmental research and to co-lead a small “green-team” at our daughters’ school.

This is important to me because I see creation as a truly remarkable gift, and as something we are responsible for taking care of for future generations. From a purely practical point of view, it simply makes sense to try to preserve our own habitat! I also think it is very important to recognize that trying to live more sustainably is a journey and there will be challenges and successes along the way.

I had the pleasure of meeting many wonderful people at Grebel, including friends that challenged me to consider the long-term impacts of my choices. One roommate in particular choose to give up their vehicle because they could not reconcile the carbon footprint of their car with their desire to live sustainably. That choice still has a significant impact on how I approach my own lifestyle decisions today.

### **KEVIN MARTIN (BES 2009)**

Co-CEO of Power TakeOff, Waterloo, ON

The biggest impact towards sustainability in my life is through my ongoing work at Power TakeOff. Power TakeOff partners with utilities in helping their business customers of all sizes identify and achieve energy savings. We use big data analysis to target, predict, and communicate the energy saving potential of customers. Beyond the individual actions all of our employees take in our own personal lives towards sustainability, it’s incredible to see the large impact we can have together when combining our efforts and working as a team on these challenges. For example, last year



we were able to help customers reduce enough energy usage so that it was equivalent to each one of our employees offsetting over 125 years’ worth of household electricity usage.

Since high school, I have felt called to be a steward of God’s creation. We have been entrusted with this miraculous gift that is our planet and all the living species and non-living resources within it. I feel compelled to be a caretaker of this gift, trying to leave it to our children in better condition than we received it, and working towards a more harmonious and sustainable relationship with our earth.

At Grebel it was so wonderful to be immersed within a group of people that were similarly interested in living out their values, seeking careers with meaning where they could impact the change they wanted to see in our world, and taking steps toward making improvements withing our communities. I recall so many inspiring speakers, alumni, and Grebel staff who had done just that—lived out their values within their lives and work, and found it incredibly motivating to be exposed to these role models.



### **KAREN MARTENS (BES 2017, MSC)**

Ecologist-botanist, Lyon, France

Sustainability is part of my life on both a personal and professional level. At work, I search for protected and threatened species, protect wetlands, and help developers modify their projects to avoid, limit, and compensate their ecological impacts. In my personal life, I think it’s the small actions that can have a big impact: I eat local and organic as much as possible, walk to work, carpool, etc.. This year we even built our own composter in our tiny garden for our food waste!

Humanity has such a huge impact on the rest of the planet and we have the capacity to do better. It takes compassion for creatures other than us and consideration of future generations to make changes that seem difficult. There is so much life and beauty in nature and unless we act, that life and beauty will be lost. Tackling sustainability and environmental issues is a big challenge. I try to get people to realize that even small gestures can make a difference. If one person can get five people to change a habit, those five people can do the same. Our efforts become exponential and exceptional.

As a student, I loved seeing the results of the Sailor Shower Challenge. There was so much competition and some crazy short showers! I think the record was less than 20 seconds!



## ANDRE WIEDERKEHR (BSC 2021)

Vocation: Not sure, maybe Practical Theologian,  
located about 16000 pedal revolutions NW of Grebel

I'm aiming to live in a way that forms closed material cycles powered by the sun. In practice, that means that I'm working on growing, storing, and processing my family's food supply, making the tools and infrastructure we need from local, usually biological materials, and trying to supply the energy for these and other tasks through physical labour and firewood rather than electricity and fossil fuels. This vision of sustainability requires me to choose and accept limits on what I can do. For example, I try not to eat foods that I can't grow, and I don't travel to places I can't walk or bike to. My work is varied; a recent sampling includes making cheese, canning apple juice, sawing firewood with a crosscut, building a pedal-powered thresher, picking dry beans, planting fall grains, curing sheepskins, and braiding dry corn.

Several years ago, I experienced a gradual but transformative paradigm shift. I was primarily a consumer, with a narrow role in food production through my family's farm business. I saw sustainability as something that was driven by high-level experts who developed incremental changes in each independent sector of our society's life-maintaining framework. The more I learned, the clearer it became that our unsustainability is rapidly catching up with us "from both ends": supply problems (like the depletion of soil nutrients, mined fuels and materials, and genetic diversity) and side-effects (like climate change, pollution, destruction of ecosystems). Experimentally, I tried to think through how one would go about constructing a holistically and genuinely sustainable way of life, and swiftly came to the conclusion that I didn't know how, I hadn't heard of anyone who did, and that a bunch of small, isolated actions were not going to build such a system. My faith and temperament make me love humanity (especially future generations, who deserve a chance) and the rest of creation, so I've become powerfully motivated to imagine and take a route that diverts us from our present rapid descent toward disaster.

A couple of times this past year, the Environment Student Society picked up trash along Laurel Creek—surprisingly fun when done together! Our best find was a partial bike discarded in the bushes. I took it back to Grebel, stripped the broken components, and passed it along to a bike mechanic friend. It eventually found its



Andre making a net while goslings keep him company.

way to a former Grebel student who built it back into a functional bike. This story sticks in my mind as an example of how a cooperating community can almost effortlessly make neat things happen, in this case practicing a far healthier type of "economy."



Theo cradling speltz.

## THEO WIEDERKEHR (BA 2020)

Subsistence farmer/gardener, Mildmay, ON, Treaty 45½ land in the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway

I spend most of my time seeking better systems to meet my needs for food, fuel, clothing, and shelter using local plants and animals. Currently a focus in my work is experimenting with many kinds of crops and learning how best to grow them and save their seed so that I can grow them in future years. Examples include a wheat which will make straw appropriate for thatching and also good bread, perennial and biennial kales which can provide a source of fresh greens through the whole winter, dry beans, hazelnuts, flint corn, and various other things.

PACS showed me that much of the violence in our world revolves around colonialism and competition for natural resources. I want to do what I can to not participate in that violence, and help to heal it. I believe that setting limits on my own consumption by working directly with other species to meet my needs is a starting point.

Grebel was simultaneously very important in developing my thinking about care for creation, and disappointing in failing to demonstrate living that out. As an example, in my third year Jane Ramseyer Miller visited and led a number of students and community members in a wonderful evening of singing and speaking about the value of clean water and our responsibility to protect it from pollution. But in the reception afterwards, we were served with disposable plastic cups. As a person who spends most of my time working to connect theory to the material realities of my everyday life, I was struck by the disconnect between word and action.

## RICHARD CUNNINGHAM (BASC 2018)

Junior Water  
Resources  
Engineer,  
Vancouver, BC

While the first steps to sustainability start in the home—reducing purchases, choosing sustainable methods of transportation,



separating waste, etc.—we also have to consider the sustainability of our communities and infrastructure. Our future is going to be stormy, largely due to the actions of humans. In my work as a water resources engineer-in-training, I help design infrastructure that will help us weather those storms.

Considering sustainability now will make our lives much, much easier in the future. Choosing to reduce carbon emissions, planning for climate change, and preserving our environment will end up paying dividends.

During my time at Grebel, the environmental representative on the student council ensured sustainability was always on the minds of the student body. I look forward to seeing Grebel's continued journey towards sustainability unfold.

### AMANDA HOOPYKAAS (BES 2006, MPHIL, MSW, PHD, FRCGS)

Human Ecologist,  
Adjunct Professor,  
Orillia, ON



As a human ecologist, I think about the interplay between people and the natural environment. I am adjunct faculty teaching environmental science, geography, and other such things at the University of Guelph and at the University of Waterloo, a registered psychotherapist, a community capacity-builder, and a parent. Every day I am tasked with making this world easier for all living beings—whether in a classroom, conducting field work, sitting across from a client, or in my own daily choices as a consumer. What I do is not about me—it's never been about me—it's about us. I truly believe that. And if I can use the tools and gifts I possess, then I have spent my time here well. I think that mindset is what got me into this work and that is what continues to carry me through.

My work in sustainability is important to me because I cannot imagine living in this world without it being a vital component of my being. At the beginning of every academic term I meet new students who are willing make the world better. I continue to sense the same urgency that they do, albeit softened a bit. I too am frustrated by the choices of some politicians, the marginalization of voices and experiences, and the sheer dismissal of science, of traditional ecological knowledge, and of other ways of knowing. And so I challenge both myself and those around me to stretch because I don't think we really have other options.

I was co-environmental rep on Student Council in my first year at Grebel. Becky Elko and I worked tirelessly to do waste audits, assess the feasibility of composting (including partnering with a local pig farmer and vermi-composting), and improve the efficiency of recycling for the entire College. Every proposal was met with tremendous resistance from a variety of sources. The Grebel I read about today is far from the one we spent long nights working to improve only 20 years ago and I am pleased to see the shifts beginning to occur.

### REBECCA OSBORNE (BSC 2018)

PhD Candidate in Environmental Toxicology, Guelph, ON

In my professional/academic life, working towards sustainability involves pursuing excellence in the science that I do. In my field of ecotoxicology, the data we generate about the environmental impacts of different sources of pollution is



used by the government to set regulations. In my personal life I try to incorporate many strategies for sustainability such as walking instead of driving, eating local, minimizing waste, and repairing or recycling before throwing anything away.

Sustainability is important to me because we are just one part of highly interconnected and interdependent system. When we support and ensure the health of our environment, the rest of the system can thrive. One of the reasons sustainability is important to me is that environmental justice is often a straightforward way to disrupt systems of social injustice. For example, providing access to clean water can change social and economic outcomes by increasing time that can be spent in school rather than travelling to collect water, which improves literacy and job prospects, as well as reducing illness from water-borne diseases. Small changes in how we care for our environment can have drastic outcomes for both people and nature.

At Grebel, I was exposed to so many people who didn't just practice sustainability in the obvious ways but lived it out fully. I learned that this embodiment of sustainability stems from seeing environmental stewardship as a part of our own mental, spiritual, and physical health. I also learned that even as you continue on your journey of sustainability it's okay to not be able to do it all. A Community Supper speaker shared this quote: "There is only so much good that any one person can do. In order to do any good at all, there must be some good that a person is not willing to do." To me this is one of the most important reminders—to give yourself grace and avoid burning out when it feels like your efforts aren't going to change anything. I have found in my career so far that barriers to sustainability are rarely due to a lack of knowledge but a lack of hope, so one of the most powerful things you can do is stay hopeful and contribute what you can in the ways that work for you.

### BRIAR HUNTER (BSC 2020)

MSc Biology student at Laurentian University, Sudbury, ON

My career path falls squarely within wildlife conservation, which is an effort to stop species from going extinct as a result of humanity's impact on the environment. I currently conduct research to prevent the extinction of Canada's most endangered amphibian species. However, such efforts may prove pointless if we cannot convince



local communities that wildlife and wild spaces are worth conserving because no matter how we try to increase population numbers, if the habitat keeps disappearing the species will not survive. Thus, a lot of my efforts also go into communicating why sustainability is important and how it impacts the wildlife around us.



I believe all wildlife has intrinsic worth and that we have a responsibility to steward and protect these valuable lives. We have particular responsibility to those species we have directly impacted and put at risk of extinction due to our unsustainable use of the environment which they require to survive. I also believe there is powerful relational value in conserving the environment. We are a part of nature; it gives us a sense of place, of well-being, and of wonder. The more we use and abuse nature, the less opportunity we and future generations will have to truly connect with and within it.

I will always remember marching and standing with many of my Grebel friends for the climate strike in 2019. I loved seeing many of my professors there too who were actively teaching me about sustainability and climate change in my courses. This was a big, significant event. I also remember all the small actions at Grebel, such as the encouragement for zero food waste, using paper plates for events, and reusing mugs instead of disposable cups. These small memories created a lasting impression of a community striving to be sustainable in every way possible.

## DAVID NEUFELD (BES 1983, MA, PHD)

Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Planning, Permitting and Development, Manitoba Dept. of Municipal Relations, Winnipeg, MB

I am a founding member of the Mennonite Environmental Task Force, which began in the early 1990s and grew into the Mennonite Creation Care Network ([mennocreationcare.org](http://mennocreationcare.org)). I have been working on water protection and land use policy for the past 36 years, first with the Government of Ontario and currently with the Government of Manitoba. Some projects include updating policies governing water taking, well construction, groundwater protection, and community and regional planning.

I first learned to love creation from my grandparents in small town Saskatchewan who grew much of their own food. My grandfather was a wood carver and taxidermist in retirement. As a teenager, my favourite pastime was looking for burrowing owls and scaring



up jackrabbits in the prairies around Regina. And my desire to have a career in environmental studies brought me to the University of Waterloo.

One of my memorable courses at Grebel was Sociology and the Environment, taught by Calvin Redekop. In the course, I surveyed Old Order Mennonite attitudes toward the environment. Equipped with a map of the back-roads of Waterloo County, I met farmers on location, in their kitchens, barns, and woodlots. I learned from them the concept of

*Mäßigkeit*, which means “it is best not to have too much or too little of anything.” I still try to apply that in my life.

## PROFESSOR EMERITUS CALVIN REDEKOP

Sociology, 1979–1990, Harrisonburg, VA

Working toward sustainability, I start with my own personal behavior. I consume as little as possible, recycle where possible, and refuse fossil energy. I drive a completely solarized-heating-cooling, electric car (Leaf) and an electric-solar quadricycle.

Sustainability is important to me because I discovered early in my childhood in Montana, our dependence on nature via the Dust Bowl and Depression, resulting in desperate congregational prayer meetings tearfully begging God to release the rain.

During the time I taught at Grebel, the relatively undeveloped Canadian landscape did not express much concern about the looming environmental crisis. I helped start a solar company in Waterloo in the early 1980s which was ahead of its time and was not successful. But I thank the many Grebel students who showed their support and interest which resulted in academic courses, research, and practical action on sustainability. Many Canada-wide developments in environmental sustainability resulted from Grebel, and the alumni described in this special issue of *Grebel Now* illustrate their contribution.



96-year-old Cal on his solar quadricycle—his favourite mode of transportation.

# Making Sense of the Pandemic through Peace Research

BY SETH RATZLAFF, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND GRADUATE STUDIES COORDINATOR, PACS

When the pandemic first closed down workplaces in March 2020, Simon Guthrie (right), like so many others at the time, found himself struggling to make sense of the world around him. A student in Grebel's Master of Peace and Conflict Studies (MPACS) program, he soon had the idea to take advantage of this unusual opportunity and conduct research on the impact of a global pandemic—right in the middle of one.



With faculty advisor Eric Lepp, he developed a research question: *How has the pandemic impacted faith communities in the Waterloo Region and how are they adapting?* He conducted interviews with local community leaders from various faith traditions, once with each during the summer of 2020 and again one year later. The research was meant to probe what makes communities resilient (or not) in the midst of crisis, but it also helped Simon stay connected in a time of isolation. "I pulled off the entire project from my basement using Zoom," he grinned.

One hopeful insight, he explained, is that the pandemic made time and space for many faith communities to step back and reflect on what they are doing, sometimes leading to a new focus on building relationships. For a few traditions, that meant reconnecting virtually with past members who were now physically distant—or, for example, a local Baha'i community connected with global counterparts by joining and contributing to an emergent grassroots 24-hour Zoom prayer group. For Christian denominations, Guthrie observed a trend of introspection in regard to harm caused to Indigenous neighbours, and a renewed effort to start building positive relationships.

Coming from a science and technology background, Simon reflected, "I've been answering technical problems for a long time, and this program gave me a chance to explore human problems; I'm really grateful for that." He hopes to continue peace research, in one form or another, after graduation.



## Connecting Deeply with Nature

BY KISSOR NITHIANANTHAN, PACS COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

Third-year PACS student Samuel Farkas (left) spent his summer with his hands in the earth, planting 110,000 saplings in clear-cut areas of British Columbia. He related his tree-planting experience to PACS 310: Peace and Environment. "Both are nature-centred. Both cover reducing carbon footprint, encouraging tree planting and offsetting destruction," Samuel reflected. "When I think about tree-planting, I think about not only replenishing the earth, but changing my personal growth." Another aspect that he took away from the course was a goal to connect with nature at a deeper level.

Samuel also connected his understanding of PACS 201: Roots of Conflict, Violence, and Peace and PACS 203: A History of Peace Movements during this co-op work term. Both courses had taught him concepts revolving around perspectives—with PACS 201 looking at how working on the reforestation industry has an impact on the greater good of the environment and with PACS 203 on looking at what goes behind replanting to offset climate change.

As he continues his studies, Samuel plans to continue asking questions, thinking realistically, and learning to identify the impact industries have on peace, the environment, and technology.



**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT  
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

[uwaterloo.ca/conflict-management](http://uwaterloo.ca/conflict-management)

Skills-based  
conflict  
management  
training,  
now virtual.





# CONRAD GREBEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT

## COMING TOGETHER IN CRISIS

“To everything there is a season....a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.” —Ecclesiastes 3:5

2021 was a season for social distance and self-isolation—a time when we refrained from embracing. But at Grebel, it was also a season when we came together to meet the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Drawing on wells of goodwill and spirit, we found new and creative ways to deliver our programs, extend our community, and pursue our mission.

Faculty came together and transitioned to online teaching, doing their very best to deliver learning experiences marked by care and personal connection. Despite the pandemic, academic enrolments increased and our courses and instructors were highly rated by students. Public lectures, concerts, and community education programs all moved online with great success, deepening our commitment to reach beyond our campus to the community at large.

Staff came together to carry on their crucial work—some pivoted to working from home, while other front-line staff continued on campus. All demonstrated resilience, commitment, and creativity in the face of an enormous disruption to their normal work environment.

Our residence students came together to build a community, despite protocols that suspended community suppers and restricted sports, dances, and other social activities. They were also impeccable public health citizens, embracing the idea that wearing masks and following other guidelines was the best way to care for each other during this crisis. Only one case of COVID-19 was reported among our residence students over the entire year.

Our supporters came together to stand by the College during a time of financial uncertainty. We're extremely grateful to report that gifts to our annual Grebel Fund totaled \$406,000. That's a record number, and 21% higher than the previous year.

It was not an easy year at Grebel—or anywhere. As we begin the return to a more normal pattern of work and life, many of our faculty, staff, and students are tired, frayed, and in need of restoration. We also sense that the post-pandemic world will bring new uncertainties and unknown challenges. There is a season for everything, but we don't know what the next “season” will demand from us. The past year proves that we know how to come together in challenging times, and this gives us the confidence to face the year ahead.

Marcus Shantz  
President

Paul Fieguth  
Chair, Board of Governors



President Marcus Shantz is pictured touring the renovated dining room, a project that was completed during the pandemic.



In the fall term, the incoming MPACS cohort gathered for a small outdoor land acknowledgment service—one of few in-person points of contact during the year.



The Milton Good Library remained open during the fall term, giving students a socially distanced space to study and access resources.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The 2020-21 year brought extraordinary challenges to Grebel's academic program, as professors delivered their teaching, scholarship, and administrative work exclusively online. Faculty took great care in altering course design and delivery for a virtual setting, through intentional conversation, resource sharing, and training. Departments also recognized an urgency to discuss and examine systemic racism in curriculum and programmatic structure, and to integrate anti-racism and intercultural competence into methods and course content. Music submitted their self-study document as part of a regular external review, celebrated the grant of tenure to two professors, and approached the complicated challenges of creating music together remotely. The Peace and Conflict Studies program (PACS) hired new faculty member Johonna McCants-Turner and focused on building and maintaining relationships with students and alumni. Theological Studies too, gave extra attention to developing connections with incoming and current students through social gatherings, celebrations, thesis defenses, seminars, and workshops. Both PACS and TS continued to respond to recommendations arising from their seven-year review. Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre (TMTc) hosted and sponsored numerous online activities that engaged audiences across North America. The Milton Good Library was the most accessible library on the UWaterloo campus in 2020-21, circulating 22 percent of University materials, even while processing five years worth of archival accessions.

## UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

Despite the pandemic, undergraduate enrolment in Grebel courses rose for the fifth consecutive year, to 4038 individual course registrations. Attracting students from all faculties at UWaterloo, Grebel offered major, minor, and diploma programs in PACS and Music, and taught undergraduate courses in Mennonite Studies, History, Religious Studies, and Sociology.

## GRADUATE STUDIES

Graduate student numbers remained strong, with 89 students enrolled in two master's programs—43 in Peace and Conflict Studies and 46 in Theological Studies—and course enrolments rose to a record high of 381. TMTc, a Grebel-operated centre at the Toronto School of Theology, celebrated five Associate and Fellow doctoral defences.

## SCHOLARSHIP, SERVICE, AND OUTREACH

With 137 individual faculty activities, including books, chapters, articles, reviews, workshops, presentations, public lectures, media interviews, concerts, and sermons, faculty continued to demonstrate their scholarly expertise and service to church and society. Community outreach continued virtually, with concerts, public lectures, panels, conferences, and presentations attracting a broader audience than what is normally possible in person.

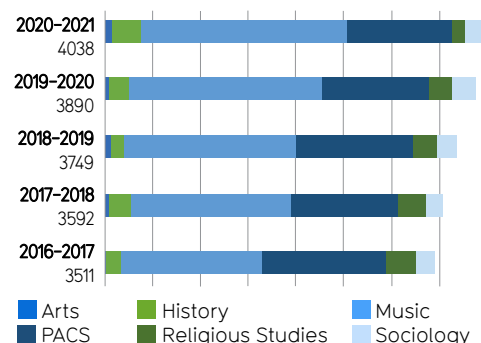
## CONFLICT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

After a rapid pivot to online delivery, enrolment in this continuing education program was stronger than previous years, with 37 workshops delivered online for a total enrolment of 626. Reaching participants from across North America, England, and Nigeria, registrants appreciated the opportunity to build conflict management skills from home.

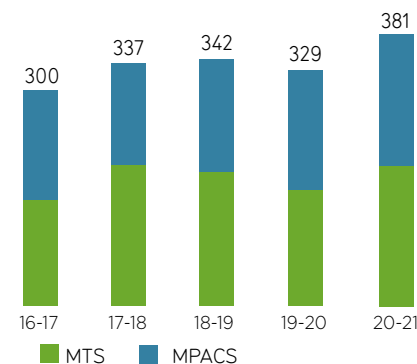
## KINDRED CREDIT UNION CENTRE FOR PEACE ADVANCEMENT (CPA)

The thriving CPA continued program development and supported activities virtually. The CPA's people and programs gained profile in the innovation ecosystem, and community engagement was high with initiatives such as the Pandemic Challenge, X Page Workshop, #12Days4Good, and the Map the System Challenge. Student involvement hit a record with 25 student hires and three successful PeaceTech Living-Learning cohorts. Four start-ups joined the Peace Incubator and \$134,220 in external funding was leveraged for projects with CPA participants.

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSE ENROLMENTS



## GRADUATE COURSE ENROLMENTS



Classrooms were empty for the entire 2020-21 academic year, as all courses were taught online. Professors worked extra hours to thoughtfully present their course content from home in this new and challenging format.



Music ensembles like the Gamelan, Jazz Band, and choirs became complicated exercises in listening, recording, and editing, but the finished videos resulted in peace and harmony.



# RESIDENCE AND ASSOCIATE STUDENTS

The pandemic impacted all facets of Student Services in 2020-21. The residence was closed in the spring, while the apartments housed 23 students. Programming was decreased for this group and most of the time, there was a scaled-back Student Services staff presence onsite to accompany these students.

The fall term brought some optimism as 69 students moved into single rooms in the residence, including a record number of participants in Grebel's three Living-Learning Communities. Traditional activities such as a community-wide Move-In Day, the All-College Retreat and Taste of Grebel were cancelled. Grebel spirit prevailed though, as students got creative and offered a multitude of fun and meaningful activities online, using the online platform Discord as a main communication tool. Formal leadership roles were held by 93 students, including a record number of first-years.

Overall, Grebel had 247 students (131 residents and 116 associates) registered for the year. A new virtual resident and associate program gave students living at home a way to connect during what was for many, a very lonely first year of university. Of the 27 virtual students, many of them will move into Grebel for their second year and will meet their friends in person for the first time in fall 2021. Student Services worked with students to plan hybrid Chapel services, Weekly Waves over Zoom (in lieu of Community Suppers), online talent shows, guest speakers, and intentional check-ins. The Waves were short and informal gathering times, sometimes with special speakers, including a team of Grebel alumni health providers and a guest who spoke about the Black Lives Matter movement. A student drama troupe helped to lead the Waves, focusing on topics like how to have a good conversation, micro-aggressions, Indigenous concerns, mental health, and volunteering.

With a team of 12 conveners over the year, Chapel was offered in the fall as a hybrid service and was solely online in the spring and winter. It was well attended by students from near and far (even on work term) as well as faculty and staff. Internal speakers shared on topics of diaspora, exile, and hope.

Student Services continued to work on inclusivity, diversity, and anti-racism commitments. A new student from Syria/Jordan was welcomed to Grebel through the WUSC program for student refugees. Three new universal washrooms were created, and inclusive language was improved on forms, the website, and in handbooks.

Public health measures over the year included screening at mealtimes, daily sanitation protocols, full service food serving, vinyl barriers at tables, no guests allowed in the residence, mandatory masking, social distancing, occupancy limits, and COVID tests.

Recruitment was difficult as open houses and tours pivoted to virtual options and connections were limited. This digital shift sprouted new ideas that Student Services hopes to continue post-COVID.

Grebel students and staff held strong this year, even in a time of turmoil and solitude, and continued to build community from afar.



Remotely filming, editing, and presenting the musical *Big Fish* was a major feat in the winter, as more than 40 students virtually acted, sang, played, and produced this piece of theatre.



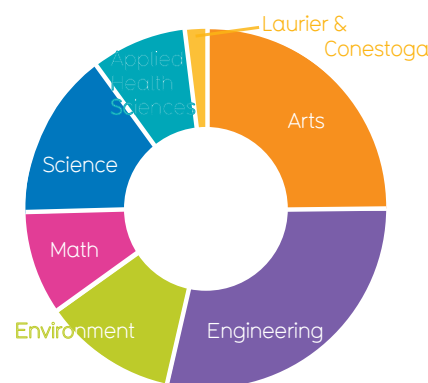
Several classrooms were transformed into games lounges to allow students to safely spread out during fall term. Due to public health restrictions, they were closed in the winter.

## REGIONS

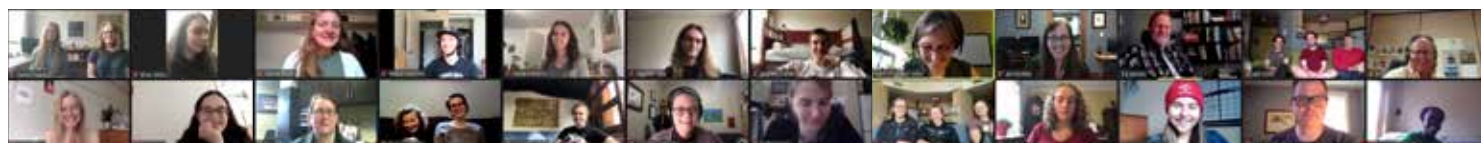
### LOCATIONS STUDENTS

British Columbia	7
Alberta	0
Saskatchewan	5
Manitoba	9
Ontario	213
Quebec	1
Nova Scotia	1
Newfoundland	1
USA	6
International	4

## AREAS OF STUDY



Although students could not travel for their annual Mennonite Disaster Service trip, several students took the opportunity to work locally on an MDS/MennoHomes project.





Student Council arranged for some outdoor improvements, including lights at the volleyball court, path railings, and a set of garden swings. Many of these projects were funded by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association's Student Life Endowment Fund, while the balance was funded by Student Council and Grebel's operating budget.

Other necessary improvements at Grebel in 2020-21 included touchless flush valves, a new boiler, power door operators, three accessible washrooms, upgraded WIFI, and roof repairs.



Grebel students received a total of \$464,884 in scholarships and bursaries in 2020-21.

# FINANCE

Grebel's residence operated at less than half of normal capacity this year. The residence was entirely shut down in the early months of the pandemic, and only offered single rooms during the fall and winter terms. The loss of revenue from the residence program and other ancillary sources created an enormous challenge in 2020-21. The year-over-year revenue shortfall was \$1,700,000—a 17 percent drop from the previous year.

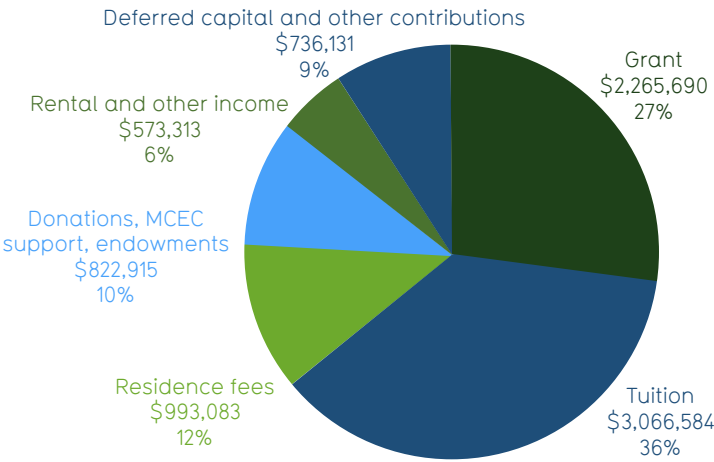
The reduction in on-campus activity generated some savings. For example, food, travel, and utility costs were all lower than prior years. These savings were not adequate to avoid a significant deficit, and further cost-cutting measures were required. These actions required considerable support and sacrifice from all Grebel employees and included the following measures:

- 18 employees were temporarily laid off during spring and summer 2020.
- Salaries and wages for all employees were frozen at 2019-20 levels for the year.
- All departments trimmed expenses and discretionary spending.

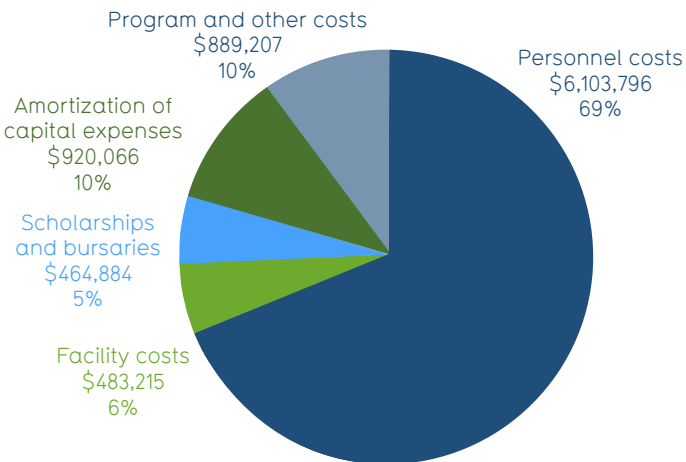


These efforts, along with a temporary reduction in long-term debt payments, enabled the College to finish the year with a small deficit of \$46,000 in the operating fund, which can be covered by transfers from Grebel's operating reserves. All things considered, this is a successful result that places Grebel in a strong position to face ongoing fiscal disruption in the post-pandemic environment.

## 2020-21 TOTAL REVENUE = \$8,457,716



## 2020-21 TOTAL EXPENSES = \$8,861,169





# ADVANCEMENT

Fundraising messages focused on the theme of hope in 2020-21, as Grebel faced the prospect of a deficit due to the pandemic. Although in-person events and visits were not possible, many donors responded to phone calls, emails, and letters with an increase in giving. The Grebel Fund surpassed last year's result by \$71,000, setting a new fundraising high-water mark of \$406,000. The annual Grebel Fund supported programs in Theological Studies, Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre, the Mennonite Archives of Ontario, Chapel, scholarships, concerts, and leadership opportunities.

Two endowed music scholarships were established, and several gifts were added to existing scholarship and program endowments. The fair market value of the endowment portfolio has eclipsed \$10 million. This investment fund shows the sustained support of Grebel donors.

Digital communications were of vital importance this year. The majority of Grebel's activities were online, including special lectures, reunions, tours, and concerts. Digital presence through the website and video was critical for recruitment efforts. Despite being unable to visit in person, faculty resourced 25 MCEC congregations and larger leadership events, while student ambassadors connected with 8 youth groups.

Donors are key partners in Grebel's mission. Sharing Grebel stories, maintaining alumni relationships, encouraging education, and sharing resources with the Mennonite Church help to strengthen these relationships—especially when we can do this in person.

The \$8 million building project was coordinated by Director of Operations Paul Penner. Students and staff are already enjoying the new spaces and look forward to inviting visitors to campus.



Director of Advancement Fred W. Martin stands with a donor wall installation that illustrates vast support of more than \$4.2 million in donations from the Grebel community for the Fill the Table capital campaign.

## DONATIONS RECEIVED: \$2,125,736

Scholarships & Bursaries	\$88,268
Operating Restricted	\$407,313
Endowment—Scholarships	\$133,162
Endowment—Program	\$113,064
Capital Fund	\$129,648
Annual Grebel Fund	\$406,279
Fill the Table Campaign (Kitchen and Dining Room)	\$848,002

# THANK YOU TO GREBEL'S GENEROUS DONORS

855 DONORS SUPPORTED OUR STUDENTS AND MISSION THIS YEAR!

Lois Abraham | 1982  
Abundance Canada  
Tanitoluwa Agboola  
Nancy Alberti  
Gordon and Valerie Alton | 1985  
Nolan and Margaret Andres  
| 1997, 1996  
Quinn Andres  
Zoe Andres  
Apple Inc.  
Maia Aurini  
David Austin  
Susan and Phil Baker  
Jennifer Ball | 1993  
Matthew Ballaban | 2001  
Brice and Karen Balmer  
Geraldine Balzer and  
Gordon Peters | 1983  
Kerstin Balzer-Peters | 2017  
James Barber and Karen Heese  
| 1988, 1985  
Francis Bardet | 1989  
Kim Bast

Pauline Bast  
Alicia Batten and Terry Rothwell  
Lisa Bauman | 2016  
Megan Bauman and Mike  
Ratcliffe | 2003  
Phares Bauman  
Richard and Norma Bauman  
Roy and Lorraine Bauman  
Susan and Marcus Bauman  
Bauman Printing Inc.  
Estate of Lester Bechtel\*  
Byron and Ann Weber Becker  
| 1990  
Joel Becker | 2017  
Scott Beech and Cindy Lebold  
| 1988, 1987  
Chris Beer and Kim Bassett | 1995  
Margaret and James Beer | 1998  
Bell Canada  
Belmont Mennonite Church  
Anthony and Connie Bender  
| 1978  
Jennifer Bender | 1991

John and Joanne Bender  
| 1972, 1972  
Rebecca Bender | 1986  
Lora Berg  
Paul Berg-Dick and Jane Hilliard  
| 1973, 1997  
Arnold and Linda Bergen  
David Bergen and Deborah  
Kehler | 1972  
Edward and Judi Bergen  
Ilene and Karl Bergen | 2005  
Jeremy Bergen and Rebecca  
Steinmann | 2000  
Norman D. Bergen  
Catherine Bergs  
Hannah Bernstein  
Kiera Biersteker  
Elijah Birley  
Carolyn Black | 1992  
Micah Black  
Jim and Lorna Blair  
Devin Blankespoor  
Jessica Bohm

Rita Boldt | 1967  
Peter Bondi  
Eva Booker  
Jason Booy and Daniel Engel  
| 2008  
Paul Born and Marlene Epp  
| 1987  
Elijah Braam  
Kate Bradley  
Jocelyn Bretzlaff  
Michael Brightling  
Chris and Rachel Brnjas  
| 2012, 2012  
Wendy Brooks and Mike  
Walkington  
Chloe Brown  
David E. Brown and Hannah  
Sauer | 1995  
Isaac Brown  
Jazmin Brown  
Mimi and Sean Browne | 2011  
Ashley Brubacher  
Glenn and Ann Mary Brubacher

Grace and Earl Brubacher | 1968  
John Brubacher | 1996  
Laura M. Brubacher | 1989  
Laverne and Ella Brubacher  
Lois and Lewis Brubacher | 1989  
Mark and Cynthia Brubacher  
Neil Brubacher  
Ray and Margie Brubacher  
Roy Brubacher  
Dale and Cheryl Brubacher-  
Cressman | 1987, 1986  
Benjamin Brubaker-Zehr | 2015  
Mary and Scott Brubaker-Zehr  
| 1985, 1985  
Micah Brubaker-Zehr | 2018  
Erika Brulsemma  
Jake and Louise Buhler  
Simon Buist  
Shelley Bull and Wayne Carrick  
| 1976, 1986  
Bruce and Emily Burgetz  
| 1970, 1969

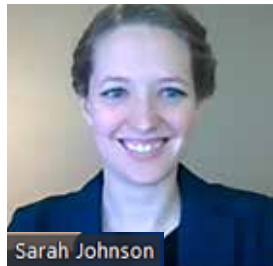
Benjamin Burke  
 Ferne Burkhardt  
 Barbara Burkholder and  
 Steffen Pauls | 1991, 1991  
 Freda Burkholder and  
 Quinton Neufeldt | 1984  
 Howard and Myrna Burkholder  
 Marie Burkholder | 1976  
 Mary Burkholder  
 Richard Burkholder  
 Kayla Burmaster  
 Karen Buschert Vanderkooy and  
 Geoffrey Vanderkooy  
 | 1992, 1991  
 B-W Feed & Seed Ltd.  
 Arthur and Evelyn Byer  
 C L Martin & Co. Ltd.  
 Corwin and Grace-Ann Cambray  
 | 1967  
 Kathy and Craig Cameron | 1993  
 Susan Campbell and John  
 Lawson | 1986  
 Susan and Delbert Campbell  
 | 1995  
 Canadian Heritage  
 Mason Carroll  
 Nathan Chaves  
 Karen Cheah | 1988  
 Yiting Chen  
 Donny Cheung and Marika Pauls  
 Laucht | 2001, 2007  
 Stephen Cholvat | 2020  
 Max Chute  
 Simon Chute  
 Vaughn Climenhaga | 2005  
 Rick and Louise Cober Bauman  
 | 1985  
 Garth Compton and Maria  
 Lourdes Compton | 1980  
 Mario Coniglio  
 Conrad Grebel Student Council  
 Dianne and David Conrath  
 | 1988  
 Susan Conyard  
 Barbara Cook  
 Dwight Cooney | 1990  
 Savanna Cornfield  
 Larry Cornies and Jacquelyn  
 Brown | 1975, 1989  
 Andrew and Melissa Cressman  
 | 2005, 2005  
 Bruce and Esther Cressman  
 James Cressman and Rachel  
 Schmidt | 1999, 1998  
 Orval and Jeannette Cressman  
 Susan Cressman  
 Wendy Cressman Zehr and Don  
 Zehr | 1989  
 Andrew Cullar  
 Kristine Culp and Bruce  
 Steinman | 1986  
 Eugenia Dadzie  
 Leah Dau  
 David Hook Medicine  
 Professional Corporation  
 Keith Davidson  
 Derek De Gelder  
 Jonathan and Justine de Leyer  
 | 2016, 2015  
 Ashlyn DeBoer  
 Sheila and Doug Dedman  
 | 1991, 1992  
 Rebekah DeJong | 2016  
 Elias DeKoter

Sheralyn Derksen  
 E. Peter Dick and Virginia  
 Reimer | 1971  
 Jacob and Helene Dick  
 Matthew Dick  
 Andrew Dieleman  
 Sid and Cindy Dijkema  
 Lorena Diller Harder | 2020  
 Jenny-Lee and Jeff Dippel  
 | 2004, 2004



The new kitchen was ready just as fall students moved into Grebel, giving Food Services staff a bright, spacious place to prepare and serve delicious meals. This project was made possible by the donations of many generous Grebel donors.

Victor and Holly Dirksen | 1969  
 Terry J. Dooner | 1973  
 Emily and Ryan Dorsman Zehr  
 | 2016  
 Barbara and Roy Draper  
 | 1977, 1978  
 Mary Draper | 1965  
 Samuel Drekić  
 Nick and Janice Driedger  
 | 1971, 1978  
 Norbert and Judy Driedger | 1983  
 Andrea and Rodney D'Silva  
 Nathan D'Silva  
 Andrew Dueck and Deborah  
 Neill | 1996, 1995  
 Caleb Dueck  
 Lynne Dueck and Richard  
 Goodwin | 1995  
 Megan Dufton



Sarah Kathleen Johnson was presented with Grebel's 2020 Distinguished Alumni Service Award at a virtual public chapel service with around 200 participants. The service also celebrated the new *Voices Together* hymnal and Sarah shared about her experience on the committee.

Marisa Duncan | 2020  
 Enrique Duquesne Torres  
 John and Irene Dyck  
 Kyle Dyck  
 Louisa Dyck  
 Richard and Betty Dyck  
 | 1967, 1969

Katarina Dyck Steinmann  
 Nancy Dykstra | 1984  
 Gloria and Duane Eby  
 | 1973, 1973  
 Sarah K. Eby 2006  
 Diane and Jonathan Ehling  
 | 1991  
 Steven Elder and Wakana  
 Kitamura  
 Ryan Ellis

Brian T. Eng | 1996  
 Helen Engelhardt  
 Ruth Anne and Phil Engle | 1993  
 Alison and Robert Enns  
 Grace Enns  
 Karen and Peter Enns | 1967  
 Len and Susan Enns  
 Marianne and Edward Enns  
 | 1967  
 Walter and Hilda Enns  
 Barbara and Jake Ens  
 Susan and James Ens Funk  
 Kim and Ed Entz  
 Hayden Epp  
 Helen Epp | 1977  
 Dorothy Erb  
 James and Marianne Erb  
 Roy D. Erb  
 Vernon\* and Viola Erb  
 Erie View United Mennonite  
 Church  
 Esther Etchells | 1967  
 Stephanie Etchells  
 Ethos  
 Elfrieda Euler  
 Dana Evans Laity | 2004  
 Evenholme Investments Inc.  
 Lowell and Jeanette Ewert  
 Catherine Falconer | 1983  
 Boshrah Fanous  
 Samuel Farkas  
 John and Esther Fast  
 Paul Fast and Marnie Gerster  
 | 1995, 1996  
 Cole Fehr  
 Pam Fehr and Bruce Martin  
 Sydney Fehr  
 Anya Fieguth  
 Margot and Werner Fieguth |  
 1989  
 Paul Fieguth and Betty Pries  
 | 1991, 2005  
 Anita Fieguth Willms and David  
 Willms | 1992, 1994  
 Emily Fitzgerald  
 Allen Flaming and Eve-Lynn  
 Stein | 1984, 1986  
 Isobel Flindall

Chloe Flint  
 Floradale Mennonite Church  
 Katrina Fluit  
 Steve and Michelle Fluit  
 Ellen B. Forrester  
 James and Janice Founk  
 | 1976, 1975  
 Catherine Fowler | 2020  
 Danyelle Fowler  
 Douglas and Randi Fox | 1965

Marinko and Lilyanna Franjic  
 Paul Fransen | 1967  
 Clara Frascchetti and Tim  
 Greenwood | 1990  
 James French | 1993  
 Sara Fretz | 2000  
 Michael Frew  
 Simon Frew  
 Aden and Sheryl Frey  
 Levi and Edna Frey  
 Gwendolyn Friesen  
 Leonard and Mary Friesen  
 | 1981, 1978  
 Lyle Friesen and Carol Ann  
 Weaver | 1974  
 Simon Friesen  
 Walter and Margaret Friesen  
 Douglas Frosst and Lori Gadzala  
 Kenneth and Patricia Fudurich  
 Colin Funk  
 Randy and Kaethe Funk  
 Megan Gallagher  
 Doris Gascho\*  
 Esther Gascho  
 Maryann Gavin  
 Kerry and Aldena Gerber | 1984  
 Rebecca and Josh Gibbins  
 | 2003, 2004  
 Caroline Giesbrecht and John  
 Young | 1973  
 Ted and Karen Giesbrecht | 1976  
 Jessica and Brandon Gingerich  
 | 2007, 2006  
 Sharon Gingerich  
 Kyle and Tara Gingerich Hiebert  
 Paul Gingrich and Alison  
 Hayford  
 Peter Goddard  
 John and Mary Goerzen-Sheard  
 | 1991, 1989  
 Gary and Debbie Good  
 John R. Good  
 Mervin and Mary Ellen Good  
 Good Foundation Inc.  
 Brenda Good Weber  
 Google Gift Matching Program  
 Vitali and Olena Gopanchuk  
 Government of Canada

Eden Graham  
 Morgan Grainger | 2009  
 Trinity Grant  
 Laura Gray and Daniel Kramer  
 Jason and Sharon Green  
 | 2002, 2001  
 Arlene and John Groh  
 Eleanor and Mike Groh  
 Mary Groh  
 Joshua and Victoria Grohn  
 | 2012, 2013  
 Frances Grove  
 Joseph Grove  
 Shirley Grove and Wesley Dyck  
 | 1992, 1995  
 Peter and Joan Guch  
 Anna Guenther  
 Nathan Gundy and Jessica  
 Witmer | 2004, 2005  
 H. L. Staebler Co. Ltd.  
 Randel Hamel | 1973  
 Frieda and Waldo Harder  
 Lucy Harder  
 Lydia and Gary Harder  
 Daniel Hart  
 Peter Hart  
 Dona Harvey  
 Brenda and Scott Hayman  
 | 1988, 1989  
 Noah Hayter  
 Jonathan Hede | 1996  
 Tessa Hedrick  
 Mollie Heene  
 Nancy Heide  
 Paul Heidebrecht and Carmen  
 Brubacher | 1994, 1994  
 Marg Heinrichs  
 Kira Hemingway  
 Jacob and Katherine Hildebrand  
 Hannah Hill | 2020  
 David Hiraki | 2020  
 John and Betsy Honek  
 King Y. Horiguchi | 1969  
 Richard and Pareppia Howard-  
 Willms | 1979  
 Henry Hughes  
 Nieve Hughes  
 Kenneth Hull and Marianne  
 Mellinger | 1973  
 Minren Hung  
 Brian Hunsberger and Jocelyn  
 Schaffenburg  
 Connor Huxman | 2020  
 Tom Iagovet  
 IBM Canada Ltd.  
 Ljiljana Ilic  
 Albert and Margaret Isaac  
 Dorothy Isaac and Greg  
 Cressman | 1986, 1987  
 Erika Isaac  
 Jackman Foundation  
 Linda Janeway  
 Alvin and Doris Jantzi  
 | 1968, 1968  
 Brian D. Jantzi | 1991  
 Clare and Marie Jantzi  
 Ken and Ruth Jantzi  
 Erin Janzen | 2007  
 Eugene Janzen  
 Kathryn and Edward Janzen  
 | 1972  
 Katrina Janzen  
 Shari and Richard Janzen  
 | 2003, 2003



Brenda and Len Jewitt | 1976  
 Jim & Lorna Blair Charitable Foundation  
 Ashley Johnson  
 David and Susan Johnson  
 Hannah Johnson  
 Sharon Johnson Lamont and Stuart Lamont | 1978  
 Stephen Jones and Wendy Stocker | 1985  
 Collin and Marjorie Jutzi  
 Hannah Kaethler  
 Rebecca Kalbfleisch  
 Ernest Kalwa and Elysia DeLaurentis | 1987  
 Joel Kambulow  
 Jonathon Kambulow  
 Dong Hyun Kang  
 Annika Kap  
 Ian Kasper  
 Priya Kearns  
 Julia Kehl  
 Roger and Heather Kehl | 1992, 1991  
 Steven and Karen Kehl | 1998  
 Teresa Keller | 1982  
 Samantha Kennedy  
 Richard Kennel | 1977  
 Sousheiant Khasheepour  
 Ronald and Ingrid Kielstra | 1986, 1986  
 Nathaniel Kim  
 Kindred Credit Union  
 Fred and Nancy Kinsie | 1970, 1987  
 Emma Kirke  
 Abigail Klassen  
 Benjamin Klassen | 2020  
 Corney and Joy Klassen  
 Jonathan Klassen | 2020  
 Maria Klassen and Alf Redekop  
 Sue and Victor Klassen | 1984, 1986  
 Stephen and Dawn Knechtel | 1979  
 Aliyah Knetsch  
 Leila and Robert Knetsch | 1996  
 Angie Koch | 1999

Jennifer and Scott Konkle | 2000  
 Robert and Lois Konrad  
 Rebecca Koole  
 Helen Koop  
 Helen H. Koop  
 J. Randy and Judy Koop | 1979  
 Jacob Kowalski  
 Bryce and Kelly Kraeker  
 Shelby Krahn and Hoi Cheu | 1984, 1991  
 Ryan Kroeker and Aleda Klassen | 2003, 2005  
 Travis Kroeker and Grace Kehler  
 Victor and Rita Krueger  
 Anna Kuepfer | 2020  
 Jane and John David Kuepfer | 1992, 1993  
 Quinn Kuepfer  
 Marcus Labun  
 Joseph and Connie Lam | 1979  
 Barbara Landau  
 Jonathan Lane-Smith  
 Benjamin Langford  
 Brian Lau | 1989  
 Hugh and Lys Laurence  
 Eileen Lebold  
 Gary and Brenda Leis | 1974  
 Randy and Frieda Lepp | 1977, 1979  
 Avery Lewarne  
 R. William Lewis | 2001  
 Jordan Li  
 David and Mary Ann Lichti  
 Diane Lichti and Bruce Bechtel  
 Gregory Lichti and Garth Norbraten | 1986  
 John and Norma Lichti  
 Mark Lichty | 1984  
 Matt Lindsay | 2017  
 Miriam Lindsay  
 Rebekah Lindsay | 2020  
 John Lingertat and Jennifer VanLeeuwen  
 Jim and Ingrid Loepp Thiessen  
 Ian Loewen  
 Wendy Long and Rod Barlow | 1979



The '60s era reunion was a virtual homecoming in September 2020, as part of UWaterloo's Black and Gold Weekend. The online format made it possible for people around the world to attend and to catch up with friends from long ago.

William Losin  
 D'Arcy and Anne Luxton  
 Perry and Ilka Luyt | 1983  
 Karen Lycklama | 1984  
 Richard and Dorothy MacBride | 1990  
 Megan MacDonald and Russell Schumm | 1998  
 Leanne MacKay-Bain and Jeffrey Bain  
 Jim and Yvonne MacMillan | 1985  
 Wendy Macpherson  
 Madison Mennonite Church  
 Noah Mandau  
 Steve and Pat Manske  
 Rebekah Mantel  
 Daniel and Adeline Markarian | 1998  
 John and Wendy Marshall | 1985  
 Estate of Helen Martens  
 Sydney Martens  
 Albert and Esther Martin  
 David and Doris Martin | 1978  
 Emma Martin  
 Fred W. Martin and Wanda Wagler-Martin | 1987, 1987  
 Kathleen Martin  
 Kevin Martin and Kim Bowman | 2009  
 Laverne Martin  
 Lloyd Martin  
 Maurice and Phyllis Martin | 1968  
 Merlyn and Stuart Martin | 1990  
 Nathan and Julia Martin | 2010  
 Sara Martin | 1997  
 Wilmer Martin and Phyllis Miller | 1980  
 Anali Mathies | 1994  
 Ronald and Gudrun Mathies | 1962, 1989  
 Alana Matsuo  
 Shannon and Greg Matsuo  
 David and Nancy Matthews  
 Stuart Matthews  
 Elena and Michael Mazal  
 Ceileigh McAllister  
 John T. & Barbara McCabe | 1968  
 Isabella McCloskey  
 Margaret McCloskey | 2020  
 Jaclyn McDougall | 2020  
 Stephen and Jeannie McDowell | 1982  
 Lisa McIsaac | 1994  
 Bill and Rosemarie McMechan  
 Mennonite Central Committee Canada

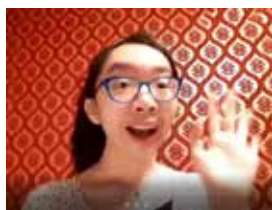
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada  
 Mennonite Church Saskatchewan  
 MerSynergy Charitable Foundation  
 Earl and Clara Meyers  
 Jonathan Michaud  
 Midway Mennonite Church  
 Anna Miedema  
 Bryon and Ellen Miller  
 Lorne Milnes | 1978  
 MMC Matching Gifts Program  
 Elizabeth Moore and Bob Kirke  
 Emily Moore  
 Tea Moranetz  
 John Morley  
 Seth Morrison  
 Maya Morton Ninomiya  
 Aaron Moses  
 Margaret Motz  
 Murray Leis Construction Inc.  
 Susan Murrell-Pritchard | 1990  
 Audrey Musselman  
 Robert and Deborah Musselman  
 Robert and Margaret Nally | 1975  
 Aaron Neufeld and Alyson Baergen | 2015  
 Donald and Gayle Neufeld | 1987, 1987  
 John and Lori Neufeld | 1991  
 Isabel Neufeld  
 John Neufeld and Andrea Shantz Neufeld | 1996  
 Madeleine Neufeld  
 Philip D. Neufeld | 1964  
 Robert Neufeld and Marlene Dick Neufeld | 1969, 1970  
 Sharon and David Neufeld | 1981, 1978  
 Vic and Shirley Neufeld  
 Aldred and Erna Neufeldt  
 Dave Neufeldt | 1987  
 Kevin and Noreen Neufeldt | 1984  
 Justin Nickel  
 Matt and Katie Ninomiya | 2006, 2006  
 Kris and Stanley Nissley | 1969  
 Nith Valley Construction (2008) Ltd.  
 Nutana Park Mennonite Church  
 Suzanne Nuttall  
 Sarah Odinotski  
 Aaron Oesch | 2020  
 Kara Osborne | 2003  
 Troy and Emma Osborne  
 Ottawa Mennonite Church  
 Cheri Otterbein  
 Howard and Ruby Otterbein

Becky and Greg Oulahan | 2007, 2006  
 Owl Practice  
 Reinhold Packull and Lisa Schlegel Packull | 1994, 1994  
 Henry and Leonora Paetkau | 1976, 1995  
 Isaac Painting  
 J. Daniel and Kenda Palmer  
 Julie Palmer | 1987  
 Jim and Goldine Pankratz  
 Edward and Elaine Papazian | 1969  
 Allan and Cynthia Parke  
 Henry\* and Nancy Pauls  
 Patrick and Lynn Pavlik | 1983  
 PeaceWorks Technology Solutions  
 Brian and Joanne Penner  
 Bruno and Freda Penner  
 Carol and Eugene Penner  
 Donald and Kristen Penner | 1980  
 Marie Penner  
 Paul Penner and Dolores Harms Penner | 1983, 1984  
 Riese Penner  
 Mark Peters | 2010  
 Mary Peters  
 Ronald and Carol Phillips | 1976, 1982  
 Darlene Pidzamecky | 1985  
 Jill and Tim Pletsch | 2000  
 Polaris Educational Planners Inc.  
 Matthew Pollex | 2020  
 Jackson Porter  
 Jaden Postma  
 Gideon and Brenda Prins | 2001, 2002  
 Samuel Ramer  
 Joshua Rampersad  
 Ellery and Mark Rauwerda 2013  
 Calvin Redekop  
 Fred and Shirley Redekop  
 Bronwyn Reed  
 Barry Reesor and Lori Guenther Reesor | 1992, 1991  
 George and Anna Reesor  
 Jay and Miriam Reesor  
 Lois Reesor | 1985  
 Steven and Jessica Reesor Rempel | 2010, 2011  
 Luke and Leah Reesor-Keller | 2008, 2008  
 Andrew and Joanna Reesor-McDowell | 1976, 1981  
 Ernie and Nancy Regehr | 1968



Initially cancelled in April, Convocation 2020 moved online in October, followed by the spring 2021 service in May. Valedictorians (clockwise) Paulinus Okoye, Boushrah Fanous, Briar Hunter, and Katelynn Folkerts shared words of encouragement, inspiration, and resilience.

Dawn and Ron Regier  
| 1983, 1983  
Karl and Jacquie Reimer  
| 2013, 2012  
Tim and LaVerna Reimer  
Ron and Kaye Rempel  
Gemma Ricker  
Carol and David Ringer  
| 1970, 1971  
Riverside Brass & Aluminum  
Foundry Ltd.  
Lisa Roed  
Victoria Roeder Martin | 2012  
Marion Roes  
Edgar Rogalski and Jessie  
Hetherington  
David and AnneMarie Rogalsky  
Heather Ross  
Andrew Roth and Jennifer  
Helmuth | 1994, 1994  
Carol Roth | 1967  
Cedrik Roth  
E. Charles Roth and  
Victoria Peart | 1977  
Kaitlyn Roth  
Linda and Phil Ruby | 1986  
John and Catherine Rudy  
Matthew Ruegg  
Sara Russell



In November, 72 students who received scholarships gathered virtually with 36 donors to thank them for their generous support. Students shared short thank you videos and visited in breakout rooms.

Timothy Sarkar  
Tushar Sarkar | 1979  
Lee and Mary Sauer | 1971  
Katherine Sawatsky and  
Matthew Walker | 2002  
Lorna Sawatsky | 1989  
Tanya Sawatsky  
Matthew Scarfo  
Mark Schaan | 2002  
Leah Schapansky  
Nelson and Joy Scheifele  
Michael and Vivian Schellenberg  
| 1983  
John and Sandra Schiedel  
Mary A. Schiedel  
Shirley Schiedel  
Schiedel Construction Inc.  
Clare and Catherine Schlegel  
James Schlegel  
Ronald and Barbara Schlegel  
Schlegel - UW Research Institute  
for Aging Foundation (RIA)  
Katharina Schmidt | 1985  
Kirk and Robyn Schmidt  
| 2004, 2004  
Timothy and Jacqueline  
Schmucker

Alan Schroeder | 2000  
George and Louise Schroeder  
Ann Schultz and Steve Pfisterer  
| 1990, 1984  
Susan Schultz | 1981  
Susan Schultz Huxman and Jesse  
Huxman  
Schurch Family Association  
Charlotte A. Schwartzentruber  
| 1987, 1990  
Lorna Schwartzentruber | 1989  
Sharon Schwartzentruber | 1991  
Jeanette and Ron Seiling | 1991  
Steven Serra  
Flora Seul-Jacklein and Klaus  
Jacklein  
Byron Shantz  
Glen and Elsie Shantz  
Larry and Marcia Shantz  
Leroy and Carol Shantz | 1974  
Marcus and Lisa Shantz  
| 1995, 1996  
Margaret Shantz and Greg Bezzo  
Rick and Ruth Ann Shantz | 1988  
Ross and Erma Shantz  
Sheila Shantz LoBrutto | 1989  
Shapansky IDC Inc.  
Dorothy Sittler  
Cameron Sjaarda  
Alexander Skipper | 2020  
Imogen Sloss  
Kevin Smith | 1994  
Nathaniel Smith  
Natasha Smolic  
Carolyn and Glenn Snider | 1969  
Janice Snider | 1987  
Dr. Jean M. Snook | 1983  
Arnold Snyder | 1974  
Eleanor Snyder  
Ms. M. E. Snyder  
Marjorie E. Snyder | 1970  
Richard and Cathy Snyder  
Elliott Song  
Sarah Squire | 2020  
St. Jacobs Printery Ltd.  
Katrina Steckle  
Glenn and Irene Steiner  
Kate and Joel Steiner  
Sam Steiner | 1973  
Ruth and Dwight Steinman  
Ervin and Erma Steinmann  
Ray and Anna Steinmann  
Ted and Anita Stephen  
Henry Stevens  
Joshua Stevens  
Strategic Charitable Giving  
Foundation  
Irwin and Susan Streight  
Erik Streufert | 2010  
Curtis Struyk  
Erma Stutzman\*  
Derek Suderman and Rebecca  
Seiling | 1996, 1996  
Geoffrey and Bev Suderman-  
Gladwell | 1986  
Asa Suderman-Gladwell  
Maisie Sum and I Dewa Suparta  
Karen Sunabacka and Preston  
Parsons  
Suncor Energy Foundation  
Haran Sureshkumar  
Tim Swartz and Kim McPherson  
| 1982, 1984

David Switzer | 1994  
Raymond Switzer | 1967  
Peter Christopher Szczeszynski  
Neville Tatem  
Blair and Lesley Taylor | 1973  
Katelyn Taylor  
The Doug and June Barber  
Family Foundation  
The Regional Municipality of  
Waterloo  
The Simons Foundation Canada  
Annetta Thielmann  
Harold Thiessen and Tobin  
Neufeldt Thiessen | 1981  
Harold and Mary Thiessen  
Matthias Thiessen  
Claire Thompson  
Chris and Miriam Thomson  
| 1965, 1967  
Jim Thornton | 1992  
Eric Tichbourne | 2016  
Erwin and Ruth Tiessen | 1969  
Hildi Froese Tiessen and Paul  
Tiessen  
James Tiessen and Karen  
Tiessen | 1987  
Robert and Anita Tiessen  
| 1974, 1981  
Quentin Toderick | 2013  
Darrel and Lucille Toews  
John E. Toews  
Josh Toews  
Nathan Toews  
Maariya Toman  
Toronto United Mennonite  
Church  
Claire Treacy  
Jacqueline Treacy  
Piper Treadwell



More than 1000 donors to the Fill the Table campaign have helped to make space for community, funding a vital new kitchen, allowing for a much-needed dining room expansion, and building an elevator and stairway to the chapel.

Stephen Tsang | 1974  
Sophie Tsao  
Mykayla Turner | 2020  
Rebecca Turner  
Suzanne and Joe Tyas  
Walter Unrau  
Emily Vanderkooy  
Jeff and Shana VanderSlagt  
| 1992  
Josiah Vandewetering  
Cynthia and Scott Veals  
Marcus Veals  
Michael Veenstra  
Isaac Veldhuis  
Radmila Vujosevic  
Mark and Natasha Vuorinen  
Alexander Wagler  
Cassidy Wagler  
Casey Wagter

Sara Wahl and Stu  
Schellenberger | 1998  
Sue Wahl and Bob Wildfong  
Elizabeth Walkington  
Johanna Wall and Tim Bergen  
| 1975, 1976  
Viola Wallace  
Wallenstein Feed Charitable  
Foundation  
Marvin and Karen Warkentin  
Cameron Warren  
Waterloo North Mennonite  
Church  
Paul Webb  
Allison Weber  
John and Elaine Weber  
Mark Weber and Sheri Wideman  
| 1994  
Ron and Mary Weber  
Ruby and Amsey Weber  
Curwin and Jill Weber Friesen  
| 1993, 1992  
Micah Weber-Martin  
Elizabeth and Donald Wharton  
Michael Whitford  
Natassja Wibisono  
Kim Wideman | 1993  
Louise Wideman | 1985  
Benjamin Wiebe  
Dennis and Laurie Wiebe | 1980  
Eric Wiebe  
Jennie and Colin Wiebe  
| 1999, 2001  
Jennifer Wiebe | 2007  
John D. and Betty Wiebe | 1972  
Joel Wiebe Neufeldt | 2018  
Andre Wiederkehr  
Theophilus Wiederkehr | 2020  
Amy Wiens

Anna and Rudolph Wiens  
| 2008, 2010  
Marlene Wignall  
Andrew Wikkerink | 2020  
Eric Wildfong  
Ross Willard  
Lena Williams  
Andrew Willms  
Esther Willms-Kehler and  
Dennis Kehler | 1981  
Deborah Wills  
Jinnie and Ted Wilson | 1967  
Elise Wilts  
Pauline and Jeffrey Wilts  
Erin Windibank  
Sandra and Bruce Winfield  
Benjamin and Sarah Winter  
| 2009, 2010  
Henry and Karen Winter  
| 1988, 1987



John and Joanne Bender offered Grebel donors a matching challenge for Giving Tuesday. With their help, the College purchased a whole set of *Voices Together* hymnals.

Victor and Marilyn Winter | 1975  
Robert and Lois Witmer  
Larry and Marianne Witzel  
Horst and Sharon Wohlgenut  
| 1963, 1965  
Savio Wong | 1984  
Victor Wong  
Joel Woods  
Glen and Margaret Woolner  
Lora Woolner  
Lukas Wormald  
Debra Worth | 2001  
Matthew Wright  
Lo Wu  
Rachael Wu | 2020  
Jane Xavier  
Jesse Yantzi | 2017  
Maynard and Connie Yantzi  
Yantzi Home Building Centre  
Brianna Yaromich  
Carissa Yoder

Thomas and Rebecca Yoder  
Neufeld  
Philip and Janet Yordy  
Ruth M. Yordy  
Terry and Judy Zacharias  
| 1983, 1982  
Dawn and Greg Zehr | 1989  
Melvin and Delphine Zehr  
Laura Zekany  
Michael Zhang  
Reuben Zuidema  
Timothy Zwart

65 Anonymous Donors  
\* We are saddened by the loss of these friends.



# Farewell to Ed Janzen, a Spirit Grounded in God's Love

BY JEN KONKLE

In June of 1999, Ed Janzen began his role as Chaplain at Grebel, with experience, energy, and passion. He came with a desire to serve the College and with the perspective that service needs to be relational from beginning to end. For more than 22 years, Ed has been a relational chaplain who has endeared himself to many students, faculty, and staff over the years. He has served with commitment and integrity, and has inspired and influenced many to discover and understand their journey of faith and life.

This summer Ed retired, and he has been spending more time with family, is tackling various woodworking projects, and is sailing as often as he can. As part of his retirement celebrations, many alumni, students, and co-workers offered words of farewell and thanks to Ed.

"I have so appreciated the mentorship and wisdom you have offered me in my own ministry over the past several years," shared Erika Toffelmire. "You have been a beautiful example of discernment, faithfulness, and compassionate care that comes from a spirit grounded in God's love."

Miriam L. explained how Ed "has an amazing ability to listen, provide words of wisdom, humility, while also being a wonderful leader in the communities he touches. Ed's sense of humor is unmatched and his constant willingness to hear how you are doing made him a wonderful teacher, chaplain, and person to work with."

"Your grace and wisdom are so inspirational to me," wrote current student Victoria Lumax. "As I've served on Chapel Committee, I've seen your incredible heart for the community. Thank you for your years of service to the college and to God. I have enjoyed being under your leadership, a style of leadership that is sincere, fun, and loving."

From a faculty perspective, Dean Troy Osborne wrote, "Ed's work as teacher and scholar have shaped many students, and he has kept the torch of our mission burning bright in College Council and strategic plans. However, I'm most grateful for the impromptu hallway conversations that have ranged from history to theology to student wellness."

"Whether organizing Mennonite potlucks in SOC 275, expressing thoughts about Max Weber in SOC 101, or quietly inspiring and provoking the student body with ideas about God's love for all, Ed has been foundational to the evolution of the College in recent times," added Marlene Epp.

Ed was often found at the front of a room: leading chapel, teaching a class, facilitating a discussion, or offering an epic prayer of blessing, but he was just as appreciated when not the main focus

of attention. Staff member Seth Ratzlaff shared that he has always appreciated, and tried to model in his own life, Ed's willingness to make time and space during any interaction for deep and vulnerable conversation. An encounter with Ed could leave you pondering a life question or howling with laughter.

"In serving, truthfully, I have had tremendous privilege," reflected Ed at his online farewell party. "Through these years, I have known immense joy and great growing pains. I've known inspiring confidence of and in colleagues, cherished responsibility, powerful collegiality, nurturing supervision, caring administration, an inspiring mission, abundant love, creative and purposeful work, and friendship and spirit that will keep me smiling long after I've forgotten my reason for smiling." Working closely with Chapel Choir directors each week and with the Student Services team, Ed "learned much about care of others and community life and development."

Ed noted, in particular, the working relationship he had with Director of Student Services Mary Brubaker-Zehr. "I am so grateful for 23 years of trust and confidence in my work, for graciousness in consideration of my perspectives and suggestions over the years."

Likewise, Mary described the experience of 23 years working closely together. "We've worked amazingly well together—despite or maybe because of some of our differences." She continued, "I've appreciated your creative ideas, your warmth, and your friendly hellos each morning, your interest in growth and life-long learning. I've appreciated your reliability and your generosity, your graciousness and listening ear. I've appreciated the hundreds of times you've stood in my doorway to share an idea with me. I've learned a lot from you and with you. You've enriched Student Services and you've enriched the life of this College. Ed, we will never forget how you made us all feel—loved, appreciated, and valued. Go well into retirement, our dear friend."







This year's Act of Community was planting garlic bulbs



The Dons welcoming new students



A Reading Week hike



FLOWtoshoot



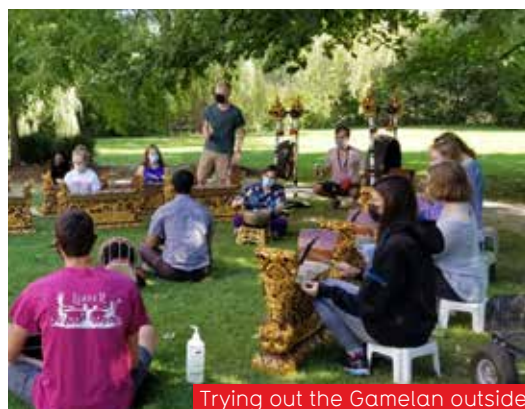
Ultimate Frisbee intramural champions



Community Supper is back and we love the bread!



The upper-year car wash welcomed all



Trying out the Gamelan outside



Thanks to good weather, most Chapel services this term have been outside

## Students Return Joyfully

As families arrived for Grebel's Move-In Day over the Labour Day weekend, joy was visible in student eyes, even as masks hid their smiles. Students have modeled care for their community by diligently wearing masks inside the public places of Grebel and outside when distancing isn't possible. A full gamut of Orientation Week activities helped to build relationships and cement friendships forged virtually last year, as some students met their friends in person for the first time. For students who spent their first year of university isolated at home, moving into Grebel brought relief and excitement as they navigate living with a roommate and finding classrooms on the larger campus. Over the fall term, standard practices have been re-imagined, new initiatives created, and some favourite traditions embraced once again—all with the underlying purpose of creating community and rebuilding connections.

While full normalcy hasn't returned yet to Grebel, professors were delighted to begin teaching some classes in person. The College offered a variety of different teaching modes this term, some blending remote and in-person elements, while others were taught remotely. Music ensembles were also mostly in-person, giving participants the opportunity to hear each other in the same room. Students have expressed gratitude to be able to take at least some of their courses in a physical classroom and to connect with peers face-to-face.

Following the University of Waterloo's lead, the winter 2022 term will return to pre-pandemic levels of in-person instruction.



# Roots and Routes by Bike

BY JEN KONKLE

On a gorgeous Saturday in July, Chaplain Ed Janzen led a dozen students and a few staff on a biking and learning tour of the Queen's Bush area in Ontario, which includes Glen Allen, Macton, and Wallenstein. This area was the location of a Black Settlement, beginning in the 1840s, before Mennonites acquired the land.

Using the "Roots and Routes" guide created by Redeemer University Professor Timothy Epp who was Grebel's 2021 Bechtel Lecturer, the group visited an historical plaque, numerous homesteads, the original location of several churches or missions, as well as a few schools and a cemetery.

The pamphlet advises visitors to "keep in mind that our stories and histories are often intertwined with those of others whom we might not at first consider." With this caution, Ed provided background research, archival photos, and personal accounts at each stop of the

tour. At the end, students wrote short reflections on the importance of place and being physically in a spot of historical significance.

One student wrote, "There's something special about learning this history on the land where it happened. The stories of the Black settlers are truly inspiring; that despite all of the forces working against them, many persevered to keep the land they worked so hard to clear it and farm. There is so much to be learned from their drive and hope."

Another students wrote, "Today's bike ride of Queen's Bush has guided me to reflect on the history of the many people who have called this land their home. This land has been the canvas for resilience and prosperity for Black Settlers. This land has been a place of community, of comradery, of struggle, and of celebration."



## MUSIC RESOURCES FOR ONLINE WORSHIP

CHAPEL CHOIR RECORDINGS  
FOR VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES

[uwaterloo.ca/music/worship-resources](http://uwaterloo.ca/music/worship-resources)

## CHURCH WORSHIP RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Are you running virtual worship services and in need of music? Grebel's Music Department has a selection of copyright-free recordings available for your use to help you add music to your online church services. Let the uplifting sounds of the Chapel Choir augment your worship services.

## SCHOLARS NETWORK RELAUNCHED

The Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre (TMTC) in co-operation with the Institute of Mennonite Studies is delighted to announce the relaunch of the Anabaptist Mennonite Scholars Network (AMSN).

The AMSN seeks to respond to the need for increasing communication around conference planning, special journal issues, and related items with a view not only to facilitating greater awareness and cooperation but also, and significantly, to expanding the conversation. In a very modest way, the AMSN seeks to nurture the conditions whereby we can break out of disciplinary, institutional, gendered, and geographic silos that too often narrow our vision by fostering cross-disciplinary connections that intentionally include marginalized voices from across the street and around the world.

Email newsletters that feature a round-up of new calls for papers, conferences, events, lectures, employment opportunities, fellowships, scholarships, online resources, and more from the AMSN website will be circulated roughly 3–4 times annually.

“We rely on an ever-expanding network of institutions and individuals to keep us apprised of what is happening and are always looking to add information of relevance to the Anabaptist Mennonite scholarly world around the globe,” noted Kyle Gingerich Hiebert, TMTC Director. If there are events and/or other items that you are aware of, please send an email or click the “submit news and events” button on the website.

We hope this resource will be useful in connecting Anabaptist Mennonite scholars around the globe.

READ MORE AT:

[uwaterloo.ca/toronto-mennonite-theological-centre/amsn](http://uwaterloo.ca/toronto-mennonite-theological-centre/amsn)



MTS student Kathryn Cressman

## Heeding the Call to Ministry

BY JEN KONKLE

The Master of Theological Studies program at Grebel draws students from a variety of backgrounds and faith traditions. Two current students, Kathryn Cressman and Laurel Rounds Fretz, both felt a gradual pull toward ministry within their home churches.

“Through volunteer work at my church and reflecting upon the energy I felt after leading in various capacities, I decided to consider ministry,” explained Kathryn.

“I have been drawn to ministry since I was a teenager active in my United Church,” reflected Laurel, “but high school guidance counselors don’t push you in that direction.”

Both Kathryn and Laurel found joy and purpose serving in progressively larger leadership roles at their churches. “I have been involved on various committees at Nith Valley Mennonite Church,” noted Kathryn. “Since starting my MTS degree, my confidence has grown in my biblical knowledge and excitement to share what I’m learning.” Kathryn also completed a Supervised Experience in Ministry placement at her church which allowed her to “test the waters of ministry in a safe and familiar place.”

“I was very active in church as a youth sponsor and song leader at Bloomingdale Mennonite Church,” shared Laurel. “Then I took on worship leader duties and offered some meditations.” Both women have started writing sermons and continue to participate in worship planning.

“I have learned a lot about myself and felt affirmed in a call to some sort of ministry. I have felt encouraged to be creative in what that could look like,” said Kathryn, who has just a few courses left to take. “It has been very valuable to study the Old and New Testaments, as well as taking an exegesis course, to have a stronger biblical foundation.”

“I see a formal ministry role in my future at some point,” added Kathryn. “While the MTS degree may not be put to use career-wise right away, it will be helpful for my lay-leadership and my own personal faith growth.”

With plans to become a pastor or work with seniors in a chaplaincy position, Laurel is at the beginning of her degree and especially looks forward to learning pastoral care skills. “It is not a skill that is easily learned in a lay capacity.”

Both women expressed initial apprehension about returning to school after a break, but quickly discovered that their enjoyment of the course content and the practical aspects of the MTS program at Grebel have made for a rewarding experience.

Laurel Rounds Fretz





# Composing Louis Riel's Dream

BY KAREN SUNABACKA, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

Music Professor Karen Sunabacka presented the 2021 Benjamin Eby Lecture this October, titled "Composing Louis Riel's Dream: Exploring the history of the Red River Settlement through family stories and music." In this lecture she looked at how she has explored her mixed European and Métis heritage in her music. Below, Karen describes her lecture in more detail.

I have always known I was a Red River Métis, but I haven't always known what that means. In the last 10 years I have been doing a lot of exploring and learning about my family history in the Red River settlement, and what it means to have a mixed European and Métis heritage. These explorations often occurred first through my compositions and then through research and family conversations that grew into more compositions as my curiosity led me to new revelations.

To take you through these explorations I divided my talk into three parts. The first part looks at three pieces I composed about my Métis grandmother Lenore Clouston. It is thanks to her that I knew I was Métis and it is through explorations of her life in my compositions that I have discovered more about what it means to be Métis and learned more about the history of the Métis people. In this section I also talk about how my collaborations with my mom, Joyce Clouston, began.

The second part looks at a piece I wrote about my settler heritage on the theme of mental illness, and specifically about my great-great-grandmother Matilda Clouston, who moved to the Red River Settlement around 1866 and spent the final 25 years of her life in the Manitoba Asylum.

In the third section I discuss two recent pieces about my Aunt Beverley which were both inspired by the writing of my mom, Joyce Clouston.



Because of my mixed heritage, I have benefited from colonialism and I have been wounded by colonialism. But it is through my music that I have found my voice, that I have healed my wounds, and where I continue to explore the complicated relationships of my past and present.

*The Benjamin Eby Lecture is an annual lecture that presents the research of a faculty member at Conrad Grebel University College. It is named after Benjamin Eby (1785-1853), an early educator and Mennonite church leader in Waterloo County.*

WATCH THE COMPLETE LECTURE ONLINE AT: [www.grebel.ca/ebby](http://www.grebel.ca/ebby)



## MUSIC RINGS THROUGH THE HALLS

It is a delight for Grebel Music students to once again be making music in person! While some health precautions are still in place, live music is once again filling the chapel, classrooms, halls, and outdoor spaces. (Left) The Chapel Choir sang a piece at the Memorial Garden dedication. (Right) Instrumental Chamber Ensembles find it much easier to play together when they're all in the same room!



# Mapping Systems, Advancing Sustainable Peace

BY EMILY CHARRON, COORDINATOR, KINDRED CREDIT UNION CENTRE FOR PEACE ADVANCEMENT

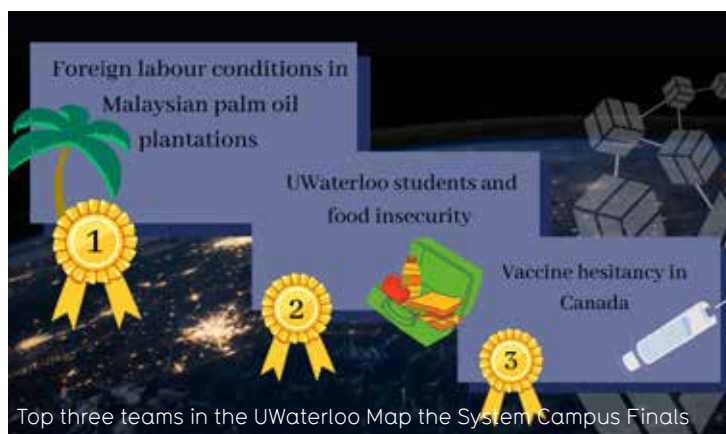
Advancing sustainable peace requires enthusiastic collaboration between passionate individuals across disciplines and communities, and catalyzing collaboration for impact is the mission of the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement. The Centre brings together experts, scholars, and students to work across a diverse range of local and global issues to advance peace.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an organizing principle for the Centre's work. The SDGs offer a roadmap for communities like the Centre to achieve a better and more sustainable future, outlining 17 distinct yet interconnected issue areas that are vital for building peace. At the Centre, peacemakers recognize that their work is just one part of a complex system that is maintained through balanced approaches to peacebuilding.

Gaining an understanding of what peacebuilding looks like in the context of this complex system can be a challenging process. For students at Grebel and the University of Waterloo, co-curricular pitch competitions have become a welcoming space for inquiry and experimentation. For example, in 2021, more than 220 students competed in the Map the System pitch competition at the University of Waterloo, organized by the Centre. Using systems thinking, students from across disciplines tackled global challenges from a holistic perspective. In contrast to traditional analysis where the world is broken down into parts, students learned that the world is deeply interconnected. To help others in sustainable ways, they must lean into complexity and ambiguity.

Map the System does not ask students to solve world problems. Instead, they are asked to understand problems and how they relate to specific SDGs. This prepares students to become changemakers who approach their work with curiosity, compassion, and collaboration in mind.

During the 2021 competition, a team of Grebel students from the Peace and Conflict Studies and Master of Peace and Conflict Studies programs tackled the issue of student food insecurity at the University of Waterloo. These students, who placed second at the



Map the System Campus Finals, were supported in their learning during the competition by Centre Director Paul Heidebrecht through his Map the System seminar course.

Creating space for experimentation and learning is one way

that the Centre is helping to equip student peacemakers to better address the SDGs. Urgent action is necessary to solve environmental and social problems facing the world today. As the 2022 Map the System competition ramps up, students have the opportunity to join a community of passionate individuals across their campus who are ready to begin their learning journeys.



In the face of change,  
be an agent of peace.

## MASTER OF PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

A professional program with internships, skill-building workshops, and flexible courses.

APPLY BY FEBRUARY 1



Conrad Grebel  
University College

## THE GREBEL PEACE INCUBATOR

As the home of PeaceTech in Waterloo, the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement supports new ventures using tech to create a more peaceful and just world, in a program for start-ups now known as the "Grebel Peace Incubator." Playing a vital role in the University of Waterloo's innovation ecosystem, the Grebel Peace Incubator advances expansive and innovative understandings and practices of peace locally and globally. This program links new ventures to social innovation tools that help them unpack complex human problems. The Centre's expertise in thinking and working politically helps new ventures engage governments and transform systems. New ventures in the Incubator thrive within a culture of inclusion, collaboration, and community-mindedness.

These emerging ventures find their home in the Epp Peace Room, a space within the Centre made possible by generous contributions from the Epp family and friends as part of the Next Chapter capital campaign in 2013, in honour of the work of Helen L. and Frank H. Epp.

Current participants in the Grebel Peace Incubator include BeBlended, Demine Robotics, ESGTree, GeoMat, Lunaria, Maison Verte, Green Care Farms, and Union Co-operative.



## Online Conference on Aging and Spirituality

BY MARGARET GISSING, COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

This past June, scholars, practitioners, support workers, health care experts, and interested parties from across the globe gathered together virtually over the course of three weeks to advance the connections between spiritual practice and the effects of aging at the ninth International Conference on Aging and Spirituality. The conference connected researchers with practitioners in a way that fosters community and advances this important intersection of care.

Jane Kuepfer, Schlegel Specialist in Spirituality and Aging at Grebel and the Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging, worked with an established committee as the conference co-coordinator, to offer the conference online, after the pandemic made it unfeasible to host an in-person conference. “Many people were excited for the opportunity to participate in this conference virtually,” she explained, “especially in the midst of the pandemic, when they are longing for meaningful engagement.”

With participants tuning in from eight countries, under the theme of Vital Connections: Claiming Voice and Learning to Listen, speakers covered topics of COVID-19 and pandemic care in elder spaces, moral injury, medicine and spiritual well being, workplace engagement, dementia, oral traditions in Afro-Indigenous communities, mental health, art interventions, and more.

“The conference has been an opportunity for researchers from a variety of disciplines, along with spiritual care practitioners, to collaborate—sharing observations and research findings and learning together about spiritual needs we hold in common across religions and cultures as we grow older,” explained Jane. “It’s also an opportunity to engage diverse resources, like the Australian Aboriginal practice of Dadirri, the Ba’al Shem Tov’s 3-step approach to unwelcome experiences (Jewish), or the use of storytelling and song by East African elders.”



## Long-Serving Assistant Librarian Retires

BY JEN KONKLE

After 41 years of dedicated service to Grebel, Ruth Steinman has retired as assistant librarian in the Milton Good Library.

Alongside Sam Steiner and John Good, Ruth saw the library through many transitions: from microfiche to online databases, and the card catalogue to the Omni book sharing system.

And as her co-workers retired, Ruth embraced Laureen Harder-Gissing and Mandy Macfie, as the new trio moved from a cramped library office to a new spacious location, shelving and re-shelving books as they moved. Ruth closed out her career in the middle of the pandemic, working from home.

Rumoured to have the whole library collection memorized, Ruth was a key player in many successful student essays. Faculty appreciated how she became a co-collaborator in their research and also offered suggestions for new books related to individual professors’ research. Ruth’s knowledge and skill, accumulated over decades, added to many scholarly conversations. Her cataloguing expertise and Mennonite knowledge was strengthened by her warmth and humour, professionalism and thoroughness, as well as her helpful attitude.



Not only did Ruth flourish in her job, she also participated in larger college programming such as singing in impromptu choirs, volunteering at events, quilting projects, served as the first staff rep to the Board of Governors, and was the unofficial historian of Grebel staff, with a good memory of past events and important changes from the last four decades.

Ruth was a thorough and gentle trainer who supervised dozens of students who worked in the library. “You were patient and compassionate, yet with clear expectations and direct feedback. I watched our student workers grow and flourish under your direction,” Laureen noted.

Co-worker Mandy explained that “Ruth was dedicated to finishing whatever task she started. Whether that was a complicated project, cataloguing books in different languages, or learning a new library system, she worked steadily at the task until it was fully complete.”

In retirement, Ruth plans to spend time in her garden and with grandchildren.

# 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.

**JENNIFER BALL** published “Planning and Peace” in the recently released book, *Peace is Everyone’s Business*, edited by Lowell Ewert and Fred Bird (Charlotte, NC: IAP, 2021).

**ALICIA BATTEN** co-edited, with Kelly Olson, *Dress in Mediterranean Antiquity* (London: T & T Clark/Bloomsbury, 2021). In addition to editing, she co-wrote the introduction and contributed two chapters to the volume.

**JEREMY BERGEN** published an opinion piece, “The Theological Reason Why the Catholic Church is Reticent to Apologize for Residential Schools,” in *The Globe and Mail*, 8 June 2021 (online), 11 June 2021 (print).

**MARLENE EPP** participated in a review symposium of *The Lives of Amish Women*, by Karen M. Johnson-Weiner, published in the *Journal of Plain Anabaptist Communities* (Summer 2021).

**LAURA GRAY** is Vice-President of the Canadian University Music Society.

**PAUL HEIDEBRECHT** presented a paper entitled “Growing, but also Gifting and Failing: MCC as an Incubator for New Approaches to Relief, Development, and Peace” at the “MCC at 100” virtual conference organized by the University of Winnipeg on October 1, 2021.

**JANE KUEPFER** convened the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Ageing & Spirituality, online, this past June, at which she presented *Spiritual Care in Ontario Long-term Care: Current realities and hopes for the future*.

**ERIC LEPP** presented papers virtually on the role of ‘side-by-side’ relationships in conflict-affected societies at the 2021 annual conferences of the International Studies Association and the Canadian Peace Research Association.

**DAVID Y. NEUFELD’S** article “Narrating Anabaptist Conversion in Early Modern Switzerland” appears in the October 2021 issues of the *Mennonite Quarterly Review*.

**REINA NEUFELDT’S** article “Settler colonial conscripts: Mennonite reserves and the enfolding of implicated subjects” was published in *Postcolonial Studies*, as well as the chapter “Relational ethics: the possibility of a caring positive peace,” in *The Palgrave Handbook of Positive Peace*.

**CAROL PENNER** had “#MennonitesToo: Sexual Violence and Mennonite Peace Theology,” published in *The Conrad Grebel Review*, 38, no 3 (Fall 2020); pages 193-208.

**KATE KENNEDY STEINER** co-presented a paper with Debra Lacoste to the Canadian Society of Medievalists on June 14 titled “The Pedagogical Value of Studying Chant Fragments.”

**DEREK SUDERMAN** will present two papers at this year’s Society of Biblical Literature meeting: “‘Hear Me, O God’: Social Rhetoric in Individual Lament Psalms” and “‘May the Day Perish!’ Exploring Lament and Social Address at the Beginning of Job.”

**KAREN SUNABACKA** had her piece *And Then I Crow* for cello and electronics performed at an online Grebel Noon Hour Concert on October 6, gave the Eby Lecture on October 21, and recorded her debut CD of her piano music in mid-November with pianist Darryl Friesen (release date TBD).

**MARK VUORINEN** premiered Stephanie Martin’s (WLU 1982) *Frost Sequence* in August in an online concert and will premiere a newly commissioned work by Tim Corlis (BSC 1998), *On Love* in early November, both with The Elora Singers. He is currently recording a new CD of music for the Christmas season, also with The Elora Singers.

## THE CONRAD GREBEL REVIEW

The newest issue of The Conrad Grebel Review completes a series on ecology and land that addresses the challenges and opportunities posed by the *Environmental Politics* of Jedediah Purdy. The interaction with Purdy’s work began in the previous issue, where Joe Wiebe situated him in his US context and outlines Purdy’s affection-based politics, call for a new commonwealth, and exhortations to citizens. Purdy himself provides a thoughtful response to his interlocutors that engages the wide range of issues raised, including conceptions of nature, naturalism, creation, and materiality, as well as Indigenous land claims and other ethical, theological, and political considerations.

ARTICLES AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:  
[uwaterloo.ca/grebel/cgr](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/cgr)







## Mennonite Heritage Week

### Life Upstairs at Brubacher House

BY LAURA ENNS, BRUBACHER HOUSE HOST

Curious tourists, skunk invasions, biblical basement floods, incredible lake views and sunsets . . . just a day in the life of a Brubacher House host!

What is it like to live in a museum? An exciting new digital exhibit explores this question from the perspective of the 22 hosts who have called Brubacher House home.

The 1850s heritage house, now owned by the University of Waterloo and operated in partnership with Conrad Grebel University College and the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario, was originally built by early Pennsylvania German Mennonite settlers John E. Brubacher and Magdalena Musselman. When it opened as a museum in 1979, it was restored to include a modern, upper-level apartment for live-in museum hosts.

Over the years, many Grebel alumni have had the unique experience of serving in this role. Brubacher House 2021 Digital Historian-in-Residence Bethany Leis and Web Designer Chris Steingart weave these stories together in “Life Upstairs,” the museum’s first digital exhibit, supported by Grebel and the J. Winfield Fretz Publication Fund of the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario. Heartfelt and humorous anecdotes, accompanied by photos of seasonal celebrations, quirky artifacts, and surprising encounters, provide a fascinating look at the changing seasons of Brubacher House.

Several Grebel alumni and former staff are featured in the exhibit: Nancy Maitland (Library staff), Arlyn (BA 1995) and Judith Friesen Epp (BA 1995), Colin (BASC 2001) and Jennie Wiebe (BES 1999), Chris Steingart and Jillian Burkhardt (BA 2003), Brandon (WLU 2001) and Bethany Leis (BA 2006), Allison (BA 2007) and Mark Brubacher (WLU 2006), Jacquie (BA 2012) and Karl Reimer (BSC 2013), and Laura (BES 2013) and Joshua Enns (BMATH 2012).

EXPERIENCE THE ONLINE EXHIBIT: [lifeupstairs.ca](https://lifeupstairs.ca)

Mennonite Heritage Week was proclaimed by Parliament in 2019 to recognize Mennonite resilience, cultural production, and peacemaking efforts. The designation encourages deeper public appreciation of Mennonite contributions to “building Canadian society.” This national recognition coincides with the increasing awareness among Mennonites of their historic involvement in colonization in Canada. During the second week of September this year, Grebel marked Mennonite Heritage Week by drawing attention to an upcoming conference, called Indigenous-Mennonite Encounters in Time and Place, to be held at Grebel in May 2022, that invites reflection on these parts of Mennonite history in Canada and in other contexts.

The Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies compiled a list of resources that provides a variety of starting points to learn more about the intersection of Mennonite and Indigenous histories in Canada and the work of Mennonite organizations and individuals to address their implication in colonial violence against Indigenous peoples. Some of these resources are available online; others are available in print in libraries or online through institutional access. May these work to prompt deeper and fuller consideration of Mennonite action in the past.

ARTICLES AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:  
[uwaterloo.ca/grebel/mennonite-heritage-week](https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/mennonite-heritage-week)

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## ALUMNI CELEBRATE PARENTS WITH SCHOLARSHIP

Steve McDowell (BA 82) and Andrew Reesor-McDowell (BA 76) established a scholarship endowment in for a Master of Theological Studies student in honour of their parents. Emerson (1918-1976) and Elsie (Ramer) McDowell (1923-2018) served in various ministry and pastoral settings over their lives in Ontario.

Elsie enjoyed serving on the Women's Inter-Church Council for six years in the late 1970s, working on the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee. Emerson developed camp programs at Fraser Lake Camp and Willowgrove Day Camp, served on several Mennonite boards and committees.

The scholarship is for strong students who are interested in pursuing ministry. The first recipient is Zachary Stefaniuk. "It is gratifying when donors can honour the legacy of their parents by offering tangible support to students in our programs," noted Director of Advancement, Fred W. Martin.



## MPACS SCHOLARSHIP HONOURS MALCOLM X'S LEGACY

This new scholarship is the culmination of the vision and perseverance of Majid Mirza who connected with Paul Heidebrecht at Grebel's Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement (CPA).

"This endowed MPACS scholarship bearing the name of Malcolm X, and dedicated to the advancement of racial justice as well as interfaith harmony, will serve as a constant reminder of the kind of community we strive to be," noted Professor Nathan Funk, outgoing chair of PACS.

"I believe Brother Malcolm is the embodiment of speaking truth to power," said Majid. "As a result, Malcolm X or Malik Shabazz as he was known in the last chapter of his life, was a controversial figure who changed his opinion frequently because he was constantly striving for truth, and this is an infinite journey."

"It is exciting to see a variety of supporters from the Muslim faith community step forward to augment this award with generous donations," added Fred W. Martin, Director of Advancement at Grebel. The inaugural recipient of this award is Qudsia Alvi.

## Gardens Get Revitalized

Some families of students who passed away while living in the Grebel residence gathered on October 25 to dedicate a new student memorial garden. The garden was relocated to the area between Laurel Creek and the lower parking lot at Grebel. It includes three trees in honour of Jamie McCaughey, Tim Sutherland and Becky Frey. A bench for this garden was purchased with the help of Becky's friend, Megan MacDonald (BSC 1998).

Benches were replaced in the Black Walnut garden, created in 2005 to honour of the arrival of Pennsylvania German settlers. Thanks to: Ralph and Dorothy Shantz, Orvie Martin, Orval and Jeanette Cressman, Laverne Martin, Ed (BMath 1961) and Karen Bergey, Bob (BASC 1971) and Linda Bergey, Paul Tiessen and Hildi Froese Tiessen, Barb (BA 1977) and Roy Draper and the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario.

A new bench was also purchased for the Chortiza Oak garden, created in 2004 in memory of the oak tree that was at the centre of the Russian Mennonite community in Chortiza, Ukraine. Thanks to: Marie Penner, and Harold (BA 1981) and Tobi Thiessen.

In addition, a Japanese Maple was planted to replace a tree that was planted in 2010 in honour of the Mennonite World Conference. Thanks to Bert and Martha Lobe, Ray and Margie Brubacher, and Kathrine Good.



## GREBEL FUND SUPPORTS CONNECTIONS

Grebel is about community, even if we have not been able to meet together in person. The COVID-19 pandemic has stretched us. But your interest and support helps to connect us.

Watch for a letter from President Marcus Shantz that describes the importance of your donations to the Grebel Fund. These gifts support our students directly with scholarship awards. Donations also are critical for budgetary support for our programs that do not receive funds from tuition or government grants

Fred W. Martin,  
Director of Advancement  
fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca  
519-572-7704

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# Alumni Award for Respected Educator Ann L. Schultz

BY FRED W. MARTIN, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

Pursuing a career in music education was a dream for Ann L. Schultz (BA 1990) who was always passionate about making music. After finishing a degree in music at Grebel, Ann completed a Bachelor of Education and began her teaching career at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate in 1991, becoming head of the music program there in 1997. She began serving as Rockway's Principal in January 2013 and will retire from that role in December 2021.

Ann brought energy, passion, and creativity to her work as a music teacher and choir director in a high school setting with a strong tradition of music making. She spearheaded many school musicals, produced the choral recording *Pieces*, and participated in annual choir festivals, twice hosting the Mennonite Schools Council Festivals. "Instilling the love of music in my students and impressing on them how they can be messengers has been an important part of being a music educator, specifically in a faith-based environment," Ann shared. "Additionally, I was committed to bringing an integrated approach to my music practice, exposing my students to the music of the masters, the music of the church, and the music of today."

Taking on the position of principal at a small Grade 7 to 12 school was challenging, but it was a natural offshoot of Ann's commitment to faith-based education and a way to nurture her love for students. "Having taught at Rockway for so many years, moving to the role of principal was another way I felt I would be able to advance Rockway's mission, which has a strong emphasis of putting values into action through service and peacemaking," Ann reflected. "Leading a school that encourages students to learn, form faith, and build character has been deeply life-giving to me. It has been an incredible honour to work

with so many committed and dedicated people over the last 30 years!"

Beyond the Rockway campus, Ann has given leadership to Mennonite Schools Council conferences, Sound in the Land conferences at Grebel in 2009 and 2014, and the 50th anniversary of the Inter-Mennonite Children's Choir in 2018.

"Many of our Music alumni have gone on to careers in education and it is gratifying to see this impact in a variety of settings" noted Music Department Chair Mark Vuorinen.

Ann came to Grebel after completing a Bachelor of Church Music at Canadian Mennonite Bible College. "At that time, many of my friends came to Waterloo," she explained. "I was interested in engaging in a setting where community was important and the music education I received would further my goals. I have fond memories of music courses and music ensembles led by Len Enns, Ken Hull, and Wilbur Maust. One of my highlights was participating in the Music and Culture trip to Vienna, facilitated by Bill, which included singing medieval music beside the Melk Abbey."

"Ann is a compelling example of leadership and is a role model for our students who seek ways to connect their passion to a vocational calling," said President Marcus Shantz. "For her entire career, Ann has represented Grebel's ideals. Her contribution to the church and to the spiritual, intellectual,



and musical growth of teenagers is significant. For this reason, we are pleased to award Ann Grebel's 2021 Distinguished Alumni Service Award."

"Many of our alumni are educators," observed Alumni Executive Chair Michael Shum (BASC 2011). "Educators make indelible impacts on the lives of young people every day. I am sure that there are many Grebel students considering a career in teaching, perhaps due to one or more inspirational teachers they had during school. Our committee thought that bringing alumni teachers together to share their insights and experiences would create an informative event for anyone interested in education, and allow teachers and students to connect about common struggles due to the pandemic, as well as their shared hopes for the future." The award will be presented to Ann at a brunch for Grebel alumni educators on March 5, 2022.

**MARCH  
5  
10AM**

**TEACHING IN  
CHALLENGING  
TIMES**

The COVID pandemic has had an incredible impact on education. Teachers have responded admirably to many challenges. This in-person brunch will feature a panel of alumni teachers who will share their experiences from the last few years. The Alumni Committee will also present the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Service Award to Ann Schultz. Alumni who are teachers are invited to this special brunch in the new Grebel dining room.

\$15 tickets available in the new year. [grebel.ca/events](https://grebel.ca/events)

# People

**Sharon Lamont** (BA 1980) retired after decades of service working in the University of Waterloo library. She marked her retirement in May 2021



with a gift that reflects more than 45 years of experiences as a Waterloo student, staff member and volunteer. She was featured in UWaterloo's donor report this year. Sharon also wrote a recap of Grebel's '70s Reunion this past June, available at [grebel.ca/news](https://grebel.ca/news).

**Amanda Kind** (BA 2006) has released a new music video for her song *Easier* and it is available on YouTube. Brimming with musical expertise and adept at public speaking, Amanda also hosted UWaterloo's Black and Gold Day online concert. Amanda was Grebel's 2017 Distinguished Alumni Service Award winner.



**Maxwell Kennel** (BA 2013, MTS 2015) has completed a PhD in Religious Studies at McMaster University and began a SSHRC



Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto. In late 2021, his book *Postsecular History: Political Theology and the Politics of Time* will be published by Palgrave Macmillan, and in 2022 Max

will take over as director of Pandora Press—a publisher that specializes in Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies.



**Nelson Scheifele**, who served as VP of Finance and Administration at Grebel from 1981 to 1993, returned to campus with his wife Joy this summer. They came to see new plaques they sponsored that list every Student Council President from the past, which is an impressive list of alumni who continue to be leaders.

**Nancy Mann** (MTS 2008) began as pastor at St. Agatha Mennonite Church in June 2021. She previously served as pastor for the Nithview Community, a seniors community offering several types of accommodations and services in New Hamburg, and also for Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church and Floradale Mennonite Church.



**Hannah Hill** (BES 2020) hosted a Waterloo Network Hub Breakfast for Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) in October. **Pedro** and **Majid** from ESGTree, an environmental, social, governance data management platform that is a participant at the Grebel Peace Incubator in the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement, were joined by the Centre's Director, **Paul Heidebrecht** (BASC 1994) for a great discussion about tracking ethical finance.

**Ben White** (BES 2011) is a New Testament faculty member at The King's College in New York City. He began his role at King's after several years in Durham, England. In his newest book, *Pain and Paradox in 2 Corinthians*:

*The Transformative Function of Strength in Weakness*, Ben argues that interpreters overlook the material's most immediate context—a pained community. He is married to Brittany, and they have two children, Gideon and Thaddeus.



**Andrew Wiebe** (MSC 2012) recently graduated from UWaterloo with a PhD in Science. Earth sciences and hydrology have always been of academic interest to Andrew, so for his research, he found ways to estimate recharge uncertainty for rainfall monitoring scenarios, allowing for more precise and effective decision making. Andrew is now working on a postdoc at McGill University, where he assists in developing tools to assess groundwater vulnerability in northern Canada.



**Elise Devoie** (BMATH 2016) completed a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering at UWaterloo this year. Her research on permafrost has allowed her to participate in fieldwork, write numerical models and engage northern communities. Elise's work has made it clear to her that humans have driven climate warming too far for permafrost to survive, causing irreversible impacts to our waterways, land surfaces, ecosystems and the way people relate to the land. She is currently continuing her study of permafrost through an NSERC-funded fellowship.



This fall, friends of **Ed Enns** (BA 1989) gathered for a round of golf and visting to remember their departed friend.

**Betty Pries** (MTS 2005) has published a new book, *The Space Between Us*. The book invites readers to journey through a diversity of themes that considers how we fall into conflict and how we understand the nature of conflict, alongside strategies for managing or transforming conflict. Betty is Co-Founder and CEO of Credence & Co., is a facilitator in Grebel's Conflict Management Certificate Program, and was the recipient of Grebel's 2011 Distinguished Alumni Service Award.



**Elaine Ranney** (BA 1986) has been named Rockway Mennonite Collegiate's new principal. Most recently, Elaine completed 8 years as Superintendent at the Waterloo Region District School Board with a focus on student achievement and well-being. Elaine is an active member of Erb Street Mennonite Church, is married to Henry Wiebe, and has two adult children, Evelyn and Eric Wiebe.



**Zac Klassen** (MTS 2015) began working as pastor at Bloomingdale Mennonite Church in August 2021. After graduating with his MTS degree, he completed a PhD in Religious Studies at McMaster University. Previously Zac served as a pastoral intern at FaithWorks Mennonite Brethren church in Winnipeg, and as a pastor at The ConneXion in Arbog, Manitoba.



**Dave Neufeld** (BA 1978, MA 1982) of New Hamburg, Ontario, recently purchased his second mandolin, carefully crafted by his old



Grebel roommate **Charles Dick** (BA 1979), who is a luthier in Spencerville, Indiana. When they lived together in their third year of university, they built guitars together in their two-bedroom apartment.



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



**Sarah E. Fisher** (BA 1996), Kevin, Grace, and Bridget Langille moved to Prince Edward Island in 2014. Sarah (who worked in the Grebel Library when she was a student) now works at the UPEI Robertson Library and manages the archival provenance project

[www.booklives.ca](http://www.booklives.ca), which traces the ownership history of pre-1950 books in the library collection by studying inscriptions, bookplates, letters and

prayer cards found under the book cover. Outside of work, Sarah occasionally teaches and preaches about Biblical Hebrew and the Jewishness of Jesus (Yeshua). She posts weekly at [hebrewwordlessons.com](http://hebrewwordlessons.com), which aims to understand the Hebrew Bible one word at a time.

**Zoe Andres** (BA 2021) is Grebel's new conferences, bookings and events coordinator. Since graduating this spring, Zoe has been employed by Shalom Counselling and was the volunteer coordinator for the Mike Morrice political campaign.



The TMTC Fellows Program marked significant transition this year. In particular,

**Sarah Johnson** (BA 2007, MTS 2008), a TMTC Visiting Fellow since 2018, successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Notre Dame and began a new position at the University of

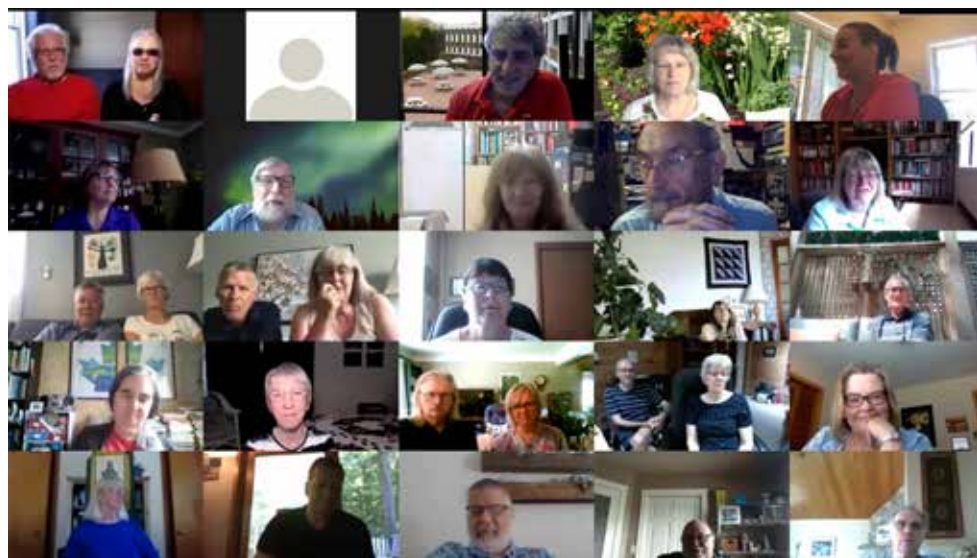


British Columbia this fall and **Kim Penner** (MTS 2011), a TMTC Research Fellow since 2017, began as Pastor of Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church in February. Sarah and Kim both added tremendous energy, insight, and wisdom to the TMTC community. Sarah was the recipient of Grebel's 2020 Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

**Jane Plas**, who studied in the MTS program from 2006 to 2008, passed away on June 17, 2021. Created in her name, the Jane Plas Scholarship Award is awarded each year to students in the MTS program who have demonstrated academic excellence and are committed to academic and community life.



"A '70s reunion on Zoom seems deliberately ironic," reflected Grebel alumnus Sharon Lamont (BA 1980). "After all, most of us graduated from university before personal computers were even on our radar. Typewriters were our thing! Nonetheless, the group of Grebel alumni who gathered on June 5 had obviously kept up with the times." Pictured below, the '70s Era Reunion welcomed alumni from across the country. Read more at [grebel.ca/news](http://grebel.ca/news)



# Calendar

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

## NOON HOUR CONCERTS @ HOME

Most Wednesdays at 12:30pm  
[youtube.com/ConradGrebelUC](https://youtube.com/ConradGrebelUC)



## Not Traumatic Enough for a Shock Blanket

AT THE GREBEL GALLERY

UNTIL  
MAR  
7  
2022

MAR  
09  
-  
10  
2022

## Bechtel Lecture in Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies

DR. SOFIA SAMATAR  
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY,  
FANTASY AUTHOR



THURSDAY  
MAR  
24  
7:30PM  
2022

## Sawatsky Visiting Scholar

Dr. Regina Shands Stoltzfus  
GOSHEN COLLEGE, AUTHOR



SUNDAY  
APR  
3  
2022  
7:00 PM

## TORONTO RAPTORS ALUMNI EVENT

Home game against the Miami Heat, with Kyle Lowry

MAY  
13  
-  
15  
2022

## INDIGENOUS-MENNONITE ENCOUNTERS IN TIME AND PLACE

A GATHERING OF BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT

## GET READY FOR A COZY WINTER.

SHOP GREBEL SWEATERS, MASKS, AND MORE @ W STORE



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JUNE  
4  
2022

## GREBEL REUNION LATE '70s ERA

Get ready to reconnect with classmates from the late 1970s! This hybrid event will help you rekindle the same Grebel spirit you remember from the good old days!

[grebel.ca/reunion](http://grebel.ca/reunion)



# DO YOU KNOW A FUTURE POST-SECONDARY STUDENT?



## SHARE YOUR TREASURED MEMORIES OF GREBEL!

Do you know someone planning to attend UWaterloo in the fall or in coming years? We need your help as alumni, parents, families, and friends to spread the word about Grebel! Students can experience Grebel with a virtual or in-person tour as they get a taste of residence life and our academic programs.

GET STARTED AT

[grebel.ca/future-students](https://grebel.ca/future-students)



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Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:  
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