GREBEL NOM

Conrad Grebel University College Magazine



Worship through Visual Art A New Hymnal Leads the Way

Alumni Called to Church Leadership

17 alumni reflect on their service to the church and its organizations



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In Service to the Church

As an institution of higher learning founded by the Mennonite Church, Grebel's mission is "to seek wisdom, nurture faith, and pursue justice and peace in service to church and society." Students have many opportunities to practice church leadership skills or pursue a degree in religious studies, ministry, music, or theology.

This issue of *Grebel Now* highlights Grebel programs that help grow or resource church leaders and congregations. This issue also catches up with a sampling

> of alumni who are serving the church in a variety of ways, as a career or as a volunteer.

Front Cover: Grebel students have been trying out new songs from the new Voices Together hymnal, pictured here at the Winter End-of-Term Chapel service.

We're pleased to share institutional news as well. With the launch of our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, we're looking to the future, with new hires, more chances for in-person connections, and new beginnings for our graduating students.

> Jennifer Konkle, Marketing and Communications Manager

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK One Thousand Days without Pop

BY MARCUS SHANTZ, PRESIDENT

Tyler Allen works in the kitchen at Grebel, washing dishes and helping the cooks prepare and serve food. He always has a friendly word for staff and students, and is a reliable source for sports news—especially concerning the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Tyler also used to love sugary soft drinks—but he doesn't drink them anymore. Almost three years ago, Tyler's grandmother challenged him to stop drinking soft drinks for one hundred days—and she offered him a small reward if he did it. He succeeded at this challenge, and noticed that he felt healthier as a result. He didn't miss soft drinks as much as he thought he would. So Tyler decided to go beyond his original goal, and see how long he could last without drinking a soft drink.

A few weeks ago, we celebrated Tyler's "One Thousand Days Without Pop" at Grebel. We held a special coffee break, offered congratulatory speeches, and we presented Tyler with a special certificate. We were impressed by Tyler's example of making a positive change in his lifestyle, because we all know that it requires character and discipline.



Staff and Faculty had a "1000 Days Without Pop" celebration for Tyler Allen, complete with a cake in the shape of a pop bottle and popthemed treats.

He also reminded us that small changes to our habits can have a big impact over time. I did the math: the average can of pop contains 39 grams of sugar. **Assuming Tyler** used to drink one can per day, he avoided consuming 39 kilograms (86 pounds) of sugar during his thousand days without pop!



Marcus Shantz presented Tyler Allen with a congratulatory certificate.

Grebel has something to learn from Tyler's example. We've spent the past few months working on a new strategic plan to guide us into the next three years. We've made our plan in a highly uncertain environment, as we emerge from two years of pandemic into a troubled economy, and enter our fourth year of a government-mandated freeze on university revenues.

When organizations make strategic plans, they often feel pressured to announce a major goal—a new program, a building project, a radical new direction. But as James Clear, the author of *Atomic Habits*, points out, "Success is the product of daily habits—not once-in-a-lifetime transformations." Clear argues that good habits—expressed in the daily life and culture of an organization—are more important for long-term success than goals. To paraphrase Aristotle, we become what we do habitually.

I hope you will take some time to read through our new strategic plan. You may notice that we do not announce a new building, or another entirely new program or project. We do reflect on our values, identity, and mission—on what Grebel can be at its best. Then we identify the organizational habits that will lead us towards our best. This is the work we need to do for Grebel to thrive in the future. Much of this work is not flashy or exciting, but we know it is important. As Tyler demonstrated, small, positive changes to our habits can yield impressive results in the long run.



Strategic Plan 2022-2025: Renewing an Inspired Community

ADOPTED APRIL 2022

As we emerge from many months of a global pandemic, the Grebel community is eager for renewal of mind, spirit and direction. Our new strategic plan focuses on a relatively short time frame of three years, and centres on the work we need to do to recover and thrive following the unexpected upheavals of the past two years.

Over the past several months, we've reached out to our whole community of stakeholders for advice—faculty and staff, students, alumni, donors, our Board, and our partners in the church and the university. These conversations affirmed our belief that Grebel is a place that inspires its people to build community, seek wisdom, and pursue peace and justice, long after they leave our halls and classrooms. We are a small college, but our impact matters.

The main hope our stakeholders expressed was for Grebel to thrive in the future. No one advised us to radically change our identity, our programs, or our mission. Rather, they encouraged us to be good stewards of the College in the face of various challenges and pressures, so that it endures for the benefit of future generations. This prompted reflection on the values we share, which serve as signposts that point us toward our best aspirations. Our plan is about renewing mind and spirit, recommitting to our values, and building upon the best of what we do together. Our path for the next three years leads us home-toward the things that matter most about who we are at Grebel.

Four areas of focus emerged from our stakeholder consultations, which centre our attention on the core of our mission as a college—the student experience, excellence in learning, resilience for the future, and our relationships with key partners in the university, church, and wider community.

WE WILL CENTRE ON STUDENTS.

In recent years, providing great student experiences has become a growing challenge for universities across Canada—a challenge that has deepened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Concerns about student mental health, resilience, and happiness are endemic in Canadian universities.

In this environment, Grebel's reputation for providing transformative student experiences is one of our most important distinctives. We are proud of this record, but we must not take it for granted. In the next three years, we will centre our attention on the student experience, from recruitment, to graduation, and to alumni engagement. We will actively expand the diversity of our student body, and increase awards, scholarships, and bursaries to lower financial barriers to the Grebel experience.

Grebel has made strong investments in physical spaces over the past ten years, including a warm and welcoming library and renovated kitchen and dining room. We will now take stock of our aging residence and classroom spaces and consider ways to refresh and renew them based on what

students need to thrive personally, socially, and academically, with the goal of making our campus fully inclusive, accessible, and welcoming.

WE WILL ENGAGE OUR PARTNERS.

Many months of pandemic have eroded the ties that bind people and institutions. Over the next three years, we will reach out to our partners, renewing relationships with both the University of Waterloo and Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. We will explore new ways to collaborate with the University and our sister institutions on the west side of Laurel Creek.

We are grateful for emerging relationships with our Indigenous neighbours, and we hope to nurture and build on these important connections. We will re-imagine how our teaching, expertise, and other resources are offered in service to the wider community.

WE WILL EXPLORE NEW PATHWAYS FOR LEARNING.

Grebel has always aspired to be a community of learning where students and teachers seek wisdom by integrating classroom teaching and scholarship with the day-to-day experience of living and working together. Over the years, Grebel has built a well-deserved reputation for high-quality learning experiences, whether in traditional classrooms, community education programs, or the Grebel Peace Incubator.

Maintaining and building enrolment in our academic programs is a core priority. We will extend our reach by offering new online learning opportunities and refreshing older online courses, taking advantage of the new skills and experience acquired through remote teaching during the pandemic.

We will support the scholarly activity of our faculty by developing new resources and incentives for scholarship. Obstacles to scholarly productivity in our current environment will be identified, and we will consider together how these can be best addressed.

Wisdom cannot be found without equity, diversity, and inclusion. Excellence in learning requires that our programs integrate knowledge that arises from diverse experiences. In this way, students learn to embrace complexity, reconsider their received knowledge, and skillfully engage in respectful dialogue.

WE WILL BUILD RESILIENCE FOR OUR FUTURE.

Those of us who serve at Grebel today are stewards for people who will need Grebel

tomorrow. It's our responsibility to prepare the College to face the future with confidence and hope. COVID-19 taught us the painful lesson that events beyond our control can have a powerful impact on our lives and work. It's wise to assume that the pandemic will not be the last crisis that we face together.

Resilience comes from anticipating risks and wisely managing resources of money, time, and human spirit. Grebel has expanded to the point that it makes sense to take stock of how we work together, how our time is consumed, how we make and spend money, and whether long-standing practices, programs, and systems might be updated and improved.

We can also build resilience by expanding our resources. Many Grebel programs—including some that are at the heart of our mission—are not adequately funded by tuition, government grants, or other sources of consistent revenue. We are entering a fourth year of government—mandated tuition freezes, even as inflation rates are the highest in 25 years. With the support of our committed donors, we will

increase donations and endowments, so the programs that make Grebel distinct and special are sustained for the future.

Our resilience as an organization depends on providing employees with support for maintaining their own resilience and the resources they need to thrive in their roles. We will continue to update our workplace policies and practices to align with the University of Waterloo and the best practices of leading employers.

We have a responsibility to look beyond ourselves and contribute to resilience and sustainability in the world around us. Over the next three years, we will initiate action to reduce the environmental impact of our operations, consider investments to lower our carbon emissions, and become actively involved in sustainability work at the University and in the local community.

By taking these steps to build our resilience, we will ensure that future generations can live and grow at Grebel, as we seek wisdom, nurture faith, and pursue justice and peace together.



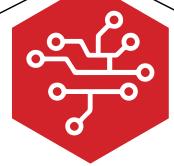
CENTRING ON STUDENTS

- 1. Strengthen the culture of inclusion and belonging.
- 2. Connect students with opportunities for vocation and community service.
- 3. Renew faith formation and spiritual development programs.
- Evaluate Student Services programming to be more responsive to changing student needs.
- 5. Develop the alumni community as a resource for current students.



ENGAGING OUR PARTNERS

- 1. Renew our partnership with the University of Waterloo.
- Renew our partnership with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, and our relationships with the wider Mennonite community.
- 3. Build relationships with wider community partners that leverage resources for positive impact.



EXPLORING NEW PATHWAYS FOR LEARNING

- Increase enrolments in Grebel courses and programs.
- Strengthen Grebel's culture of scholarship and creativity.
- Strengthen community and continuing education programs to serve our constituency and reach new learning communities.
- Build a culture of equity, diversity, anti-racism, and inclusion that shapes our academic and residence programs.



BUILDING RESILIENCE

- Expand environmental stewardship efforts in our buildings and operations.
- 2. Strengthen the College's financial position for future generations.
- 3. Practice the wise use of our limited resources.
- Enable employees to realize their potential and contribute to the success of the College.

READ THE FULL STRATEGIC PLAN

uwaterloo.ca/grebel/strategic-plan

Worship through Visual Art: A New Hymnal Leads the Way

BY CAROL PENNER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

One of the striking things about the new Mennonite hymnal, *Voices Together*, is that it includes twelve pieces of visual art.

Images reach into our lives in a different way than written text or even music. I remember sitting in church services as a little kid, paging through my Bible and looking for pictures. Children growing up in congregations with the new *Voices Together* hymnal will be shaped by the artwork they see week after week.

For adults too, continued repetitive exposure to a piece of art can impact us spiritually. Over time, we apprehend different things, as new layers of meaning emerge from a familiar piece of art. Christians through the centuries have known this, which is why many denominations regularly commission artwork to be placed in their worship spaces.

Sarah Johnson (BA 2007, MTS 2008, TMTC 2021) and SaeJin Lee co-chaired the hymnal's Visual Art Committee. Johnson, Visiting Professor at Vancouver School of Theology, hopes that the hymnal will encourage congregations to "welcome the gifts of visual artists in worship leadership." She suggested that visual art in the hymnals is "an entry for those who are less comfortable with written words and musical notation, especially children, worshipers who do not speak English, and people with different ways of learning and expressing themselves."

"It is very unusual to include visual art in a hymnal," Grebel Music Professor Kate Steiner remarked, noting the groundbreaking path that the hymnal committee charted. "It is used very effectively here to complement the creative work of praising God."

The Visual Art Committee of *Voices Together* put out a call to artists to submit their work for consideration. The artists were invited to produce art on themes related to worship and aspects of the Christian story. The committee chose a dozen pieces to represent the diversity of the church in terms of gender, racial/ethnic identity and geographic location.

One of the artists was Meghan Harder (BA 2013), who lives in St. Catharines, Ontario. As a visual artist, she observed, "Growing up, the arts in Mennonite culture was typically very music focused, so it was really exciting to have an opportunity to participate in the cultural life of Mennonites in a way that was more natural to me."

Harder submitted a sample of her art, and the committee asked her to create something on the theme of "praising," giving her specific biblical texts on which to reflect. She was drawn to the Book of Psalms for her inspiration and included images from the poetry of the Psalms in her piece.

The artists used a variety of media: drawing, painting, printmaking, papercut, photography and digital illustration. One of the challenges for the artists was knowing their work would be reproduced in black and white and grey, and would be reduced to the size of a hymnal page.

Harder often creates fraktur, a style of art which comes from the Pennsylvania Dutch tradition. While her fraktur work is often characterized by bright colours, for this piece she deliberately used an ink wash. "Grayscale brought a sobriety or sombreness to the work that I had not been able to achieve before. I really liked the effect."

Artist SaeJin Lee talked about the feedback she received from the committee in the artistic process. They encouraged her to create a work of art that would appeal to children. There was



"Sing the Goodness" by Meg Harder uses imagery from the Psalms, including human mouths, waters that roar, and mountains that sing together.

"enthusiastic affirmation for keeping the depiction of people with various abilities represented in the final image," Lee said. "The woman in the wheelchair was part of my initial sketch as well. To include that, I think, celebrates many people from different backgrounds, including those with various abilities in our midst."

Until mid-August, the Grebel Gallery will exhibit art from the hymnal, and some companion pieces by the same artists. The exhibit is called "*Voices Together*: A Celebration of Art and Music."

The exhibit was curated by Rachel Epp Buller, Professor of Visual Arts and Design at Bethel College and the Director of the Regier Art

Carol Penner teaches and writes in the area of practical theology. Her research interests include feminist theology, Mennonite peace theology, and abuse issues. She shares her own worship resources at www.leadinginworship.com.



Gallery, where it was first shown. Buller is also one of the twelve featured artists. She curated a gallery book for this exhibit, which is available online, at the link below.

Paul Heidebrecht, Director of the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement at Grebel, explained the usefulness of this gallery book as a resource. "Each artist provides details on their contribution, and Magdalene Redekop (Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto) shares about her experience viewing the original pieces of art alongside their reproductions in the hymnal. For those who can't make it to the gallery," he added, "this online resource is a great way for people to see the artwork in the original colours."

After being shown at Bethel College, the exhibit then moved to Eastern Mennonite University. Jerry Holsopple, EMU Professor in Visual and Communication Arts, reflected on the exhibit. In addition to seeing the works in their original sizes, the exhibit "allows you to view them on their own without the temptation to explore the texts that accompany them."

Using visual art in worship is natural for some congregations because they regularly draw on the art of their own church members in worship, whether through featuring it physically in the sanctuary, reproducing it in a bulletin, or projecting it during a Sunday service. Other congregations may be unsure about how to use visual art. There are excellent resources in *Voices Together: Worship Leader Edition* on how artwork can be used in worship.

The Visual Art Committee carefully chose the song or hymn that would appear beside the artwork in the hymnal, as well as a scripture passage on the reverse page. Worshipers can be encouraged to look at a work of art while scripture is read. For churches that have purchased a projection version of the hymnal, the images can be projected on a screen for the whole church to see.

Another option is a guided meditation called *Visio Divina*, in which worshipers encounter God through the sense of sight. The worship leader encourages people to enter the artwork reflectively, meditatively, and prayerfully. This practice is based on the belief that God can speak to us through art, as it is a "visual retelling of God's story."

In Redekop's essay in the gallery book, she commented on Anne Hostetler Berry's piece "Alive." She described how the familiar peace dove is defamiliarized. With bold black lines, the dove is drawn into a vortex in the center of the cross. The hymn on the facing page is "Low in the Grave He Lay."

Mennonites have not always been comfortable with visual art in worship. Grebel Professor Emeritus Tom Yoder Neufeld, who was also part of the *Voices Together* Visual Art Committee, explained: "While uneasiness about visual art goes back millennia in Christian traditions, including Anabaptism, we have come to value deeply the capacity of visual art to deepen our spiritual sensitivity, our worship, and our relationship to God."

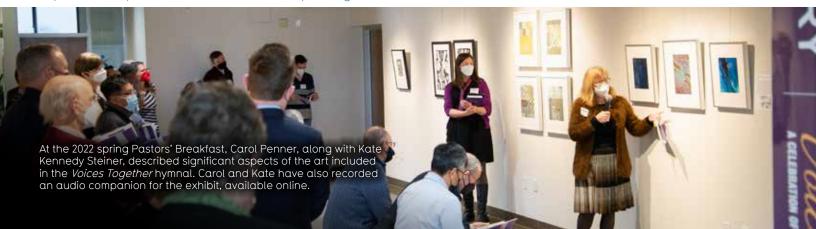
Heidebrecht thinks that the presence of the artwork in the hymnal, and the experience many will have as they view the original artworks in a gallery, may significantly impact our worship practices. "We are eager to see how people's experience of the original artwork that is reproduced in the *Voices Together* hymnal will prompt reflection—and provide inspiration for—the role of the visual arts in worship."

The exhibit at the Grebel Gallery runs until August 19. For gallery hours, or to book a group tour, contact the gallery.

Plan your visit:

uwaterloo.ca/centre-peace-advancement/grebel-gallery

Reprinted with permission. C. Penner, "Worship through visual art," Canadian Mennonite, 26(6), March 21, 2022, 4-6.





Setting a Foundation for Church Leadership

BY JEN KONKLE. MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

As part of Grebel's mission to nurture faith in service to church and society, the College has woven many threads of opportunity into its programming. While Grebel students are on diverse career paths, those who want to build church leadership skills find ways to develop those gifts.

SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE IN MINISTRY

Grebel's Master of Theological Studies (MTS) program often attracts students who want to explore vocations of ministry and service or who want to learn how to be more effective leaders in the church. One way students learn practical church leadership skills outside the classroom is through the Supervised Experience in Ministry (SEM) course, which offers them ten hours of hands-on training a week.

"In a SEM placement, students consider what type of ministry suits their skills," explained Professor Carol Penner, Director of the MTS program. "An SEM allows students to explore a calling. Often they don't know if ministry is truly a good fit for their skills until they are actually doing the work. You can talk about church leadership in class, but actually being in a ministry setting is essential in the learning process."

Graduating MTS student **Susan Fish** has seized the opportunity to try two different Supervised Experience in Ministry placements during her studies: one at Crieff Hills Community Retreat Centre and the other at Credence and Co.. "I don't imagine myself in formal church leadership," Susan reflected. "I've been delighted to have leadership in the church broadened to include opportunities to work in contexts that support the church. In one position, part of my role was to understand the needs of clergy during COVID-19 and how

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a retreat centre might support those needs, while in my second role, I learned a lot about assessing congregational dynamics."

"In both cases," she added, "what I've found most helpful has been the opportunity to test out a role I think would be of interest to me after graduation, and for them to test me out before hiring. I've also appreciated that this has involved a reading and supervision/mentoring dimension that has really helped me integrate what I am doing and learning." In fact, both of Susan's placements did lead to job offers after graduation.

Josh Martin, who is also graduating with an MTS degree this year, explored a call to ministry through SEM placements at two different churches. Working at Listowel Community Church and then Rockway Mennonite Church, Josh described his role



as sharing in the church's pastoral work, in a small capacity, of preaching, leading worship and Bible studies, developing Bible study resources, and participating in pastoral visits.

"I think the most valuable aspect of both of my SEMs was the mentorship I received from my placement supervisors," Josh shared. "Both of the pastors I had the privilege of working with were wise, personable, interested in my growth, and honest about the joys and difficulties of pastoral ministry. While the SEM experience was tremendously valuable to me in a variety of ways, I cannot overstate the importance of these relationships and the opportunity they gave for questions and processing the various aspects of being a pastor."

"Working one-on-one with a mentor is one of the great advantages of an SEM," explained Carol. "Students learn from the wisdom of a mentor, and the mentor sees the ministry setting through the fresh new eyes of the student. It's a win-win situation."

Josh found that his placements shed light on areas and aspects of ministry that he hadn't considered and also highlighted areas in which he could grow in order to become an effective leader. "I think one of the shortcomings of church leadership is that so often people find themselves very alone," he added. "My SEM experiences gave me a strong sense of not being alone, and in the case of my

particular supervisors, a welcome invitation to stay in touch. We all need friends and colleagues in ministry."

Many people who complete an MTS degree at Grebel go on to church leadership positions, either informally or as a career.

MINISTRY INQUIRY PROGRAM

In partnership with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, Grebel's Ministry Inquiry Program (MIP) provides undergraduate students with a firsthand opportunity to experience the unique roles that pastors play in their church communities. "So much of the work pastors do is behind the scenes and when students participate in the MIP, they may discover a passion for some of the tasks of ministry that go beyond preaching and worship leading," explained Jessica Reesor Rempel (BA 2011), Interim Chaplain.

"When I was a Grebel student," she reflected, "I had the opportunity to participate in a MIP, and for me, it was a crucial link in seeing the ways in which my interest in peace and justice work combined with church work. The opportunity to explore my gifts and be mentored in such an intentional way helped to set the foundation for my later call to ministry."

Over the years, many Ministry Inquiry participants have similarly gone on to ordained ministry in the Mennonite Church, while others have used the gifts they honed in MIP to participate actively in their own congregations in volunteer roles. "More than ever," added Jessica, "the church of the future will need skilled volunteers as well as professional pastors, and I believe it is important to continue inviting students who are passionate about church to participate in this program, whether or not they see the possibility of professional ministry in their future."

CHAPEL TEAM

Another way that Grebel undergraduates practice church leadership skills is by participating in the Chapel Team. This group of students meets weekly to plan and implement the theme, scriptures, participants, and musical aspects of the College's Wednesday Chapel services.

"Being on the Chapel Team allowed me to take part in different ways to worship God," shared second-year Peace and Conflict Studies student **Merveille Mwankin**. "As a team, we were able to think creatively on how to run the weekly Chapel services. Our God is a creative God and he desires for us to use our creative



mind he has gifted us with to glorify him. This was demonstrated through music, instruments, reflections, prayers, and worshiping him by admiring God's creation through outdoor services."

"There is something very Anabaptist about gathering together to discern where God is leading us in worship as a Grebel community," explained Jessica. "Students who participate in Chapel Team are gaining behind the scenes worship-planning skills and also the more public skills for worship, such as reading scripture well, song leading, and even preaching. Many of the students who participate in Chapel Committee have already been active members in their home church communities, and our hope is that they will take these new skills back to their home churches."

"I do think I'll bring some of the skills I've practiced in worship planning and leading to my home church of Hagerman Mennonite," added Merveille. "I'm envisioning a church that equips every member to discover, grow, and apply their God-given gifts and talents to find their role in ministry."



An outdoor Chapel Service, led by Interim Chaplain Jessica Reesor Rempel and the Chapel Team.

WORSHIP APPRENTICES

Grebel offers a minor, a diploma, and a specialization in Church Music and Worship. Students in those programs may choose to participate in the recently developed Worship Apprentice Program. In this program, they gain practical experience in developing, refining, and leading an interdenominational church worship service, and then deliver it in person to several different churches.

"This program directly addresses Grebel's mission to serve the church by developing worship leaders for the next generation," explained Professor Kate Kennedy Steiner, Director of Church Music and Worship. "We know that worship leaders and music leaders are often volunteers or are trained in other areas, but don't have the opportunity to actually practice and reflect on their practice when they fill these really important roles in churches." She continued, "The Worship Apprentice Program allows students to engage and learn from practices that are less familiar to them, and I think that also serves the church broadly because it builds bridges across traditions."

Almost all of Grebel's past Worship Apprentice participants are now formally or informally leading worship or resourcing churches regularly in the Mennonite Church or in the contexts they came from. Kate noted, for example, that one graduate is pursuing a master's degree in liturgical music, another is leading a worship team, one is supporting a new church in Turkey, and another is working with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. "Every one of them learned something about themselves as leaders and brings back to their own contexts a deeper understanding of worship and the church worldwide."



BUILDING BRIDGES

BY KYLE GINGERICH HIEBERT, TMTC DIRECTOR

It may not be immediately apparent how an academic teaching and research centre like the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre (TMTC) serves the church. After all, doctorallevel education is often seen and pursued as preparation for life in the academy. Nevertheless, over the course of more than thirty years, TMTC has consistently been a bridge between the church and the academy.

In fact, more TMTC alumni have gone on to serve in pastoral ministry than in academic posts. Some even serve as pastors while doing their doctoral work, like Hyejung Jessie Yum (pictured above) who is currently completing her PhD at Emmanuel College in the University of Toronto with a dissertation that attempts to construct a postcolonial Mennonite peace theology in a multicultural context. This is no simple "academic" project for Jessie, as she is also a licenced MCEC pastor whose ministry involves cultivating a peace culture amongst Koreans and other Canadians in Toronto.

In one sense, the relation between Jessie's pastoral ministry and her academic work invites us to see more deeply the complex ways in which the church and the academy are related. To begin to see anew in this way is by no means straightforward but, nevertheless, holds the potential to become a further flowering of the seeds of peace that Jessie and, I hasten to say, so many others are sowing by building bridges between the academy and the church.

Addressing Conflict in Congregations

BY ASHITHA MANTRAWADI, WRITING COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT COOP

"Leadership is difficult and complex, especially during the season we are in as a society where questions of faith and church are especially challenging," reflected Betty Pries (MTS 2005), an instructor in Grebel's Conflict Management and Congregational Leadership Certificate Program (CMCL). "The variety of workshop topics opens space for important and life changing conversations regarding faith and conflict in congregational life."

Reverend Gail of the United Church of Canada found the CMCL training to be a practical tool. "We all know that conflict happens in congregational settings, even if we pretend it doesn't," she said. "This program has helped me navigate through the challenges of congregational ministry. I think it is valuable to all ministers and members of ministry."

As a presbyter in the Methodist Church in the United Kingdom, Heather Wilson has found the CMCL program to be a tremendous help. "The instructors, the case studies, and the breakout groups invited practical application," she noted, after participating in the sessions virtually. "This program enabled me to continue as a life-long practitioner in managing conflict positively, both in my own life, and in the church setting."

"Recently, many congregations have been struggling with congregational decline, or simply with making sense of the changing nature of the faith in the current time," explained Betty. As a result, CMCL participants address the pressures churches face and have difficult conversations, like the inclusion of those identifying as 2SLGBTQIA+ and the interpretation of scripture. "These are hard, hard conversations and are often experienced as painful," she added. "They can also be hopeful, however. These conversations can help reground the church in prayer, and in its core calling and purpose."

"Most participants who take these workshops are already serving their church in a paid or unpaid leadership position," said Sue Baker, Manager of the Certificate Program in Conflict Management. "While it is often clergy who attend the workshops, they are very much open to anyone who serves or attends a congregation or parachurch organization, and who is interested in learning how to improve their skills to manage the inevitable issues that arise between two or more people. Developing skills in understanding and managing conflict leaves the community to focus resources on their primary mission."

The Conflict Management Certificate Program operates under the premise that each person can learn how to deal with conflict in a healthy and effective manner. The program and the workshops provide an opportunity to explore new ideas and train participants to work effectively with others. Currently, primary instructors in the program are all Master of Theological Studies graduates or retired Grebel Faculty: Betty Pries (MTS 2005), Marg Van Herk-Paradis (MTS 2020), Paul Okoye (MTS 2021), and Tom Yoder Neufeld (Professor Emeritus). At this time, workshops are offered virtually, so people across the globe can participate.

Register for a workshop:

uwaterloo.ca/conflict-management

Conflict Management and Congregational Leadership Certificate Skill-based conflict management training.



New Initiative Sends Profs to Congregations



BY ASHITHA MANTRAWADI

"Grebel faculty members have a wealth of expertise to share on a variety of topics," observed Fred W. Martin, Director of Advancement. "Our new initiative, Grebel-to-Go, is an accessible and affordable way to connect our professors with community groups and churches."

In an effort to resource churches, schools, and civil society, Grebel is introducing this new program. Through lectures, presentations, workshops, adult and youth education, and sermons, faculty members at Grebel are eager to share their expertise in peace, music, worship, Mennonites, religious studies, theology, and history.

"How to Lead Worship Faithfully and Effectively," "Land, People, and Covenant (Treaty!): Rediscovering the Doctrine of Discovery," "What's New in Anabaptist History," and "How Technology is Shaping the Way We Live" are just a few of the potential offerings. Grebel-to-Go is a creative approach to educating communities about the past, present, and future of peace, religion, music, and worship.

"Resourcing congregations and community groups is an important part of Grebel's mission, and we hope that this initiative will show some of the possible ways our faculty can serve," explained Troy Osborne, Dean and Associate Professor of History.

A special thanks goes to former Grebel President Henry Paetkau and his wife Leonora for generously funding Grebel-to-Go. "Making the very rich and diverse faculty resources at Grebel more widely available and easily accessible through Grebel-to-Go is an initiative we are enormously pleased to support," said Henry. "We believe that both the Church and the College will be greatly enriched through this interaction."

To book an in-person or virtual visit from a Grebel faculty member, contact Birgit Moscinski in the Dean's Office at bmoscins@uwaterloo.ca, call 519-885-0220 x24265, or visit the website.

uwaterloo.ca/grebel/to-go



BIG QUESTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUALITY AND AGING

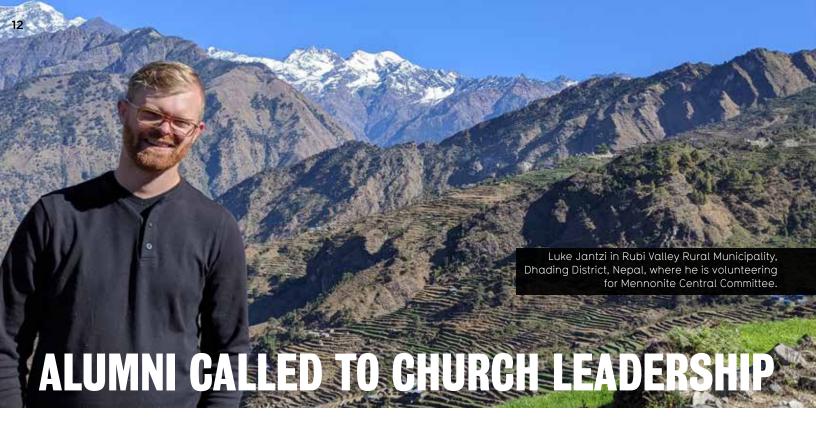
BY JANE KUEPFER, SCHLEGEL SPECIALIST IN SPIRITUALITY AND AGING

What skills do pastors need to minister well with older adults? What is the role of volunteering in later life, and how can organizations adjust as volunteers grow older? How might we make our churches more dementia friendly? How do we go about planning meaningful rituals for later life, like legacy celebrations? How do we listen well to the elders among us? What role might technology play? What about intergenerational connections? How do we talk about dying and death in the context of faith? What about MAID—how do we navigate this in our church's long-term care and retirement homes? What does spiritual care look like, and how can we provide it effectively in today's world?

Grebel's Spirituality and Aging program helps to connect the church with resources to address these questions and more. Our Aging and the Spiritual Life course (which accepts auditors), our annual Spirituality and Aging seminar, and ongoing consulting and research, links pastors and the community with opportunities to learn from one another, and from scholars and spiritual care providers around the world. The church is in a unique position in society to appreciate

and enrich the long lives with which many are blessed.

Learn more: grebel.ca/sa



Grebel's mission is to "Seek wisdom, nurture faith, and pursue justice and peace in service to church and society." After graduation, alumni who desire to serve the church find a multitude of pathways to fulfill this call: in lay leadership roles, in pastoral vocations, or in leading church-inspired non-profits. The following profiles highlight a small sampling of alumni who are currently involved in church leadership, church institutional leadership, and church-related non-profits, either as a profession or as a passion. We asked three questions: What are one or two ways you are contributing to the church or its organizations as a leader? How has this involvement or service enriched your life? And how did Grebel inspire this path?

LUKE JANTZI (WLU 2006)

MCC Rep. to Nepal, Mennonite Central Committee, Nepal

I am currently working as MCC's co-Representative to Nepal, with my partner Kaitlyn Jantzi. In this role, I help to manage all aspects of the work of MCC here in Nepal. We have projects focused on food security and sustainable livelihoods (FSSL), health, and education, and we've also been able to provide emergency responses as needs have arisen due to the effects of the pandemic.

Being able to directly walk alongside marginalized communities as part of my employment is a blessing, and motivates me even when the work is of the not-so-interesting variety like editing a 40-page report. The opportunity to live in and learn from a new culture is one I really enjoy, and one that I hope will also be beneficial for our young children. Seeing the Himalayas from our rooftop and having the chance to trek near Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) is a nice bonus.

Through religious studies courses and other programming, Grebel helped me to further define the importance of walking alongside marginalized communities and working toward a more just society. In large part, it is this belief that led me to the work of MCC.



MARY-CATHERINE PAZZANO (BA 2010)

Professional Vocalist, Music Director, Music Educator, Waterloo, ON

As Knox Presbyterian Church's Music Director in Waterloo, I lead the Chancel Choir, oversee the Praise Band, and coordinate Knox's Music Scholar program for Undergraduate Music students. I believe that the act of making music is in and of itself an act of service. My soul is richer whenever I see others reveling in the joy of making music, or a congregation enjoying the gift of music-making during worship. It's been a wonderful opportunity to participate in and witness music as community.

The Grebel Music program, and Grebel as a place in general, is "community" defined. When I was part of the Chapel Choir, I saw first-hand how valuable music is as a means of expression, for both choristers and those who attended Chapel services. That feeling of collaboration and community is definitely one I have sought in all areas of my music career, and definitely inspired the path that I now help to lead at Knox.



HANNAH REDEKOP (WLU 2011)

Communications Associate, Community Peacemaker Teams, Camman, Jordan

I'm working with Community Peacemaker Teams (formerly Christian Peacemaker Teams) as a Communications Associate. We're engaging with themes of Christian hegemony and decolonization, working to understand the Church's calling to build a community of love, while also holding the Church's history of violence and oppression. We live out the prophetic call to peace through our accompaniment with local activists and organizers around the world.

Working with CPT is a life-giving vocation. It's a practice of imagining and building into existence healthy ways of being in relationship with one another. I have had the immense opportunity of worshiping together with faith communities in Colombia, Iraqi Kurdistan, and Palestine in our work towards collective liberation. Building these partnerships with local peace initiatives gives me hope for the day we will create a world without war.

Grebel's emphasis on community prepared me for team life and relationship-building in CPT, and being a part of Grebel's Chapel Committee gave me the tools to offer spiritual accompaniment. Grebel's global vision for peacebuilding inspired me to cultivate a broader understanding of what peace means and to actively live out our individual and collective responsibility for justice.

KYONGJUNG KIM (MTS 2018)

Pastor, Preston and Wanner Mennonite Churches, Cambridge, ON



I am trying to help people in theology, culture, and institutions move beyond an exclusive focus on Mennonite identity to focusing more on the gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching, teaching, and guidance in prayer. I encourage people to open their hearts to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and work for unity amid diversity. I am grateful for congregational support and prayers. It is very humbling as I continue to work out my salvation with fear and trembling.

Grebel inspired me to grapple with Scripture and its practical implications and discover God's longing for our church today.

REUBEN JANZEN-MARTIN (BASC 1999)

Virtual Choir Director, Project Manager, Waterloo, ON

Participating in a virtual choir is something that has always interested me since I heard Eric Whitacre's 2010 recording of *Lux Aurumque*. The start of the pandemic prompted me to try my hand at creating one myself. The mix of musical, technical, and leadership skills required to create a virtual choir piece is a great fit for me. In the past two years I've been involved in organizing, recording, editing and/or singing in approximately 20 different pieces with Waterloo North Mennonite Church, Menno Singers, and others.

For me the technical side of organizing and editing was a wonderful challenge—one that inspired me to learn new things. Every time, it amazed me how well things came together. I would listen to each individual singer separately and the sound seemed so small, tentative and lonely. But the first time listening once all the tracks are synced up reveals an amazing transformation! The final result is so much greater than just the sum of the parts. So many people have told me how much they have enjoyed participating and listening to the virtual choir work. I feel blessed to be able to contribute in this way.

How did Grebel inspire this path? I think there are three different skills that are important in this work. Leadership: The Grebel community was a safe, friendly and supportive place for me to build self-confidence, to learn how to be my own person and to expand and practice leadership skills. The mix of first-year and upper-year students in the residence provides a natural setting for leadership to emerge. Musical: Singing in Chapel Choir was a significant highlight of my time at Grebel which allowed me to sharpen my amateur musical skills. My only regret is that I didn't take Len Enns up on his offer to assist with the audio mixing of one of the Chapel Choir recordings, choosing instead to study for an upcoming engineering exam! Technical: Earning an engineering degree allowed me to both stay current with computer and other tech skills, as well as put me on a path to a paid job which eventually led me to my current role as a project manager. So much of life is about planning, organization, and management. The same is true for creating a virtual choir piece. The video recording and editing is only a small piece of the puzzle.

This Waterloo North Mennonite Church virtual choir includes Grebel alumni! (l-r top) Anita Fieguth (BA 1992), David Willms (BASC 1994), Janice Maust Hedrick (BA 1994), Tessa Hedrick (current student), (bottom) Ben Janzen (WLU 2000), Katherine Allaby, Reuben Janzen-Martin (BASC 1999), Tim Hedrick. youtu.be/X_mT8GXPaVY



LEAH REESOR-KELLER (BA 2008)

Executive Minister, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, Kitchener. ON

I serve as Executive Minister with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, a regional church body of over 100 congregations and church plants across Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes. I work with an incredible team of colleagues within MCEC and nationwide through Mennonite Church Canada to support and resource congregations and ministry leaders, and to witness together to Jesus' way of peace.

One of my favourite parts of my role is visiting congregations all across eastern Canada and getting a glimpse into the diversity of our community of faith. MCEC congregations worship in 20 different languages and have diverse theological perspectives and worship practices within the



broader Anabaptist-Mennonite family of faith. I love getting a flavour for the uniqueness of each worshiping community.

While I was working on my joint major in Peace and Conflict Studies and Political Science, I took a number of Religious Studies courses at Grebel "just for fun." My Mennonite faith values inspired my undergrad and later MA studies related to how people work together for positive changes and social justice in communities and broader society. The educational and leadership opportunities I had as a Grebel resident and PACS student helped me bridge my faith background and my academic interests. My time at Grebel inspired me to hold faith and action together, which I am privileged to do serving the church in a leadership role.

SCOTT BRUBAKER-ZEHR (BES 1985, TMTC 2013)

Pastor, Rockway Mennonite Church, Kitchener, ON

I've been a Mennonite pastor now for over 30 years, with 22 years at Rockway Mennonite in Kitchener.
I'll start at Erb St. Mennonite Church in September. My earliest pastoral experience was in Colombia, South America. The pastoral vocation has not always been easy, but it has been meaningful. My life has been enriched through relationships in the church community where we seek to be faithful to the deepest truths we know.



Grebel was the place where I became interested in exploring Christian faith. It was an atmosphere that inspired me to be curious. Dorm conversations and religious studies courses were a big part of this. Grebel valued both the mission of the church and the university, and I was encouraged to serve the church with an open heart and mind.



LORI GUENTHER REESOR (BMATH 1991, MTS 2008)

Author, Speaker, Stewardship Consultant, Mississauga, ON

I'm very involved at my local church, Hamilton Mennonite Church. I'm Council Chair, which is aptly titled, as it involves lots of sitting down and typing emails. In my work as author, speaker, and stewardship coach, my circles are much more ecumenical. In my 15 minutes of ecumenical fame, my article on "Joyful Generosity" is the cover story of *Canada Lutheran* magazine earlier this year. I also wrote a book called *Growing a Generous Church: A Year in the Life of Peach Blossom Church*. It's a hopeful story for churches who are scared to talk about money. I believe it's the only theology book with an illustration of a snowblower! My stewardship work includes sermons and meetings with local church leaders, online events with book clubs, denominational webinars, and research projects.

I continue to meet wonderful people who care about generosity. A big shout out to Abundance Canada, who sponsored my Doctor of Ministry research into Christian giving. I could not have predicted that all that time spent in church basements would lead me to be part of an interfaith fundraising trio—Jew, Christian, Muslim—speaking at an international fundraising conference in Las Vegas, of all the unlikely places.

The irrational generosity of a Grebel donor changed my life. I describe in the intro of my book how a Grebel bursary for a Math student to volunteer teaching English with MCC in Egypt led to a total vocational change for me. www.lgreesor.com

TIM O'CONNOR (MPACS 2018)

Teacher, Board Member for Camp Micah and The Ripple Effect Education, Saint Marys, ON

As a Catholic educator in the Catholic school system, my understanding of principles of peace and social justice have led me to work with our school's Social Justice Club. That connection with young people who wish to be activists in a Catholic school setting has led me to join our school board's Equity and Diversity Committee, where we work on developing a more intentional plan for promoting inclusion and equity for LGBTQ2+ youth. It is our hope that our school will raise the Pride flag this coming June and start up our first Gay-Straight Alliance.

The young people who are part of our school's Social Justice club are very inspiring to me—and they drive the motivation to speak

truth to power. Sometimes, in my experience, racism, homophobia, sexism, and other social ills come disguised as traditional church values. The more I work with young people, the more admiration I develop for their passion for peace and justice. Faith development that is strictly centred on piety leaves a void for them, and I find working with them to be most enriching.

Grebel courses that were centred on work for Peace and Social Justice included thoughtful dialogue around how these values resonate in various faith traditions. Those conversations certainly inspired my teaching of World Religions. The fact that I was able to sit at the table with such a diverse group of people from so



many faith backgrounds was very inspiring. I liked the fact that faith could be tangibly connected to principles of faith and peace. In my own tradition, the Catholic Social Teaching principles do offer a strong foundation for young people who wish to work for justice and peace. I also learned at Grebel about the work of many social justice activists who were able to speak truth to power. It is my personal belief that my church needs those voices desperately at this time in history.

STEVEN REESOR REMPEL (BA 2010)

Business and Operations Director, Shalom Counselling Services, Waterloo, ON

In my role as Business and Operations Director at Shalom Counselling Services in Waterloo, I am passionate about providing organizational stability and opportunities for the people within the organization to make a positive difference in the world. Additionally I serve on the Board of Directors for MennoHomes. I have been provided the opportunity to connect with many inspiring people who are striving together to make a positive difference in our community. I am encouraged by the stories of hope that are shared with me.

At Grebel, professors and peers encouraged creativity, community, and problem solving. This experience inspired me to recognize the importance of people, community, and healthy conflict resolution as part of my leadership journey.



LOUISE WIDEMAN (BA 1985)

Pastor, Vineland United Mennonite Church, Vineland, ON

I have served as a pastor in the Mennonite Church — both the US and Canada — since 1994. My role as pastor has provided opportunities to serve on boards and committees, such as the Mennonite Church USA Leadership Commission, the Central District Conference Ministerial Committee, and the planning team for the St. Louis '99 conference. I have just completed two terms with the Leadership Council for Mennonite Church Eastern Canada and am now a board member with Grebel.



As a young girl, I never imagined becoming a pastor. I am grateful for all the people, places and the Spirit of God that gave shape to this calling. My faith has certainly stretched and grown. I continue to embrace the learning on this journey through life, and I have been enriched

by the broad spectrum of friends I have made along the way.

Grebel certainly helped to shape my life's trajectory. President Ralph Lebold encouraged me to be a pastor and Dean of Students, Gloria Martin Eby was an important mentor. Living in residence broadened my world—this sheltered Swiss Mennonite student interacted with people from a host of denominations and cultures. Serving as Don in my third year provided good leadership experience and my BA in Music has served me well in pastoral leadership. Involvement in planning and leading chapels also provided some good experience. The Grebel community—academics, community life, and leadership opportunities—provided a solid foundation as I moved into my adult years.

DAVID EAGLE (MPAGS 2015)

Senior Director of Global Program Operations, Mennonite Economic Development Associates, Waterloo, ON

As the Senior Director of Global Program Operations at MEDA, I am responsible for all the headquarters staff, processes, and support to our 15-18 international economic development projects and 250+ staff worldwide. I work collaboratively with our three Regional Directors to ensure that our projects are implementing and refining best practices for project delivery, adhering to program risk and compliance while supporting MEDA's strategic goal of creating 500,000 decent work opportunities worldwide. The most significant change that I am contributing to is towards MEDA's "Towards an Equal World" vision, which is ambitiously tackling historical mindsets and structures in international development that evolved from a colonial mindset. I, along with my colleagues,



are transitioning our ways of working with a "North/South shift" to build and implement our work from the bottom up where those in the "South" have the voice, accountability, and leadership while those of us in the "North" provide support.

Working at an organization like MEDA really allows me to live my life and use my skills in ways that align very clearly with a bigger purpose (than simply a job and a paycheck). MEDA's mission of creating business solutions to poverty is that higher purpose for me.

I started with MEDA as my internship for my MPACS program in 2014. My studies at Grebel helped to open my eyes and ears to new worldviews and recognize that I don't hold on the answers myself. In fact, I hold very few! Grebel inspired me to search deeply and be open to hearing ideas and solutions from the people who are directly impacted and therefore know much more than I do.



SUE CAMPBELL (BA 1986)

Ordained Minister, United Church of Canada, Elmira, ON

I have the privilege of walking with the people at Trinity United Church in Elmira as their minister, as together, we try to "learn, love and live Christ's teachings." Each week, as I prepare for and lead Sunday worship, I try to create sacred space where the sermon, songs/hymns, prayers and liturgy hopefully work to deepen faith, perhaps raise questions, and offer both challenge and comfort.

For the last five years, I've tried to be a non-anxious presence as our congregation takes the many steps needed to redevelop our site. In order to live with a more sustainable footprint and use our resources like people, time, and money better, the current building will be replaced with a three-story apartment building with the church on the main floor so that we might better serve the community. This process has forced us to grapple with what it means to be the church

in this time and place at a time when many of our members are aging and resources aren't as abundant.

My years of involvement at Grebel helped shape me by fostering a climate where questions about community, faith, simple living, and what it means to be the church were welcome. I remember community retreats, chapel services, and conversations in the lower lounge where we wrestled with and explored these things. As a result of these experiences, I chose to live in intentional community for a year at Jubilee Partners in Comer, Georgia, do an internship at the Center for Action and Contemplation with Richard Rohr, serve with Mennonite Voluntary Service, and eventually, enter congregational ministry. I must also add that my love of music was nurtured through singing under Len Enns in the thirty-voice Chapel Choir and continues for me today as I sing with Menno Singers. My deepest friendships were made at Grebel and continue to be a blessing to this day. I'm grateful to Grebel for all it offered and how it shaped who I am today.

KENDRA WHITFIELD ELLIS (BA 2000, MTS 2004)

Minister of Pastoral Care and Youth Ministry, Waterloo North Mennonite Church, Waterloo, ON

The most rewarding aspect of church ministry, for me, is witnessing spiritual growth and wisdom in youth and young adults. Simply being in their company and "hanging out" together can move from the hilarious to holy. Coming out of this pandemic time, I am grateful even for Zoom that provided at times a place for sacred conversation. In church ministry you realize two things: God is bigger than you are, God is always at work, and you often receive far more than you pour into this work.

There are many ways that my involvement in specific and broader church work has enriched my life. One way is by providing connection to a large group of diverse colleagues that I can learn from. Another is by receiving grace and trust from a congregation as I learn. It is work that requires much from a pastor, but equally, much from a congregation: to enter into relationship, to develop trust, and to listen for God together.

My time at Grebel provided many invaluable tools for this path. In conversations with a diverse body of students, I found my voice.

In the Chapel Committee, I found some confidence in my abilities. And in the MTS program, I found a nurturing community among professors, students from many church backgrounds, and a close-knit community where I could begin to test my skills. I am ever grateful for my Grebel experience and how it shaped me for my future work within the church.



CHRIS BRNJAS (BA 2012, MTS 2014)

Development Officer, Mennonite Economic Development Associates. Waterloo. ON

In my work as a Development Officer at MEDA, we are often invited into the conversation of how the church connects with the workplace and the business world. My role has me speaking at different churches, discussing how business can be a holy calling and a force for good in the world. Encouraging people to be generous at heart is a key piece of the conversation. As someone who is passionate about bringing different worlds together in dialogue, I enjoy bringing difficult or rarely discussed topics into focus in church settings.

I've been able to meet some fantastic people who ask brilliant questions and challenge me in my perspective. The conversations I've been privileged to have with MEDA supporters have enriched

and challenged me in ways complementary to how I was enriched and challenged at Grebel.

Living at Grebel gave me the idea that difficult conversations could be ground for new possibilities. I always liked being a bit of an instigator, but Grebel helped me to channel that energy in more constructive ways. I encountered this both in my studies and with my peers in residence.





SHARON TAM (BA 1989)

Pastor, New Hope Community Church, Toronto, ON

I am pastoring a small local church in Toronto called New Hope Community Church. I have also taught at Tyndale University in the past. It's exciting and a blessing to watch people grow spiritually in their relationship with God or come to know Jesus for first time.

The chaplain at Grebel inspired me to complete my bachelor's degree prior to pursuing a Master's in Divinity. I have been inspired by Grebel's culture of trust, love, acceptance, creativity, social justice, music, and spirituality, and I endeavour to cultivate similar environments in the faith communities where I serve.

Sharon is in the top centre of this screenshot of an evangelism class that she taught online at Tyndale University during the pandemic.

DIANE LICHTI (WLU 1979)

Retired Teacher, Executive Council of MCEC, Tavistock, ON

I have often held positions in my congregation at Tavistock Mennonite Church. The position of Church Council Chair has impacted me and led me to where I now serve, allowing me to actively participate and help my congregation through a number of transitions. As Chair, I often felt a needed to document and set policies so we would not have to ask: "What did we do in the past?" Some of the most critical things I helped develop for our congregation, alongside the support of many others, have been a Policy and Procedure Manual for our council, a Student Aid Policy and a Sabbatical Leave Policy. For a time back in the '90s, I also produced a small church newsletter. Through the role of Church Chair, I helped hire, created job descriptions, set salary guidelines, conducted salary negotiations (under MC Canada guidelines-our TMC policy), and completed exit interviews with pastors and other positions within our congregation.

Currently I serve on our Staff Relations Committee at Tavistock Mennonite Church—sometimes known as a pastor-congregation committee. Our church has a history of refugee sponsorship and I was blessed to help the team from East Zorra MC with the

settlement of a Syrian family in 2019. That has been lifegiving (pandemic aside) and a number of individuals at TMC are actively working with MCC to bring more family members. I am also currently serving on the Executive Council of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada and am excited by the love of church I experience on that council.



I was often encouraged and appreciated by members of my congregation—especially after annual meetings and often by elderly women. That too has encouraged me! One pastor, in particular, reminded me that it is important to do that which is life-giving. I think it must have been because I continued to serve in other capacities.

I am not sure if it is a calling or just something I feel I have skills in. I do find church life interesting. If we wish to maintain the community of fellowship we have with each other to care for each other in that way, then we also have to participate in "running" of the congregation and the conference we support. I am not a passive by-stander. If I have something about which I am unhappy, then rather than complain, I choose to offer suggestions and alternatives and participate.

As a student at Grebel, I enjoyed the intramural sports teams and friends I made. I do recall that I needed to complete a Grebel Mennonite History course. For one assignment, I chose to research and write about the history of my own congregation. That course may have inspired my path because when I returned to this area after being away at another university, I found employment close to my home congregation. I was married in that congregation and we have a home close to it. Our children experienced Sunday School and youth activities there. For me, it is valued community of faith, fellowship, and friends.

Systems Mapping Reveals Interconnected Webs in the Church

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

Two years ago, *Canadian Mennonite* magazine published an article entitled "The church has left the building." Referencing the closure of churches at the start of the pandemic, readers were prompted to consider what it means to be the church together when they are unable to gather. Although it felt unprecedented at the time, this expression of the church as a way of being is not new. The Mennonite church lives beyond the building, extending into the local and global community and expressing faith through relationships. In the summer of 2021, Mennonite Church Eastern

Canada (MCEC) partnered with the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement to contract Grebel student and now Interim Coordinator of the Centre, **Victoria Lumax** (pictured right), to map these relationships to inform MCEC's strategic planning process.

The Church Eastern

Over the years, MCEC's relationships in local and global

communities have flourished into an ecosystem of interrelated activities and priorities. While this offers innumerable opportunities, managing the complexities of this system can be a challenge. Systems mapping is a process through which these complex relationships are researched, analyzed, and presented to facilitate improved understanding and increase capacity for action. At the Centre for Peace Advancement, systems mapping is a skill that can be found across all of our programs, including the "Map the System" research competition which encourages students to develop their systems thinking skills.

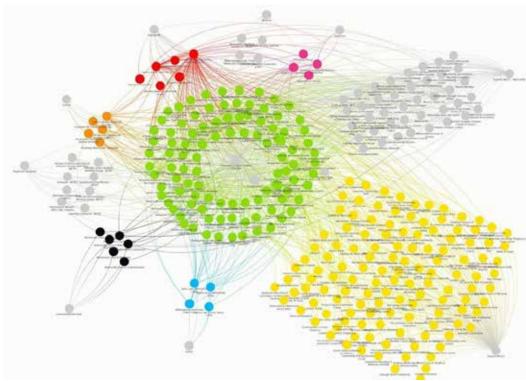
With support and direction from MCEC Executive Minister Leah Reesor-Keller and Centre Director Paul Heidebrecht, Victoria created a stakeholder map to visually present MCEC's relationships with stakeholders,

including member congregations, ministries, and agencies connected to the regional church, and how those relationships overlap and connect to one another.

This work garnered insight into the connectedness of MCEC congregations, the variety of partner agencies and ministries

in relationship with MCEC, and the breadth of non-Mennonite connections within the ecosystem. One goal of this project was to determine the areas of mission overlap within the ecosystem. Through the system mapping process, MCEC confirmed that many partners share in their mission despite articulating it in different language. The process helped generate overarching ecosystem themes that could then be used to drive conversations around partnership and collaboration.

In reflecting on the process, Victoria is convinced that "systems mapping is critical to the Canadian church, especially MCEC, as it looks toward maximizing influence and impact in a complex world." She notes that the value of the systems map is clear: "It lays bare hidden webs of interconnection and reveals incredible opportunities for growth. When an organization can understand their surrounding ecosystem from a bird's eye view, it can move forward with a heightened sense of awareness and a renewed energy to fulfill its mission."



Beyond offering these invaluable insights, this system mapping project confirmed that the church has indeed left the building, and it did so long before the pandemic. Nevertheless, through relationships rooted in shared values, the church lives all around us, and one need only to map the system to find it.

Peace Clubs: From Zambia to Oakville

BY ASHITHA MANTRAWADI

A surprising turn of events brought Grebel Master of Peace and Conflict Studies (MPACS) student Bethany Serengheu (MPACS 2022) together to work with Zambia-based alumnus Issa Ebombolo (MPACS 2017) on a Peace Club curriculum for The Meeting House church based in Oakville, Ontario.

Issa currently works with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Zambia and Malawi as a Peacebuilding Coordinator. In 2006, Issa developed Peace Club to foster a culture of peace to reduce violence and welcome forgiveness. The curriculum was originally developed for children in schools in Zambia. "I assist Zambia Correctional Service to implement Peace Club in prisons to create a culture of peace in cells and victim offender programs to restore relationships between offenders and victims," explained Issa. "We assist victims to choose forgiveness instead of revenge and help offenders to repent as an essential step in the path towards reconciliation."

Recently, Issa partnered with The Meeting House church to tailor his original Peace Club curriculum and adapt it for a Canadian church audience. "Canada is a multi-racial and ethnic country and therefore these neighbours come from conflict countries, diverse backgrounds, and they come with baggage and issues," said Issa in an interview with MCC Canada. "They don't leave those issues behind. It's different, and people need to learn ways and means to handle these differences. This is why Peace Clubs are needed in Canada."

For her MPACS internship, Bethany worked at The Meeting House as a Way of Peace Developer to reconstruct Issa's curriculum to fit Canada's church audience. "I wanted to bring the theories and skills I was learning in MPACS into a faith-based organization that





Issa Ebombolo leads a Conflict Resolution workshop in Oakville in Ontario for 40 volunteers from 12 different Meeting House Church sites around Ontario. Photographer: Matt Thompson.

has a strong focus on peace," she said. "In my research for MPACS, I had been exploring the role of spirituality and religion in conflict transformation and peacebuilding, and I was curious to see how the Anabaptist tradition in a contemporary context was approaching peace."

According to Bethany, there were two main objectives for redeveloping the curriculum. "The first was to add a theological arc to the curriculum that better reflected the belief of The Meeting House," she explained. "The other objective was to make the curriculum more contextually relevant for The Meeting House members. New videos were created, while older videos were kept for continuity and connection with the original excellent work done by Issa and others in Zambia."

The MPACS program at Grebel allowed both Issa and Bethany to deepen and refine tools to address conflict and explore reconciliation and forgiveness. "Grebel empowered me with the skills and knowledge of peace and conflict studies," reported Issa. "The knowledge I acquired during my master's degree program had a ripple effect in my work, it has been a milestone in changing the lives of many individuals, families, church communities, and government institutions."

"My involvement has helped me to grow in the effort of creating human security and making this world a better place to live," he added. "It gives me joy, satisfaction, and fulfillment when I see people choosing the path of peace instead of violence."

MENNONITE ARCHIVES: A RESOURCE FOR THE CHURCH

The Mennonite Archives of Ontario collects and preserves archival materials that reflect the religious, cultural, and organizational life of Mennonite, Amish and other related groups in Ontario and makes them available to anyone with a legitimate research interest, while also offering the benefits of doing research within a university setting.

The Archives is the official repository for Grebel, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, Conscience Canada, Community records in a multitude of formats. Peacemaker Teams Canada, and other Mennonite institutions, organizations, congregations, and individuals.

minutes, photographs, films, audiotapes,

artwork, and clothing. The collection consists of nearly a linear kilometer of personal, congregational, and institutional

Historical Library, which is the largest Canadian collection of Anabaptist/ Collections include letters, diaries, meeting Mennonite published materials, dating from the 16th century to the present.

Learning from Each Other in Community

At the end of each winter term, one of Grebel's beloved traditions takes place. Several graduating students are invited to reflect on their university and Grebel experiences. Presented either at Chapel or Community Supper, these times of sharing are heartfelt and often emotional. The excerpts printed here offer a taste of Grebel's impact on student lives.



JOSEPH TAFESE

Bachelor of Software Engineering, Honours, Cognitive Sciences Minor, Artificial Intelligence Option

After five years at Grebel, I find myself with a parable and a phrase: the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18) and the term 'positive peace'. Let me explain.

In this parable, Christ shows us how we ought to respond to the arms he has opened up to us. He shows us how we so quickly forget his love, grace, and forgiveness, and the importance of passing on what we have received. These same gifts have been generously afforded to me by Grebelites over 5 years, and I sincerely hope I've done the same.

I've heard the term "positive peace" quite a bit and have wondered what a community that strives to live in positive peace looks like. Now, I'm not a PACS expert, but I learned that it points to the kind of community where members are conscious of the love, grace, and forgiveness they have received. Not only that, but they also recognize the responsibility they have to lead with the same. This is what Grebel taught me.

Grebel has shown me love through quality time over beautiful meals—that secret ingredient in the diligent hands of our kitchen staff who produce "good food...always." It has shown me grace through the efforts put into building mutual understanding. And finally, Grebel has shown me forgiveness through the countless times I have been afforded another chance.

Now then, what would be expected of an Engineer who has been afforded these gifts? I can only hope that they are nurtured and grown to build communities that live in positive peace.



JOSHUA RAMPERSAD

Bachelor of Computer Science, Honours, Computer Science, Music Minor

A lot has happened in five years. I have grown and changed immensely. From being on Larger Leadership Team and Social Committee to directing two Grebel musicals and donning, there are so many lessons that I have learned. Late-night deep conversations, thoughtful mealtime discussions, heartfelt don meetings, heated games lounge debates, prolonged musical planning sessions—these are where some of my most significant growth and learning occurred.

Grebel is one of the most diverse spaces I've ever been in. With such a broad range of beliefs, opinions, perspectives, and areas of expertise, there was a lot to learn from the people around me. The trick is to keep an open mind and let your ideas and preconceptions be challenged. I truly got a whole lot more out of asking questions than giving answers, and I learned so much more from the people I disagreed with than those who I agreed with. The Grebel table at meal times is an ideal time to ask questions. I've had my mind changed, learned about a new perspective, or even just fostered understanding between myself and my peers.

Learning by example was also a key part of how I figured out who I was and the type of person I want to be. Actions really can speak louder than words, and by getting involved around the community, I grew to better understand things like work-life balance and what makes a good leader.

Over the past five years, Grebel has become home for me. Everyone in this community has made me who I am today, and I am so grateful for that.



NATHANIEL KIM

Bachelor of Science, Honours, Kinesiology, Pre-Health Specialization

I started at Grebel in September 2014 in Nanotechnology Engineering. I've been here for seven years. I'm graduating from Biochemistry. How does someone do that? Through a lot of mistakes. The last seven years look kind of like *Madoka Magica*, a horror anime—it starts off happy and brighteyed and then suddenly, BAM! It goes to crap. But looking back on it, God was with me through it all.

God was there when I failed my 3A term the first time, setting up another eight-month term at my same place and He was there when I couldn't find a place to live until the last second. God was with my friend who let me stay over, and God was with me as I made the then-heartbreaking switch to Biochemistry. God was there in my mental agony and my family life. He gave me the courage to ask if I could take a third-year nano course as a Biochem student that I'd been looking forward to since 2A. He made it possible for me to get into a Fine Arts course and a fourth-year Nanotechnology course last term. God made it possible to end this term with two more 4B NanoBio courses and my last music studio course.

Jesus was always there by my side, just like He promised, even if I didn't see Him and even when I didn't want to see Him. And that's how I know He will be there for me on the other side of this degree and how I know He'll be there for you. "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age."



ZARA PACHIORKA

Bachelor of Science, Honours, Biology Minor, Diploma in Sustainability

I lived at Grebel in my first year, associated in second and third year, and for my last year, I'm living in the apartments. I've been a part of the Peace Committee, Social Committee, Grebel musical, quite a few coffee houses, and of course, intramurals. I've served Grebel as an Ambassador, Special Projects rep, and Commie Supper server, and on the Grebel Orientation Committee.

Before Grebel, I went to boarding school for high school, so I am quite familiar with having many, many students living in a relatively tight-knit community. I am also quite familiar with the feeling one gets when they have to leave that tight-knit community. It's really tough to not be able to open your door and call down the hall to your friend, or not see 20 different Grebelites on your way to and from class. I had to leave this environment in 2020 when COVID started to go crazy, and I'm realizing that I'm unfortunately going to have to leave again.

But I am leaving here with many great memories, and my time at Grebel will be remembered fondly. My hope for all future Grebelites is that they will continue to make Grebel home, and continue to make memories and friends. I hope new traditions are started and continued, and I hope they recognize how special this community is.

I also want to thank Mary Brubaker-Zehr for being such a dedicated and important part of Grebel. Although I was never a don and never directly worked with her, I feel the impact she had on Grebel, and the impact she will continue to have regardless of her retirement.



ADAM NEUFELD

Bachelor of Science, Honours, Physics Minor

Coming to a Mennonite institution like Grebel was an extension to what I grew up in. I expected Grebel to be a familiar place to continue to grow in my faith. In many ways it has been very similar. But the people who fill this space are not all Mennonite or even Christian, and I've learned so much from this.

In personal conversations and small groups at Grebel, I have been able to listen to the different perspectives, values, and ideas that everyone brings here. Church small groups with fellow Grebelites have strengthened my relationships with other Christians in discussions about our individual experiences and understandings of Biblical readings and sermons. I am also so grateful for my first-year roommate, Liban, and the many conversations we had about my Christian faith and his Islamic faith. I became aware of the similarities we shared and the differences which shaped our faiths.

These experiences with the people around me have shaped my faith today in ways that I couldn't have imagined coming from a small-town Mennonite church. Grebel has stretched me to explore new ways of expressing my faith and sharing in it with everyone I meet. Just as 1 Corinthians speaks of a diversity of gifts, I see such a diversity of people here who all contribute different gifts to life at Grebel and that is something that I will take with me into the rest of my life. University has surrounded me with the largest source of diverse knowledge that I will ever have access to, and I take this knowledge with gratitude and humility as I continue to learn from those I meet.

2021-2022 Award Recipients

This year, 185 students received \$495,868 in scholarships and awards.

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

MUSIC

Agnes Giesbrecht Choral Music Scholarship Leah Dau, Colin Funk

Clemens Scholarships in Music Nicole Bourque, Sarah Brown, Kayla Burmaster, Jacquelyn Morley

Evanov Radio Group Music Award Jacquelyn Morley, Alissa Van Gaalen

Helen Martens Choral Award Sarah Brown, Colin Funk, Chloe Shantz

Judy Dyck Music Volunteerism Award Nicole Bourque

Rudolf and Hedwig Rempel Music Award

Ashley Johnson, Matthew Metwalli, Anya Murray, Aria Scerbovic

Stutzman String Award Robert Choi, Chris Fang, Ayumi Kashiwazaki, Jack Wallace

PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

Becky Frey Student Scholarship Amani Amstutz, Maddie Hemstreet, Lynn Philips

Elliot C. McLoughry Fund Scholarship Victoria Lumax

Lina Wohlgemut Award Victoria Lumax

Walter and Mary Hougham PACS Award

Raven Cousens, Maddie Hemstreet, Lynn Philips

PACS Internships Award Eve Astolfi

Peter C. and Elisabeth Williams Memorial Fund Scholarship Amani Amstutz

Vic and Rita Krueger Family PACS Award

Joshua Cheon, Isabella McCloskey, Merveille Mwankin

RESIDENCE

Alice Eisen Leadership Award Emilie Chase, Katrina Fluit, Hanne Kuhnert

College Anniversary Legacy Award

Noa Baergen, Jared Dyck, Laura Hammond, Maya Kaekiza, Joel Klassen, Makayla Kraulis, Marcus Labun, Sebastian Lingertat, Alexandra Moran, Lucas Shumaker

David Regier Student Award Dan Hart, Megan Hudson, Jonathon Kambulow, Jordan Li, Tim Peters, Alissa van Gaalen, Josiah Vandewetering **Dorothy Bechtel Entrance Award**

Sydney Blue

Eby Leadership Award Jake MacDonald, Zara Pachiorka

George E. and Louise Schroeder Residence Award Simon Frew, Cassidy Zelle

Good Family Residence Award Miriam Lindsay

Good Foundation Scholarship Eva Booker, Sarah Driediger, Bronwyn Erb, Simon Friesen, Julia Kehl, Alana Matsuo, Isabella McCloskey, Curtis Struyk

Grebel Student Award Isaac Brown, Leah Dau, Maya Kaekiza

Hildebrand Family Award Megan Dufton, Megan Hudson, Victoria Lumax, Maya Morton Ninomiya, Adam Neufeld, Elizabeth Schnurr, Selah Woelk,

Jacob Andres Achievement Award

Marcus Labun

Joan Weber Award

Hayden Epp, Henry Hughes, Tim Peters, Casey Wagter, Reuben Zuidema

Klaassen Religious Studies Award

Asa Suderman-Gladwell, Joycelin Van Caulart

Lucinda Robertson Scholarship David Austin, Emma Kirke, Joel Woods

Marpeck Leadership Award Hannah Bernstein, Peter Bondi, Kyle Ferrier, William Losin, Sarah Odinotski, Serina Ykema-King

Mennonite Diversity Award Merveille Mwankin

Mennonite Matching Funds Thomas Fieguth, Colin Funk, Nathan Heidebrecht, Sam Ramer, Lucas Shumaker, Imogen Sloss, Asa Suderman-Gladwell

Nathan Paul Krueger Wiebe Award

Quinn Andres

Richard and Betty Dyck Volunteerism Entrance Award Annette Allen, Mateya Hughes, Elsa Patterson, Rachel Wormald

Robin Coupland Jutzi Award Aradhna Karwal, Leon Li

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Diploma Scholarship Thomas Fieguth, Nathan Heidebrecht

Sauer Family Award Kayla Burmaster, Simon Chute, Marcus Labun **Spirit of Generosity Award** Helen Engelhardt, Thao Vu

Stauffer Entrance Award Noa Baergen, Abby Krueger

Student Council Award Andrew Dieleman, Kyle Ferrier, Isaac Painting, Alissa van Gaalen

Upper Year Residence AwardMatthew Dick, Grace Enns, Anya
Fieguth, Hannah Kaethler, Sam
Ramer, Leah Schapansky

MASTER OF PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

Global Conflict Management and Transformation Award Dikran Damar, Rose Ongech, Sidran Khan

John and Louise Miller Hope for the World Fund Nicholas Bejarano

Malcolm X PACS Scholarship Qudsia Alvi

MPACS Impact Award Nicholas Bejarano, Baribenem Vulasi

MPACS Internship

Amir Locker-Biletzki, Erica Carmount, Bethany Serengheu, Shaina List, Gabrielle McInnis, Jesse Matas, Rose Ongech

MPACS Student Support Qudsia Alvi, Rima Ashawesh, Blair Ashford, Fariba Atkin, Nicholas Bejarano, Daisy Bilous, Erica Carmount, Alli Cobb, Rafaella Creus Cordovez, Dikran Damar, Susan

Cordovez, Dikran Damar, Susan Dick, Madeline Docherty, Katia Emami, Brandon Gascho, Simon Guthrie, Shawna-Kay Harrison, Sidra Khan, Zerihun Kinate, Shaina List, Amir Locker-Biletzki, Jesse Matas, Colin McCartney, Alexandra McDonald, Gabrielle McInnis, Rebaz Mohammed, Saifullah Muhammad, Kayne Rivers, Annie Oldenhof, Rose Ongech, Natasha Pardo, Bethany Serengheu, Sulakshana Shanmuganathan, Jennifer Smith, Iman Sultana, Sydney Thorburn, Amanda Truong, Baribenem Vulasi

Rotary Peace Scholarship Award Rose Ongech

Vic and Rita Krueger Family MPACS Award

Qudsia Alvi, Zerihun Kinate, Kayne Rivers

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Landau Family Scholarship Mariel Seymour

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Clifford Snyder Memorial Bursary

Rosemarie Chambers

Emerson and Elsie McDowell Theological Studies Scholarship

Zachary Stefaniuk

Full Time TS Tuition Award
David Alton, Janelle Arnold, Bradley
Bauer, Lucille Bouwman, Douglas
Clarke, Kathryn Cressman, Clayton
Culham, Bonnie Drugde, Timonthy
Elliott, Susan Fish, Emmanuel
Israel, Ryan Jedynak, Donald
Justrabo, Joshua Martin, Jeff
McCrea, Devan Munn, Allie Palcu,
Laurel Rounds, Heather Samuel,
Zachary Stefaniuk, Mykayla Turner,
Joya Van Der Meulen, Peter Van
Oordt, Joshua Woodcock

Graduate Student Support Fund Lucille Bouwman

Jacob H. Janzen Award Rosmarie Chambers

Jane Plas Scholarship Susan Fish, Joshua Martin

Karin Packull Anabaptist Studies Award David Alton, Joshua Woodcock

Magdalena Coffman Scholarship Rosemarie Chambers

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

A. James Reimer Award for MTS Bradley Bauer, Joshua Martin, Joya Van Der Meulen

Pastoral Training Award Zachary Stefaniuk, Nick Shuurman

Reimer Scholarship in Theological Studies Zachary Stefaniuk

WMCEC Theological Studies Award Kristy Guthrie, Laurel Rounds

TORONTO MENNONITE

THEOLOGICAL CENTRE

A. James Reimer at

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

INSTITUTE OF ANABAPTIST MENNONITE STUDIES

Allan G. Felstead Research Award in Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies Rachel Manes



Convocation: Threshold of a New Beginning

BY ASHITHA MANTRAWADI

With excitement and trepidation, Grebel returned to an in-person Convocation service (that was also livestreamed) after a two-year hiatus. This April 10th event marked tremendous achievements and celebrated the hard work and dedication of Grebel's graduate, academic, and residence students. It was an ending, but also the beginning of a new journey.

"This is a ceremony that will have solemn moments, but you can be both solemn and joyful at the same time," said President Marcus Shantz. "We're here to say thank you to each other. Graduation is an individual accomplishment and it's right and proper for all of you to be individually proud of yourselves."

Mary Brubaker-Zehr who has served the Grebel community for 26 years as the Director of Student Services will be retiring in July. She gave this year's inspiring convocation address. "I will remember this cohort for its courage, resilience, and its ability to make lemonade out of lemons," said Mary. "You faced a lot, folks! You have



completed your studies in extraordinary times with unique markers. Markers like the Black Lives Matter movement, markers like a global pandemic, markers like the discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves of nameless Indigenous children, and the current heart-wrenching war in Ukraine. I believe there are probably inner markers and private markers for each of you." Part of her address focused on five gifts, including a Grebel mug, a peace dove, and Lego. She encouraged students to hold onto hope, keep building on what they've started, seek meaning over happiness, and to determine their own gifts, unique to each person. She ended, "So, here's to you, the class of 2022, go well, go blessed, and go gifted."



Management Engineering graduate Peter Bondi was this year's undergraduate valedictorian. "It only takes a few words to change the world," said Peter. "We are here on the threshold of a new beginning. Some of us are working, others continuing our studies, and still others are taking some time to figure it all out. Wherever we go, know that we go forward touched by this one-of-a-kind experience. It only takes a few

words to change the world and I think it's time to say a few words of our own."



The graduate valedictorian was Jesse Matas, a Master of Peace and Conflict Studies graduate, who delivered his speech via video. "I must admit, entering the wider world, leaving the Conrad Grebel bubble especially, makes me appreciate the lenses we used in Peace and Conflict Studies," expressed Jesse. "Despite the challenges of COVID-19 and not being able to meet in person, I feel as though I've learned so much from my friends and colleagues in this program. We've been able to do this because we're encouraged to bring ourselves to it."

"On behalf of the Grebel community, it is an honour to congratulate and say goodbye to the graduating class of 2022," added Marcus. "If you have taken just one thing from your years at Grebel, I hope it's the conviction that no one is an island and that no one stands alone. You belong to a living web of relationships, connections, and mutuality."

Watch the full 2022 Convocation service youtu.be/Xg--5tUFoHY?t=1800





#Grebelife

BY JOCELYN BRETZLAFF STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Winter 2022 has been quite the exciting term for residence students! Due to the Omicron wave of the pandemic, we experienced a bit of a slow start. However, Student Council did everything we could to foster a warm, welcoming, and joyful environment for both new and returning students. Among other things, this included door decorating, online games nights, outdoor winter activities, and walk-a-mile in small groups. As restrictions eased, we hosted larger events such as Pi Day, a Bob Ross paint night, a games night, and the classic roommate challenge. Additionally, the Associate program has been exuberant this term as we can once again welcome Off-Campus Associates to Community Supper and into all areas of the building. Associates have also enjoyed multiple community-building campfires, a pizza lunch, and a BBQ potluck.

Similarly, the Larger Leadership Team (LLT) has been increasingly active. In recognition of the Ukraine crisis, Peace Society and Special Projects ran fundraisers which raised a total of \$2,071 to support MCC's relief efforts. Peace Society also organized a very successful clothing drive for oneROOF Youth Services in Kitchener, and Special Projects coordinated sign-making and transportation for a climate strike in Waterloo. The Athletic Reps ran a variety of activities, including capture the flag, rock climbing, and skating on the Grebel ice rink that they set up and maintained during the colder months. Divisions of LLT collaborated on events and initiatives, such as the Social Committee & QuAQ Coffee House, QuAQ issue of GrebelSpeaks, and FLOW and Gents Secret Siblings.















New Director of Student Services Feels Called to Role

BY JEN KONKLE

After an extensive search, Conrad Grebel University College has named Beverley Fretz as Director of Student Services. The search committee found Beverley to be authentic, energetic, and engaging, with obvious enthusiasm for Grebel and its mission and values.

With a PhD in Adult Education and specialization in Leadership and Higher Education from OISE at the University of Toronto, Beverley brings a deep understanding of post-secondary education and a commitment to a student-centred approach in her work. She has worked at the University of Guelph for the last seven years as Manager of Program Development in Continuing Education, where her duties included the teaching and learning process for numerous programs. Previously, she worked in



employee support services, which included working with clients to provide psychological health and safety consultation, crisis intervention services, and health and wellness training.

"Beverley is clearly very student-oriented," observed Paul Penner, Director of Operations at Grebel, who chaired the search committee. "Her responses to interview questions showed a real interest in people. Even answers to questions about policies and procedures inevitably returned to the impact on students. Her concern is very much that our organization's policies serve to better the lives of students." This emphasis aligns with Grebel's new strategic plan, which pledges to centre attention on the student experience.

"I'm pleased to have someone with Beverley's experience in the public university sector join our administrative team," shared President Marcus Shantz. "Beverley combines extensive professional experience in working with young adults, with a deeply grounded sense of call for this work."

"My experience studying and living at a Mennonite college continues to inform my life," explained the new director, who attended Goshen College in Indiana for her undergraduate degree. "I welcome the opportunity to ensure other students have a university experience that informs their life in a way that engenders learning, faith, and the pursuit of peace and justice."

"I hope to utilize my experience working with students and learning communities to build on the work that has been done by Student Services," she said. "This includes continuing Grebel's commitment to building a community where students find belonging and wellbeing, form lifelong friendships, gain leadership and service experience, and develop as whole persons. Like Grebel, for me this includes embracing diversity, inclusion, and anti-oppression."

"I am inspired by the ongoing work of the Student Services team and look forward to continuing to carry out the important duties of recruitment, leadership development, student support and engagement, and nurturing faith," she added. "I recognize the responsibility and importance of the role of Director of Student Services, and I am in awe of the work carried out by Mary Brubaker-Zehr and her team over the past 26 years."

Beverley grew up in the Waterloo Region and is a member of Bloomingdale Mennonite Church. An active volunteer, she has worked with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Mennonite Central Committee, and Christian Peacemaker Teams. She will begin her new role in July 2022, as Mary Brubaker-Zehr retires.

GREBEL PRESIDENT REAPPOINTED

"On behalf of the Grebel Board of Governors, I am very pleased to announce the reappointment of Marcus Shantz as President of Conrad Grebel University College, supported enthusiastically and unanimously by the Board," announced Board Chair Paul Fieguth in December 2021. "The reappointment committee solicited and received input from a great many people, and there was overwhelming appreciation for Marcus' leadership. We are looking forward to his continued contributions to the broader Grebel community."

Praised as a community builder, Marcus authentically reflects the identity and mission of the College. He is widely respected across Grebel's various constituencies and he shows vision and respect for the role of post-secondary education within the church, and also for his role and relationships to broader university and societal sectors.

"Marcus's collaborative and collegial leadership style helped steer Grebel through some significant challenges, where he modelled resiliency, rootedness, and hope in difficult times," noted Paul. "The pandemic, in particular, created extraordinary conditions that Marcus met with sensibility, compassion, and determination."

"In the next few years, I think we have a real opportunity to connect Grebel to big issues playing out at the university and in the wider world," said Marcus. "We're part of a university that is largely focused on advancing technology—and we confront big questions about the impact of technology on the human condition. Seen in this light, Grebel's offerings in peace, music, history, and theology have never been more relevant. I'm looking forward to finding new ways for Grebel to serve our university and community, and in finding partners who are interested in what we have to offer."

Marcus has served the College as president since October 2017 and will begin his second 5-year term in fall 2022. Overall, he is viewed as the right person at this time in Grebel's history to take on the challenge of the post-pandemic recovery and to move the institution forward.



Tables are Filled as Campaign is Complete

BY FRED W. MARTIN, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

An Open House on Saturday, March 26 signified the end of the Fill the Table Campaign as donors were invited to tour the new kitchen and dining room facilities. Food Services Manager Cheri Otterbein noted the vast improvements made in the kitchen and the challenges of feeding students in a construction zone. "When we moved into the new space it was 'construction clean', but we needed to make it 'food services clean', which meant that we had to wash every item that we own and, as a team, find the best locations for the knives, spices, and pots."

On behalf of students, Student Council President Jocelyn Bretzlaff thanked donors from the "bottom of our stomachs."



"Donors gave us inspiration and advice at critical points," noted President Marcus Shantz. "The encouragement to move ahead with the stairway and elevator to connect the dining room to the chapel foyer was critical." In the end, 1092 donors and students gave \$4,219,877 towards this capital campaign.

Top: The Kehl family is one example of friend and family groups working together to "fill tables" through donations.

Middle: Marcus Shantz visits with architect/alumnus Brian Rudy, along with Judy Penner and Jim Tiessen.



Alumni Art Acquisitions

This spring, several alumni gathered to see Jim Paterson's (BA 1981) *Triumphal Entry* sculpture that was featured as part of "Crossings, a journey to Easter" art exhibition in Toronto. In describing it, Jim wrote, "I started this art piece with a worn old slice of hand-hewn barn beam which grew into an animated, sinewy, wire sculpture crammed with the colours of my childhood and outline memories of people bobbing up and down in enthusiastic expectancy of Jesus turning into our street as part of His triumphal entry procession. I imagine the people on my street energized as we cry out 'Baruch habah b'Shem Adonai."

Jim has been commissioned by the College to create a sculpture to grace the north wall of the new dining room. "We want to add a fireplace and comfortable furniture to this area to try to replicate the gathering space created by the old lower lounge," explained Director of Operations Paul Penner.

Donations are being accepted for this piece, as well as *River Cycle* by Meg Harder (BA 2013). Meg's 20-foot-long fraktur art was part of the art exhibit at the Indigenous Mennonite Encounters Conference, and organizers are excited to have this piece added to Grebel's permanent art collection. Contact Fred W. Martin at fwmartin@ uwaterloo.ca for more details.



GREBEL FUND CAMPAIGN SERVES THE CHURCH

Each year, friends and alumni provide generous support to Grebel's students and programs through the Grebel Fund. Much of this support is designated to programs that serve the church, such as pastoral training, the Mennonite Archives of Ontario, the Chapel program, and the Church Music and Worship program.

Just before the pandemic, Marcus Shantz narrated a short video explaining various programs funded by Grebel's budget that serve the church. youtu.be/CJut_XN8LfA

Oratorical Contest Winner

BY EMMA MARTIN, PACS COOP COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

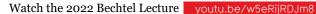
Abi Kowalski (pictured right) and Tim Peters, two Grebel residents, participated in the C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest on March 2, 2022. This contest offers students from Mennonite and Brethren in Christ colleges and universities across Canada and the United States an opportunity to discuss peacebuilding and social justice issues on campus. Abi's poem entitled "Peacemaker" critiqued the notion that peace is a passive process, and challenged listeners to reframe biblical womanhood and peacemaking. Focusing on the biblical character Leah as the object of her poetry, she observed that peacemakers are not those who ignore wrongdoings to avoid conflict, but rather, those who use their voices to speak out against injustices. Abi urged women to have an active role in peacebuilding processes. Tim used the story of biblical actors in 1 Samuel 25 to highlight our humanity and brokenness, and noted that there is room for disagreement and dialogue within peace. Abi placed first with her speech on women and peacemaking, and will go on to represent the Peace and Conflict Studies Department and the Grebel community at a bi-national competition later this year. youtu.be/q5MN9rEuFkQ





BECHTEL LECTURE

This year's Bechtel Lecture in Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies, "On Dwelling: Shelters in Time and Place," was presented on March 10 by Professor Sofia Samatar of James Madison University. This lecture traveled through history to explore what it means to dwell in place and shelter in time. Professor Samatar took a poetic approach and used the word "Dwelling" to examine questions such as "What does shelter look like for those who are forced to leave their homes?" and "When prevented from staying in place, how can a person dwell?" She suggested that all dwelling is durational; to be present physically and virtually is to build a shelter in time. The process of being in place and time cannot be rushed. Instead, it must be embraced and explored.





SAWATSKY LECTURE

The 2022 Rodney and Lorna Sawatsky Visiting Scholar was Professor Regina Shands Stoltzfus of Goshen College. On March 24, her lecture "Resistance Strategies: Equipping Ourselves and Our Communities for Long Term Justice Work," addressed the idea of maintaining a just world. Professor Stoltzfus' lecture reflected on racial segregation and acknowledged current social movements in order to build an equitable society. She introduced the idea of "anti-racist spirituality" to fight against racism and oppression. To continue the fight in generations to come, Professor Stoltzfus emphasized the significance of incorporating long-term strategies to sustain social movements such as Black Lives Matter. Her lecture stressed the importance of understanding the past and weaponizing hope as light in a dark world to sustain change.

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 "Reading Mark through the Lens of Class" in *The Struggle over Class: Socioeconomic Interpretation of Ancient Jewish and Christian Texts*, eds. G. Anthony Keddie, Michael Flexsenhar, III, Steven J. Friesen, 187-208. Greco-Roman World Supplement Series; Atlanta: SBL Press, 2021.

JEREMY BERGEN published "Stephen's Dying Prayer (Acts 7:60) and the Challenge of Forgiveness," *Pro Ecclesia* 31, no. 1 (2022): 9-19.

MARLENE EPP has a forthcoming book review, co-authored with her graduate student, in the *Canadian Historical Review*, of *Being German Canadian: History, Memory, Generations*, edited by Alexander Freund.

PAUL HEIDEBRECHT was the guest editor for an issue of *The Conrad Grebel Review* (39/2) focused on "Anabaptist-Mennonite Perspectives on Technology."

JANE KUEPFER published two papers in the *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counselling* this winter: "Spiritual Care in Ontario Longterm Care: Current Staffing Realities and Recommendations," and "Promise, Provision & Potential: A Hopeful Trajectory for Spiritual Care in Long-term Care".

ERIG LEPP presented two papers, "Civil Sanctuaries: framing spaces of indifference in divided urban settings" and "When the walls call out: protest graffiti as a global tool of civil resistance" at the International Studies Association conference in Nashville, TN.

JOHONNA McCANTS-TURNER's essay "Can Restorative Justice Make Young, Black Lives Matter in Schools?" appears in the book, *Beyond Equity and Inclusion in Conflict Resolution: Recentering the Profession* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2022). She presented her research on womanist anti-violence ethics at the Theology and Peacebuilding Consultation in Anabaptist Perspective II, which she co-convened, on April 12, and as part of a panel at the 2022 Canadian Theological Society Annual Meeting in May entitled, "Faith, Hope and Love as Embodied Disciplines and Practices within Liberatory Anti-Violence Movements."

DAVID Y. NEUFELD published "Early Swiss Anabaptism" in *T&T Clark Companion to Anabaptism*, edited by Brian C. Brewer, 33-50. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2021.

REINA NEUFELDT'S chapter "From Righteous to Responsive: Rethinking the Role of Moral Values of Peacebuilding" was published in the edited volume *Wicked Problems: The Ethics of Action for Peace, Rights, and Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2022).

TROY OSBORNE published "Anabaptists in the Netherlands" in *T&T Clark Handbook of Anabaptism*, edited by Brian C. Brewer, 133–50. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2021.

CAROL PENNER published "Dear Tara" in *On Holy Ground: Stories* by and about Women in Ministry Leadership in the Mennonite Brethren Church, edited by Dora Dueck, pp. 109-123. Winnipeg: Kindred Productions, 2022.

DEREK SUDERMAN presented two papers at the Society of Biblical Literature conference in November 2021, entitled: "'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 recently completed two trios: *The Place Where the Creator Rests* commissioned by The Andromeda Trio
(violin, cello and piano) and *A Reel Waltz* commissioned by the
Indigo Trio (violin, viola and cello). Both will premiere in the spring.

MARK VUORINEN in collaboration with Canadian bass-clarinetist Jeff Reilly, TorQ Percussion Quartet, and The Elora Singers, is preparing for performances in which he will premiere new works by Leila Adu-Gilmore, Carmen Braden, Melody McKiver, and Peter Togni.



New Anabaptist and Mennonite Historian will Connect the Past with the Present

BY JEN KONKLE

Grebel has appointed Dr. David Y. Neufeld as Assistant Professor of History, beginning July 1, 2022, succeeding Professor Marlene Epp who retires this summer.

"We are excited that David Neufeld will be joining the tradition of excellent teaching and scholarship in History and Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies at Grebel and the University of Waterloo," announced Troy Osborne, Dean. "David brings an impressive breadth of knowledge of the history and thought of Anabaptists from across the globe over the last five hundred years."

As a scholar of early modern Europe, David studies the interaction of Swiss Anabaptists with their Reformed neighbors and officials in Zurich from 1550-1650. His work challenges scholarly and popular assumptions about the degree to which Swiss Anabaptists were separated from their neighbors and society. David has already published public-facing scholarship on the history of French Mennonites and demonstrated his skill at connecting early modern topics with current conversations among Mennonite scholars and in the wider discourse. His training in early modern Anabaptism and breadth of knowledge in Mennonite studies will build on Grebel's reputation in these fields, and he will enlarge the network of pre-modern and early modern scholars at the University of Waterloo, which includes Kate Kennedy Steiner and Troy Osborne at Grebel.

"This hiring reflects Grebel's ongoing commitment to understand and interpret the past," noted President Marcus Shantz, "both for the Mennonite community and for society at large."

David has been a Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Grebel since 2019, following his doctoral studies at the University of Arizona's Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies. Previously, David attained a Master's degree in history at the University of Arizona and a BA in History at the University of Waterloo, where he also minored in Peace and Conflict Studies at Grebel. He is currently revising his book manuscript for publication, Separating Tares from Wheat: Making an Anabaptist Minority in Early Modern Switzerland.

"I am a historian focused on the long-term development of both early modern Swiss Anabaptism and Mennonite historical memory," explained David. "I approach the study of early modern Anabaptism by examining dissenters' lived experience and by investigating how the interactions of Anabaptists with social majorities have been captured in the historical record."

With five years of teaching experience in a broad variety of courses, David was recognized for teaching excellence and thoughtful interactions by both students and colleagues. While prioritizing handson engagement with a student-centred pedagogy, he will teach many of Grebel's existing History courses and develop new courses in Latin American and World History.

"History courses deepen student understanding of why our communities and world take their current shape, while reminding us that other ways of living together are possible," added David. "Whether by guiding collective analysis of source material or fostering research curiosities, I look forward to accompanying students as they build their own capacities for historical thinking."

Beyond teaching and scholarship, David will join Grebel's Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies, where he has been serving as Associate Director. He serves on numerous boards and will bring new energy for community education activities and network building. With a strong interest in archival studies, and as a past J. Winfield Fretz Visiting Research Scholar in Mennonite Studies at Grebel, David will be able to continue thinking creatively around the use of archival material in teaching and research.



"It's a rare privilege to work alongside people who share a conviction that active and honest grappling with the past enriches our common life, work, and faith," said David. "I'm thrilled by the chance to contribute to Grebel's long-standing strength in Anabaptist-Mennonite studies, and intend that my work speaks to the concerns of the communities invested in this global tradition."

"As a sophisticated scholar and innovative and student-centered instructor," Troy added, "David will make an immediate contribution to our academic programs and the Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies. We look forward to welcoming him back to our community."

People

Caroline Schmidt (BA 2017) is the Inter-Mennonite Children's Choir's new Training Choir Director. She is currently teaching music lessons privately and is a licensed Kindermusik Instructor for Little Music Makerz studio in Kitchener. She is also a

member of the Da Capo Chamber Choir, The Edison Singers, and is currently singing for Trillium Lutheran Church in Waterloo.





Nathan Henderson (BES 2016), Russel Snyder-Penner (BA 1989), and Catherine Dyck (BA 2012) returned to Grebel's Community Supper this winter to share their thoughts and experiences about law school and practicing law. Nathan is working with Sobara Law in Waterloo in the area of corporate law. During the pandemic, Russ started his most recent firm, WayForth Law, where he works as a commercial corporate lawyer. And Catherine is currently working as an in-house lawyer at the Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex.

Njo Kong Kie (BMATH 1983) released a new piece called "Moments Cinématiques" as part of his album *Picnic in the Cemetery*. Kong Kie is a composer, a pianist, and a music theatre creator.

In April, around Grebel 30 alumni and friends participated in the "Across the Creek" alumni trip to watch the Raptors in Toronto.







Thomas Fraser (MPACS 2021) has joined Grebel's Peace and Conflict Studies Department, working as PACS Administrative Officer and Graduate Studies Coordinator, while **Chloe Simpson** (BKI 2016) returned to Grebel to work as Library Assistant.

Rod Wilson (MTS 1996) recently published a new book, *Thank You. I'm*Sorry. Tell me More: How to
Change the World with 3 Sacred
Sayings. Rod has worked as a psychologist, served as a pastor in three different churches,

and held multiple roles in education, including President of Regent College in Vancouver. Rod currently works with Lumara Grief and Bereavement Care Society, A Rocha, the Society of Christian Schools in BC, and In Trust Center for Theological Schools.

Katie (Lichti) Martin (BA 2007) passed away on December 15, 2021 at the age of 36. Our condolences to Katie's husband Phil Martin, her children, parents, and many



friends and family. Katie received her MSW from Laurier and was a child and youth clinician with Canadian Mental Health Association.



On May 7, about 40 alumni gathered to honour Ann L. Schultz (BA 1990) as she received Grebel's 2021 Distinguished Alumni Service Award. Planned by Alumni Chair Michael Shum (BASC 2011), the brunch included a panel discussion about Teaching in Challenging Times. Henry Winter (BA 1988) hosted the event, with a panel of teachers: Aleda Klassen (BA 2005), Lisa Shantz (BA 1996), and Justin Martin (BA 2001).

At this year's service recognitions, nine Grebel staff members were recognized for their many years of service. Rebekah DeJong, Jane Kuepfer, Radmila Vujosevic, and Karen Sunabacka were recognized for 5 years of service. Alison Enns, Ljiljana Illic, Reina Neufeldt, and Leanne MacKay-Bain were recognized for 10 years. Fred W. Martin was recognized for 20 years, while Mary Brubaker-Zehr and Marlene Epp were thanked for their many years of service as they reach retirement. Congratulations to these dedicated staff and faculty!

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Email grebel@uwaterloo.ca



2022 MTS GRADUATES: Rebecca Booker, Lucille Barbara Bouwman, Douglas Clarke, Sandy Conrad, Kathryn Cressman. Susan Fish, Don Justrabo, Josh Martin, Jeff McCrea, Heather Suzanne Samuel, Joshua Woodcock



2022 MPACS GRADUATES: Rima Elmahedi Ashawesh, Blair Ashford, Erica Carmount, Rebecca Chinamasa, Dikran Damar, Simon Ian Guthrie, Kayne Rivers, Shaina List, Dr Amir Locker-Biletzki, Michele Helene MacRae, Jesse Matas, Natanael Mateus-Ruiz, Gabrielle Mary Taylor McInnis, Saifullah Muhammad, Rose Achien'g Ongech, Natasha C. Pardo, Bethany E. Serengheu, Iman J. Sultana, Baribenem Vulasi



GREEN TEAM UPDATE

The Grebel Green team received a "Rookie of the Year" award from Sustainability Waterloo Region, in recognition of their efforts to reduce the College's environmental footprint. The team met in April to examine different options for reducing carbon consumption and will recommend a reduction target. The goal will be achieved by a combination of new HVAC equipment, better windows in the residence building, and some 'Scope 2' initiatives that involve travel and other energy reduction behaviour changes.



AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE

OMMC is an exciting summer opportunity for youth who have completed Gr 6-12, pairing exceptional musical instruction with traditional camp activities!

grebel.ca/ommc

It's Reunion Time!

We are so excited that we can once again gather for reunions! To make up for lost time, we have six reunions planned for this summer. We hope to connect with lots of alumni in the next few months, so look for more details online.



Late '70s-early '80s **REUNION**

Friends. Food. Entertainment. Visiting. Fun!







Dons from 1996-2022 are gathering to visit and wish Mary Brubaker-Zehr well in retirement.









Alumni who graduated in 2020 and 2021 are invited back to campus for special UWaterloo ceremonies. Come back to Grebel for a reception here too!



Master of Theological Studies alumni are invited back to Grebel for a light reception, a short program with alumni reflections, and lots of visiting.



Grebel alumni and friends from Manitoba are invited to join us at Brazen Hall Fort Rouge in Winnipeg for snacks, visiting, and a Grebel update.



If you have links to Grebel and live in British Columbia, join us at Mahoney's Tavern – False Creek in Vancouver to reminisce and visit over snacks and drinks.

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 tour to get a taste of residence life and academic programs.

GET STARTED AT grebel.ca/futurestudents





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