

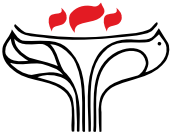
GREBEL NOW

Conrad Grebel University College Magazine

Restorative Justice: At the Heart of the PACS Experience

*"No Justice, No Peace": Bridging
Restorative Justice and Peace Advancement*

SPRING 2021



Vol. 37 No. 2

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Celebrations, Milestones, and Reflections

It’s been a difficult year for many people, as we continue to live through a global pandemic. At Grebel, many of us are studying, working, socializing, and building relationships online from home. Others of us are still showing up on campus to work with students or are living together in residence. This issue of *Grebel Now* highlights some of the experiences of students, staff, and faculty in both scenarios.

The focus of this issue is on Restorative Justice—its birth, history at Grebel, pivotal professors in our PACS program, and past and present initiatives. We also catch up with some inspirational alumni who are working in Restorative Justice and introduce a new PACS faculty member.

Front Cover: For public health reasons, kitchen staff currently serve students each piece of food for every meal. Although it is extra work, it is an effective way to build relationships between staff and students.

As is usual at this time of year, we bid farewell to another graduating class and find inspiration in the reflections and valedictorian speeches of our graduates. We’re looking forward to someday soon welcoming them back to Grebel as visitors, along with other alumni and friends to enjoy our new and renovated spaces—and to experience another taste of Grebel’s legendary food!

Jennifer Konkle, Marketing and Communications Manager

Fred W. Martin, Director of Advancement



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Night Vision, Part Two

BY MARCUS SHANTZ, PRESIDENT

Exactly one year ago in this column, I suggested that living during a pandemic is like being lost in a forest at night. If you are calm and patient, your eyes can adapt. You begin to “see in the dark” and find your way.

Twelve months have passed since then. It goes without saying that it's been a hard year, during which we have all made sacrifices, faced fears, and confronted the tiring grind of social isolation and lockdown orders. At Grebel, most faculty and staff have spent the year working from makeshift offices alone at home. Others (frontline office staff, cooks, custodians, librarians, and our student services team) donned masks and continued working on campus as essential workers. All of us are worn out and longing to return to a more normal life.

But we also discovered our resilience and creativity this year, as we adapted to our new reality and learned how to “see in the dark.” Despite the hard times and the difficulties, there have also been things to celebrate. I thought it might be appropriate to consider our successes this year and reflect on the ways that Grebel has adapted and innovated during the pandemic.

- Moving to online learning increased the reach of our graduate programs. Our two master's programs (PACS and Theological Studies) included students situated in Africa and Asia, and the Theological Studies program enjoyed near-record enrolments.
- Our Music Department met the challenge of delivering remote music instruction, including singing in virtual choirs.
- Our Conflict Management Certificate program maintained steady enrolments and welcomed participants from six provinces, one territory, the USA, the UK, and Nigeria. Many participants expressed a preference for continuing online workshops and seminars in the future.
- More people attended our public lectures, forums, and noon hour concerts this year than ever before.
- Online committee meetings (which were awkward at first) now feel like a natural, normal, and effective way to conduct our business.
- We moved to virtual Chapel services and transformed Community Supper into an online Weekly Wave.
- Residence students presented an ambitious online musical production, *Big Fish*.



- We made lasting physical improvements in the residence building to augment health and safety. We installed a new fresh air intake system in the student lounge, several UV air purifiers throughout the building, and three new fully accessible “universal” washrooms.
- We found ways to maintain connection and community through virtual coffee breaks and (when it was permitted) carefully organized outdoor activities.

We have much to be proud of and celebrate this year.

In listing these positive outcomes, I don't mean to gloss over the difficulty and stress involved in making them happen. Nor do I suggest that all of these adaptations should be permanent and total. The pandemic forced us to embrace online technology but it also revealed its limits. We are social beings and we need the physical presence of others in order to thrive. (Singing into a computer is a poor substitute for raising your voice in an in-person choir, and you can't really share Community Supper bread with friends via webcam.)

As we enter the post-pandemic world, we will need to carefully discern how and when to integrate online tools into our more normal patterns of work and learning. I expect this will be a major topic at Grebel (and most workplaces) in the months ahead.

Whatever losses and difficulties this year brought for you, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on how you've adapted, shown resilience, and endured through these strange times. You may discover some things to be proud of.

I wish you a refreshing summer, good health, and a renewed spirit as we look towards the end of this pandemic.

Restorative Justice: At the Heart of the PACS Experience

BY NATHAN FUNK, PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES CHAIR

A Restorative Justice (RJ) worldview is central in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional courses of study in Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) at Grebel. Core elements of RJ—identifying harms, naming needs, taking responsibility for harms, and working towards healing within relationships—have shaped our peace studies curriculum since the 1970s. Here are some of the ways RJ has grown in PACS programming with each passing decade.

As he established the foundations of PACS as an interdisciplinary minor, Conrad Brunk invited students to wrestle with a central concern of the RJ movement by challenging them to understand how justice might be pursued without punitive violence. Dean Peachey, another formative influence on PACS, helped to heighten awareness of Restorative Justice principles and processes in PACS courses as well as in Waterloo Region. By co-founding Conflict Resolution Network Canada, he also impacted the broader national conversation about RJ and non-adversarial responses to conflict.

In 2001, new expressions of the PACS commitment to RJ became manifest in a training partnership of the Conflict Management Certificate program and Community Justice Initiatives (CJI), through a workshop on Transformative Mediation led by Keith Regehr. Keith joined colleagues Lowell Ewert and Betty Pries in the undergraduate gateway course, Conflict Resolution, which has introduced thousands of students to RJ.

As PACS developed from an interdisciplinary minor into a BA program, demand for additional RJ courses grew. Among the new courses created in the following years were Restorative Justice; Trauma, Healing, and Conflict Resolution; and Cultural Approaches to Conflict Resolution. Meanwhile, Conflict Resolution in the Schools received a sharper RJ focus as instructor Dennis Gingrich sought a name change to Restorative Justice and Transformative Education.

Although many other courses in the PACS curriculum speak directly to the application of restorative and transformative justice principles, the keystone in the undergraduate PACS curriculum is Restorative Justice, originally taught by Judah Oudshoorn, which investigates the history, theory, principles, practices, and people of RJ. The course content has given special prominence to Restorative Justice as a way of dealing with crime and punishment, and interpersonal violence in the Canadian context, and is also cross-listed with Legal Studies, which offers a new way of thinking for many students.

Trauma, Healing, and Conflict Resolution is another highlight of the undergraduate PACS curriculum. This course, most recently taught by Susan Gallagher, offers students an opportunity to reflect

more deeply and critically on the application of the philosophy of restoration within the context of trauma. Students examine how conflict resolution processes can be impacted by trauma as experienced by both the victim and the perpetrator. With case examples from armed violence to family violence, sexual violence, and racialized violence, students explore emotional, physical, and relational aspects of conflict to better understand the potential for interventions that might promote peace and justice understood within the framework of restoration.

In the MPACS curriculum, restorative themes are particularly prominent in courses such as Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding Reconciliation. The former course, often taught by Jennifer Ball, seeks not just to expose students to peacebuilding concepts, practices, and cases, but also to offer training in skills relevant to RJ and peacemaking, such as circle process and nonviolent communication. The latter course, currently taught by Narendran Kumarakulasingam, invites students to grapple at a deep level, both with the realities of harm caused by oppression and armed conflict and with the perennial impulse to seek reconciliation. In these courses, as well as in other Grebel offerings, attention is given to sources of moral and practical inspiration for RJ practices—in Christian traditions, in Indigenous communities, and in cultures around the world seeking forms of justice that also bring elements of healing and transcendence.

Internships chosen by students have been one of the better indicators of the popularity of RJ content in the MPACS program. To date, eight MPACS students have completed internships at Community Justice Initiatives in Kitchener (itself started by Grebel alumnus Mark Yantzi), and three students have pursued internships with Mennonite Central Committee's RJ programs (Circles of Support and Accountability).

As the alumni voices profiled in this issue demonstrate, RJ offers a vision that has the capacity to inspire change within individuals and communities, and to shape aspirations for career and vocation. This vision is deeply rooted within the Grebel mission, but it is not static: we continue to learn and to grow as we engage the experiences and testimony of diverse communities within and beyond North America, and face the challenges posed by systemic injustice. We are listening carefully to these voices as we work to broaden the curriculum, and partner with other departments at the University of Waterloo to develop new initiatives and proposals, including a planned diploma in Restorative Justice that is currently under review.

Alumni Transform Conflict with Restorative Justice

BY JACE JAEDEN ELLIS, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP WRITER

A path to peace, responsibility and healing, rooted in relationship, spreading peace and justice across communities—Grebel alumni have many words to describe the positive impact of Restorative Justice (RJ). Alumni Mark Yantzi (Sociology) and Kimberlee Walker (Peace and Conflict Studies), and Master of Peace and Conflict Studies (MPACS) alumni Laurel Boytim, Christian Fox, Rod Friesen, and Issa Ebombolo all graduated from Grebel with an interest in RJ and a goal to improve how communities work through conflict.

MARK YANTZI

Mark Yantzi was integral to bringing Restorative Justice formally into Canada's justice system. He



graduated from the University of Waterloo in 1969 with a degree in Sociology. While working as a member of the probation office in 1974, Mark and fellow probation officer Dave Worth facilitated the first successful meeting between young vandals and their victims in Elmira. Instead of receiving a prison sentence, the teenage offenders took accountability for their actions and worked toward healing and restoration of relationships, and thus an RJ movement in Waterloo Region was born. Mark became the founder and first Executive Director of Community Justice Initiatives (CJI), which is a non-profit organization known worldwide for its innovative restorative responses to harm and conflict.

KIMBERLEE WALKER

Kimberlee Walker graduated in 2012 with a PACS degree. In 2011, Kimberlee became a founding member of Theatre of the Beat, a touring theatre company inspired by RJ principles that works to start conversations on social justice in communities, including a drama program with inmates in the Grand Valley Institute for Women. "We have witnessed significant participant growth in building skills in teamwork, collaboration, and conflict resolution, which contributes to the forging of a prosocial identity," Kimberlee reported.



In 2012, Grebel launched an MPACS program that focuses on the pivotal role that individuals within civil society play and the potential of civil society to advance peace through principled advocacy, effective programming, and dynamic engagement with the state and marketplace.

LAUREL BOYTIM

Laurel Boytim (MPACS 2019) is very active in helping to heal communities.



In her spare time from teaching, she volunteers with the John Howard Society, helping develop an initiative that aims to educate frontline police officers and implement pre-charge diversion programs for people who struggle with substance use. "These aren't just people who are breaking the law; these are people that need to heal or need help or support in their healing," Laurel explained. She uses RJ principles in her everyday work to help build relationships with clients and repair the relationship clients have with themselves.

CHRISTIAN FOX

Christian Fox (MPACS 2015) currently works for the Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre as a Conflict Resolution Service Facilitator in Toronto, where the focus of his role is to help mediate neighbour disputes. He finds that taking the RJ approach is the best way to solve these disputes. "Once you can get disputing neighbours to a point of willing to have a conversation, then they can work on any issue," Christian explained.



ROD FRIESEN

Rod Friesen (MPACS 2013) has worked with Mennonite Central Committee Ontario since 2017. He oversees several service delivery and Restorative Justice-related projects in his role as Restorative Justice Program Coordinator. "Essentially, our work is about addressing harms and meeting the needs for all," Rod reported. "In this process, those who have caused harm can take the opportunity to repair the harm caused as much as possible or permissible."



ISSA EBOMBOLO

Similar to Rod, Issa Ebombolo (MPACS 2017) works for Mennonite Central Committee Zambia and Malawi as a Peacebuilding Coordinator, where he provides peace resourcing. Recently, Issa created a Restorative Justice and Peacebuilding unit within the correction department of the Zambia Correctional Service. He has written modules to teach in-service officers and personally trained qualified instructors to extend the benefits of Restorative Justice and Peacebuilding skills across Zambia.



While these six Grebel alumni work with different clientele, they all share the same dream—to improve communities and the lives of people harmed by conflict, and the principles and values of Restorative Justice have helped them to do just that.

For full profiles, visit *Grebel Now* online

uwaterloo.ca/grebel-now



“No Justice, No Peace”: Bridging Restorative Justice and Peace Advancement

BY MICHELLE JACKETT (BA 2011), COORDINATOR OF THE KINDRED CREDIT UNION CENTRE FOR PEACE ADVANCEMENT, PACS ADJUNCT LECTURER

I first encountered Restorative Justice in a Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) class in 2010 at Grebel. The class stood out because it was taught in a way that reflected restorative values. Today, I can see how that learning environment drew me into the Restorative Justice field as much as the framework itself. Our collective way of being in that classroom nourished me and generated a passion within me for participating in similarly transformative spaces within my community. Twelve years later, I find myself teaching that very class and striving to offer students a space where they can explore, as bell hooks puts it, “education as the practice of freedom.”

In the years since I took that course, I have done a Master’s degree specializing in Restorative Justice, taught courses on it at multiple universities, practiced it in my community, and advocated for the systems I am embedded within to adopt it. Restorative Justice principles and practices have remained a focus both personally and professionally.

One place I have longed for more opportunities to integrate Restorative Justice has been in my work at the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement. As coordinator since 2014, I have had the pleasure of helping shape this

hub for artists, researchers, practitioners, and entrepreneurs who are contributing to the field of peacebuilding. While my work at the Centre has been deeply meaningful, I have struggled with what seemed like a disconnect between my justice work and my peace work.

Sparked by the anti-Black racism protests this past summer, the Centre for Peace Advancement team has been spending more time reflecting on our strengths and shortcomings as they pertain to challenging white supremacy. One learning that has personally loomed large is the imbalance we have created between our Centre’s prioritization of justice and peace. Recognizing truth in the chants at Black Lives Matter protests, I have been reminded that without justice there is no peace.

I have been aware for some time of the need for critical reflection on power, privilege, and systemic injustice in Restorative Justice work. The insights of BIPOC leaders within the Restorative Justice field, such as Fania Davis, have compelled me to recognize and transform the internalized racism and white supremacy within me. This deconstructive work has paved the way for me to better prioritize justice in my work at the Centre. Healing the disconnect within me between justice and peace (in the

form of internalized white supremacy, for example) has meant that anti-oppression and anti-racism are naturally priorities as I go about my work. Practically speaking, this has affected how I approach tasks like program design, hiring and supervision, and monitoring and evaluation.

Of course, this work must occur within an institutional context of transformation in order to bear fruit, and I have been encouraged to see peers throughout Grebel and the Centre for Peace Advancement dive deeper into their own transformation. There are also people like PACS graduate Cassie Myers of Lunaria Solutions—a member of the Centre’s Incubator program—who are emerging as national leaders in creating a more equitable world.

As Grebel considers how to prioritize Restorative Justice offerings in the coming years, my hope is that we listen to voices like Cassie’s and voices in the Restorative Justice field who are calling institutions to investigate themselves for signs of structural racism and to commit to growing in response. If we do this, Grebel’s Restorative Justice offerings will align with its mission to pursue justice and peace in service to church and society.

Restorative Justice: Celebrating a Twenty-Year Partnership

BY JACE JAEDEN ELLIS, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP WRITER

Conflict occurs every day, all over the world, and it is important to have the skills necessary to resolve it. The concept of the Conflict Management Certificate Program at Grebel sprang from a Peace and Conflict Studies Department strategic visioning session that occurred in the late nineties. “One of the grounding principles for the program was that partnerships between Grebel and professional trainers already providing specialized skills training would be sought,” explained Sue Baker, Manager of the Conflict Management Certificate Program. “It was with this principle in mind, that a partnership was formed with Community Justice Initiatives (CJI) in spring 2001 to offer a workshop in Transformative Mediation—content which was and is required by all volunteers with CJI.”

Restorative Justice intertwines naturally with Transformative Mediation, though there are differences. RJ applies its principles to restore relationships, while Transformative Mediation provides a relational approach to resolve conflicts. Since RJ concepts apply directly to the approach of Transformative Mediation, past workshop graduates and current teachers Jason Spencer and

Shelley Schanzenbacher decided to incorporate the three pillars of Restorative Justice into their course.

Although it has historically been offered in person, Transformative Mediation is currently being delivered in an online format using Zoom over the course of seven half-days. Participants gain valuable conflict resolution skills with practical and hands-on activities such as role-playing as a mediator or a person-in-conflict. “The goal is to help the participants understand communication barriers and builders and the root causes of conflict in order to work towards a mutually beneficial outcome,” said Jason.

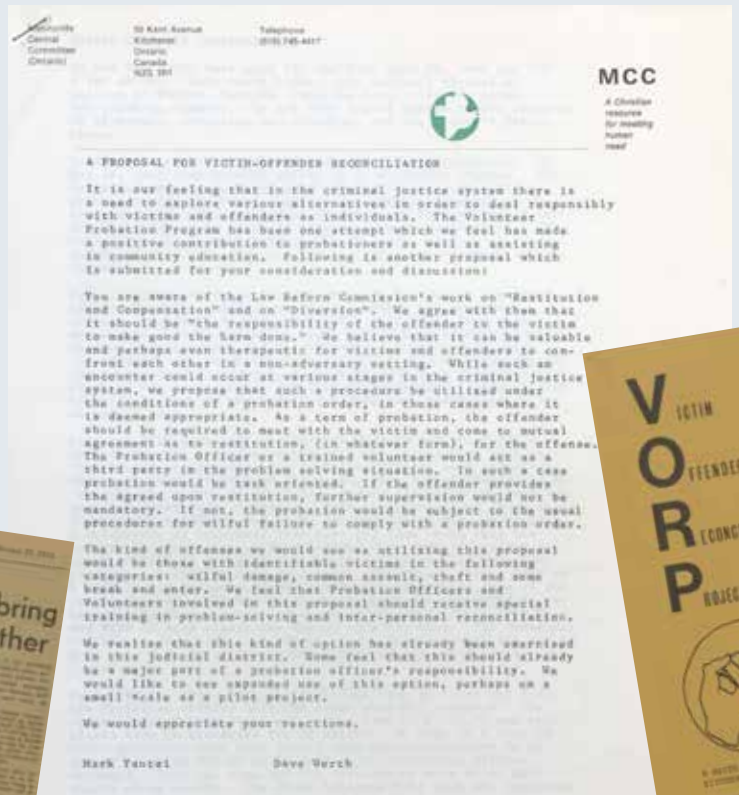
“Restorative Justice is not something you do or a tool you use, it is a way to see and move in the world,” Shelley added. “It is rooted in relationship.”



BIRTH OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CHRONICLED BY MENNONITE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

BY LAUREN HARDER-GISSING, ARCHIVIST-LIBRARIAN

Mennonite Central Committee Ontario’s concern with justice in the correctional system dates back at least to 1967. In 1974, Dave Worth and Mark Yantzi proposed a pilot project in Waterloo Region to facilitate reconciliation between victims and offenders. The development of the project was spurred by the “Elmira Case” in May 1974, in which a judge ordered two young men guilty of vandalism to make restitution directly to their victims. Yantzi and Worth were directed by the court to oversee the reconciliation process. More cases soon followed and MCC Ontario’s Victim Offender Reconciliation Project (VORP) was formed. Over the years, the program grew, changed and expanded into other areas of Restorative Justice. These groundbreaking events are documented and available in the MCC Ontario collection in the Mennonite Archives of Ontario.



New Faculty Member Brings a Restorative Justice Focus

BY JENNIFER KONKLE, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Grebel announces the appointment of Dr. Johonna McCants-Turner to a tenure-track faculty position as Associate Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) at Grebel, beginning July 1, 2021. McCants-Turner currently serves as Assistant Professor of Restorative Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University's (EMU) Center for Justice and Peacebuilding.

"I am delighted that Johonna McCants-Turner will be joining the PACS Department at Grebel and the University of Waterloo," announced Nathan Funk, Chair of PACS. "Her research and experience as co-director of the Zehr Institute for Restorative Justice at EMU put her on the leading edge of the restorative and transformative justice field. Her innovative scholarship draws together insights from women's studies and critical race theory as well as theology, and years of experience with grassroots advocacy and organizing enliven her teaching."



Photo by Brooke Anderson

"As an award winning teacher, Dr. McCants-Turner is a reflective educator who brings a spirit for justice, thoughtful content, and compassionate pedagogy to the classroom," said Troy Osborne, Dean. "In her courses, students will learn to reflect critically and empathetically on the complexities of peacebuilding and the quest for justice." Working with both graduates and undergraduates at

Grebel, she will teach core and elective courses and will be a key participant in the emerging Restorative Justice diploma that is under review for PACS.

"My passion for peace is grounded in the idea, so eloquently stated by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that 'true peace is not merely the absence of tension, it is the presence of justice,'" explained McCants-Turner. "Furthermore, in pursuit of a transnational solidarity that connects local struggles with global movements, I am inspired by the freedom dreams of people around the world who are prefiguring the world they dare to imagine in the ways that they live, love, and create in the day-to-day."

"I am looking forward to joining a community of scholars and educators that share so many of my own values, commitments, and passions," she added. "I'm energized by the PACS Department's value for bold vision and audacious imagination, commitment to sustained interrogation of power relations, and passion for the vital roles of faith, spirituality, and the arts within participatory, bottom-up approaches to peacebuilding and social change."

McCants-Turner has a PhD in American Studies from the University of Maryland, where she focused on an interdisciplinary approach to urban peace studies, carceral studies, women's studies, and contemporary social movements. She has graduate certificates in Women's Studies from the University of Maryland and in Urban Youth Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary. She has published essays, articles, and chapters on faith-based peacebuilding, restorative justice, and transformative justice, and is a sought-after speaker and presenter. Her early career included work as a youth and community organizer, public school teacher, and founding director of a grassroots youth leadership development and peacebuilding organization.

"Johonna will bring a remarkable blend of excellent pedagogy, impactful research, and real-world experience to our PACS program," said President Marcus Shantz. "Grebel's values, mission and vision are close to her heart. We look forward to welcoming her to Waterloo, and to introducing her to our wider community."



Nicholas Wong

Alumni Pursue Musical Careers

BY JACE JAELEN ELLIS, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP WRITER

Faith, community, creativity—Grebel and the Music Department hold these values close to heart, including the freedom to explore different paths and combine passions. Grebel alumni Emily Yarascavitch (BSC 2016), Stephanie Collings (BA 2020), and Nicholas Wong (BMATH 2020) all came to Grebel with a passion for music and another subject, and the flexibility of the Music Department allowed each of these students to dive into both areas of interest. Grebel provided them the chance to explore and learn, and to see how they could include music as an important part of their careers and lives.

Music began at an early age for each of these alumni. Following in her brother's steps, Emily gained an interest in the fiddle, while Stephanie and Nicholas found freedom in the piano. "It's where I feel at peace and where I feel the most confident in myself," Stephanie said.

Although music was dear to them, both Emily and Stephanie saw it as a risk to pursue music as a career, so when the time came to enroll in the University of Waterloo, they initially chose a different path. But they quickly came to realize just how important music was to them, and decided to follow their hearts—Emily added Music as a minor, and Stephanie switched to a joint major.



Emily Yarascavitch

After graduation, Emily fully embraced her love of music and the fiddle. She uses her talents to explore different avenues, from teaching to professional touring, and even to the creation of her own studio. Nicholas too, now works in music. He became a music teacher in an international school, and found joy on the side as a freelance piano teacher. And while Stephanie got a job as a digital operations coordinator, her interest in music has not waned. Outside her job, she works with music producers in an electronic space, creates her own tunes, and is exploring the broad range of music industry opportunities available.

Studying music at Grebel has given these new graduates a strong start in their careers. The multitude of courses offered by the Music Department, the community, friendships, opportunities to perform in the chapel with ensembles, and all the experiences they had impacted their lives for the better.



Stephanie Collings

"I made the most amazing friends and memories," Stephanie said. "Everyone in the Music Department is so kind, supportive, and encouraging, and they're all rooting for you and your success!"

For full profiles, visit *Grebel Now* online

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VIRTUAL MUSIC ENSEMBLES

What do you do when your passion for music as an outlet for creativity is considered dangerous to your health? Like many other group activities, Grebel music ensembles went online. Five ensembles were offered in winter: Choirs@UWaterloo Online, Chapel Choir, Integrated Online Instrumental Music, Balinese Gamelan Ensemble, and UW Jazz Ensemble.

"Like almost every aspect of our lives right now, this pandemic has changed everything about how the Music Department has been able to study, teach, and perform music," noted Music Chair Mark Vuorinen. "We've explored various technologies, apps, and platforms to learn how we can continue to create music while needing to remain apart."

Students have accomplished so much this year—growing musical skills, learning different technologies, and adapting to playing together in unconventional ways—but everyone is looking forward to that first in-person moment when the group takes a collective breath and music envelops the room.

End-of-term concert: youtu.be/O4fmbjDGek



Choirs@UWaterloo Online



Integrated Online Instrumental Music



Balinese Gamelan Ensemble

Laws, Codes, and Christianity

BY ABBY RUDY-FROESE, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP WRITER

Master of Theological Studies students at Grebel choose from many interesting courses relating to ministry, the Bible, and theology. Special Topics courses allow students to take specialized classes throughout their degree since the subject matter of these courses change regularly. Laws and codes are usually thought of as mundane, but in her Special Topics: Biblical Law course this past fall, Professor Carmen Palmer challenged this assumption by creating an engaging and applicable course with a new perspective.

“Legal materials and codes provide a unique window onto societies, the beliefs and values that they hold near and dear, the ways these beliefs and values may have changed over time, and what is at stake behind disputes between different groups,” Carmen explained. “The study of biblical law is important for the sake of uncovering these unique windows regarding what was theologically significant within ancient Israel, ancient Judaism, and formative early Christianity.”

While this asynchronous course did not have class meetings, students still engaged in weekly discussions and listened to audio recordings of the lectures.

“Professor Palmer laid out the course beautifully,” reported student Douglas Clarke. “There was a natural flow and progression from topic to topic, and she made sure that we understood the fundamentals before moving on to the more complex issues. The information was useful and enlightening.”

“The most interesting concept in the course was looking at other biblical texts which reinterpreted the laws found in the three biblical codes,” commented Jacqueline Haycraft. “It was fascinating to see how various communities in the Bible interpreted and practiced the laws in different ways.”

The course also looked at practical implications. Carmen said that “contemporary methodological lenses offer a framework through which students may draw contemporary relevancies from biblical law for their own lives and contexts, as well.”

“What we see as students in 2020 are various interpretations and fragments, yet when we pull back, we see a system of laws that are not unlike our own. There are laws to protect property and well-being, as well as laws that punish wrong doers,” Douglas explained. “What is different is the set of



religious laws that are meant to bring a community together and better understand its position in the world. This has certainly deepened my knowledge of the Bible and the way that I will read it going forward.”

“Before this class, I felt unsure about the law codes and how they should be used within Church and ministry,” observed Jacqueline. “However, now I feel like I have a clearer understanding of the historical and social context in which the biblical laws were written. The law codes are useful in helping us learn about the Ancient Israelite community and their covenant with God, but we need to be careful when taking them out of their historical context.”

Douglas added, “This course is a chance to learn about more than old laws, it is a chance to study biblical interpretations, history, and sociology wrapped in theology.”

Though Biblical Law might not be taught as a special topics course again soon, there are many courses for MTS students to dig into. Not only do they provide knowledge needed to meet degree requirements, they also provide students with new perspectives and opportunities for personal growth.

GREBEL CONNECTIONS IN *VOICES TOGETHER*

On January 27, Grebel held a virtual chapel service to celebrate the arrival of the new *Voices Together* hymnal. With almost 200 attendees, this gathering also recognized the research and expertise that alumna Sarah Kathleen Johnson (BA 2007, MTS 2008) contributed to the development of the hymnal, and she was presented with Grebel’s Distinguished Alumni Service Award. “Working on *Voices Together* has included powerful experiences of collaboration with the other three editors of the collection and the Mennonite Worship and Song Committee,” Sarah shared. “For me, it has also included bringing together many other groups to work on different aspects of the worship resources.”



Sarah explained how Grebel connections shaped the process of creating the hymnal and noted a sampling of contributors: Tom Yoder Neufeld was part of the early stages of inviting submissions of visual art in ways that were anchored in scripture. A piece of alumna Meg Harder’s art was included (pictured left). Jeremy Bergen provided feedback on potential “confessing faith” worship resources. Derek Suderman was involved in the selection of scripture and wrote an essay in the leader edition. Hildi Froese Tiessen flagged two poems for attention and Carol Ann Weaver has a hymn included. Carol Penner was one of the writers who prepared drafts of worship resources. Students Matt Chase, Lorena Diller Harder, and Katrina Steckle served on a worship resources screening team led by Sara Erb. Sarah added, “I am honoured that Len Enns, who directed the Chapel Choir when I sang, composed a tune for a text that I wrote, and is included together in the new hymnal.” Other Grebel alumni and friends also contributed to this intensely collaborative project in many different ways.



Here, I Am Human

BY JACE JAEDEN ELLIS, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP WRITER

We are all human. We all want a chance for a fulfilling life. We all deserve to be treated fairly and equally. The World University Service of Canada (WUSC) Student Refugee Program aims to make this happen by supporting, empowering, and providing life-changing opportunities to refugees in countries all across the world. Grebel students pay \$20 a term as a part of their residence fees to provide six terms of housing at the College for a WUSC student. “It’s through conversation, story-telling, laughter, and tears that we have been able to learn from and with Grebel’s WUSC students over the years,” said Rebekah DeJong, Student Life and Recruitment Coordinator. “Walls are torn down, bridges built, and friendships are formed. WUSC students have helped us learn about ourselves and others, and are a gift to Grebel. We are thrilled to have them here.”

This year, the Grebel community was excited to welcome Reema Alhamad into the family. Reema is a bright young woman filled with hopes and dreams—a person who sees a light even on the darkest of days. She grew up in Syria, but the war forced her family to flee to Jordan, where they were caged into a disconsolate refugee camp. Life was rough and miserable, but she found joy and happiness by helping others in need. “When you give something good, it will come back to you someday,” said Reema. And good things truly did happen.



Reema is getting to know other Grebelites over meals, virtual events, and socially distanced walks.



Reema Alhamad at the airport on her journey from Jordan to Canada

The hardest part of Reema’s journey was leaving her family behind, but she found a way to hope—she would help her family leave the refugee camp and join her in Canada. The plane ride was long and difficult, but she knew she had done the right thing. “When I arrived in my new room, I found many letters from the students,” she said. “I was so happy and although I spent two weeks in quarantine, I never felt alone. Every day someone called to check if I was okay.”

Grebel became her home, and the community, her family. “Grebelites are so kind. Everyone spends time together and helps each other. I feel safe, and every morning when I see these people I feel so lucky to be a member of this family.” Her favourite part of the College is the kitchen and the kitchen staff who allow her share her recipes and cook her Syrian dishes with them. “At Grebel, whatever your beliefs, you will find your place and someone to support you.”

After she completes UWaterloo’s Bridge to Academic Success in English program, Reema is looking forward to studying Medicinal Chemistry. Helping others has always been a passion of hers, and by studying how drugs and medicines work, she hopes that one day she can research and discover new treatments.

“Coming to Canada did not change my life, it actually gave me one,” reflected Reema. “As a refugee in Jordan, I was not allowed to work and living in the camp was literally like living in a human cage. I did not have any rights and could not even plan for my future. Here I can dream, and I can work to develop myself. Here I can learn and I can teach. Here I am human.”

Student Life amidst the Pandemic

With the Grebel residence at half capacity and in-person interactions restricted by varying amounts depending on provincial lockdown regulations, the winter 2021 term will not soon be forgotten. Students living in the Grebel residence and apartments, as well as at home, stretched their creativity to find meaningful ways of connecting, growing friendships, and building a sense of community.

A musical was scheduled for this year, and although the format changed drastically from original plans, a team of more than 40 students found inventive ways to successfully adapt the *Big Fish* musical to work in an online setting. “Everything was coordinated and done remotely,” Director Josh Rampersad said. “Rehearsals became recording sessions and we created a whole new team to edit all the recordings together.”

CONNECTING TO OTHERS DURING A PANDEMIC



Screenshot of *Big Fish*, the virtual musical



“I longed for community and interaction with other people my age, which I wasn’t able to get at home during the pandemic.

Coming to Grebel for the winter term was one of the best decisions I could have made, as it allowed me to build friendships and enjoy community with other people.” —Megan Hudson

“Participating in many different activities virtually allowed me to meet many amazing people at Grebel while also allowing me to grow as a leader. I have learned how important it is to be a leader who is adaptable, find ways to make events safe for everyone, and how to make online events accessible.” —Cassidy Zelle

“I have been able to get involved virtually through online events with the PACS Live-Learn Community and at the Weekly Wave where the whole Grebel community gathers virtually in place of Community Supper. Grebel also showed me support by setting up a check-in meeting to see how I was doing and to just make sure I was doing well in the midst of the pandemic.” —Merveille Mwankin

“I’ve enjoyed attending the weekly Chapel services, as well as being a part of the Chapel Team and the Chapel Choir. There are so many unique ways to be involved in the community, even as a virtual student living in Ottawa. Even so, I can hardly wait to move into Grebel in the fall!” —Sarah Driediger

“The student leaders and staff use platforms such as Zoom for Weekly Waves and other events, as well as a Discord server to keep everyone updated. I love attending the virtual events. They keep reminding me of the spectacular community I am a part of. I get to know my family at Grebel and learn more about the College. I never feel alone.” —Aradhna Karwal

“Grebel has been such a wonderful experience for me this year! Even with the pandemic and all the inconveniences that can cause, it has still fostered a wonderful community where I have met some of my closest friends and have made memories that I know will stick with me for the rest of my life! It just feels like home now, and there is no where I would rather be!” —Reu Zuidema

“Things are gonna get better!” After more than a year in the pandemic, Grebel students showed their creativity with a hopeful anthem, *Sparrows and Lilies*, recorded in their separate living spaces.

youtu.be/kkPYczGhn9U



In March, a group of students volunteered with Mennonite Disaster Service and MennoHomes to help restore a home in Kitchener that will be used as affordable housing. The enthusiasm and energy Grebelites brought was much appreciated.

Convocation 2021: We Are Resilience

BY JACE JAEDEN ELLIS, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP WRITER

Convocation is a time when the Grebel community gathers to celebrate achievements and successes and to share hopes and dreams for the future. All graduate and undergraduate students who connected with the College over the course of their studies, whether through residence or one of Grebel's programs—Music, Peace and Conflict Studies, Master of Theological Studies, and Master of Peace and Conflict Studies—were invited to this celebration.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the 2021 Convocation took place on Sunday, May 16 in an online format, featuring heartfelt speeches from valedictorians and administrators, and sharing from students. Zoom receptions that were held after the event gave graduates the chance to connect in a more informal setting. Participants shared stories, fond memories, and laughs about their unforgettable Grebel experiences.

“We want to celebrate all of the hard work that has gone into your degrees,” said Grebel President Marcus Shantz, “the hours of study, pounding out essays and papers, the labs, the capstone projects, the recitals, and the exams.”

Ed Janzen, who has served as College Chaplain at Grebel for 22 years and will be retiring this summer, gave the Convocation



address, an emotional speech focusing on resilience. “We are resilience,” Ed said. “Resilience is a group effort. Together, we can and have pushed our way through this pandemic and found hope and joy, even in the bleakest of days.”



Peace and Conflict Studies graduate Boushrah Fanous was the undergraduate valedictorian. One word that stuck with Boushrah over her university experience that she took and held close to her heart was the word ‘holistic’. “To be stronger, we need to know each other, to understand each other. We need to celebrate our similarities and share our differences. To love each other and the world we share, we must have respect. And that respect comes with knowledge,” she explained. “So, I encourage us today and every day, to get out there. Let’s take on a holistic attitude. Withhold judgment and make the unfamiliar familiar and the uncomfortable comfortable. Learn and keep on learning. And just because we now have a degree, does not mean we are done. Because we will continue to learn until the last page—not of the chapter, but the book.”

The graduate valedictorian was Paul Okoye, an MTS graduate. In his speech, after reminiscing on Grebel experiences, Paul focused on the reality and catastrophic

events of the world we are living in today—the pandemic, phobias, racism—and what we can do to change it. “The best gift an education offers is freedom—freedom to think for yourself. An unrestrained freedom to engage in a world of ideas, holding lightly to what we know, and eagerly thirsting to listen to others. A freedom that seeks to create an equitable world, where all are seen, welcomed and loved, by engaging with all people as true equals, and prioritizing the marginalized.”



As graduating Grebelites move on to the next stage, many plan on furthering their education by pursuing another degree at other universities across Canada, often with future goals to better society. Similarly, those with new graduate degrees plan on finding and continuing jobs in church-related contexts or in civil society organizations to apply their expertise and help people in need.

We are proud of each and every one of our graduates. They are resilient, patient, and our main source of hope. “And whatever your future plans are,” Marcus added, “I wish you success, good fortune, and God’s blessing.”

Watch the full 2021 Convocation service
youtu.be/Frd3qlz-ffk

The Making of a Community

One of Grebel's most treasured traditions is honoured at the end of every winter term when several graduating students are asked to reflect on their university and Grebel experiences. Again this year, students shared their reflections over Zoom, with many students, staff, and faculty in attendance. These excerpts offer a taste of Grebel's impact on student lives.



ELAINA MOHR

Bachelor of Arts, Honours Peace and Conflict Studies,
Religious Studies Minor

I dove into Grebel with awe and wonder, convinced I had somehow stumbled onto magic. Rather than dip my toes into the waters of community, I tested it out with a cannonball into the deep end. I loved figuring out what I would get myself into if I just said 'yes'.

I learned in my second year that living in community takes respect, compassion, compromise, and a lot of communication. As a Don, I learned to have hard conversations, admit when I was wrong, and lean on my incredible team. Community is hard work, but it reflects what doing life together is truly like. The reward isn't being handed community—it's in having a hand creating it.

During my undergrad in Peace and Conflict Studies, I have had moments where I sat in class, lost for words as I wrapped my head around concepts like restorative justice, conflict transformation, or ecological justice. My faith has also been challenged and expanded as I studied different religious traditions, where I saw beautiful connections of people following convictions of justice, peace, and compassion. I've discovered that some big questions aren't meant to be answered. So, whatever you do, and whatever it looks like—I implore you not to turn away from hard questions, and times of reflection. Be shaped by your experiences and the people around you.

To strangers who are now friends, I hope I will gleefully enjoy your existence for the rest of my life. To all of the books unread, mysteries undiscovered and experiences unshared, I hope I will be a student for the rest of my life. To the mentors who have challenged me, guided me, and encouraged me, may I in turn always look for those I can come along side in life. And to all of the peers, classmates, roommates, dance partners, KERP opponents and fellow adventurers, I thank you for all the memories, and I hope we will never stop creating spaces of belonging wherever we go.



NEIL BRUBACHER

Bachelor of Applied Science, Systems Design Engineering

Grebel has been a place that has encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone, to grow as a leader and as a servant. Grebel has also been something of a vocational lens for me, through PACS courses that examine the interplay between engineering, technology and peacebuilding, and through student-led initiatives like the PeaceTech Living-Learning Community that arose from the connection between Grebel residence and the Centre for Peace Advancement. Grebel is inextricably linked to my time in undergrad and how I grew through that time.

I believe that the key to the richness of life at Grebel stems from the intentional community championed by every branch of the Grebel institution. In the residence program, this manifests as the ability to strike up a conversation with just about anyone you pass in the halls, to have people show up for the ambitious events you planned, to have a second family to come home to after work terms. Building this kind of community is not trivial, and it takes two things: mechanisms and spirit. At Grebel the mechanisms are the timeless practices that we know so well: filling the table, the open-door policy, the commitment to attending Community Supper every week. These are the foundation on which a strong community of students is built year after year at Grebel. But this foundation would be purposeless without the spirit of these students to engage, to step outside of comfort zones, to accept the challenge of juggling academics, fun, sleep, spiritual growth, and much more.

Grebel has given me so much, and I will carry many lessons from my time here into the next chapters of my life: welcome in the stranger, engage with your body, mind, and spirit, and strike up that conversation.



ZOE ANDRES

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology and Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies, Music Minor

University has not been easy. I've taken some difficult courses, co-op was sometimes discouraging, leadership opportunities have been huge gifts while also being incredibly humbling, and it often feels like just as friendships are forming, the term ends. But Grebel is jam-packed with people who keep showing up to their lives. It's absolutely beautiful, and it's inspired me to do my best to show up as well.

One way I understand the phrase "showing up to life" is through taking risks, and Grebel is a place where it's relatively safe to do that. Everyone at Grebel has been given the opportunity to try something new since we've arrived. Showing up to life is about being part of the change you want to see. It's amazing to see all the mover-shakers show up to Grebel each year and watch how we choose to get involved.

Being part of QuAQ (Queer, Allied, and Questioning) has been a fairly central part of my Grebel experience. It's so inspiring to meet every week with people who want to make sure Grebel is the most welcoming place possible for everyone and who are willing to put in the work to make that happen. I've seen QuAQ grow to a crew of over 20 people that showed up to our first meeting this past September. The memory of what it was like showing up to that meeting still chokes me up whenever I think of it, because it represents to me what showing up to life really looks like and that when we show up as a community, we can have such a profound impact.

Living in this community as a resident, apartment dweller, and off-campus associate has allowed me to connect with so many wonderful people over conversations at lunch tables, at planned events, and most recently, over Zoom. This isn't the graduation experience I originally had in mind, but I am so thankful for the opportunity to continue "showing up to life" at Grebel this year, and I am so inspired to have been able witness the rest of you doing the same.



SUOMI MACCARTHY

Bachelor of Mathematics, Honours Actuarial Science, Predictive Analytics Option

I was born and raised in Ghana and I moved to Canada in 2016 after one year of university there. Coming in, I was certain that I would be here solely for university and would promptly return to Ghana after I graduated. I am certain now that I want to remain in Canada for the foreseeable future, and Grebel played the largest role in this decision.

As an introvert, I wondered if I would adjust to a new country, but I soon learned a lesson I hope to keep with me for life. I learned to be open to trying and learning new things from different people with different perspectives. Without realizing that I had learned this lesson, I got involved in a lot of different things at Grebel right away, like serving in the chapel committee, helping with Tuesday Night Worship, two musicals, several Bible studies, serving as an OWL, Webmaster, GrebelSpeaks Editor, going on a service trip, and so much more. This has given me the opportunity to develop new skills and interests, and has allowed me to learn more about myself.

I would like to mention the not so fun times too. I struggled to find my first few co-op jobs, and when I finally did, they were not in my field. In those times, I was reminded to find my self-worth and value in Jesus. I also learned transferable skills that helped to shape my career path. Another low was failing the first exam I took towards becoming certified as a professional actuary. That failure taught me not to be complacent with my academics. I also experienced my first heartbreak, which taught me to be vulnerable and open with others, and it allowed me to better understand and accept my emotions. I am grateful for the loving and supportive community at Grebel that helped me get through those times and learn from them.

Over the last year, I have realized what a blessing it is to have a community like Grebel. Thank you for being a home away from home to me, and thank you to everyone who has contributed to my story.

WELCOMING WASHROOMS

BY JACE JAEDEN ELLIS

The 2020 “Welcoming Washrooms” project improved the accessibility of the Grebel campus by adding power-operated doors and washrooms in easy-to-access areas around the building.

This project was funded by a \$100,000 Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) grant from Employment and Social Services Canada, and \$113,000 from Grebel’s budget. The goal was to add power doors to washrooms on every level and to ensure accessible, barrier-free paths leading to these facilities, providing proper access to persons with physical challenges.

“Accessible washrooms at Grebel, especially near the chapel, were long overdue,” said Paul Penner, Director of Operations. “We host an array of services, concerts, and events in the chapel, which prior to this upgrade, had no accessible washrooms nearby. To have our main event space lacking such an amenity was awkward, to say the least!”

In addition, the funding was used to create two new barrier-free washrooms in Grebel’s residence, which benefit students with mobility issues and function as ‘gender-neutral’ facilities.

“Welcoming Washrooms” makes Grebel a more inclusive environment for all.



One of three new accessible washrooms

Grebel Fund Giving Exceeds Goal

BY FRED W. MARTIN, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

For many businesses and organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic has shone a spotlight on fiscal vulnerabilities. In Grebel’s case, we can clearly see that having a full residence is critical not only for a vibrant program but also for a balanced budget. With the residence closed in the spring term of 2020 and only operating with one student per room in fall and winter terms, residence revenue was slashed. “We have also lost ancillary income because two seasons of summer conferences were wiped out, as well as meeting room rentals,” reported Director of Operations Paul Penner. The overall reduction in revenue was \$1.7m in 2020-21. Because Grebel receives partial funding from the University of Waterloo, we did not qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program.

Tuition makes up 30% of our revenue, and there have been strong enrolments this year. However, because of the 10% tuition cut followed by a freeze on tuition rates, this revenue source has not increased.

Grebel faculty and staff are feeling the impact directly by a salary freeze, and 18 individuals were on temporary layoff when the residence was closed for spring 2020. “With these savings and other operating cost reductions, the anticipated deficit at the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year is close to \$100,000,” noted Director of Finance Sara Cressman.

The Grebel Fund has always played an important role in the operating budget, as it funds specialized programs that don’t receive funding from tuition or other UWaterloo grants. It also adds to the pool of student awards. We’ve been pleased by the response of our supporters. Given our budget crisis, we increased our Grebel Fund goal by almost 6% to \$360,000 in the 2020-21 fiscal year. I’m pleased to report that at the end of April we raised over \$400,000 for the Grebel Fund. Exceeding this goal reduces our deficit and gives momentum for the next fiscal year, which will also be a challenge.

We are grateful to our donors who stepped up to support us during these tumultuous times.

grebel.ca/giving

LEAVE A LEGACY

May is “Leave a Legacy” month and earlier this spring, alumni who have supported Grebel in the past received a mailing describing Grebel’s legacy-giving opportunities. “We need to have programs and scholarships that are funded outside of our operating budget,” noted President Marcus Shantz. Currently an endowment portfolio of \$9m provides returns of 4.6% that are used to fund programs like Mennonite Studies, the Archives, PACS, pastoral training and over 60 endowed scholarship awards (57 at Grebel and 5 at Abundance Canada that are endowed).

Grebel’s practice is to add bequests to endowments so the impact of the gift is permanent. Leaving a bequest in your estate to Grebel can be a powerful way to ensure your gift will keep on giving.

For more details, visit the website or get in touch with Fred W. Martin at fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca or 519-572-7704.

uwaterloo.ca/grebel/legacygiving





Dining room with stairs to the chapel

Construction is Complete!

BY JACE JAEDEN ELLIS, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP WRITER

After years of hammering, drilling, and intricate planning, the kitchen and dining room expansion at Grebel is finally complete. It all began with the ambitious “Fill the Table” fundraising campaign, where over 1000 alumni and other donors contributed over \$4.2m to expand and renovate Grebel’s kitchen and dining space.

“We are pleased that the project has come in under the \$8 million budget and that we’ve used little of our contingency fund,” noted Marcus Shantz.

In September 2020, the new kitchen was completed and available for use by Grebel residents. This updated area is significantly larger than the previous space and complements Grebel’s community-focused environment. “I love how bright and open it feels in the kitchen and servery thanks to the large windows that let in so much sun!” said resident Megan Gallagher.

The expanded dining room also includes a dish return area and an easy-access staircase and elevator to the chapel lobby. Additional improvements include a private dining room, pantry, storage room, staff washrooms, and a changing area built where the old kitchen used to be.

Construction progress was relatively smooth—up until the pandemic struck the world by surprise. “We had numerous construction delays due to the pandemic,” Director of Operations Paul Penner said. “Near the end of the project, a significant delay developed because a Dutch factory producing parts for the dining room ceiling was shut down for several weeks due to COVID.”

Despite the many issues caused by the virus, it did give the team from Nith Valley Construction more room to operate, since only half of Grebel’s usual student body was present on campus.

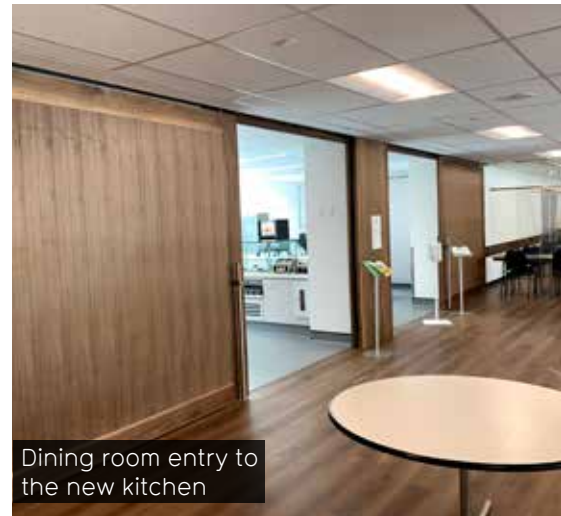
JOIN US ON JUNE 29 AT 4:30PM FOR OUR VIRTUAL RIBBON CUTTING!

“We hope to invite everyone to come and see what we’ve done together with a special event in the fall, if pandemic protocols allow,” said Director of Advancement Fred Martin.

These improvements to Grebel’s building help foster a warmer and more welcoming environment for a place where community already shines so bright.



Student pantry area



Dining room entry to the new kitchen



Chapel foyer connection to the dining room level



A Sampling of Scholarship

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

ALICIA BATTEN published “The Letter of James in the Divine Liturgy” in *“To Recover What Has Been Lost”: Essays on Eschatology, Intertextuality, and Reception History in Honor of Dale C. Allison Jr.*, edited by Tucker Ferda, Daniel Frayer-Griggs, and Nathan C. Johnson, 337-350. NovTSupp 183 (Leiden: Brill, 2020) and served as the general editor for *Review of Biblical Literature* 22 (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2020).

JEREMY BERGEN was an invited presenter at the Mennonite Church Canada study conference “Table Talk: Does the Church Still Have Legs?” held online October 24, 2020.



Jeremy Bergen

MARLENE EPP presented a paper on Mennonites and dress at the virtual workshop “In/visible Bodies: Gender, Religion, and Politics” at the Université Laval on March 26 and 27, 2021.

PAUL HEIDEBRECHT published “Peacebuilding and the Norms of Technological Change” *Toda Peace Institute Policy Brief* No. 103 (February 2021) and held a webinar through the Network for Education and Research on Peace and Sustainability titled “PeaceTech and the Prospects for Critically Engaging Technology to Advance Peace and Sustainability.”

JANE KUEPFER recorded a podcast with *Dementia Dialogues*, and published “Emerging from a winter of grief” in *Embracing Change*, and “Seeds of hope: Spiritual resources for stressful times” in the Ontario Association of Residents Council’s *Seasons* publication.

ERIC LEPP was named a Curriculum Fellow with the Washington, DC-based International Center for Nonviolent Conflict for his role in the development and delivery of *PACS 610: Contemporary Nonviolent Movements* offered in winter 2021 as part of the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies program.

REINA NEUFELDT presented her current research on “Conscripts of the Nation: Exploring Mennonites as Implicated Subjects in Treaty One Territory” at a Faculty Forum (February 2021).

KATE STEINER’S article “The Scribe of W1 and His Scottish Context” will be published in the *Journal of Musicology* in the summer issue, vol. 38, no. 3.

DEREK SUDERMAN wrote “Faith Forged in Disorientation”, an article published in *Canadian Mennonite*, October 26, 2020 and taught a course titled “El Grito del Oprimido: Los Salmos de Lamentación y Su Pertenencia para Hoy” (“The Cry of the Oppressed: Lament Psalms and their Significance for Today”) for the Mennonite Seminary in Bogotá, Colombia (ZOOM, October 2020).

KAREN SUNABACKA’S newest piece *...our inner lives were entwined...embroidered by the same pattern* for solo piano was premiered on March 20th by pianist Naomi Woo and Virtuosi Concerts. *Wandering* for solo Bass Clarinet was written for Kathryn Ladano in Summer 2020 and was premiered on a NUMUS concert in April 2021.

MARK VUORINEN and the Grand Philharmonic Choir received funding from the Canada Council for the Arts for a project called Sing Across, Canada/ Chantons Ensemble, Canada to commission a new work to be performed and recorded remotely by five choirs across Canada.



Kathryn Ladano graduated in 1999 with a BA in Music.

Indigenous Mennonite Encounters: A Gathering of Body, Mind, and Spirit

BY JACE JAEDEN ELLIS, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP WRITER

A group of international attendees will gather at Grebel May 13-15, 2022 for an education conference titled Indigenous-Mennonite Encounters in Time and Place. As a preview of the conference, a sampler video as been released on YouTube. This presentation includes messages of welcome and introductions from Indigenous and Mennonite scholars, collaborators, community members, and musicians.

“The conference was originally planned for May 2021,” said event organizer and Archivist-Librarian Laureen Harder-Gissing. “When we decided to postpone until May 2022 due to COVID restrictions, we didn’t want to let the original date go unmarked. The sampler provides a taste of what the 2022 event might be, and encourages responses to our call for proposals.”

Both the conference and the sampler aim to advance reconciliation and bring

justice to Indigenous-Mennonite relations by furthering understanding on the part of Mennonites and other settlers of their colonial histories. Participants will share stories and conversations, and artists will express their creativity.

“Mennonites have a long history of encounters with Indigenous peoples across the globe,” event organizer and director of Mennonite Studies Marlene Epp explained. “This includes positive relationships and also violation of justice and rights for Indigenous peoples. The Indigenous-Mennonite Encounters gathering is one small step on a journey that Mennonites need to travel in re-thinking their own historical narratives.”

Participants featured in the preview video include Amy Smoke, Reina Neufeldt, Steve Heinrichs, Clarence Cachagee, Seth Ratzlaff, Hannah Enns, Lori Campbell, Kelly Fran Davis, Mim Harder, and Cris Derksen.



This fibre art piece depicting Indigenous and Mennonite histories along the Grand River is installed in the Mennonite Archives of Ontario gallery.

Watch the preview video
youtu.be/ygxoXEufatI

AGEING AND SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE GOES ONLINE

BY JANE KUEPFER, SCHLEGEL SPECIALIST IN SPIRITUALITY AND AGING

From the other side of the world, to our own back yard, specialists in aging and spirituality are preparing to gather online in June 8-23 for seven 90-minute sessions spread over three weeks. Plenary speakers will address what we’ve learned about spirituality and older adults over the past decades, the value of oral tradition in song and story, preparing our spirits for dementia, and the role of faith communities. Paper presentations will introduce topics as wide-ranging as anti-aging medicine and spiritual well-being, the meaning of ‘home’, spiritual needs of aged-care workers, pandemic disruptions, and the role of spirituality for older adults in Africa. Participants will listen to presentations and have the opportunity to engage in small group discussions, meeting others from as far as Japan and Australia who share their interests. Registration (\$65) is open to anyone who is curious to learn! Check out our website and plan to join us.

Register today

uwaterloo.ca/ageing-spirituality

BLACKNESS, WHITENESS, AND THE ANABAPTIST ‘IMAGINED COMMUNITY’

On March 11, the 2021 Bechtel Lecture in Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies was presented online by Dr. Timothy D. Epp of Redeemer University. The lecture focused on the racialization of Anabaptists, as reflected in denominational periodicals and newspapers, and on the ways preconceptions of blackness and whiteness informed Mennonite mission activity in the United States and Canada. The evening also featured a reflection and musical performance by Diana Braithwaite. A live Q&A followed the lecture.

Watch the 2021 Bechtel Lecture youtu.be/QiC9GB3nHSY



2020-2021 Award Recipients

Congratulations to our scholarship and award winners! Thank you to all those who have set up memorial scholarships and awards to honour family members, as well as friends who have donated.

MUSIC

Agnes Giesbrecht Choral Music Scholarship
Andre Wiederkehr

Evanov Radio Group Music Award
Jacquelyn Morley

Jean Caya Music Award
Sean O'Blenis

Judy Dyck Music Volunteerism Award
Sarah Brown

Rudolf and Hedwig Rempel Music Award
Ashley Johnson, Lexi Plante, Imogen Sloss

PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

Becky Frey Student Scholarship
Boushrah Fanous, Gemma Ricker

Elliot C. McLoughry Fund Scholarship
Shaira Raveendran

Lina Wohlgenut Award
Boushrah Fanous, Victoria Lumax

Peter C. and Elisabeth Williams Memorial Fund Scholarship
Eve Astolfi, Elaina Mohr

Vic and Rita Krueger Family PACS Award
Isabella McCloskey, Merveille Mwankin, Carissa Yoder

Walter and Mary Hougham PACS Award
Amani Amstutz, Brandon Gascho, Serena Laverty, Victoria Lumax

RESIDENCE

Alice Eisen Leadership Award
David Austin, Hannah Bernstein, Emilie Chase, Hanne Kuhnert, Emily Moor

College Anniversary Legacy Award
Tanitolu Agboola, Kate Bradley, Savanna Cornfield, Leah Dau, Megan Dufton, Simon Friesen, Anna Guenther, Jonathon Kambulow, Jacob Kowalski, Alana Matsuo, Ceileigh McAllister, Sarah Odintski, Isaac Painting, Cameron Sjaarda, Elliott Song, Nathan Toews

David Regier Student Award
Joel Kambulow, Jordan Li, Maya Ninomiya

Dorothy Bechtel Entrance Award
Isabella McCloskey

Eby Leadership Award
Simon Chute, Samuel Farkas, Katrina Fluit, Oliver Lingertat, Zara Pachiorka

George E. and Louise Schroeder Residence Award
Leah Dau, Sam Dreik

Good Foundation Scholarship
Quinn Andres, Mason Carroll, Andrew Dieleman, Hayden Epp, Anya Fieguth, Stuart Matthews, Andrew Wiederkehr

Grebel Student Award
Hannah Bernstein, Micah Black, Devin Blankespoor, Savanna Cornfield, Emma Kirke, Isabel Neufeld

Hildebrand Family Award
Max Chute, Boushrah Fanous, Sarah Odintski, Gemma Ricker, Rebecca Shelley, Piper Treadwell

Joan Weber Award
Jonathon Kambulow

Lucinda Robertson Scholarship
Simon Chute

Marpeck Leadership Award
Peter Bondi, Neil Brubacher, Jacob MacDonald, Matthew Scarfo, Isaac Veldhuis

Mennonite Diversity Award
Suyeong Choi

Mennonite Matching Funds
Quinn Andres, Andrew Cullar, Anya Fieguth, Colin Funk, Hannah Kaethler, Sam Ramer, Imogen Sloss

Merv and Mary Ellen Good Award
Megan Gallagher, Isaac Painting

Nathan Paul Krueger Wiebe Award
Samuel Farkes

Out-of-Province Mennonite Entrance Award
Sam Ramer

Peaceworks Technology Solutions Award
Suyeong Choi, Artemie Iagovet, Joseph Tafese, Serina Ykema-King

Richard and Betty Dyck Volunteerism Entrance Award
Marcus Labun, Carissa Yoder, Cassidy Zelle

Robin Coupland Jutzi Award
Kate Bradley

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Diploma Scholarship
Julia Kehl

Sauer Family Award
Sneha Praveen, Sophia Rahn, Joshua Rampersad

Stauffer Entrance Award
Selah Woelk

Student Council Award
Braden Bakker, Henry Hughes, Jordan Li, Maya Ninomiya

Upper Year Residence Award
Matthew Dick, Simon Friesen, Hannah Kaethler, Nathan Toews

MASTER OF PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

Global Conflict Management and Transformation Award
Dikran Damar, Saifullah Muhammad, Brendah Ndagire

Gopal Family MPACS Award
Sulakshana Shanmuganathan

John and Louise Miller Hope for the World Fund
Fariba Atkin

Mennonite Diversity Award
Brendah Ndagire

MPACS Impact Award
Thomas Fraser, Baribenem Vulasi

MPACS Internship
Emily Charron, Thomas Fraser, Sherwin Lau, Brendah Ndagire, Claire Smith, Mathilda Wehling

MPACS Student Support
Sana Adeel, Rima Ashawesh, Blair Ashford, Fariba Atkin, Jillian Bjelan, Erica Carmount, Emily Charron, Rebecca Chinamasa, Dikran Damar, Thomas Fraser, Raphael Freston, Adam Grenier, Simon Guthrie, Iman Ibrahim, Ceba Jarad, Sherwin Lau, Shaina List, Emily Litster, Amir Locker-Biletzki, Jesse Matas, Colin McCartney, Gabrielle McInnis, Kayne Munroe, Brendah Ndagire, Abina Nimalraj, Rose Ongech, Natasha Pardo, Braiden Preece, Bethany Serengheu, Sulakshana Shanmuganathan, Claire Smith, Baribenem Vulasi, Mathilda Wehling

Rotary Peace Scholarship Award
Thomas Fraser, Brendah Ndagire, Rose Ongech

Schultz Huxman MPACS Award
Shaina List, Brendah Ndagire

Vic and Rita Krueger Family MPACS Award
Saifullah Muhammad, Braiden Preece, Bethany Serengheu

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Landau Family Scholarship
Kai Butterfield, Liliana Camacho, Thomas Fraser

Rotary Peace Scholarship Award
Laura Severinac

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

A. James Reimer Award for MTS
Julie Gosen, Emmanuel Israel, Joshua Martin, Joshua Woodcock

Clifford Snyder Memorial Bursary
Lily Maryo

Full Time TS Tuition Award
Janelle Arnold, Bradley Bauer, Lucille Bouwman, Douglas Clarke, Kathryn Cressman, Carlo De Vito, Timothy Elliott, Susan Fish, Julie Gosen, Kristy Guthrie, Jacqueline Haycraft, Emmanuel Israel, Lucas Jervis, Donald Justrabo, Joshua Martin, Lily Maryo, Jeff McCrea, Paulinus Okoye, Paul Plato, Lindsay Ralph, Glenda Ribey Rozomiak, Heather Samuel, Mykayla Turner, Joya Van Der Meulen, Peter Van Oordt, Jared Vander Meulen, Colin Wallace, Joshua Woodcock

Graduate Student Support Fund
Bradley Bauer, Colin Friesen, Peter Harsnape, Chan Young Kim, Lily Maryo

Jacob H. Janzen Award
Christa Van Daele

Jane Plas Scholarship
Lily Maryo

Karin Packull Anabaptist Studies Award
Cynthia Brubacher Noel

Magdalena Coffman Scholarship
Susan Fish

MCEC/Grebel Pastoral Leadership Award
Peter Harsnape, Chris Hutton, Mollee Moua, Nick Schuurman

Mennonite Diversity Award
Chan Young Kim

Pastoral Training Award
Bradley Bauer

Reimer Scholarship in Theological Studies
Janelle Arnold, Mykayla Turner

Stephen Family Theological Studies Entrance Award
Jacqueline Haycraft

WMCEC Theological Studies Award
Kristy Guthrie, Mykayla Turner

TORONTO MENNONITE THEOLOGICAL CENTRE

A. James Reimer at Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre Award
Sarah Johnson, Max Kennel

Working on Campus in a Pandemic

BY JACE JAEDEN ELLIS

COVID-19 hit the world by surprise last year, and since then, numerous Grebel employees have remained on campus to keep the residence running smoothly.

Working on-site throughout the pandemic has been stressful, but thanks to Grebel staff, the College has remained a safe and functioning environment for students living away from home.

With all the COVID restrictions in place, on-site workers have adapted their work habits to ensure the safety of those within the building. "COVID has affected every aspect of our work day," the Food Services team reported. "Staggered starting times, sign-in protocols, daily temperature checks, sanitizing common touch points in the kitchen multiple times a day, setting trays for students, eating behind plastic dividers, and so much more."



Leanne MacKay Bain greets and screens each person who comes through Grebel's doors.

"We are hyper-vigilant with everyone entering the building," Receptionist Leanne MacKay Bain said. "We monitor temperature, have all visitors sign in with UWaterloo and with Grebel, and most importantly we make sure their mask is on correctly and that they are appropriately distanced from those who are in their vicinity. For those of us who are working at



Student Services staff helped Food Services staff to serve dinner safely at the residents-only End-of-Term Banquet.

the reception desk, it's our challenge to be the gatekeeper at Grebel and still maintain a welcoming atmosphere."

Over the past year, many challenging scenarios have arisen, but staff always try to find ways to make the best out of these situations.

Food Services Manager Cheri Otterbein recalled a situation from last November where the entire kitchen team except for her had to stay home and self-isolate for 14 days. "This could have been a disaster," she stated, "but many people pitched in to help out. It was an exhausting, yet exhilarating time."

Ed Janzen, the Grebel Chaplain, added that "the lunch tables always include interesting conversations, some laughter and smiles, and a reminder of the hard work everyone

is doing to be part of a caring and healthy community during these times."

On-site workers support students and look after the College, all while fighting through stress and isolation.

"It's a lonely job now," said Library Associate Mandy Macfie. "I see very few people every day, I don't know the students anymore, and I haven't heard from some colleagues at Grebel in a year."

"I am an extrovert and I get energy from being with the faculty, staff, and students," Operations Manager Paul Penner said.

"Avoiding being with people is the safest way to be, but it gets quite lonely at times. Most days, my lunches are a peanut butter and jam sandwich eaten alone in my office."

Some good has come out of the difficult times. After shifting Chapel services to Wednesday evenings on Zoom, Ed realized that this "brought together so many more people from various places with a good sharing of spirit and gifts."

Cheri found an unexpected COVID blessing in "the connections that the kitchen staff and residents are able to make while serving or receiving food. Because we now serve most items to the students, there are lots of opportunities to say hello and check in with people to hear about their day, and offer encouraging or sympathetic words as needed." The Food Services team added, "Students spend so much time in their rooms, isolated from each other, it is great to be able to have face-to-face conversation and extend some Grebel hospitality."

It has been far from easy working on campus this year, and the challenges Grebel employees have faced to keep the College running smoothly are recognized. Grebel's Food Services, receptionist, custodians, Student Services, library staff, and operations staff have held their heads high, found light in the darkness, made the best of challenging situations, and created a safe environment for all.

"The College simply would not have made it through this year without our team of essential on-site workers who kept our on-campus services running at all times," said Grebel President Marcus Shantz. "I'm deeply grateful to them for their work this year."

People



King Horiguchi (PhD 1969) sends his greetings from Japan. Last year, he got his ancestral twelve-foot high Buddha Stupa repaired that was built by his ancestors in 1750. He was surprised to find two paper scrolls of great sutra that had been persevered for the last three centuries inside.



Ken Dick (BSC 1979) recently released his book, *Healing Satori*, a collection of his most enlightening personal experiences gained throughout his 38-year chiropractic career in Ottawa. The book is available on Indigo and Amazon.

Ed Papazian (BASC 1969) and Elaine had been on their world tour for a few months, spending time in Australia, Bali, New Zealand, Portugal, and Algarve, when COVID hit. Since the end of March 2020, they have been waiting out the pandemic in Kanata, anxiously awaiting the world to heal so that they can resume their travels.



Emily Charron (MPACS 2021) and **Brendah Ndagire** (MPACS 2021) are both working at Grebel after graduating from the MPACS program. Since March 1, 2021, Emily has covered Michelle Jackett's parental leave and will continue

in her position as CPA Coordinator for the rest of the year. At the beginning of this term, Ndagire joined the PACS staff team as Undergraduate Academic and Administrative Officer.



Cassie Meyers (BA 2018) was recognized as a recipient of *The Globe and Mail's Report on Business* 50 Changemakers awards. As the CEO and founder of Lunaria Solutions, Cassie has been working on creating a more equitable world where people of all identities can thrive. Her technology startup uses specialized software to perform a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) audit and develops an actionable management plan for organizations to meet their DEI goals. Since September 2018, Lunaria has been part of the Peace Incubator at Grebel's Centre for Peace Advancement, where Cassie and her team have continued to grow their impact alongside other startups and established organizations seeking to create a more peaceful and just world.



Hannah Redekop (WLU 2011) now lives in Jordan and works on the Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) communications team. She edits written material and runs social media accounts for the organization, while deciding how best to help people understand the voice of CPT.



Professor Emeritus **Leonard Enns** was named the 2020 winner of the Chronos Vocal Ensemble (Edmonton) composition competition. His entry, *A Little More Time*, is a call to love the created world while we still have time and will be premiered in the future. The text is by Rilke, from his *Book of Hours*.

Lynea Kaethler (BA 2019) and **Dan Schuurman** (BSC 2019) will be Grebel's next Campus Hosts starting July 1, 2021. While part of the Grebel community, they have already served in many capacities. Both Ottawa Mennonite and Rockway Mennonite Churches have praised their work as youth leaders in their congregations. Dan and Lynea have excellent interpersonal skills and a passion for meaningful and respectful relationships. Currently, Lynea is working on her MSc in Kinesiology at UWaterloo and Dan is doing an MSc In Food, Agriculture and Resource Economics at the University of Guelph.

Jessica Reesor-Rempel (BA 2011) will begin a 17-month interim chaplaincy position at Grebel beginning August 1, when Ed Janzen retires. She will nurture students in Christian faith, life, and values from a Mennonite perspective. With a passion for young adult ministry, Jessica comes well-equipped for her interim role. She graduated from UWaterloo with a PACS degree and then earned her Master of Divinity at the Toronto School of Theology—Emmanuel College. Since then, she has worked as a part-time pastor with Pastors in Exile, which she co-founded with Chris Brnjas. She also served as a chaplaincy intern at Parkwood Mennonite Home and held various roles with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada and Mennonite Central Committee. Jessica looks forward to returning to a place that helped shape her into the person she is today.



Campus Host **Faith Friesen** recently published her novel, *Beats Per Minute*. The story follows the lives of two extraordinary individuals as they both learn to heal wounds of their past. It is available on Amazon.



At this year's service recognitions, 23 Grebel staff members were recognized for their many years of service. **Jennifer Ball, Devon Grainger, Paul Heidebrecht, Dorothy Isaac, Michelle Jackett, Susan Bauman, Carol Penner, and Lorie Yantzi** were recognized for 5 years of service. **Pam Bartel, Mimi Browne, Mandy Macfie, Birgit Moscinski, and Troy Osborne** were recognized for 10 years. **Pam Renaud, Claudia Van Decker, and Derek Suderman** were recognized for 15 years. **Marlene Epp, Peter Hart, Mary Brubaker-Zehr, Cheri Otterbein, and Loretta Martin** were recognized for 20+ years. And **Ruth Steinman** was recognized for 40 years in conjunction with her retirement event. Congratulations to these dedicated staff and faculty!

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Email grebel@uwaterloo.ca

Candace Bustard

(BA 2020) won the Jâca - Emerging Composers Competition 2020/21. The competition aims to create new, original works for clarinet and guitar. Her winning submission, titled *Melodies from my Mother*, won her a guaranteed recording and premiere of the work from Jâca and a potential publishing deal with Potenza Music. Candace is an emerging composer and pianist and is working on a master's degree in Composition at the University of Ottawa.



Lorie Guenther Reesor (BMATH 1991, MTS 2008) released her new book, *Growing a Generous Church*, in April. Written from her Doctor of Ministry research into Christian giving, this book is a hopeful story for churches that are scared to talk about money.



Paul Born (BA 1987) was awarded UWaterloo's 2020 Arts Alumni Achievement Award. Soon after graduating from Waterloo, Paul co-founded Community



Opportunities Development Association, a local community economic development organization to address issues of local poverty in Waterloo region and Guelph. Paul went on to be the Co-Founder and CO-CEO of Tamarack Institute, a learning community with more than 34,000 active members that became Canada's leading authority on issues of community engagement, collective impact, and community innovation. It's work has been recognized nationally and beyond, including by the *New York Times*, as a significant contributor to reducing poverty for 1 million people in Canada and bringing poverty to the lowest level in Canadian history. Paul is a large-scale community facilitator and is the author of four books, including two Canadian best sellers. He is a Senior Global Ashoka Fellow and was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2019.

Facilitating workshops, teaching undergraduate courses, mentoring students—**Keith Regehr** has contributed much to the Grebel community. Since 2001, he has shared his rich and diverse knowledge through the instruction of several Conflict Management Certificate workshops. A few years later, he began at Grebel as an adjunct professor, where he taught a variety of Peace and Conflict Studies courses including his foundation-setting course, PACS 202: Conflict Resolution, as well as PACS 313: Community Conflict Resolution and PACS 323: Negotiation. Over the past two decades, Keith has instructed 39 courses and taught over 4000 students, many of whom offered him this feedback, "This course changed my life."

Doris Gascho passed away peacefully on March 1. Doris did everything with humility and respect, rising into an educator and church leader. She



worked as an administrative assistant and coordinated adult education programming at Grebel from 1970-1984, before enrolling in an undergraduate degree program. She was one of the first female Mennonite pastors in Waterloo Region and the first female Mennonite Conference Minister.

Silvia Gonzales (DPCS 2010) passed away in March 2020. Silvia enjoyed her time spent at Grebel, and staff and faculty have fond memories of her. She is remembered for her compassion, and made positive impacts on the lives of many.

Edward Enns (BA 1989) passed away on January 11, 2021 after a long and challenging walk with cancer. Ed studied English Literature at UWaterloo while he lived at Grebel. He enjoyed a 27-year career with the Windsor school board, first as a teacher in the junior division, then as a consultant in Learning Services. A forward-thinking classroom teacher and tireless researcher of best practice, Ed was passionate about helping his colleagues adopt progressive teaching strategies that would make learning fun and meaningful for students, especially in the area of Mathematics. Ed is missed by wife Karin, and children Michael and Mikhala.

Calendar

**SATURDAY
JUNE
05
11:00AM** **'70S ALUMNI
REUNION**

CATCH UP VIRTUALLY WITH LONG-LOST FRIENDS AND REMINISCE TOGETHER

REGISTER AT
grebel.ca/reunion

**JUNE
08
-
23
2021** **9TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
ON AGEING AND
SPIRITUALITY**

VITAL CONNECTIONS: CLAIMING VOICE AND LEARNING TO LISTEN

LEARN MORE AT
uwaterloo.ca/ageing-spirituality

**WEDNESDAY
JUNE
23
4:30PM** **SERVICE OF
CELEBRATION
AND SENDING**

VIRTUAL RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR 22 YEARS OF ED JANZEN'S CHAPLAINCY

REGISTER AT
grebel.ca/events

**TUESDAY
JUNE
29
4:30PM** **FILL-THE-TABLE
VIRTUAL RIBBON
CUTTING**

A VIRTUAL OPENING EVENT FOR GREBEL'S NEW KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM

LEARN MORE AT
grebel.ca/events

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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 tour as they get a taste of residence life and our academic programs.

GET STARTED AT
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