

# GREBEL NOW

Conrad Grebel University College Magazine

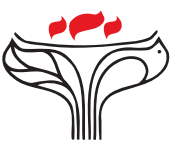
## Keeping Community at the Centre

The 2020 school year has sparked necessary academic innovation and imaginative problem-solving

## Alumni Respond to the Pandemic

Facing a pandemic requires compassion, skills, and dedication

FALL 2020



Vol. 37 No. 1

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## “In this Time of Uncertainty....”

2020 has been a difficult year for most of the world. And yet, at Grebel we have continued to see our students as a source of hope and purpose. In this issue you'll read about the innovative and creative ways students, faculty, and staff are meeting the challenges of the pandemic amid urgent social movements, global unrest, and isolation from friends and family. We also profile a few of our many alumni who are providing leadership and assurance to our communities during the pandemic.

The first few pages of this issue address the discovery of historical sexual misconduct by a past chaplain. This news has shaken the Grebel community and added to this year's challenges. We've appreciated the feedback from alumni and friends as we deal with this difficult issue.

*Front cover:*  
Chapel services look different this year, with most participants attending virtually.

We look forward to a time when we don't have to open every story with “because of the pandemic” or “in this time of uncertainty....” But until then, Grebel has embraced a digital lifestyle and is offering an abundance of virtual events. Join us for our Grebel Christmas Community Supper, Weekly Noon Hour Concerts, and in March, the virtual Grebel student musical, *Big Fish*.

Jennifer Konkle, Marketing and Communications Manager

Fred W. Martin, Director of Advancement



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

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# MCEC Terminates Ministerial Credential

## MENNONITE CHURCH EASTERN CANADA RELEASE

October 20, 2020 — Mennonite Church Eastern Canada announces the termination of the ministerial credential of John D. Rempel of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, following an investigation into multiple complaints of ministerial sexual misconduct. Marcus Shantz, President of Conrad Grebel University College, brought the complaint forward after receiving disclosures from former undergraduate residence students about sexual misconduct they had experienced while Rempel served as Chaplain, residence director, and Adjunct Professor at Grebel from 1973 until 1989. No complainants were minors at the time of the alleged incidents.

MCEC appointed an independent investigation team to investigate the complaints, according to the Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure, a denominational protocol. MCEC's Leadership Council received the investigation report. Based on the evidence from the investigation, Rempel's own acknowledgement of certain incidents of misconduct and a hearing process, Leadership Council found Rempel guilty of ministerial sexual misconduct and ministerial misconduct. Leadership Council considered the range of disciplinary options, and due to the serious nature of the findings, terminated Rempel's ministerial credential.

MCEC does not terminate a pastor's credential lightly. John D. Rempel was, and is, for many people, a beloved pastor, professor

and theologian. His ministry was wide-ranging, and we will have to reconcile the tension that human beings have the capacity to cause much harm and pain even while they have also done much good for the church.

We as a faith community must support paths that lead to healing and wholeness for all. As a Regional Church, we will do our best to walk alongside all those who are impacted.

We are indebted to the courage of those who have come forward to share their stories. We thank you for showing us what it means to be brave and vulnerable and we are sorry that you experienced this harm.

MCEC holds all pastors to a high standard of ethical conduct. We have policies, procedures and training for pastoral leaders that promote safe and ethical interactions between pastors and participants in our faith communities. MCEC commits to ongoing review and strengthening of these safeguards. In addition, MCEC also has a web-based resource for understanding, reporting and responding to sexual misconduct by church leaders.

We pray for God's grace and compassionate love to support and enfold all those affected. In the same spirit, we invite your prayers for everyone involved.

## GREBEL AND UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO RESOURCES

Grebel Policy 21: Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence  
[uwaterloo.ca/grebel/sexual-violence](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/sexual-violence)

University of Waterloo Policy 42: Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence  
[uwaterloo.ca/grebel/policy-42](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/policy-42)

University of Waterloo Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Resources  
[uwaterloo.ca/grebel/uwaterloo-sexual-violence](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/uwaterloo-sexual-violence) | 519-888-4567 ext. 40025

## WATERLOO SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region | [sascwr.org](http://sascwr.org) | 519-741-8633

Community Justice Initiatives | [cjiwr.com/revive/revive-groups-survivors](http://cjiwr.com/revive/revive-groups-survivors)  
 24/7 helpline 1-866-877-0015

Victim Services | [vswr.ca](http://vswr.ca) | 519-585-2363

Ontario Women's Justice Network | [owjn.org/getting-support](http://owjn.org/getting-support)

## MENNONITE CHURCH RESOURCES

Reporting Sexual Misconduct by Leaders  
[mcec.ca/resources/sexual-misconduct](http://mcec.ca/resources/sexual-misconduct)

MCC Abuse Response & Prevention  
[abuseresponseandprevention.ca](http://abuseresponseandprevention.ca)

Into Account  
[intoaccount.org](http://intoaccount.org)

Mennonite Abuse Prevention List  
[themaplist.org/the-map-list](http://themaplist.org/the-map-list)

# Statement Concerning Incidents of Historical Sexual Misconduct

BY MARCUS SHANTZ, PRESIDENT

On October 20, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC) announced findings of “ministerial sexual misconduct” and “ministerial misconduct” against John D. Rempel, following an investigation by MCEC. Rempel is a former employee of the College who served as Chaplain, residence director, and Adjunct Professor at Grebel from 1973 until 1989.



Mennonite Church Eastern Canada announced findings of ‘ministerial sexual misconduct’ and ‘ministerial misconduct’ against John D. Rempel, pictured left.

More recently, Rempel worked on a part-time basis from 2012-2015 as the Director of the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre (TMTTC), a program administered by the College at the Toronto School of Theology. Rempel also held the title of Senior Fellow at TMTTC, and I required him to withdraw from that role shortly after I became aware of this matter.

The MCEC investigation was initiated at my request. Earlier this year, I received disclosures from Grebel alumni of sexual misconduct by Rempel at the time they were undergraduate residence students at the College. With the consent and support of the alumni involved, I made a formal report to MCEC asking for an investigation. MCEC has jurisdiction over the conduct of its ministers, and I’m most grateful for their thorough work and diligence in addressing this situation.

I am deeply moved and thankful that these alumni came forward to share their stories with me and brought these painful truths to light.

Words are inadequate, but on behalf of the College, and our Board of Governors, I want to express our heartbreak, our sadness, and our great regret that they were harmed.

I have privately expressed this to each of these alumni, and I am now able to share openly that we are profoundly sorry for what they experienced. Carrying these wounds for decades has been an unfair burden for these alumni, and I hope that bringing this to light brings some healing for them and their families. These Grebel alumni deserve our ongoing concern, support, and prayers.

I expect that coming to terms with this news will be a long road for our community. I’d like to share some of the steps that Grebel and MCEC have already taken to ensure that these survivors are supported:

- We will support the survivors involved with counselling from a professional of their choosing, and whatever other assistance they require
- Rempel no longer holds any affiliation with Grebel
- Rempel is restricted from the Grebel campus and from Grebel events.

I would also like to express our collective resolve that Grebel will learn from this experience. Grebel has policies, practices, and training programs that promote accountability, transparency, safety, and respect for healthy boundaries when working with students. Although I’m confident in these systems, we will take this

opportunity to review them, have difficult conversations, look for gaps, and make improvements.

It is crucial as we move forward that anyone who wishes to disclose sexual misconduct can do so in a safe way. Carizon Counselling Services has been appointed as a third-party counselling service to receive confidential disclosures from College alumni and former employees related to historical incidents of sexual misconduct and sexual violence at Grebel. Counsellors Theresa Karn or Robert Wilson can be contacted by calling Carizon at 519-743-6333 ext. 1 or emailing [intaketeam@carizon.ca](mailto:intaketeam@carizon.ca) and referencing the “MCEC Sponsored Program.”

Current faculty, staff, and students who wish to disclose sexual misconduct may contact the University of Waterloo’s Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office at 519-888-4567 ext. 40025.

It is hard to come to terms with the fact a person who is a friend, colleague, and trusted pastor has committed sexual misconduct. I understand how painful this news will be for the family and friends of Rempel. My hope is that they will support him in the difficult process of accepting responsibility for his actions and the harm they caused.

I know that the coming days and weeks will be very difficult for everyone involved. We welcome and need your concern, support, and prayers.

Sincerely,  
Marcus Shantz  
President, Conrad Grebel University College

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

# Truth Comes First

BY MARCUS SHANTZ, PRESIDENT

Years ago, the Mennonite Church announced that a man I knew had committed sexual misconduct. This man was a family friend. Growing up, he was a frequent guest in our home. I liked him. He was a kindly, avuncular figure from my childhood. He was also an influential figure in the church, and had served in various church-related organizations.

The findings against him were hard for me to believe. I regret to admit how I first responded to the news. I called up those who had made the findings and asked them pointed questions, casting doubt on their investigation and their process. I spoke to other friends, and we mutually reinforced our belief that it couldn't be true—or at least, that it could not have been “that bad.” I privately wondered about the victims' motives, and whether they were credible.

My response was wrong—awfully wrong. It took me too long to accept the unbelievable truth: that this well-loved family friend had inflicted great harm on people in our community.

The truth about sexual misconduct always hurts. The deepest hurt is borne by the survivors, who can spend decades working to heal. Family and friends bear it together with them.

Then there is the person who caused the harm. More often than not, the offender is all too human—a person who has done good things in life, and who struggles to account for the terrible wrongs they did. When the truth of the misconduct is publicly revealed, the offender's friends and family either feel betrayed, or that the process was unfair. Or they may entirely refuse to believe it. More hurt flows as we take sides and positions, and say and write things that are hard to take back.

There is plenty of pain to go around when the truth comes out.

Right now, the Grebel community, along with the wider Mennonite church, is still reeling from the news that John D. Rempel was found to have committed sexual misconduct. For many readers, this is incredibly hard to accept. John is well-known and well-loved among many Grebel alumni from his service at Grebel in the 1970s and '80s. He's also had significant influence as a scholar and minister in the wider Mennonite church.

Since this news broke, I've received well over 100 email messages from our community. Among these notes have been some recurring questions: “What about forgiveness? Doesn't the Mennonite church stand for reconciliation? Doesn't Grebel teach restorative justice?”

My answer is that by starting to face the truth, we have already taken a first step on a restorative path. As I understand it, restorative justice is primarily concerned with healing and wholeness for everyone. (It is not primarily concerned with returning an offender to former positions of status or privilege—that's not what “restorative” means here.) A restorative approach does not prescribe specific outcomes, but guides us to think about who has been hurt, what they need to heal, and who is responsible to address those needs.

In order to offer healing, we need to understand the harm. To understand the harm, we need to face the truth of what happened. Truth comes first.

For the offender, facing the truth means taking steps to fully grasp the harm they caused. Experts tell me that in cases of sexual misconduct, these steps are often extremely difficult for an offender to take. But they are not impossible. In this case, MCEC has given John specific advice on how he can start down the path towards healing for himself and those harmed by his actions, including recommendations for counselling and other support. It's my sincere hope that he takes these steps, and that he receives support and affirmation from his friends, the church, and the wider community in doing so.

At Grebel, our first steps have been to listen carefully to survivors. We have asked John Rempel to refrain from coming to the College so that survivors can at last feel comfortable visiting our campus. We are also looking with fresh eyes at our policies, practices, and culture to ensure that Grebel is a safe place for everyone.

Some have urged me to map out a specific plan for reconciliation, with timelines and milestones. I won't do that, because that's not how healing from trauma works. We will not push anyone into a process, especially not a process with a predetermined conclusion.

What we can do is take careful steps—one at a time. Every step Grebel takes will be towards the goal of healing and wholeness for all those involved. On behalf of everyone at Grebel, I invite your prayers and support as we begin this long journey.

# Heartbreak, Sadness, and Regret

BY LARRY CORNIES

As an alumnus of Conrad Grebel University College and a resident of Grebel during several of the years during which John D. Rempel served as chaplain and residence director, I am deeply saddened by the disclosures of misconduct that have come to light.

I honour the difficult decision of Rempel's victims to come forward, and I acknowledge the courage and fortitude required to do so, even so many years later. In addition to the formal expressions of heartbreak, sadness, and regret, the Grebel alumni directly impacted by Rempel's conduct should know they have the prayers and support of their alumni association as they seek some form of release from incidents that have, by now, become a lifelong, life-altering burden.

For many who know John Rempel personally, the news of his misconduct comes as a sharp blow to both mind and spirit. I remember John Rempel for his love of God, his commitment to the church, his faith in its institutions and ordinances, and for the energy he brought to interpreting the gospel for the modern era. I deeply regret that the misconduct now revealed will eclipse the contributions he made—through worship, teaching and writing—to the Christian formation of so many.

Our Christian duty—and the way of peace—is to care for both those who experienced Rempel's misconduct and the man who committed such grievous offences. For our fellow alumni, we pray for closure, comfort, and healing. For the offender, we hope for contrition, repentance, and restoration.

Larry Cornies (1975)  
Grebel Alumni  
Association



## #MennonitesToo

The following is a brief excerpt from the 2020 Benjamin Eby Lecture “#MennonitesToo: Sexual Violence and Mennonite Peace Theology,” presented virtually by Carol Penner, Assistant Professor of Theological Studies, on November 12, 2020. This lecture was also the C. Henry Smith Lecture and was delivered virtually at Bluffton University and Goshen College. The Lectureship financially supports research into peace traditions, and is awarded each year to a faculty member from a Mennonite College.

The #MeToo movement has turned a spotlight on sexual violence, and many people are asking, how do we address this reality in our communities? What can we do to stop the violence?

In this lecture I focus on this question in the context of the Mennonite community in Canada and the United States. Mennonites have had 500 years to develop (and sometimes reject) theologies about military violence. Mennonite discussions about sexual violence have happened over a much shorter time frame, even though this violence has always existed.

Mennonites have been publicly discussing sexual violence for around 50 years. My source materials for this research are Mennonite periodicals, such as the *Gospel Herald*, *The Mennonite*, *The Mennonite Reporter*, and *Canadian Mennonite*. These periodicals are all digitized, and I did word searches on the terms “rape” and “abuse.” I basically looked at every article from 1970 to 2019 that contained those words.

I also searched for the term “war,” to see how often we talked about sexual violence compared to war (spoiler alert: not as much!). World Health Organization statistics say that 1 in 3 women experience sexual violence in their lifetime and some groups of people experience higher rates of sexual violence than that (Indigenous women and people with disabilities, for example). The readers of these periodicals were directly experiencing sexual violence, but the periodicals are more interested in wars far away than in violence close to home.

In my lecture, I make some observations about the content of the reporting. Three things I noticed were the importance of storytelling, using feminist social analysis to look at power differentials, and theological and biblical reflection that spanned a variety of topics.

I also comment on what I did not see in the periodicals, but was hoping to find. I end my lecture by talking about hope. Why am I hopeful that social change will continue and that the church will continue to address sexual violence?

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



# Part of the Cosmic Story

**MEGAN KISH, PACS COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT**

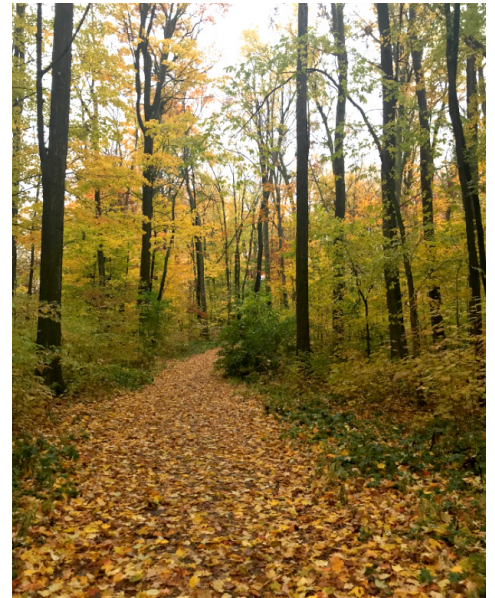
2020 has been a year of change, unexpected events, and staying inside. For many people, the world has become an online jungle with little access to the outdoors. It seems like a bit of an impossible goal for a class about peace and the environment to have students connect with nature while online, but all has not been lost for PACS 310: Peace and the Environment, taught by Professor Jennifer Ball.

Despite the geographical separation between students, Jennifer requested that each student find their own “sit spot” to connect with nature and reflect on their experiences. While immersed in the outdoors, students welcome the break from screens, unavoidable as a student studying online.

“Today I felt gratitude and I am grateful for my sit spot. Being able to feel connected to others, just by sitting in one spot and taking in my surroundings, is an amazing feeling,” reflected PACS student Sean Crecs. “Quarantine is getting harder to deal with every day and being reminded of happy times gives me a little extra push to try and use my time to be productive, respectful, and loving. Not only to others but also to myself.”

Another student, Stephanie Fink, wrote, “I had the sense of being part of the cosmic story as I sat beneath that tree. I felt great waves of gratitude for the place as it is now, and for how I get to be a part of it.”

In 2020 fashion, PACS 310 isn’t what the class would normally be, but instead, it’s a refuge for students amid the chaos.



# The Centre for Peace Advancement Shapes Peace Together

The theme of the 2020 United Nations International Day of Peace, “Shaping Peace Together,” resonated with the mission of the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement. Essential to the spirit of the Centre is a shared understanding of collaborative peacebuilding, which has laid the groundwork for our community’s resiliency throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through September and October, the Centre gathered more than 15 participants, research fellows, staff members, and community partners in physically-distant Circle conversations where they spoke authentically about their journeys in peace and justice work. To share this story with a broader audience, small pieces of these conversations were captured in a three-part video series.



In response to the Centre’s desire to increase opportunities for connection among its participants in this time of physical isolation, Michelle Jackett, Centre for Peace Advancement Coordinator, drew from her restorative justice background to develop this Circle series.

“Circle is a space that I have come to love because I am invited to be all of who I am,” said Jackett. “I wanted to open a space like this up for my colleagues in the Centre for Peace Advancement and invite meaningful connection in the midst of these isolating times.”

The Centre community is a diverse group of Waterloo Region changemakers—from entrepreneurs to policy researchers to peace practitioners—who are unified by their commitment to collaborative

peacebuilding. This series displays the heartbeat of the Centre, and was made possible by the support of Kindred Credit Union.

WATCH ONLINE AT: [youtu.be/-KSQHpEgwx](https://youtu.be/-KSQHpEgwx)





# Keeping Community at the Centre

BY ABBY RUDY-FROESE, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP STUDENT

The 2020 school year has sparked necessary academic innovation and imaginative problem-solving. With the new challenges posed by COVID-19, students, professors, and staff at Grebel have found new ways to learn, connect, and grow. Faculty and staff spent spring term ensuring the safety of students and staff in the building, planning the best virtual courses possible, and equipping everyone with resources for a successful term.

Course enrollment increased from last year. Graduate course enrollment is up 25% and undergraduate courses also have very strong enrollment. The Master of Theological Studies program welcomed 16 new students. Emmanuel Israel, in his last year of his MTS degree, mentioned that his professors adjusted classes by shortening lectures and focusing class time on discussions, a core element in the program, to “help avoid Zoom and screen burn-out.”

The Music Department in particular is pushing traditional boundaries, as they offer seven online ensembles, emphasizing collaboration, team-work, and instrumental and vocal technique. Fourth-year music student Sarah Lauren Brown is taking this need for connection even further. With the help of two friends, she created an online server for the Music Society so “we still have the same sort of access to peers as we typically would at Grebel.”

Although smaller because of the pandemic, community remains a large part of the Grebel experience. With only single rooms available this fall, there is a combined total of 102 students in the residence and apartments, and a similar number is expected in the winter term. “From making tables with dividers so we can eat together, to making unused classrooms into games rooms, study rooms, and a place to watch movies all at a physical distance,” explained second-year student Nathan Toews, “Grebel has done a fantastic job keeping community at the centre.”

Many non-residents are connecting with Grebelites for online games, virtual talent shows, and more. First-year virtual resident Selah Woelk said, “I have really enjoyed making online connections in the past couple of months. Sometimes it can feel like

I am missing out, but people are coming up with inventive ways to keep us all connected.” Throughout the term, Grebel is hosting a multitude of virtual and in-person events like door decorating, virtual chapel, volleyball, and the Friday Wave, a temporary Community Supper

replacement. There are 112 non-residents who can come to campus to join the socially distanced fun outside or log on virtually.

“Students have been very responsive to the health and safety protocols,” added Mary Brubaker-Zehr, Director of Student Services. “We want students to continue to build relationships and to be accountable to one another. These responsible actions, along with the COVID-19 screening pilot project we were involved in, have allowed us to continue to co-create community—COVID style.”

Life at Grebel and the University of Waterloo looks a little different than in previous years, but with some of the creativity and innovation UWaterloo is known for, students and professors are finding ways to stay healthy, stay connected, and have a fun-filled term.





# Some Things Never Change

After a summer without students in the residence and only a partly filled apartment building, the joy of welcoming students back to live at Grebel brought its usual energy. The halls are once again full of life and laughter, although slightly muffled by masks. The investment of time and energy put into re-imagining community life, COVID-style, was well worth it. We asked some students, both on-campus and off-campus, to share what it is like living at or connecting with Grebel this term.



## **SERINA YKEMA-KING, 2ND YEAR, CIVIL ENGINEERING**

As an off-campus associate this fall, I've had the opportunity to experience Grebel in a unique way. Coming into this term, I was somewhat apprehensive about how Grebel would change under COVID-19 safety measures. However, I've discovered that some things never change. The hype of O-Week, excitement of Student Council events, Tuesday Night Worship, and spontaneous adventures, are pretty much the same. I'm very grateful for the dedicated and resilient students and staff in the Grebel community who helped to keep the feeling of friendship and togetherness. I can't wait for more fun in the coming months!



## **MEGAN HUDSON, 1ST YEAR, PSYCHOLOGY**

As a virtual resident at Grebel, I have been given many wonderful opportunities to connect with both students and staff. From game nights on Zoom, to online Kahoot competitions, to the Friday Waves, I have begun to get to know the Grebel community and all it has to offer. This semester, I'm taking the Grebel course Life Stories. Because this class is smaller, I have enjoyed getting to know my peers more personally as well as being able to connect with my professor through weekly Zoom sessions. I am excited to get to know my fellow Grebelites better when I move onto campus next term!



## **CURTIS STRUYK, 1ST YEAR, GEOMATICS**

I'm a first-year staying in residence at Grebel. The decision on whether to go to Grebel or stay home wasn't easy, but I don't regret my decision. Despite the COVID-19 guidelines restricting many routine activities, there is still plenty to get involved in and many people to hang out with. I've done a lot of playing foosball, watching movies, playing distanced sports, and just simply hanging out with some of the friends I've made here. The food is outstanding, and socializing at meals, while sometimes difficult with the plastic dividers, is always an enjoyable time where you can talk to people you wouldn't normally talk to. The single-person rooms also allow for great studying and voice/video calls.



## **SIMON FRIESEN, 2ND YEAR, KINESIOLOGY**

As a second-year student who has experienced Grebel both pre- and post-COVID-19 measures, the differences in residence are certainly noticeable. From a glance you'd think Grebel has lost its community charm with masks, clear plastic barriers hanging over lunch tables, and social distancing. This couldn't be further from the truth. This year I've connected with first-year students, had great conversations over our fantastic food, and been a part of creative events incorporating life at a distance, whether that distance be the six feet between residents or the kilometres between virtual associates and Grebel itself. Due to friends both new and old, communal living in residence is as rewarding an experience as ever.



## **ANDRE WIEDERKEHR, 3RD YEAR, SCIENCE**

Given the broader situation, Grebel is the best place from which to study that I can imagine. So much work has been done behind the scenes to help this large a group of people spend time together in relative safety. It is wonderful to see the creativity people are using to make this term worthwhile and fun in spite of all the precautions we need to take—online talent shows, outdoor games, and plastic dividers that let us still eat face-to-face in the cafeteria. Being away from home and my family, I've also appreciated the "bubble" I have in my apartment.

# Virtual Learning Offers New Opportunities for Graduate Students

BY ABBY RUDY-FROESE, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP STUDENT

Graduate students in the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) program at Grebel usually learn together in small classes. The pandemic this year has turned the program's teaching model on its head, as professors have adapted and even reconstructed their courses for the ease of learning and connecting virtually. Because of the online platform, the courses are reaching more students who are excited to learn.

"I think the pandemic had an effect on some people's decisions to explore our program, resulting in a record high enrolment," explained Director of Theological Studies, Jeremy Bergen. "It may have been something they were thinking about for a while, changes in employment, or the possibility of studying online that made our program seem like a viable option."

One student who enrolled due to the pandemic is Andrew Brown, a visiting student from the Master of Arts in Theological Studies program at Canadian Mennonite University. Over the summer of 2020, Andrew started looking at other universities since most of them had moved their courses online. Andrew "saw this as an opportunity to study anywhere as a visiting student."

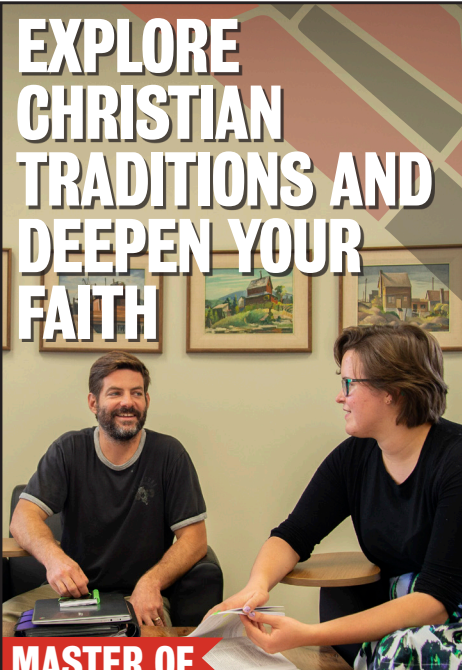
The flexibility of online courses also enabled Chris Hutton, the youth and young adult pastor at Niagara United Mennonite Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake, to take a Grebel course this term. "Knowing that I wouldn't have to drive as much to access the course materials and content opened an even greater opportunity to continue my education and professionalization."

Carol Penner, Assistant Professor of Theological Studies, added, "we are having really good class discussions and the students are engaging with each other in this new format."

Rebecca Booker was surprised "by the depth of my engagement in the course material. I think we're reading more thoroughly, and putting far more thought into our comments and responses. In many ways, this format has increased my ability to focus on the material."

Though the overall experience has been positive, meeting online has been a challenge for both students and professors. With technical difficulties, the lack of informal conversation during lunch or break to get to know peers, and the feeling of separation, the online format is not the perfect replacement for such a heavily interactive and discussion-based program.

Online classes have changed the way the Theological Studies program operates. With the rise in enrollment and interest in the program, there may be lasting online opportunities. Jeremy added, "we will explore how online offerings might be integrated into the mix in the future. But whatever form our classes take, learning together with a relatively small cohort of students, in which community is fostered, will be central to what we do."



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MPACS students, faculty, and staff gathered at the beginning of term to meet each other and participate in a Land Acknowledgment ceremony. 6

## Readings, Fire Pits, and Online Chats are Building Community

BY ABBY RUDY-FROESE, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP STUDENT

Grebel's graduate programs are full of discussions and interaction in class and beyond. Traditionally, students engage with one another in the classroom, during breaks, lunch, and after class. With classes online this term and everyone so spread out, it's more difficult to connect with one another, but professors and students are building a community, just like in any other term.

Reina Neufeldt, Associate Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies, is using a platform called Perusall to build community through course readings and videos. Students can highlight text in the readings, ask and answers questions, and engage in discussion.

Jesse Matas, a first year Master of Peace and Conflict Studies (MPACS) student, said, "WhatsApp has been a good resource to communicate to other students for organizing fire-pit get-togethers and communication if someone can't get into Zoom." He continued, "In 2020, chats and social media have a distinct place in our society, but they can't replace many of the traditional ways we used to interact."

The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) programs took advantage of time during the summer for community building with engaging online discussion sessions for returning students and incoming students.

Over the course of the term, students have also taken initiative in community building and have added birthdays to the weekly newsletter, organized an informal preaching workshop, and met virtually for lunch before class.

"We aren't able to be friends in the same way as other years, but we are trying to find alternatives," added MTS student Janelle Arnold. "Those private chats in Zoom calls feel like passing notes in class. It still feels like being part of a community, just in a different configuration."

## Meeting Pandemic Challenges in Eldercare

BY JANE KUEPFER, SCHLEGEL SPECIALIST IN SPIRITUALITY AND AGING

There has been a lot of concern about long-term care and retirement homes in 2020. Sadly, the experience in some homes has kept the public from noticing the hard work, innovations, and heart that have made others a good place to be as we ride out this pandemic.

In long-term care and retirement we are embracing technology in new ways. In Schlegel Villages, where I am most familiar, chaplains and others are using tablets to connect residents to family, wherever they live. Chaplains are creating pre-recorded or Zoom worship experiences that can reach into every neighbourhood through Smart TVs and laptops. Others report that hallway hymn sings and printed reflections are received with more eagerness, and the common vulnerability felt by all has led to more open conversation about meaning, peace, and hope.

In retirement, many older adults are appreciating online worship where they can adjust their own volume, pause the sermon and take notes, and not have to worry about the weather, or how to get to

church. Neighbours become more important and friendships grow as access to the outside world is limited. Though boredom can arise, generally the slower pace of life is appreciated. Less commotion and more consistent, designated care is proving beneficial, especially for those living with dementia. Of course, we will celebrate when physical closeness is safe again, but in the meantime, there is much gratitude for the wonders of technology, and the caring efforts of team members and neighbours.

Online, our annual spirituality and aging seminar has so far reached 320 viewers who are seeking the thoughts of Janet Ramsey on "Spiritual resiliency for caregivers and persons with dementia." Ironically, this June's international conference, with the theme "Vital Connections" will also be moving online, but we expect that will mean participation from more people who are unable to travel. What is experienced as inconvenience by some of us is drawing the circle wider for others.

WATCH ONLINE AT: [www.grebel.ca/sa](http://www.grebel.ca/sa)

# Alumni Respond to the Pandemic

BY ABBY RUDY-FROESE, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP STUDENT

## STEPHANIE DEWITTE-ORR, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, WLU

Stephanie DeWitte-Orr received an Honours Bachelor of Science in 2001 and attained a PhD in cell biology in 2006. She is now Associate Professor of Health Sciences and Biology at Wilfrid Laurier University and an undergrad advisor for Health Sciences there. As an expert virologist and innate immunologist, Stephanie has co-authored numerous articles on her research with viruses and how they interact with a cell's innate immune system, the defense mechanisms in cells to fight off viruses.

Stephanie has always found viruses fascinating. "They are almost perfectly engineered biological entities that can topple civilizations. That intrigued me." She explained that virology is fairly new. "We didn't even see viruses until the 1930s. We don't know a lot about them."

When the research labs at Laurier had to shut down due to the pandemic, Stephanie was able to re-open her lab to research the virus. Stephanie is developing a biological mask, which she describes as "an inhaler that stimulates your innate immune response in your airways to protect you from virus infection. We can get protection from the coronavirus for 14 days in human lung cells," she explained. "We've been working on this technique for years with other viruses. We worked on it as an oral drug for fish and it works great." She added, "it was just a matter of trying it with coronavirus."

The research is still in the early stages and Stephanie cautions that it could fail at any stage in the process. "But the nice thing about this technology is that it induces an innate immune response. Innate immunity is broad spectrum, so it's not specific to this strain of this virus. So you could use it against other respiratory viruses like influenza." Stephanie said if everything works out, "we'll have a way of protecting our airways from viruses, which would have a profound impact on human health."

## ROB GASCHO, PRESIDENT, ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' FEDERATION, WATERLOO

Rob Gascho graduated from the University of Waterloo with an Honours BA in History in 1987. After graduating, he pursued a career in teaching. "I always saw teachers as positive role models," said Rob, "and that made me respect the profession."

Rob expressed an early interest in leadership positions and has always been an "organization man" which eventually led to his current role as the President of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation in Waterloo Region. He represents about 1600 contract and occasional teachers in Waterloo Region's public secondary schools. This includes being a spokesperson, handling conflicts, representing members in performance appraisals, and so much more.

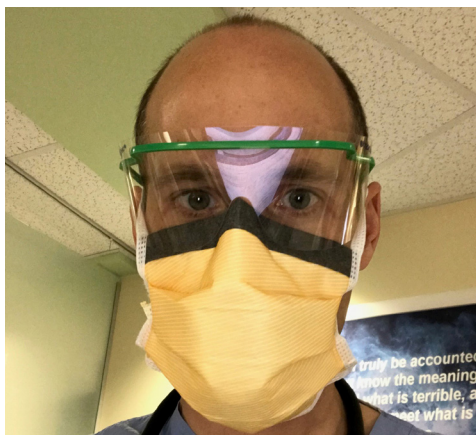
The most inspiring part of his job is "helping our members work toward the common goal of providing the best learning environment for students and the best working environment for teachers." However, since the beginning of the pandemic, Rob said, "COVID has made everything more difficult, if not impossible, as we are trying to make a system designed for round pegs fit into square holes. The burnout and frustration teachers are experiencing right now is beyond concerning."

"In-person classes are, in my opinion, far more valuable than the online environment we have been forced into." Rob explained, "Establishing positive relationships and a 'community of learning' is extremely difficult and artificial online. The immediacy and ability to read a situation and respond appropriately is a hundred times better in person than over a computer screen. We are using online platforms right now because we have to, not because they are better. Students are far less connected or engaged, teachers are burning out struggling to make the technology even work, and parents may or may not be able to provide a functioning online environment for their children."

"My own high school experience was very positive," Rob added, "and I wanted to see that upcoming generations could also have those same positive experiences."







## JAY GREEN, CHIEF OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE, KITCHENER

In 2002, Jay Green graduated from UWaterloo with a Bachelor of Science degree. Jay is now the Chief of Emergency Medicine at Grand River Hospital and St. Mary's General Hospital, as well as the Emergency Department Medical Director at Grand River Hospital. He oversees 50 emergency physicians and the care they provide in the emergency departments.

Jay said he was drawn to emergency medicine because of the hunt. "I enjoy the work of a diagnostician. It's a bit like trying to solve a mystery with each patient you see." He continued, "I enjoy how each day begins with a clean slate. I'd be lying if I didn't say that the lifestyle drew me to emergency medicine. We work extremely hard and have a very stressful and unpredictable job with odd hours. But in order to cope with those demands and survive a full career in emergency medicine, we don't work as many hours as many other physicians."

"I find it fulfilling to walk with a patient through what is often one of the most stressful and frightening days of their lives," Jay commented, "especially when there is good news when we've figured out what is going on. Communication is key to that part of my job. Interestingly, COVID-19 has generally resulted in fewer patients in our EDs, giving me a bit more time to dedicate to communicating with each patient."

According to Jay, COVID-19 has also posed challenges in the emergency departments, as "the constant barriers of masks/gowns/space interfere with communication in some ways." He added, "We are much more deliberate about how and where we perform certain critical care procedures like CPR. We always want to serve our patients first, especially the most critically ill ones, but COVID-19 places our staff at greater risk than usual, so we must first ensure our staff are protected properly, in order to serve our patients."

Outside of the emergency room, Jay spends time with his family to "get my mind off a tough day at work and de-stress. I am married to a former Grebelite, Sharon (McCullough) Green, who is an occasional teacher and currently has her hands full managing our busy family and dealing with my rather unpredictable schedule."



### RYLAN PETRYSHUK (BSC 2011)

I work as a Pharmacist at a couple of Remedy's Rx Pharmacies in Kitchener. Every day has been interesting as we manage our drug supply, figure out which services are essential, and make sure that people who are quarantined have everything they need. It has been nice to see most people have been understanding of the changes that have been required in our day-to-day operations, including reduced quantities of medication. I hope everyone continues to work together as we continue through this challenging time.



### HANNAH SNIDER (WLU 2003)

I am a family physician focusing on mental health and functional medicine. In this crisis, my role is to support mental health implications. I see patients for individual virtual appointments and run two forms of group psychotherapy - Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT) and Whole Health for Mental Health, a program I created to address mental health from a whole person (body and mind) perspective. I have also started a weekly support group for patients who are looking for additional support during this challenging time.



### ART WINTER (BSC 2005)

I continue to work as a community family physician in Kitchener, though my routines have changed dramatically. I primarily do visits by phone, with a small number of in-office visits every week. When I am there, we are taking every precaution possible and I end up looking like this! Local volunteers have contributed caps and gowns for us to use in the office, which has been greatly appreciated.



### BRENDA PRINS (BCS 2002)

I am working as a Nurse Practitioner at St. Mary's Hospital in Kitchener on the inpatient cardiology unit. It has been challenging as we make adjustments to ensure the safety of our patients and ourselves, but it has been a privilege to receive notes and thoughts of gratitude from friends, family, and my community and beyond.

We are so proud of the compassion, skills, and dedication of our alumni. Front-line workers in healthcare have been working ceaselessly during the pandemic. Thank you to all who are keeping our communities safe! These are just a few updates from Grebelites—you can find more on our Facebook page.



## TEACHING THROUGH A SCREEN

BY ABBY RUDY-FROESE

From lectures to work schedules, teaching has changed a lot due to the pandemic.

“The biggest change,” said Karen Sunabacka, an Associate Professor of Music at Grebel, “is trying to teach the materials in a series of videos. I have to be precise and short!”

Each week, Karen makes five to ten videos for each of her classes to be released at 12am on Mondays. She commented, “My own weekly schedule is so different. The weekends are long and busy while I try to get all the videos created and uploaded before Sunday evening. What would take me almost no prep now takes me hours of prepping, creating, and producing!”

To help her students get into a routine, Karen created a weekly schedule for class assignments. “Some students are really thriving with the weekly schedule and I am impressed with their ability to learn outside of the classroom!”

Getting to know her students has been more difficult. Karen explained, “I generally know all the students’ names by midterm. This has not been possible online, but I have thoroughly enjoyed the video assignments! Seeing students perform in their videos is one small way that I am able to get to know them at least a little.”

Teaching in a pandemic has been a learning curve for all of our professors as they work around recording and uploading video lectures, getting to know students, and creating fun and informational courses.

# Musical Community isn’t Skipping a Beat

BY ABBY RUDY-FROESE, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP STUDENT

The University of Waterloo offers a variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles through Grebel’s Music Department. Typically, these ensembles practice together in person, but with the COVID-19 pandemic, music directors have been driven to change from a traditional in-person format to a far more challenging online experience. However, technology has allowed the music ensembles to practice and learn together, record individual students, and compile those tracks to create beautiful music.

In Jazz Ensemble, students are diving deeply into the three pieces the ensemble is learning this term. They study the harmonic structure, melodic analysis, and the composer. Michael Wood, the ensemble director, explained that “this allows new students and previous band members to achieve progress at their present playing ability.” He added that during their online classes, “the chat tab lets students connect with one another or myself during the session. Students also follow up after our class. It is gratifying to see students stay around for 20 minutes after class.”

The Balinese Chamber Gamelan is also focusing on theory and culture of the music but taking a different approach. “Instead of learning and performing one part of each piece,” stated student Chen Chai (pictured right), “we individually learn all the parts and put them together into a music video.” Chen explained that participating in this group was a unique and creative experience as “most of the students don’t have actual Balinese Gamelan instruments at home, so when playing the parts, there’s a lot of creative freedom and innovation in choosing how to reproduce the sounds.”

Choirs@UWaterloo is a new combination of Chamber Choir and University Choir. Choirs@UWaterloo and Chapel Choir are both using Soundtrap, an online platform for music that allows multiple people to collaborate on pieces and compile individual tracks. The choirs have online rehearsals with everyone muted to minimize sound and connection inconsistencies. Niki Wibisono, a student in Choirs@UWaterloo, said that not hearing others during practice “gives me a chance to develop my skills as I only have myself to rely on.” She added, “the most fun part is when we record ourselves and we hear the end result where I can feel the connection between all members of the choir.”

The Chapel Choir practices online together to work on technique and posture. Then they break into smaller groups to check in about the music, music projects, and life. Assistant Music Professor Kate Steiner, Chapel Choir director, said, “the biggest moment of innovation so far is putting together ‘Let all the earth’ by Roger Holland, which featured several soloists. Students even added instrumental parts.”

Though these online ensembles may not be the perfect replacement for in-person ensembles, leaders and students have risen to the challenge posed by COVID-19 and continue to make music together with technology and creativity.







## WE SERVE IN HOPE

One of the lessons of the past year is that—despite all of our plans and strategies—the world does not always unfold as we expect. At Grebel, the 2019-20 fiscal year began with an upbeat groundbreaking for Grebel’s new kitchen, and ended with the evacuation of our campus in the face of the global coronavirus pandemic. Now nearing completion, our expanded kitchen and dining facilities were intended to welcome a growing community, but will serve only a limited number of students until public health requirements ease and the College can safely return to full operations.

Since March, the whole world has grappled with an uncertain new reality that no one had adequately prepared for. At Grebel, the pandemic has meant profound changes to our operations that run against our normal instincts, forcing us to choose social distance over togetherness. We have had to limit access to our campus, instead of offering open doors and hospitality around full tables.

There is no question that the pandemic has rattled our college community. But it has also revealed our resilience and commitment. Grebel faculty rose to the challenge of connecting digitally with students. Our donors stood by us. And our students resolved to carry on with their studies, learn from the crisis, and imagine a better world.

For all of us who serve at Grebel, our students have been a source of hope in the face of these uncertain times. They have consistently pointed towards our values—urging us to continue building generous community, pursuing peace and justice, nurturing faith, and extending broad hospitality. Thanks to our students, we’re inspired to carry on and serve church and society in hope and with purpose.

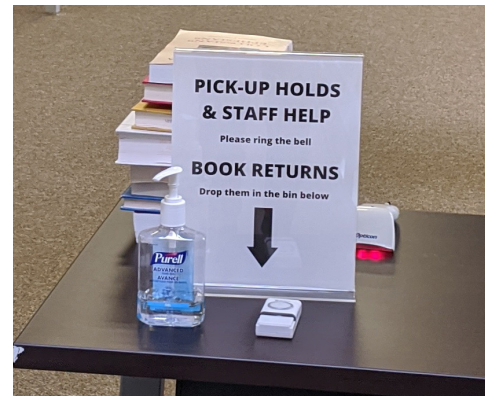
Sincerely,

Marcus Shantz  
President

Paul Fieguth  
Chair, Board of Governors



On behalf of the student body, Student Council President Mykayla Turner presented President Marcus Shantz with a cheque for the Emergency Bursary Fund, created to support students affected by COVID-19.



As Grebel moved to offer its services remotely, the Milton Good Library made careful changes to safely provide materials for faculty and students heading home due to the pandemic.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Considerable effort in 2019-20 focused on reviewing the strategy, structure, quality, goals, and strengths of Grebel's academic programs. The Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) seven-year review was submitted and assessed by external reviewers, Theological Studies responded to recommendations of their external review, Music worked to complete their self-study process, and Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre (TMTC) consulted with stakeholders. Grebel hired two two-year visiting assistant professors (in PACS and History) to increase teaching capacity, the College taught eight new courses, and faculty began conversations on integrating anti-racism and intercultural competence into the academic program. The Milton Good Library moved to a new system connecting Grebel's collection to universities across Ontario. Most notably, in response to the pandemic, dedicated faculty and staff rapidly carried out an extraordinary transition to deliver the entire academic program remotely—with flexibility, patience, and grace.

## UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

Undergraduate enrolment in Grebel courses rose more than 3 percent over the prior year, to 3890 individual course registrations, pulling students in from every faculty at the University of Waterloo. Grebel offers major, minor, and diploma programs in PACS and Music, and teaches undergraduate courses in Mennonite Studies, History, Religious Studies, and Sociology.

## GRADUATE STUDIES

Graduate student numbers remained high, with 84 students enrolled in two graduate programs—42 each in Master of Peace and Conflict Studies and Master of Theological Studies. In addition, about 12 doctoral and masters level students found connection at TMTC, a Grebel-operated centre at the Toronto School of Theology.

## SCHOLARSHIP, SERVICE, AND OUTREACH

With 34 articles, reviews, and books published in 2019-20, faculty continued to demonstrate their scholarly expertise. Faculty offered their expertise to both church and society, publishing 34 articles, reviews, and books, and presenting in 30 church-related events including musical performances, sermons, and adult education classes. Grebel offered many concerts, public lectures, art exhibits, seminars, and scholarly presentations for the broader community.

## CONFLICT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

This thriving continuing education program sponsored 31 workshops with 600 enrolments in 2019-20. COVID-19 prompted the program to venture into an online setting, revealing strong interest from participants across Canada and considerable potential for growth. Collaboration with Credence and Co. was instrumental in this transition.

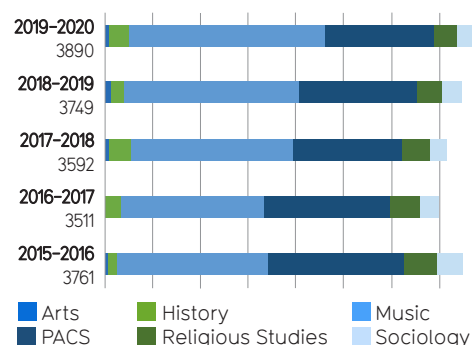
## ANABAPTIST LEARNING WORKSHOP (ALW)

ALW, in partnership with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, presented nine workshops to 142 participants, taking on topics like climate change and the theology and practice of baptism.

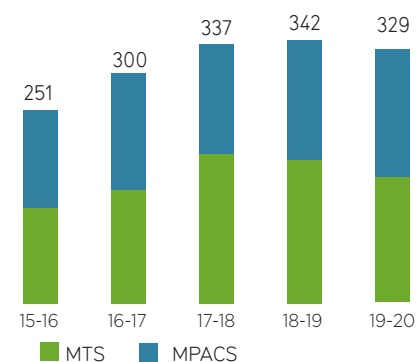
## KINDRED CREDIT UNION CENTRE FOR PEACE ADVANCEMENT (CPA)

Living into its goal to catalyze collaboration, in its fifth year of operation the CPA has seven co-located affiliate organizations; supported two new start-ups in the Epp Peace Incubator; welcomed 29 students in various learning and working capacities; connected with 70 peace practitioners, entrepreneurs, and researchers; engaged with almost 2000 community members; and leveraged \$121,600 in external funding. The CPA also named five new Research Fellows and supported Grebel students interested in social innovation and entrepreneurship.

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSE ENROLMENTS



## GRADUATE COURSE ENROLMENTS



The Worship Apprentice Program, led by Music Professor Kate Steiner, brings students together for prayer, discussion, music, and worship planning. This group develops and leads worship in two local churches per term.



The Grebel Gallery, located in the CPA, presented two exhibits, including *New Fraktur*, by artist and Grebel Alumna Meg Harder.



# RESIDENCE AND ASSOCIATE STUDENTS

For Student Services, the 2019-20 year was marked by intense change, incredible resilience, deepened relationships, and new possibilities.

With the dining room under construction, students ate in the bright atrium over the spring term. In the fall and winter, students embraced the half-finished industrial dining room aesthetic and moved back into the larger space, decorated with an ever-evolving landscape of student art. Associates livestreamed Community Supper so more students could participate in this high-demand weekly event.

Storytelling was a core aspect of faith development this year—in Chapel, book and Bible studies, and in conversations—with opportunities for sharing student, faculty, and staff experiences of spirituality, faith, and service. A meaningful multi-faith Chapel and Supper experience included sharing from five students of different faith backgrounds, mixed with music and stories from guest Dawud Wharnsby.

Striving to be more welcoming, a gender-neutral section of the residence was created, with a gender-neutral washroom. Student handbooks were updated with expanded language around inclusivity and Grebel's commitment to diversity. One of the most memorable guests of the year was spoken word artist and gay activist Heather Beamish, who spoke in Chapel, Community Supper, and at an after-dinner gathering with Grebel's Queer, Allied, and Questioning group.

For the first time in Grebel's history, the College needed to close the residence early, requesting that students return home if possible, to finish their studies remotely. The COVID-19 pandemic stretched imaginations as Student Services endeavoured to maintain a sense of community while remaining physically apart, and also to give students closure to the term and for graduates, their university career. While Grebel's Convocation service remains postponed, an online end-of-term

Chapel took place—complete with senior student reflections—followed by a “banquet” time of eating together on Zoom and an innovative talent show with puppet hosts and an epic solo/group dance routine.

The sudden shift to total online communication was a significant complication to Grebel's recruitment efforts, which have traditionally relied heavily on face-to-face conversations and in-person visits. A quick pivot to virtual open houses and online interviews resulted in enough applications for the year and offered new ideas for future interactions with prospective students.

Even though it was cut short this year, student life at Grebel is boundless and life-giving, with more than 75 official Student Council events, initiatives, meetings, and projects.



Students lived out their commitment to active citizenship on their service trip with Mennonite Disaster Service in Marianna, Florida.

## A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Grebel's community of 353 resident and associate students is diverse in many ways.

- Our students study in all six faculties of the University of Waterloo.
- 29 come from Canadian provinces outside Ontario.
- 13 are international students.
- Many religious perspectives are represented, including Muslim, Sikh, Jewish traditions, and multiple Christian groups.
- 115 of our students identify with churches affiliated with Mennonite World Conference.



Spearheaded by the Centre for Peace Advancement, the new PeaceTech Living-Learning Community explores the intersection of technology and peace in society.



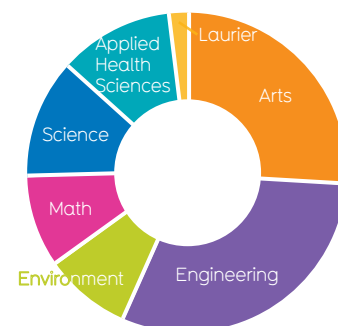
During UWaterloo's first Fall Reading Week, some students explored museums, non-profit initiatives, and other local initiatives.

## REGIONS

### LOCATIONS STUDENTS

British Columbia	6
Alberta	2
Saskatchewan	8
Manitoba	9
Ontario	311
Quebec	1
Prince Edward Island	2
Nova Scotia	1
USA	9
International	4

## AREAS OF STUDY



# FINANCE

Since Grebel’s fiscal year ends on April 30, pandemic-related impacts were minimal in 2019-20. The consolidated financial statements have a surplus of \$176,296. The operating fund ended the year in surplus, which was transferred to reserves.

Endowments support a range of College programs, including scholarships and bursaries, the library and archives, and other academic programs. At year end, Grebel’s endowment portfolio was valued at \$8,200,000. The College received \$229,386 in new endowment donations during the year, up from \$126,000 in 2018-19.

The College awarded \$505,830 during the year in scholarships and bursaries for 220 students in the residence and academic programs.

The ongoing pandemic will result in sharply lower revenues from the residence, rental income, and other sources in the 2020-21 fiscal year. Grebel’s legacy of strong and careful financial management is a great asset in this time of crisis. The College currently has no external debt, and has built up various reserve funds over several years. Grebel is in a favourable position to mitigate the financial impact of the pandemic.



PACS Professor Nathan Funk with students

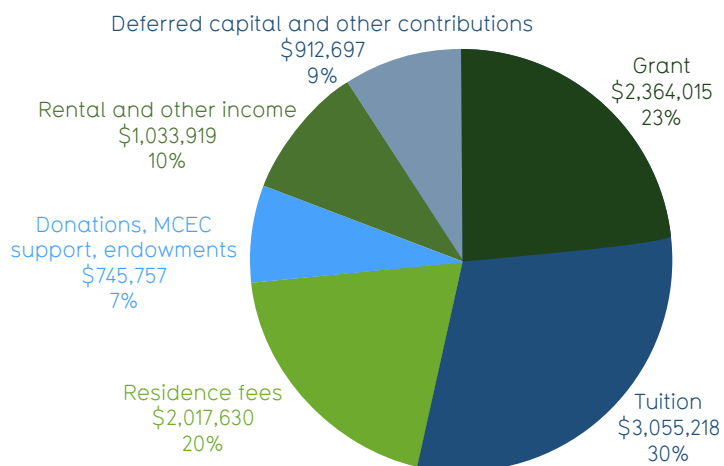


The scholarship and bursary support that students receive from donors is an important part of their success in the classroom.

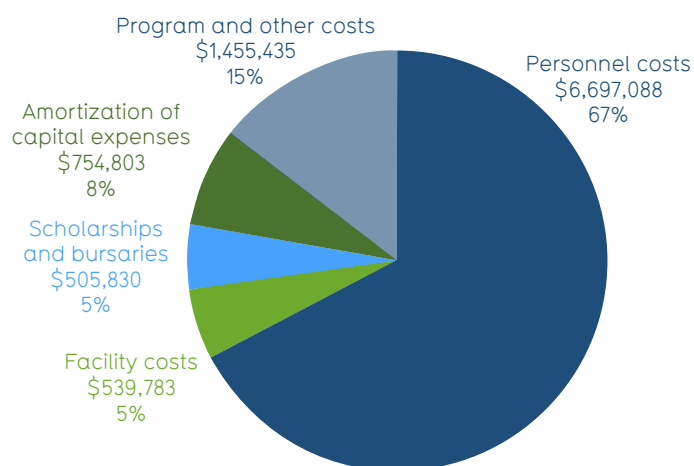


Archivist-Librarian Lauren Harder-Gissing regularly invites classes and interested visitors to examine materials from the Mennonite Archives of Ontario.

## 2019-20 TOTAL REVENUE



## 2019-20 TOTAL EXPENSES



For complete audited financial statements, visit [uwaterloo.ca/grebel/annual-report](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/annual-report)



# ADVANCEMENT

Thanks to an engaged donor base whose generous gifts provide the College's financial foundation, Grebel's fundraising activity surpassed \$2.6 million in 2019-20. Despite COVID-19 and the accompanying economic fall-out, the College was fortunate to receive 97 percent of the Grebel Fund goal of \$334,775. This fund supports programs in Theological Studies, Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre, the Mennonite Archives of Ontario, Chapel, scholarships, concerts, and leadership opportunities. Grebel received \$146,462 in operating support from MCEC, and a further \$67,852 for ALW.

Building upon Grebel's ongoing commitment to student support, three more awards were established, broadening access to education.

As Grebel's kitchen and dining room construction project became a reality this year, overall fundraising maintained its momentum and set several records, including the highest number of donors (1,070), new donors (244), alumni participation (8.8%), and current parent donors (56). By the end of the year, the Fill the Table campaign eclipsed \$4.2 million in donations and pledges. Thank you!

Grebel donors are part of our community and key partners in our mission. These relationships are strengthened by telling Grebel stories, maintaining relationships with alumni, encouraging continuing education, and sharing resources with the Mennonite Church.

The Fill the Table capital campaign has raised millions of dollars to build a new kitchen and enlarge the dining room. This growth is crucial to support the expanding student body and create space for all. Pictured right, Cheri Otterbein and Paul Penner have been instrumental in deciding details and moving the project toward completion.



## DONATIONS RECEIVED: \$2,603,652

Scholarships & Bursaries	\$100,869
Operating Restricted	\$576,521
Endowment—Scholarships	\$108,222
Endowment—Program	\$121,164
Capital Fund	\$20,760
Annual Grebel Fund	\$334,775
Fill the Table Campaign (Kitchen and Dining Room)	\$1,341,341

# THANK YOU TO GREBEL'S GENEROUS DONORS

1,070 DONORS SUPPORTED OUR STUDENTS AND MISSION THIS YEAR!

## GOVERNOR'S CIRCLE: ANNUAL GIFTS OF \$5,000+

- 9 Anonymous Donors
- Apple Inc. Matching Gift Program
- Phares Bauman
- Lester Bechtel
- Byron and Ann Weber Becker
- Dale and Cheryl Brubacher-Cressman
- Mary and Scott Brubaker-Zehr
- C L Martin & Co. Ltd.
- Calvin University
- Donny Cheung and Marika Pauls Laucht
- Abraham and Jennifer Drost

- Gloria and Duane Eby
- Vernon\* and Viola Erb
- David and Barbara Fransen
- Good Foundation Inc.
- Brenda Good Weber
- Morgan Grainger
- Mary Groh
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Reinhold Packull and Lisa Schlegel Packull  
MacGregor Paddock  
Isaac Painting  
Richard Parker  
Zachary Pasma  
Jim Penner  
Timothy Peters  
Charly Phillips  
Erica Pietroniro  
Matthew Pollex  
Jaden Postma  
Brendan Power  
Sneha Praveen  
Sophia Rahn  
Joshua Rampersad  
Keren Rashish  
Bronwyn Reed  
Rachel Reist  
Mel and Irene Rempel  
Gemma Ricker  
Matthias Ricker  
Ted and Kathryn Roberts  
Douglas and Dianne Roeder  
Victoria Roeder Martin  
Marion and Lloyd Roes  
Duncan Rolston  
Heather Ross  
Kaitlyn Roth  
Cedrik Roth  
Sidney Roth  
Lily Roth  
John and Catherine Rudy  
Abigail Rudy-Froese



In February, Grebel played host to the li'l Sisters of Hoboken for five shows of sing-song comedy and fundraising! *Nonsense: The Musical* was presented as a staff-initiated fundraising event for Fill the Table.

Matthew Ruegg  
Jeremy Rumph  
Anni Saunders\*  
Peter and Hilde Sawatzky  
Matthew Scarfo  
Leah Schapansky  
Leah Scheffler  
Michael and Vivian Schellenberg  
Leah Schilstra  
Missy Schrock  
Schurch Family Association  
Sarah Schwartzel  
Daniel Schwartzel  
Steven Serra  
Katelyn Shantz  
Fern Shantz  
Rebecca Shelley  
Ken Shultz  
Aaron Silver  
Veronica Silvester  
Reed Sinclair  
Kritnoor Singh  
Samuel and Ruby Siu  
Nirmala Sivagurunathan  
Cameron Sjaarda  
Alexander Skipper  
Andrew Skolseg  
Jonathan Smith  
Andrew Smith  
Natasha Smolic  
David and Emily Snyder  
Elliott Song  
Nicholas Song  
Sarah Squire  
Jean Stalker  
Katrina Steckle  
Janice and Jeff Steckley  
Henry Stevens  
Kathryn Stuart  
Maria Suderman-Gladwell  
Haran Sureshkumar  
Peter Christopher Szczeszynski  
Joseph Tafese  
Katelyn Taylor  
Annetta Thielmann  
Matthias Thiessen  
Claire Thompson  
Nathan Toews  
Josh Toews  
Sophie Tsao  
Emma Tse  
Elizabeth Tse  
Mykayla Turner  
Rebecca Turner  
Joycelin Van Caulart

Jillian VanderVelde  
Josiah Vandewetering  
Marcus Veals  
Navya Gujur Vedechala  
Michael Veenstra  
Isaac Veldhuis  
Leah Veldhuis  
Windsor Viney  
Cassidy Wagler  
Alexander Wagler  
Marietta Wagler  
Justin Wagler  
Brenda Wagler  
Lou and Pat Wahl  
Cameron Warren  
Abigail Waterston  
Allison Weber  
Ron and Mary Weber  
Cecilia Weber  
Michael Weber-Martin  
Elizabeth and Donald Wharton  
Michael Whitford  
Natassja Wibisono  
Eric Wiebe  
Benjamin Wiebe  
Nathan Wiebe Neufeldt  
Andre Wiederkehr  
Theophilus Wiederkehr  
Amy Wiens  
Mary Wiens  
Andrew Wikkerink  
Eric Wildfong  
Elise Wilts  
Esther Wonder  
Victor Wong  
Joel Woods  
Glen and Margaret Woolner  
Lukas Wormald  
Jessica Wormald  
Matthew Wright  
Kathryn Wu  
Rachael Wu  
Jane Xavier  
Andrea and Jim Yantzi  
Brianna Yaromich  
Serina Ykema King  
Terry Zehr  
Laura Zekany  
Michael Zhang  
Philip Zuidema  
Timothy Zwart

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

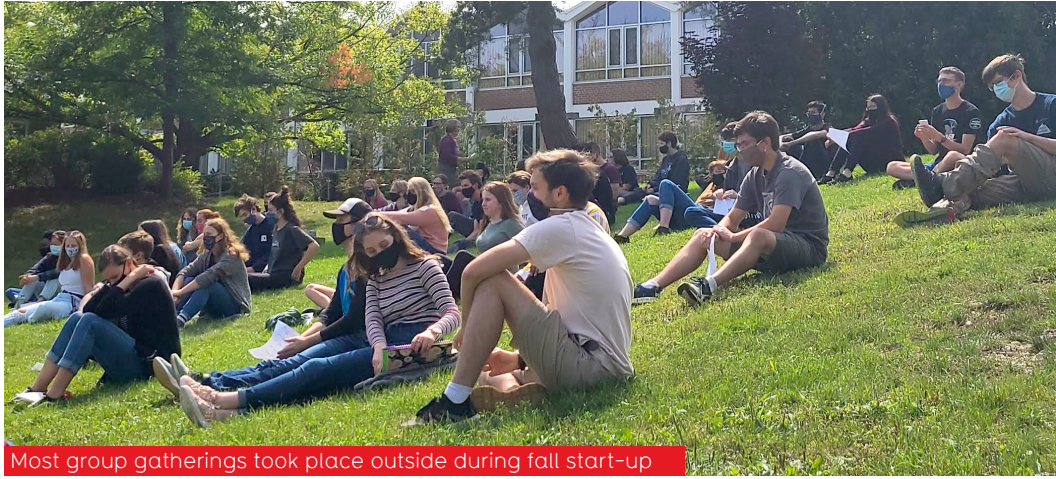




Beach volleyball—all day, every day



Foosball in a temporarily converted classroom



Most group gatherings took place outside during fall start-up



We love the new kitchen!

# #Grebelife



Fall Reading Week hike



Still building community



Grebel's library is open, with limited capacity



Grebel Dons



Ping pong in the classroom



Orientation Week was welcoming, but a bit more subdued than usual



The amazing social distancing swing



# Grebel Fund Important in Year of Challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a fiscal impact on the College. Closing the residence in the spring term and operating at 50% capacity in the fall has cut our revenues substantially, and costs for additional labour, cleaning supplies, and PPE have increased expenses.

Grebel's budget has included generous support for our students, especially in our graduate programs. "I'm proud of the fact that we have been able to distribute over \$500,000 annually in student bursaries and scholarships over the past few years. The cost of higher education continues to climb, and scholarships and bursaries help our students manage student debt," said President Marcus Shantz in a letter to supporters.

Much of this support is provided through the annual Grebel Fund, which also supports other programs that do not receive government support.

This year, more than ever, we will be relying on support from our alumni and donors who include Grebel in their charitable giving.

Visit [grebel.ca/giving](https://grebel.ca/giving) or watch for a letter from Marcus Shantz in your mailbox.

This fall, students who received scholarship awards submitted videos of thanks to donors. Please visit our "Legacy Giving" page to see this video compilation and experience the impact donations have on our students. [uwaterloo.ca/grebel/legacy-giving](https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/legacy-giving)

**DONATE ONLINE**  
[grebel.ca/giving](https://grebel.ca/giving)

Fred W. Martin, Director of Advancement | [fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca) | 519-572-7704

## NDAGIRE BRENDAH MASTER OF PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES



"My hope for the future is to continue to conduct research centering the experiences and stories of women at grassroots levels who are leading peace-building processes in their communities. I want to create space for them to tell their story and experience with everyday violence and what actions they are implementing to contribute to a just peace and coexistence."

## NEIL BRUBACHER SYSTEMS DESIGN ENGINEERING



"As I enter my final year, I look to the future with hope that the technologies on the cusp of development today be used for good tomorrow—that digital connectivity is leveraged to deepen authentic relationships rather than erode them, that AI enhances human creativity rather than replace it, that data is used fairly to foster peace, not oppression. This hope has largely been kindled at Grebel through meaningful conversations with peers across disciplines of study, uniquely engaging elective courses taught by Grebel professors, and access to an incubator dedicated to social impact."



## AWARD SUPPORTS STRING MUSICIANS

Erma Stutzman and her late husband John were great lovers of music, especially string music. Late in life, John took up the cello. When they moved to Waterloo, Erma's home, from Normal, Illinois, they became regulars at many community concerts.

Their gift provides support and encouragement for talented string musicians with preference given to Music majors or minors and those living at Grebel. "We're really grateful to have this new award to attract and support talented string musicians in our studio program," noted Mark Vuorinen, Chair of the Music Department.



## ESTATE GIFT ESTABLISHES HELEN MARTENS CHORAL MUSIC AWARD

Choral music was a passion of Helen Martens, the founding Music Department Chair at Grebel. As the beneficiary of a gift from her estate, Grebel has established an endowment in Helen's honour to provide a scholarship award for a chorister who exhibits a passion for choral music, demonstrates vocal excellence, and shows leadership.

"I remember singing under Helen Martens' direction in the Inter-Mennonite Children's Choir," noted Fred W. Martin, Director of Advancement. "It is very meaningful to be able to direct Helen's estate gift to something that symbolizes her love of choral singing." Alumni and other donors are welcome to add to this endowment. Contact Fred if you are interested in helping augment Helen's legacy!





## The Completed Kitchen

More than a year and half ago, Grebel broke ground on the “Fill the Table” construction project. This ambitious fundraising campaign raised \$4.2 million to expand and renovate the College’s kitchen and dining space to accommodate Grebel’s entire community.

The fall term started with a brand-new kitchen facility opening for operations in late August. “We were thrilled to have a new, bright, and expanded space,” said Cheri Otterbein, Food Services Manager, “even if some of the equipment wasn’t totally functional when we opened.”

Paul Penner, Director of Operations, noted that “the pressure of deadlines and construction challenges added some gray hairs, but seeing our kitchen staff enjoy the new facilities is gratifying.”

When Kate Bradley, a 2nd year resident, saw the new kitchen, she said it “looks like a servery from a movie!” She continued, “It feels more Grebel! It facilitates community because it’s not so cut off from the rest of the dining room.”

At almost twice the size, with large windows and a clerestory for natural lighting, the new kitchen is spacious and open. “I’m most excited about the design,” commented Justin Nickel, a 2nd year resident. “I personally love the way it looks from the outside. I like that it’s more open.”

With so much more space, the kitchen has many new features like a separate area to prepare and serve food for those with dietary restrictions, more food storage, and height adjustable counters.

There is enough new dining room space available to accommodate the 70 students who are currently living in the residence, but when finished, the room will hold 300 people at tables.

Work continues in the old kitchen space to create a large storage area, a kitchen staff washroom and changeroom, a “pantry” for resident students to make snacks 24/7 and for associate students to store their lunches. We will also re-create the private dining room. “Having a place for lunch or dinner meetings is important and this creates an inviting space for us to host guests,” said Cheri.

An elevator has been installed and a gracious stairway to connect the dining room to the chapel foyer is being created. Paul stated that once it’s finished, this space will provide “a clear path through the building from the entrance, through the dining room, to the Chapel, and it’s a path everyone can use.” This path and many others will be made more accessible with the installation of power operators to 16 doors in the building.



### FILL THE TABLE CAMPAIGN WINDING DOWN

“We are so grateful for the generous support that has helped us to reach \$4.2M in gifts and pledges,” noted Fundraising Campaign Chair Ruth Ann Shantz. Our fundraising campaign is winding down and the list of donor names will soon be part of the new décor outside the new dining room.

“Due to our generous donors and well-managed expenses, Grebel anticipates financing \$2.7M for the project instead of the \$3M originally planned,” said Sara Cressman, Director of Finance.

Check the website for videos, construction updates, photos, and an online pledge form.

[uwaterloo.ca/grebel-fill-the-table](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel-fill-the-table)

## GRAFFITI IN CONFLICT ZONES: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

PACS Visiting Assistant Professor Eric Lepp is finding the deeper meaning behind graffiti, specifically in places affected by conflict. Lepp, along with his international co-researchers, analyze the relationships between graffiti and socio-political commentary at a local level. This research has so far produced several media-focused articles, an online gallery, along with their most recent agenda-setting publication, "Reading socio-political and spatial dynamics through graffiti in conflict-affected societies" published in *Third World Quarterly*.

Based in Colombia, Cyprus, Iraq, Timor-Leste, and Hong Kong, their research analyzes what graffiti means within the communities in which it is found. Their research reveals that there are local stories and histories embedded in graffiti, and that there's a lot to be learned about a community and its struggles through the uncensored art that is painted on walls.

READ MORE AT:

[uwaterloo.ca/peace-conflict-studies/news](http://uwaterloo.ca/peace-conflict-studies/news)

## PASSIVITY WAS NEVER A VIRTUE

Congratulations to Catherine Bergs who won second place in the 2020 intercollegiate C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest administered by Mennonite Central Committee US. Her speech, "Passivity Was Never a Virtue," critiqued anti-femininity narratives. She won a cash prize and a scholarship to attend a peace conference.

WATCH THE SPEECH AT:

[youtu.be/7oQpdd85UgI](https://youtu.be/7oQpdd85UgI)

# Advocacy Research Changes Canadian Arms Export Policy

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

Grebel alumnus and Researcher at Project Ploughshares, Kelsey Gallagher, made headlines after the organization released a special report he authored on Canadian arms exports, titled, "Killer Optics: Exports of WESCAM sensors to Turkey." The report detailed the use of Canadian-made sensors in Turkey's drone operations and was soon picked up by a variety of news media.

Kelsey's research noted, "Canada's export of WESCAM sensors to Turkey poses a substantial risk of facilitating human suffering, including violations of human rights and international humanitarian law."

The sensors in question are manufactured in Burlington, Ontario, and used for drone imaging and targeting systems. Soon after the report was released, it came to light that Turkey was using this technology against Armenian targets in the recently escalated Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in Azerbaijan. Canada has since suspended export permits for the sensors to Turkey, pending further investigation.

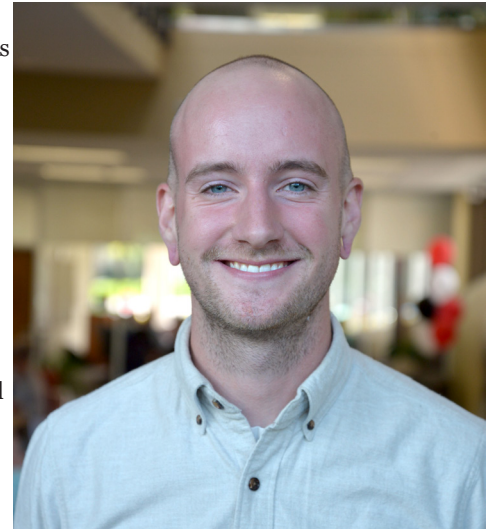
In an interview with Global News, Kelsey noted, "I would be astonished if Global Affairs did not have an idea that Turkey was actually misusing these weapons earlier."

Kelsey graduated from the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies program in 2019 and soon after started working for Project Ploughshares (located in the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement at Grebel). He credits the program for helping him develop the professional and academic skill sets needed for a career in research and advocacy. As he described it, the program "was critical for generating the skill of research: how to find and gather actionable data to better deal with conflict issues."

A major source of learning was an internship placement Kelsey completed with an advocacy organization based in London, England.

"The internship experience," he said, "was good for both my personal and professional growth." And part of what made it possible was the flexibility and support provided by faculty and staff. Additionally, he noted, "The internship undoubtedly gave me a leg up in looking for work after my degree."

Now putting those skills to the test, Gallagher has shown how good research made public can have tangible effects in the real world.





# Mennonite Heritage Week 2020

In 2019, the Government of Canada declared the second week in September to be Mennonite Heritage Week. This occasion offers Grebel an opportunity to share about Mennonite history and culture. For Mennonite Heritage Week 2020, Grebel's Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies (IAMS) curated some resources that speak to pressing issues in 2020. Resources include a selected list of articles about Mennonite relations with Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour primarily in the Canadian and Ontario context, plus a list of recent articles about how communally-oriented Anabaptist groups in Canada have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour communities have called upon white settlers to learn more about the roles that racism and colonialism play in our unfolding history together," noted Archivist-Librarian Lauren Harder-Gissing. "Our hope is that these readings will help Canadian Mennonites understand and reflect in a specific way on our relationships with BIPOC communities."

Marlene Epp, Professor of History and Peace and Conflict Studies, moderated a panel conversation on "Conservative Anabaptist Groups and COVID-19," hosted by the Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies.

"The global COVID-19 pandemic is creating difficulty for everyone," explained Epp. "For communal or community-minded religious groups that maintain restrictions on certain modern technologies and for whom 'gathering' is central to their community life, the pandemic creates unique challenges. This panel explores the ways in which conservative Anabaptist groups in Canada, such as the Old Order, Hutterites, and Low German-speaking Mennonites, are affected by and are responding to the challenges of the pandemic."



**MARLENE EPP**

Director, IAMS,  
Conrad Grebel  
University College



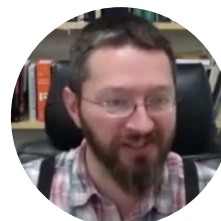
**ABE HARMS**

Director, Mennonite  
Community Services,  
Aylmer, ON



**GERRY HORST**

Director,  
Mennonite Story,  
St. Jacobs, ON



**KENNY WOLLMANN**

Baker Hutterite  
Community, Hutterian  
Safety Council



**BEN NOBBS-THIESSEN**

Chair, Mennonite  
Studies,  
University of Winnipeg

[Reading list and video available at \[uwaterloo.ca/grebel/mennonite-heritage-week\]\(https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/mennonite-heritage-week\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/mennonite-heritage-week)

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# Graduates Bring Peace, Hope, and Beauty to an Uncertain Future

BY ABBY RUDY-FROESE, COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP STUDENT

Convocation is one of the most anticipated occasions in the Grebel community. It's a time to gather together and celebrate the achievements and successes of graduate and undergraduate students who connected with Grebel during their degree. This year, we're celebrating the accomplishments of 114 undergraduates and 27 graduates. Due to the pandemic, convocation was postponed from April to October in the hope that we could soon hold in-person events. Grebel decided to move to an online platform for this occasion. A YouTube video containing heartfelt speeches, creative student updates, and congratulatory wishes was shared widely and watched by many in the community along with pre- and post-event Zoom receptions.

One beloved Grebel tradition at convocation is when each graduate shares their plans for the future. This year, graduates submitted short videos that were compiled and added to the convocation video. With plans for school, camping, gap years, and work, the 2020 graduates are moving forward with excitement and optimism for the future.

Though this year's convocation took place through a screen, it still held excitement and appreciation for the graduates. This year's speakers also included a dose of the reality and state of today's world, but not without providing some much needed hope and inspiration.

"For all of us, this is a day to celebrate the hard work that's gone into your degree," said President Marcus Shantz, "the hours of studying, pounding out essays and papers, the labs, the capstone projects, the recitals, and the exams."

"You're graduating into a world that's anxious and fearful." Marcus stated, "The future for all of us feels uncertain and we strain to find our hope and our optimism. One of the main things that gives me hope and optimism for the future is you. You're interested in applying yourselves to the challenges and problems of this world—to make this world a better place than you found it. It's been an honour for all of us at Grebel to spend the past few years with you."

Briar Hunter was chosen as the undergraduate valedictorian. This Bachelor of Science graduate filmed her speech in the woods. "Usually at a convocation, graduates are on the cusp of a new era,



foot poised to step into this new season of life. But we've been forced to take that step already or, for many of us, to stand uncomfortably with our foot hovering in the air as we watched all of our plans for the future come to a grinding halt. Those who kept moving had to dodge unexpected obstacles like starting a new job remotely. Regardless of whether you felt you were moving forward or not, you were because every day is another step. We've all progressed into the next season of life simply by finishing our undergrad degree."

"In her book *Grit*, Angela Duckworth describes grit as a quality necessary for high achievement. It is composed of equal parts passion and perseverance." Briar continued, "Today, if nothing else, we're celebrating your perseverance."

Briar mentioned a graduate who shared a report from their first year "describing the upcoming university years as a difficult mountain to climb, but the purpose wasn't to summit the mountain, but rather to learn how to climb. 'My plan,' they said, 'is not to one day stop climbing, but to get better at it every day.' Today, we're celebrating

## MASTER OF PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES GRADUATES

Sareh Aghamiri • Sydnee Elizabeth Belford • Sarah Bott • Becca Cheskes • Michelle Dow • Chidinma Ewelike • Katelynn Folkerts • Simmi Hansra • Nathalie Kroeker • Heidi Lamb • Katherine MacGregor • Ivonne Morales • Stella Mozin • Thomas Pestell • Obaidullah Said • Emily Amrita Singh • Moffat Sithole • Sandrine Uwimana

## MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES GRADUATES

Amelia Baker • Sharon Brown • Colin Friesen • Stephen D. Kennedy • Frank F. Kiss • Cynthia Brubacher Noel • Paul Plato • Lindsay Ralph • Marg Van Herk-Paradis • Colin Wallace



If you missed this celebratory day, you can still watch the whole service on YouTube.

[youtu.be/-nmBFTAhtY](https://youtu.be/-nmBFTAhtY)



that each of us has learned how to climb. We've persevered and we're still climbing, but we're getting better at it every day."

Katelynn Folkerts, a Master of Peace and Conflict Studies graduate, was chosen to speak as the graduate valedictorian for the Master of Theological Studies and Master of Peace and Conflict Studies students. Katelynn started with a poem by Hafiz who wrote about "this great pull in us to connect."

"I wish I could tell you that in light of the current global situation where peace, conflict resolution, and theology is obviously desperately needed, that your job prospects are guaranteed and that you're going to make the big bucks. I'm not sure I can say this."



Katelynn turned to a quote from environmentalist David Orr who said, "The plain fact is this planet doesn't need more successful people, but it does desperately need more peacemakers, healers, restorers, and lovers of every kind."

Katelynn added, "Current standards of success can't yet comprehend the goodness already inside you. You are peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of every kind. I hope that in your studies of peace and the divine that you've been able to see more clearly your own and others' capacity for good and be exactly what

the world needs in the moment. I believe that our programs have in one way or another made us very good at articulating this need to connect and creating spaces for that to happen.

The keynote speaker this year was Wendy Fletcher, President of Renison University College. "2020. What a year for you as this year's graduates to be facing toward the world," stated Wendy. "You are faced with challenges of a year unlike any other." She mentioned COVID-19, systemic racism, the fear, the anxiety, and the uncertainty in the world. "2020, this is your year, this is the time to which you have been called. Seems terrifying."

"You are graduates of Conrad Grebel," Wendy continued. "You know about making peace. You know about making music, you know not only about justice but about beauty. What else does the world of this moment need but peace, justice, and beauty. Imprinted in you, rising in you, empowered through education in you is the possibility of this world."

Wendy ended with this message, "Go to the world. Go and build peace. Go and make music. But most important of all, beloved graduates, go and be you."



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR UNDERGRADUATES!

Yeabsera Agonfer • Isaac Alexander-Cook • Susan Alexandra Allen • Charlotte Baker • Upneet Bala • Lauren Banga • Haley Bauman • Agnieszka Alicja Bednarsz • Rhonda Lynne D. Belous • Brianna Bennett • Graeme Blondon • Benjamin Bonsma • Marguerite Joan Breckenridge • Sam Breen • David Brown • Scott Richard Burrows • Candace Bustard • Matthew Clifford George Chase Stephen Cholvat • Stephanie Collings • Sarah Cowan • Olivia Cullen • Lorena Diller Harder • Leah Drost • Marisa Duncan • Andrew Dyck • Calum James Elliott • Amanda Enns • Liban Farah • Catherine Fowler • Johnathan Zhenzhao Gao • Siann Gault • Tianna Alexandria Gocan • Madeleine Graham • Gabriel Guerra • Lillian Y Gutierrez-Zuniga • Hannah Haight • Lauren Hankins • Katrina Hedges • Hannah Hill • Ian Hink • David Hiraki • Stefan Hogg • Allison Hollingsworth • Briar Hunter • Connor Huxman • Andrew Jackson • Yara Janzen • Dania Junejo • Shandini Kanhai • Kathleen Elizabeth Kelly • Ben Klassen • Cameron Klassen • J. Klassen • Leah Klassen • Katarina Suzanne Klassen • Hannah Klassen • Spencer Kschesinski • Anna Kuepfer • Taylor Legere • Rebekah Lindsay • Abby Lobert • Devina Amanda Lookman • Olivia Lougheed • Jordyn Lundy • Ryan Martin • Amy McClelland • Margaret Mary McCloskey • Jaclyn McDougall • Emilie McGill • Gabrielle Mary Taylor McInnis • Lorena Julia McNamara • Peter Missiuna • Erik Mohr • Matthias Arend Mostert • Brendan Mullaley • Rebecca Emilie Neufeld • Charity Nonkes • Aaron Oesch • Jacob Oja • Anuj Opal • MacGregor Paddock • Rebecca Persoon • Elizabeth Pfisterer • Connor McCleary-Philbrook • Matthew Pollex • Aaron Ruby • Jacob Rudy-Froese • Manpreet Singh Saini • Soofia Sam • Sierra Scholtens • Jon Shantz • Alex Skipper • Paige Smith • Sarah Squire • Hannah Starzynski • Hannah Taylor • Peter Thompson • Gus Town • Mykayla Turner • Madison Van Es • Lydia Vermeer • Theo Wiederkehr • Andrew Wikkerink • Lukas Winter • Esther Wonder • Nicholas Wong Ming Chen • Leah Wouda • Kyra Woudsma • Abby Wright • Rachael Elizabeth Wu • Natalka Zurakowsky

# 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 just a sampling of recent activities and achievements.

**JENNIFER BALL** facilitated a session on “Circle: A Tool for Understanding Changing Demographics” at the annual conference of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute.

**ALICIA BATTEN** published “Gender” in *The Ancient Mediterranean Social World. A Sourcebook*, ed. Zeba A. Crook (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020), 141-56.

**JEREMY BERGEN** published “The Ecumenical Vocation of Anabaptist Theology,” in *Recovering from the Anabaptist Vision: New Essays in Anabaptist Identity and Theological Method*, ed. Laura Schmidt Roberts, Paul Martens, and Myron Penner (New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2020), 103-126.

**MARLENE EPP** convened a panel to discuss “Conservative Anabaptist Groups and Covid-19.” It is available for viewing on YouTube. [youtu.be/Bey2778deNY](https://youtu.be/Bey2778deNY)

**NATHAN FUNK** has written the “Conclusion” chapter for Bessma Momani and Thomas Juneau’s edited book, *Canada and the Middle East*, forthcoming from the University of Toronto Press.

**LAUREEN HARDER-GISSING** published “‘White, Mennonite readers are asking questions about Indian people’: Indigenous peoples and issues in the pages of *Mennonite Reporter*, 1972-1997.” *Canadian Society of Church History*, June 2, 2020.

**PAUL HEIDEBRECHT** published “MCC as an incubator for new approaches to relief, development and peace” in *Intersections: MCC Theory and Practice Quarterly* 8/2 (Spring 2020).

**JANE KUEPFER** published an article about supporting the spiritual resources of those working in long-term care in the Ontario Long-term Care Association’s publication, *Long Term Care Today*.

**ERIC LEPP** presented to the British International Studies Association – Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Working Group in an online event titled, “Indiana Jones and the temple of scholarly doom/ eternal light: Navigating peace and conflict fieldwork.” Eric also delivered Grebel’s first virtual Faculty Forum titled, “Side-by-Sidedness: A conceptual rethinking of post-peace agreement encounter in everyday Belfast” based on research from his PhD thesis.

**DAVID NEUFELD’S** article titled, “‘As Far as the Records Dictate’: Archival Logics in Anabaptist Source Collections” will appear in German translation in the journal *Mennonitica Helvetica*.

**REINA NEUFELDT** co-authored “Gaps in knowledge about local peacebuilding: a study in deficiency from Jos, Nigeria,” *Third World Quarterly*, with PACS instructor Mary Lou Klassen, MPACS alumna Jessica Dyck, and Jos-based colleagues John Danboyi and Mugu Zakka Bako.

**CAROL PENNER** gave virtual presentations of her C. Henry Smith Peace Scholar lecture entitled “#MennonitesToo: Sexual Violence and Mennonite Peace Theology” for Goshen College and Bluffton University. It was also presented virtually as Grebel’s Benjamin Eby Lecture. [grebel.ca/eby](https://grebel.ca/eby)

**DEREK SUDERMAN** had two articles published in *Canadian Mennonite*: “In a Perfect Storm” (July 15, 2020) and “Forged in Disorientation” (Oct. 26, 2020)—both relating the Bible and the Christian tradition to the context of the pandemic. He has also been working on several writing projects related to the Psalms, and taught a nine-hour

open course on Zoom, titled “The Cry of the Oppressed: Lament Psalms and their Relevance Today” (“El Grito del Oprimido”) for the Colombian Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Bogota, Colombia.

**MAISIE SUM** delivered a scholarly presentation at the 65th Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Meeting in October titled, “It’s a party, don’t call it a *lila*: Commodification and the Misappropriation of Gnawa Cultural Heritage.”

**KAREN SUNABACKA** completed *Wandering* for solo bass clarinet that will be premiered online by Music alumna Kathryn Ladano in a NUMUS concert and a twelve-minute solo piano piece titled, *Spider Solitaire*. On December 20th, Orchestre Métropolitain (Montreal) will perform her string orchestra piece, *Born by the River* (2012).

**MARK VUORINEN** released *This Love Between Us*, a new CD with The Elora Singers, this past June. The recording contains new music by Indian-American composer Reena Esmail and Odawa First Nations composers Barbara Croall. The CD is available to stream on Spotify and Apple Music.



**KATE KENNEDY STEINER** recorded a workshop for high school music teachers on Music for Life. “One of my jobs as a choral director is to provide students with skills to use either as singers or instrumentalists to incorporate music throughout their life.” [youtu.be/7fT3sjhlHew](https://youtu.be/7fT3sjhlHew)



# Lowell Ewert Leaves Legacy of Inspiration and Collaboration

Lowell Ewert, Associate Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) at Grebel and the University of Waterloo, retired in July, leaving a distinguished 23-year legacy in collaborative and innovative teaching, interdisciplinary engagement, and active research.

“Lowell is a builder,” described PACS Chair Nathan Funk. “He’s one of those uncommon people who effectively links audacious vision with persistent, methodical, well-documented effort. Those who know Lowell recognize that he is dynamic, highly motivated, straight-forward, and accountable.”

Trained as a lawyer, Lowell researches the ways that peace interacts with human rights, law, and civil society. He has contributed many chapters and articles to peace and academic publications, has edited three books, and was a frequent and inspiring presenter at human rights-related conferences.

Lowell estimated that during his career, he has taught about 3,580 undergraduate students, supervised 160 undergraduates in independent study and internships, taught about 125 graduate students, and supervised 30 independent study and internships for graduate students.

This past spring, Lowell was honoured with a UWaterloo 2020 Distinguished Teacher Award. This award celebrates exemplary instructors with a record of teaching excellence over an extended period. In addition to intellectual rigour, criteria for the award include impact beyond the classroom, concern for students, and a favourable and lasting influence on students and colleagues. “These characteristics clearly mark Lowell’s teaching in the PACS Department,” said Grebel’s Dean Troy Osborne. “Those of us who have worked alongside Lowell have benefitted from his honest reflection on the craft of teaching and many of his students have remarked on the way that Lowell has changed their mind—and perhaps their career path. Lowell is a worthy recipient of this award.”

One key characteristic of Lowell’s exceptional teaching is his commitment to interdisciplinary study and promoting connections between subject areas to enhance student learning. This is exemplified in some of the courses he developed such as Peace and Disability, Peace and Policing, Math for Good and Evil, Peace is Everyone’s Business, Human Rights, and Peace and Business. As Director of PACS for 20 years, Lowell also cultivated this perspective in others and encouraged the creation of other interdisciplinary courses. “Lowell is consistently trying to learn new things and figure out what the next important area for reflection and



practice might be,” explained Nathan. “Then he would often go and teach a course on that topic, collaboratively, exposing students to new ideas. Lowell’s current edited book project, *Peace is Everyone’s Business*, explores how peace figures into a full range of university disciplines and faculties, and is emblematic of this interdisciplinary engagement and creativity.”

“Lowell’s impact in the classroom is very evident,” added President Marcus Shantz, “but he was also a visionary director of the PACS program. He saw the linkages between academia, law, civil society, and business, and brought these insights to bear on the needs of our world.”

“I consider him the prime mover behind the rapid development and expansion of PACS,” added Nathan. Under Lowell’s leadership, the Certificate Program in Conflict Management was created in 1998, and in 2005, Grebel’s long-standing dreams for an academic major in PACS were realized. Seven years later, with steadily increasing enrolments and interest in the program, the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies degree was established. Lowell raised Grebel’s profile at Waterloo significantly by fostering interdisciplinary collaboration with a range of departments, by developing a professional development module for co-op students, by turning three 200-level courses into high-enrollment classes, by pioneering new courses that reflect areas of ongoing creativity within the Mennonite community, and by fostering collaboration with the Balsillie School of International Affairs. Without Lowell, Grebel’s footprint at the university and in the Waterloo region would be considerably smaller.

Reflecting on his personal teaching experiences, Lowell noted, “I often felt like I was on holy ground in the classroom as I listened to students wrestle with their convictions, core values, and explore how they wanted to live responsibly in this increasingly polarized and fractured world. Teaching is a profound and sacred privilege that I have been lucky to have had.”

# Theologian and Church Leader Sarah Johnson Wins Distinguished Alumni Service Award

Theology scholar Sarah Kathleen Johnson has always been interested in religion and Christian worship. In her pursuit of education, her many different involvements at Conrad Grebel University College deepened, clarified, and expanded those interests through courses, innovative chapel experiences, and late night conversations.

Because of her inspiring creativity, thoughtful dedication, and unique contributions to the Mennonite church, Grebel's alumni committee has selected Sarah Kathleen Johnson (BA 2007, MTS 2008) as the recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

Sarah moved into the Grebel residence in fall 2003 and immersed herself into life at Grebel. She was involved with retreats, Chapel Choir, Chapel leadership, Bible studies, and countless other student life activities. As a Religious Studies major and then as a Master of Theological Studies student, Sarah also had a strong connection with academic life at Grebel.

Taking a wide variety of courses across



Grebel's disciplines, she wrote an honours essay in Anabaptist history with Arnold Snyder and a master's thesis with Jim Pankratz on integrating youth into worship leadership in Mennonite settings. "Later I recognized that Grebel courses on various aspects of theology and religious studies were deeply Anabaptist in their emphases

and underlying assumptions, even when this was not explicit in the course title or content," Sarah reflected. "I remain grateful for this grounding in my tradition of origin when I find myself asked to represent the Mennonite tradition in more diverse spaces." This was often the case during Sarah's studies at Yale Divinity School, where she graduated in 2010.

Sarah is currently completing a PhD in Liturgical Studies at Notre Dame. She is a visiting fellow at the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre (TMTC) and her dissertation title is "The Roles of Christian Ritual in Increasingly Nonreligious and Religiously Diverse Social Contexts." "Sarah's work bridges the academy and the church, as is evidenced not only in her leadership of the *Voices Together* hymnal project," noted Kyle Gingerich Hiebert, TMTC director, "but also in her doctoral dissertation, which is an ethnographic study at the intersection of liturgical studies and sociology of religion."

Sarah's research and expertise has

been employed by MennoMedia in the development of *Voices Together*, the new Mennonite hymnal. In a nomination letter to Grebel's alumni committee, Executive Director of MennoMedia, Amy Gingrich, commented on Sarah's diligence. "In addition to curating an expansive set of written worship resources, Sarah crafted a vision for worship resources that included

the introduction of visual art in the hymnal as a way to broaden the experience of worship resources in our collection." Amy added, "Sarah is deeply thoughtful and methodical, always striving to develop an excellent product that will nurture the spiritual lives of all users."

"In her leadership role for *Voices Together*, Sarah has been at the centre of a very careful process of listening to the diversity of expressions across our churches, examining a dizzying array of potential hymns and worship resources for inclusion, and charting a way forward that is deeply rooted in the Christian tradition and sensitive to present context," explained Jeremy Bergen, Director of Theological Studies at Grebel. "This hymnal will shape not only the worship, but also the theology, mission, and the very identity of Mennonite churches for decades to come."

"It has been profoundly rewarding," said Sarah, "to facilitate a collaborative process that brings people together from across the church for important conversations about who we are, where we come from, and who we are called to be in the years ahead, and especially to consider how these questions about identity and purpose intersect in concrete and embodied ways with what we sing and pray and do when we gather for worship."

After graduating from Grebel, Sarah has given back to the College in many capacities. She has been a guest lecturer in classes, taught several Anabaptist Learning Workshops, led a workshop at Ontario Mennonite Music Camp, and published in *The Conrad Grebel Review*. Her impact is deep and her leadership is invaluable.

[The Distinguished Alumni Service Award will be presented to Sarah in winter 2021 at a virtual public lecture. Watch for details!](#)





**JUNE  
5  
2021**

## **GREBEL REUNION '70s ERA**

Save this date and get ready to reconnect with your classmates from the 1970s! We don't know what format this reunion will be yet, but you can be sure it'll still have that same Grebel spirit you remember from the good old days!

More details will be mailed to you in the winter.

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

## Alumni Reunion Spans the Globe

On September 26, almost 50 Grebel alumni from the 1960s gathered together virtually for a class reunion. This online format allowed alumni from across the globe to join the reminiscing and see friends from so many decades ago.

Welcoming alumni from places like Kansas, Alberta, and Japan was a silver lining to a COVID-19 cloud. President Marcus Shantz offered greetings and a College update, and participants got a video tour of the buildings and current construction project, revealing just how much has changed in fifty years. The slideshow generated much conversation (and some debate), as alumni recounted memorable stories and favourite moments of their Grebel days.

## PASSIONATE MUSIC INSTRUCTOR CATHERINE ROBERTSON RETIRES

A core contributor to Grebel's Music program and its welcoming atmosphere over the past two decades has been Catherine Robertson. Catherine retired from her role as Piano Studio and Piano Literature instructor after her last lesson this summer. The warmth and humour she brings to her interactions with students and co-workers will be missed.



"We are going to miss Catherine immensely," said Music Chair Mark Vuorinen. "Her collaborative spirit, her ability to encourage her students to excellence, and her way of instilling a love of music in all

those she encounters is a tremendous gift. Catherine has made a huge impact on the music department over 22 years, both as piano teacher and as a cherished colleague. We wish Catherine well as she embarks on this new phase of life!"

Students throughout the years have admired Catherine's musical expertise and passion. Nicholas Wong shared how he enjoyed their discussions around whatever music pieces he was working on. "I have learned to be a better pianist. Catherine has helped me to improve in every aspect of music. She inspires people."

Catherine feels "gratitude for the rich blessing of people and experiences," such as her involvement as Chapel Choir conductor. "I enjoyed meeting additional students and staff. I was also able to more fully experience the spiritual life that is at the College's core." Catherine is thankful that she could teach what she is passionate about in a setting that facilitated support. "The richness of the piano repertoire is a world of endless beauty, intrigue, and delight. I am grateful to Conrad Grebel University College for the opportunity to live and share in this most rewarding world."

# People

**Danielle Raimbault** (MTS 2017) and **KyongJung Kim** (MTS 2018) were installed at Preston Mennonite Church and Wanner Mennonite Church on September 13, 2020 as co-pastors.

**Daryl Culp** (BMATH 1987, MTS 1990) just self-published *only say the word*, a book of poems and paintings about his travels and various places he has lived, some with Mennonite themes. It is available on Amazon. Learn more about his other books on science and religion at:

only say the word



poems and paintings  
by Daryl Culp

individual.utoronto.ca/darylculp

**Sarah Marr** (BMATH 1999) passed away in October. Described as a sweet, kind, and compassionate soul, Sarah is survived by her husband Ron Roth, step-son Owen, and many friends and family members around the world. She enjoyed a successful career with Sun Life and had a passion for helping those in need.

Professor Emeritus **Len Enns** was awarded a 2020 National Choral Award in Outstanding Choral Composition for *This Thirsty Land*. This award recognizes an original composition that provides a valuable new addition to the Canadian choral composition canon. Len also continues to direct DaCapo Chamber Choir (with numerous Grebel alumni singers), rehearsing during the pandemic in a “concrete cathedral” parking garage. Pieces from these rehearsals will be released soon.

**Sylvan Martin** passed away on August 15. As the residence custodian at Grebel from 1988 to 2003, Sylvan was like a grandfather to many. He loved to tell stories and enjoyed having fun with students. Several students also had the privilege of being co-workers with Sylvan and all speak fondly of working with him. Sylvan was honest, thoughtful, caring and fun-loving. A whole generation of students hold a special place in their heart for Sylvan.

**Glen Lichty** passed away on September 25 after a brief illness. Glen was a family man and enjoyed all the time spent with each and everyone. He would often be found at the hockey rinks cheering on his grandchildren as they played. He worked as a custodian at Grebel from 1982-1987, where he connected with many students.

Former Librarian **Irma Kadela** passed away on July 30. She served in the Grebel library from 1973 to 1980. There is no doubt that Irma inspired many future readers, teachers, librarians and creators, during her long career, and that passion will ripple on for many years to come.

**Jim Skeoch** (BES 1980) passed away at the end of August. Jim’s children, Mike, Chris, and Rachel, are also Grebel alumni. A keen carpenter and lover of the outdoors, Jim was a sociable, fun-loving person who loved to laugh. He was also thoughtful and wise, helping everyone he could.



## JUDY DYCK RETIRES

Thirty-six years ago, **Judy Dyck** moved from St. Catharines to Waterloo and was welcomed at Grebel to assist in the Food Services Department. Judy has been a welcome help in the kitchen: scooping in the bake room, assisting with groceries and dishes, washing tables, gathering wayward cups and spoons around the College, and helping to prepare for Community Suppers. Judy participated in many Grebel programs, including being a willing helper at Silver Lake and Trillium camps, chapels, and coffee breaks, and as a regular customer in the library. Judy loves music and was an avid volunteer at Grebel musicals and concerts, and she looked forward to the annual lunches with students who received the Judy Dyck Music Volunteerism Award.

During her time at Grebel, Judy’s joyful smile, friendly spirit, and curiosity has welcomed staff, students, guests, and strangers. Judy never hesitated to share a story, make a connection, and show welcome to everyone. The Grebel community wishes Judy continued “great times” in her retirement years.



Show off your Grebel spirit with our new Grebelwear! Get your Christmas shopping done quickly! Have your order shipped straight to your door or pick it up on UWaterloo campus through W STORE’s free curbside pickup. Shop the Grebel collection online:

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




On May 21, Grebel’s Retirees Luncheon went to a virtual platform, allowing attendees to tune in from British Columbia and Saskatchewan—in addition to the usual local participants. Laughter and joking was mixed with serious conversation and sharing. Walter Klaassen continues to astound, as he reported his scholarly activity at 94 years of age.



# Available Now

**NOON HOUR CONCERTS @ HOME**



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

Lauren Harder-Gissing presents

## Family Trees: Why We Make Them and What They Say About Us

[youtu.be/P36AEVyToCE](https://youtu.be/P36AEVyToCE)



Need some excitement in your life? Solve **"THE GREBEL COOKIE MYSTERY"** a puzzle of sweet intrigue and thrilling riddles created by Director of Finance, Sara Cressman.

[uwaterloo.ca/grebel/escape-room](https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/escape-room)

### OTHER VIDEOS MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE OF *GREBEL NOW*

#MennonitesToo: Sexual Violence and Mennonite Peace Theology  
 Carol Penner  
[grebel.ca/eby](https://grebel.ca/eby)

Shaping Peace Together  
 Centre for Peace Advancement  
[youtu.be/-KSQHpEgwx](https://youtu.be/-KSQHpEgwx)

Spiritual resiliency for caregivers and persons with dementia  
 Janet Ramsey  
[grebel.ca/sa](https://grebel.ca/sa)

Passivity Was Never a Virtue  
 Catherine Bergs  
[youtu.be/7oQpdd85UgI](https://youtu.be/7oQpdd85UgI)

Conservative Anabaptist Groups and COVID-19, panel hosted by the Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies  
[youtu.be/Bey2778deNY](https://youtu.be/Bey2778deNY)

2020 Convocation Service  
[youtu.be/-nmBFTAhtY](https://youtu.be/-nmBFTAhtY)

Music for Life  
 Kate Kennedy Steiner  
[youtu.be/7fT3sjhIHew](https://youtu.be/7fT3sjhIHew)

# Coming Events

December 16 at 7:30 pm

## A Grebel Christmas Community Supper

Grab some hot chocolate and pull up a chair for a special virtual Grebel Christmas show with stories, music, and memories.

[youtube.com/ConradGrebelUC](https://youtube.com/ConradGrebelUC)



MAY 13, 2021

## INDIGENOUS-MENNONITE ENCOUNTERS IN TIME AND PLACE

VIRTUAL PREVIEW EVENT

[uwaterloo.ca/indigenous-mennonite-encounters](https://uwaterloo.ca/indigenous-mennonite-encounters)



**2021**

## BECHTEL LECTURE IN ANABAPTIST-MENNONITE STUDIES

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON

# Calendar

December 16, 2020, 7:30pm  
 A Grebel Christmas Community Supper

January-March 2021  
 Most Wednesdays at 12:30pm  
 Noon Hour Concerts @ Home

March 12-14, 2021  
*Big Fish*  
 Virtual Student Musical

March 24, 2021, 7:00pm  
 TMTC Public Lecture

May 13, 2021  
 Indigenous-Mennonite Encounters in Time and Place *Preview Event*

June 5, 2021  
 '70s Era Reunion

June 14-17, 2021  
 International Conference on Ageing and Spirituality

May 13-15, 2022  
 Indigenous-Mennonite Encounters in Time and Place Conference

DATES ARE ALL TENTATIVE, SUBJECT TO PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

[uwaterloo.ca/grebel/events](https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/events)

June 14-17, 2021

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGEING AND SPIRITUALITY

[uwaterloo.ca/ageing-spirituality](https://uwaterloo.ca/ageing-spirituality)

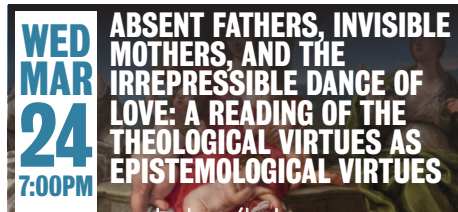
Communication • Communion • Community



**WED MAR 24 7:00PM**

## ABSENT FATHERS, INVISIBLE MOTHERS, AND THE IRREPRESSIBLE DANCE OF LOVE: A READING OF THE THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES AS EPISTEMOLOGICAL VIRTUES

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



Conrad Grebel Student Council Presents

# Big Fish



Live Streaming March 12-14





# CONNECT WITH GREBEL VIRTUALLY

Encourage someone you know to check out Waterloo and Grebel! We need your help as alumni, parents, families, and friends, to spread the word!

Please consider sharing our “Connect with Grebel Virtually” webpage. It gives prospective students a sense of what Grebel is all about. Grebel is offering personalized virtual tours and **VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSES** on the following Tuesdays at 7:00pm:

JAN 26 • FEB 23 • MAR 30 • APR 6 • APR 20 • MAY 4 • MAY 18

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

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