

GREBEL NOW

Conrad Grebel University College Magazine



GREBEL NOW AND THEN

Three Touchstones in Grebel's Life Story

Key decisions that made Grebel what it is today

From Vision to Reality

Reflecting on Grebel's 60-year legacy through memory

FALL 2024



Vol. 41 No. 1

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The Spirit of Grebel

This issue of *Grebel Now* (and Then) tells the story of a little Mennonite College on the large University of Waterloo campus. In 1964, the Grebel residence opened its doors, welcoming the first generation of students who established enduring traditions and laid the foundation for a vibrant community.

Front cover:
This “Now and Then” photo shows the Magnolia tree in its original location, where the patio now sits.

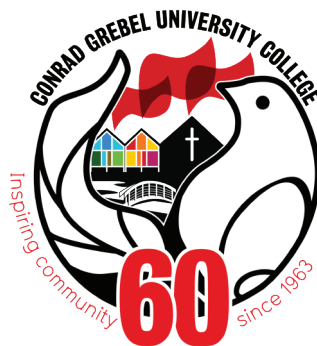
Grebel has seen significant change—much growth but also tough times of reduction and cutbacks—over the last 60 years. Board members, faculty, staff, students, and alumni have all made an impact as they passed through, contributing to the creation of the Grebel community. Through memories, photos, reports, and archival records, we’ve attempted to tell

a version of Grebel’s history. It’s not complete, and is definitely coloured by nostalgia, but these memories collectively reflect the spirit of Grebel past and present. We’re glad that you are also a part of this story!

As a way of finding budgetary efficiencies, we have reduced our printed edition of *Grebel Now* to just one issue per year. We encourage you to stay connected by reading our monthly e-newsletter, visiting our website, and following us on social media for updates and stories.

Stay in touch and be sure to take note of our many upcoming events!

Jennifer Konkle, Marketing and Communications Manager
Fred W. Martin, Director of Advancement



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Margaret Gissing, Jennifer Konkle, Fred W. Martin, alumni contributors. Most photos earlier than 2000 are from the Mennonite Archives of Ontario.

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1963

1957
The University of Waterloo is born

1959
Initial meeting of Ontario Mennonite leaders to brainstorm a Mennonite college

1965
Grebel offers the first music courses at UWaterloo



1973
Frank H. Epp becomes the second president



Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies begins

1977
Peace and Conflict Studies interdisciplinary program initiated



Music Department officially formed
Music honours degree begins



2001
University is added to the name: Conrad Grebel University College

2003
Residence is expanded to 142 beds, and a 32-bed apartment building is opened

2015
Anabaptist Learning Workshop established with MCEC



1990
Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre at the Toronto School of Theology established

1979
Ralph Lebold becomes the third president

2003
Henry Paetkau becomes the sixth president

2017
Marcus Shantz becomes the eighth president

CONRAD GREBEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE TIMELINE



1960
May 6 - The new institution is named Conrad Grebel College

Mennonite Archives of Ontario moves to Grebel



1973
Associate program begins

1987
Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree established

1992
Addition and major renovation to the residence building

2005
An honours Arts degree is offered in Peace and Conflict Studies



1966
School for Adult Studies begins

Music Lecture Series launched



1974
Music major is first offered

1996
John E. Toews becomes the fifth president



2006
Institute of Spirituality and Aging formed

2020
COVID-19 pandemic closes campus



1963
J. Winfield Fretz becomes the first president

Academic program begins with one professor and two courses

1969
Brubacher House Museum opens



1976
Academic building opens in August

1989
Rodney J. Sawatsky becomes the fourth president

Church Music and Worship concentration initiated

2011
Susan Schultz Huxman becomes the seventh president

2021
Kitchen and dining room expansion opens

1964
Residence building opens with beds for 106 students. Dedication on October 25

First college choir is created



Project Ploughshares founded and locates at Grebel

1999
Certificate Program in Conflict Management begins

2012
Master of Peace & Conflict Studies program begins

2023
PACS establishes Restorative Justice Diploma



Religious Studies Department launched at UWaterloo

Concentration in Mennonite Studies developed

Kindred Credit Union for Peace Advancement formed



2023

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Three Touchstones in Grebel's Life Story

BY MARCUS SHANTZ, PRESIDENT

“How did I get here?” It’s a question we ask on birthdays, anniversaries, and other occasions when we take stock of our lives. We build our life stories from memories of big choices we’ve made: to go to one school and not another, to join a cause, to help a friend, to get married—or not. It’s called “autobiographical memory,” and it’s how we make sense of everything that’s happened to us. Autobiographical memory tells us who we are, where we’ve come from—and where to go next. It’s not a complete record of each moment in our lives. Rather, autobiographical memory is a selection of key moments or touchstones that are important because of what they mean to us.

Colleges, like individuals, tend to be selective in remembering, especially when celebrating anniversaries! This birthday edition of Grebel Now is filled with memories from the past 60 years. Collectively, they tell a larger story about Grebel. They don’t tell the entire story (or an entirely objective one), but they do speak to this place at its best, and they express the values and aspirations embedded in the history and future of this place.

I’ve learned a few things about Grebel’s history and personality in the seven years I’ve served here. And if I had to pick just a few key moments that made Grebel what it is today, they would be as follows.

SAYING ‘YES’ TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Grebel was first imagined in the late 1950s, when local Christian denominations were invited to found colleges on the campus of the new University of Waterloo. For Ontario Mennonite leaders, the invitation arrived at a moment when Mennonite youth were enrolling *en masse* in universities and colleges for the first time. With a 400-year history of separation from society at large, Mennonite leaders were concerned that their youth would lose their faith at university. A residential college was an opportunity to create an environment where this new generation of Ontario Mennonite youth could maintain connection to their faith tradition during what one founder called “the seeking, doubting, formative years of their lives.”

It soon became clear that Grebel would have to be more than a safe harbour for Mennonite students. The invitation to start a college at a public university implied partnership, engagement, and interaction with a larger world. While this was unfamiliar territory for world-wary Mennonites, it was also the bigger opportunity. Affiliation with a larger university meant that Grebel could potentially have a wider reach and a broader impact than it might otherwise have.

In its second year of operation, Grebel’s resident student body was less than 50 percent Mennonite, and included Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, atheists, agnostics, and the full spectrum of Christian traditions. By its second decade, Grebel faculty were teaching courses to thousands of undergraduate students from all faculties at the university. And today, students from many different backgrounds and perspectives come to Grebel to study Theology and Peace and Conflict studies at the graduate level.

CHOOSING WINFIELD FRETZ AS THE FIRST PRESIDENT

The importance of presidents in the success of an institution can (I’ll admit) sometimes be overstated. However, the very first leader has a unique opportunity to set the trajectory for a new organization. Hiring Winfield Fretz to be Grebel’s founding president shaped the College’s particular focus on community engagement.

A professor in the relatively new discipline of Sociology, Fretz was also an entrepreneur. Before coming to Grebel, he opened the first racially integrated restaurant in the Kansas town where he lived—combining business with concern for social justice. At Grebel, Fretz thought carefully about how buildings and services could help create the conditions where all students could thrive and find belonging.

He was closely involved in design decisions. Fretz wanted interesting architecture, big residence windows, and he insisted on round tables in the dining room instead of long institutional rectangles. Sixty years later, our students still enjoy the ample natural light in their rooms, and they get to know each other around tables that promote face-to-face conversation. And Fretz’s thoughtfulness about creating a pro-social community environment is ingrained in our approach to Grebel’s Student Services program today.

Groundbreaking ceremony, October 5, 1963. L-R: Newton Gingrich (Mennonite Conference of Ontario), Henry Yantzi (Western Ontario Mennonite Conference), J. Winfield Fretz (Conrad Grebel College), Henry P. Epp (United Mennonite Conference), Douglas Millar (Stirling Ave. Mennonite Church). From the Mennonite Archives of Ontario.





Laying cornerstone at Conrad Grebel College in 1964:
L-R John Neufeld, Milton R. Good, J. Winfield Fretz, Elven Shantz

Fretz stressed that he did not want Grebel to become an “isolated academic institution.” His academic interest in community drove him to become involved in (and often to instigate) various organizations, including the Mennonite Savings and Credit Union (now Kindred Credit Union), the Mennonite Historical Society, Mennonite Economic Development Associates, and Mennonite Mutual Aid—an alternative to for-profit insurance providers. Fretz, and Grebel, were promoting these enterprises well before ‘social entrepreneurship’ was part of everyday vocabulary.



Walter Klaassen teaching a class in church history, 1960s.

Fretz’s enthusiasm and genial personality permanently entwined Grebel in the community outside the university, and established Grebel as a good partner for community projects and social enterprises. Today, Grebel is home to the Centre for Peace Advancement, which hosts over a dozen community organizations and social entrepreneurs. The Centre’s lead sponsor is the Kindred Credit Union—a business that Winfield Fretz helped to found.

BECOMING MORE THAN A RESIDENCE

The founders assumed that Grebel would primarily be a residential college, and it was not clear that it would have many (if any) full-time faculty. At one stage, the thinking was that Grebel would invite Mennonite professors at the University of Waterloo to associate with Grebel—a kind of “fellows” model.

Winfield Fretz was cautious about faculty expansion, at one point commenting that Grebel “would probably always have a small faculty and staff.” Nevertheless, Grebel steadily expanded its academic program throughout its first three decades. One early impetus for hiring faculty was the creation of the Religious Studies program—a partnership among the four “Church Colleges” and the Faculty of Arts. Grebel went on to hire faculty to teach Sociology and History in main campus departments. Eventually, the College launched its own programs in Peace and Conflict Studies, Music, Theology, and Mennonite Studies.

Over the years, Grebel faculty have made significant contributions in their many fields: peace studies, philosophy and ethics, theology, history, biblical studies, sociology, musicology, musical composition, and music performance. In addition to formal classroom teaching, their presence is a rich resource for our residence students, who encounter faculty in the halls of the College, and at community suppers, chapel services, and in the library. In 1964, few would have predicted that Grebel would one day have fifteen full-time professors, along with many more part-time faculty. But without faculty, an entire dimension of Grebel’s ethos would be missing.

Leaning into a partnership with a public university. Becoming more than a student residence by hiring gifted scholars and teachers. Choosing a founding president with a heart for community. There are many important milestones in the College’s history. But if I had to pick just a few, I’d say that these three choices shaped Grebel into the unique community of learning that we are today.

From Vision to Reality

BY JENNIFER KONKLE

For Grebel's 50th Anniversary year, Marlene Epp wrote *Bridging Mind & Spirit, Conrad Grebel University College, 1963-2013* to tell the story of the College's founding, accomplishments, people, and traditions. Although ten years have now passed and the College has had another anniversary, for this issue of *Grebel Now*, we have chosen to reflect on Grebel's 60 year legacy by inviting a small group of former board members, faculty, and administrative leaders to share their memories, even if some details have faded.

Jake Hildebrand, who served as a Board member from 1967-68, was a young lawyer working in St. Catharines in 1959 when the idea of a Mennonite college on the campus of the secular University of Waterloo began to take shape. "We talked to the United Mennonite Conference to get some money to help start up Conrad Grebel. It took some effort," he shared. "We said that the next generation would have a lot of kids going to university, and this would give us some presence."

In 1961, Conrad Grebel College was officially established, thanks to many discussions and a shared vision by representatives from the Mennonite Conference of Ontario, United Mennonite Conference of Ontario, Ontario Amish Mennonite Conference, and Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church. According to past Board member Jim Good, his father, Milton Good, "had tremendous faith in education" and as the first Board Chair, when organizing the College's structure, Milt Good and the founding Board members "spread out the influence that each contributing group had on the institution, so it was decentralized."

Reflecting on working closely with founding President J. Winfield Fretz and the beginnings of the College, Grebel's first Chaplain, Walter Klaassen, explained that "the negotiations with the University went very well because Winfield was a good diplomat, and very importantly, he was a good friend of Gerald Hagey, who was the University of Waterloo President at the time. They worked hand in hand." He added, "Winfield didn't have to twist my arm at all to move from Bethel to Waterloo." Klaassen worked as the chaplain and taught courses in Old Testament, New Testament, and Anabaptism until he retired in 1987.

"I do think that the original vision for Grebel has been met," reflected Klaassen. The plan for Grebel was that it would be a residence that taught a few courses, but according to Klaassen, the academic program "just grew." Fretz was instrumental in this growth, in part, because of his winsome personality and people skills. "We had a good relationship with the university departments. And when I came, I was immediately co-opted into the History Department of the University. We had good enrolment in our class offerings, and they were open to anybody, so we had a lot of non-Grebel people in the classes as well."

"One of the things that I liked about being at Grebel was that the teaching load was such that there was lots of time for research," Klaassen noted. "And so we started publishing right away, both in terms of monographs as well as articles."

"Music came on board when Winfield brought Helen Martens in," explained Klaassen. "It wasn't simply an adjunct to the Chapel." The decision to build a music program was not made lightly, due to the cost of hiring instructors for each instrument and ensuring there was enough space at the College. "That then became one of the reasons to build a larger building which had practice rooms and so on," he added.

As the new chaplain at Grebel, Klaassen shared that one of the first decisions he made in his new job was a bit controversial. "I said, the one condition I am making is that Chapel will be voluntary. Attendance went up and down, but on the whole, it was always a viable program."

In 1964, an article in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record mentioned that about 27 percent of students in the Grebel residence were Mennonite. "That made it very vibrant and interesting, to have that mix, particularly also for the Mennonite students," said Klaassen.

Looking at where Grebel is today, Klaassen commented that "It has far exceeded what I thought might happen. We had no idea at first. I am always so gratified that I was able to be part of Grebel at the beginning. I would have never dreamt of what was going to happen."

Under Nelson Scheifele's leadership as VP of Finance and Administration at Grebel from 1981 to 1993, the College added the patio and spaces beneath it, and renovated the dining room and kitchen. "Unfortunately, financial constraints prevented the connecting link with the academic building at that time," Scheifele said. "Fundraising for this project was challenging." He explained, "Initiating an ongoing long-term fundraising program in a constituency that had been assured the College would be self-sustaining and not require funding assistance was a difficult sell."

Grebel programs grew quickly; the Music Department had become more established within the University of Waterloo and the Peace and Conflict Studies program had begun enrolling students in 1977. "The '80s saw significant expansion of programs, great energy, and solidification of vision," explained Scheifele. "Much energy was devoted to maintaining and cultivating collegial relationships with the university administration, other Church Colleges and the conference constituency." Scheifele also worked to establish an alumni association, which continues to organize alumni activities today.



Walter Klaassen
(second to the right) meeting with students in 1969



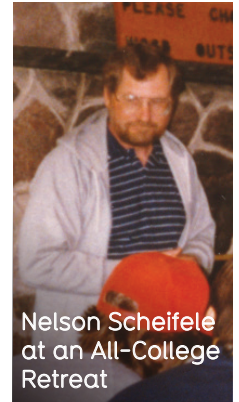
Volunteers moving books from
the old library to the new one in 1976



Helen Martens playing piano
and leading a choir in 1969



Gloria Eby, far right with resident students in 1992



Nelson Scheifele
at an All-College
Retreat

“Work culture and community spirit were strong during my time at Grebel,” he shared. “President Ralph Lebold was very much a community builder and maintained strong positive relationships with staff, faculty, students, constituency, and the university. Programs expanded, energy was high, and sense of community strong. This was all achieved within an increasingly restrictive financial environment,” Scheifele said. “It was most gratifying to maintain balanced budgets throughout my years in administration,” he explained. “Though we never had adequate funds to meet all the wishes and dreams, we still maintained and expanded programs.” Scheifele reflected, “I remain thankful for the years I was able to serve.”

Overlapping with Scheifele, Gloria Eby worked as Dean of Students from 1983 to 1995. “Students came looking for a place to live comfortably and happily while studying at the University of Waterloo,” she recalled. “Students in the ‘80s and early ‘90s were entering a rapidly changing future where globalization, economic downturns and the rise of the internet were both opening and rapidly changing jobs and career tracks,” she recalled. “But what I remember most is the energy, curiosity, and levels of participation the students brought and shared.”

“Grebel’s most significant accomplishment has always been that it is a place where community can happen,” said Eby, articulating one of Grebel’s core values. “As a College, we named the expectations, made sure we had returning students as well as new, created events and rituals to ensure students and sometimes faculty connected—and then said ‘go.’ The College does not create community, it prepares the bones, then everyone creates it together.”

Grebel’s intention to keep the academic and residential programs integrated remained a challenging priority that, Eby explained, required commitment and effort from both sides. “We worked at it, and we found that the effort was worth it,” she reflected.

“My best memories—and I think the heart of my role as Dean of Students—are of conversations,” Eby recalled. “Young adults are

asking and thinking about, sorting and rejigging really important things as they leave home and begin to figure out what their adult lives are going to be about. There is nothing more satisfying than knowing that Grebel provided a good place to do that and good people to do that with, and that for a little while, I had a hand in caring for that place and those people.”

“Grebel had lots of leadership roles for students to take on, but I think the best preparation happened as students from different homes, faith communities, and academic programs got comfortable enough with each other to get to know themselves better,” Eby summarized. “One of my rewards is knowing that these students have contributed to all sorts of families, organizations, and communities ever since.”

Professor Hildi Froese Tiessen began teaching English and Peace and Conflict Studies at Grebel in 1987 until she retired in 2012. She spent almost half of her 25-year tenure serving as Academic Dean. “During my time at Grebel, the faculty were producing a substantial amount of very fine and influential research, much of it on subjects that inform our understanding of Mennonites and the roles they play and have played in the world,” she recalled.

“I arrived at the College just in time for the birth of the master’s degree in theological studies, the brainchild of then Dean Rod Sawatsky and theologian Jim Reimer,” Froese Tiessen explained. “As the first registrar of the program, I was fortunate to occupy a front seat for its development.” She added, “In spite of Grebel’s small size, we moved ahead with academic development through strategic faculty hiring and exciting course development.”

Froese Tiessen recalled that faculty members in Biblical Studies and Theology were quite active as preachers and teachers in the church, but she maintained that “the College’s impact on the church was rooted in these Grebel faculty members, and others, but also in the students and supporters who demonstrated in a myriad ways how the people who identify with the College happen also to be people who enlarge the church, and vice versa.”

Hildi Froese Tiessen
teaching in 2006



“The Grebel I remember was an amazing academic community,” Froese Tiessen shared. “Rod Sawatsky, during his years as Dean, had assembled a remarkable group of young scholars whose work converged on an intense interest in Mennonite Studies. We had a Faculty/Staff lounge where most of us gathered every morning and most afternoons for coffee and conversation. Our illuminating (and sometimes challenging) conversations, often begun and nurtured in that lounge, never ended.”

Mary Brubaker-Zehr served Grebel as Director of Student Services from 1996 to 2022. During this time, she experienced “the gradual yet steady and ever-growing ‘voicing’ of individual student needs, rights, and expectations, from both students and parents. This resulted in many good changes to the residential program,” she noted, “but it also created some challenges.” Shifts over time included requests for single rooms and private washrooms, increased dietary options, more regard for both physical and psychological safety, increased expectations for counselling and mental health care, concern about the level of equity and diversity at the College, and encouragement to be more 2SLGBTQIA+ friendly.

Brubaker-Zehr explained how building projects have impacted student life over the last 25 years. “Linking the residence and academic building, and then expanding the dining room and kitchen to accommodate the growing number of students and associates was significant,” she explained. “This expansion enabled everyone to come to Community Suppers and End-of-Term Banquets. Expanding the library and linking it to the residential building was a huge perk for residential students.” Building the 32-person apartment complex was another boost to the residence program. “Consistently, students living in the apartments held leadership roles, acting as role models and coaches for newer students,” she added.

“I believe that Grebel has stayed true to its mission and values in many ways,” reflected Brubaker-Zehr. For example, “several decades ago, Waterloo’s administration insisted that Grebel’s residence be comprised of 100 percent first-year students to remain a part of Waterloo’s extensive on-campus housing promotion and residence guarantee system. Grebel knew the impact of first-year students living amongst upper-year students,” she explained, and “it has continued to fill the residence with students who value multi-year commitments, leadership development, and community building.”

Mary Brubaker-Zehr
welcoming new students
on Move-In Day 2017



“Grebel is skilled at caring for the whole student,” reflected Brubaker-Zehr. “Each student matters, and care and attention is given to how each is doing mentally, physically, emotionally, and academically.” The College is also good at “implementing a multitude of small things that come together in a powerful way to create and support a rich and vibrant residential community.” Brubaker-Zehr listed some of these differentiators that include learning each student name at the beginning of the term, the residence application and interview, a family-friendly welcome, intentional conversations at the beginning of each term, eating together and filling the first empty table, and Community Suppers. “The annual Act of Community calls everyone into community life and names the importance of each person’s role in creating community spirit,” added Brubaker-Zehr. “Community isn’t just handed to students on a platter—all must take responsibility for building it.”

Now, sixty years after Winfield Fretz and Walter Klaassen helped bring to life the vision of Mennonite community leaders, Grebel is home to more than 300 resident students each year. A faculty complement of 15 professors and many more part-time lecturers and instructors teach more than 4000 undergraduate course enrolments each year in Music, Peace and Conflict Studies, Religious Studies, Mennonite Studies, and Sociology. Graduate programs in Peace and Conflict Studies and Theological Studies deepen the College’s dedication to social justice and theological inquiry, while community education programs and activities foster connections and learning opportunities in the wider community. For a bigger picture of Grebel today, the Annual Report included in this issue of Grebel Now shares statistics and accomplishments for the year.

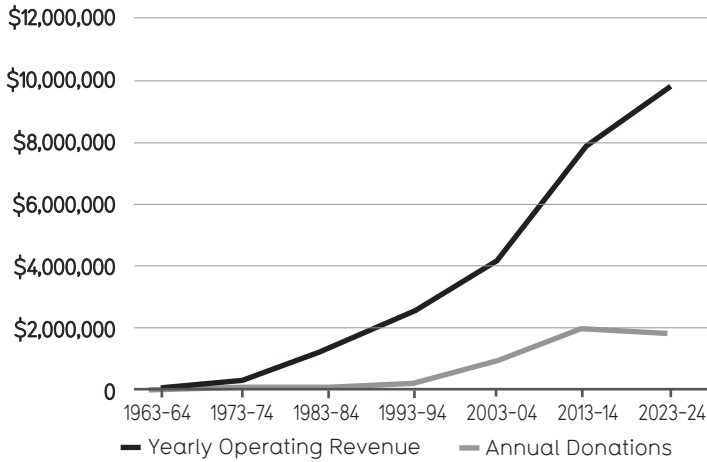
This account doesn’t mention all of Grebel’s programs or leaders, but it does share some of the trajectory and growth of the College over the last 60 years. Conrad Grebel University College is a collaboration that has been created by and influenced by many people in leadership, as well as each student who has passed through its doors, all working toward a shared vision of community and scholarship.

Numbers from the Past

BY KASHISH KAHLON, ADVANCEMENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT COOP STUDENT

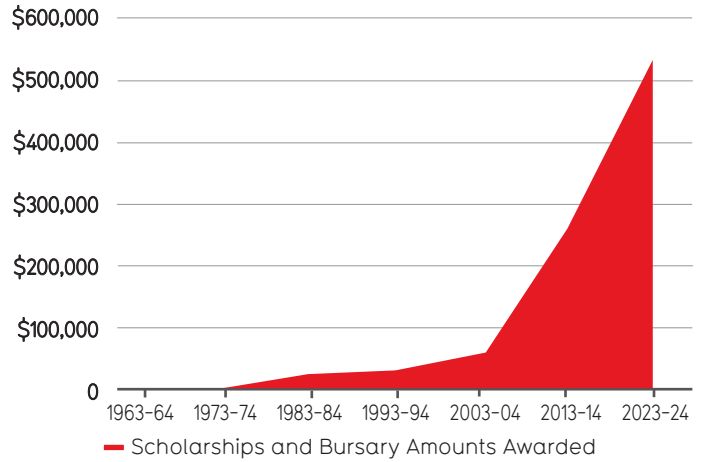
While memories can evoke emotion and spark stories, numbers and statistics are another way to illustrate the past. The following three pages reflect countless trips to the archives to comb through annual reports from the past six decades. Record keeping has shifted during that time and administrators kept track of different metrics, so finding accurate data was sometimes a challenge.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



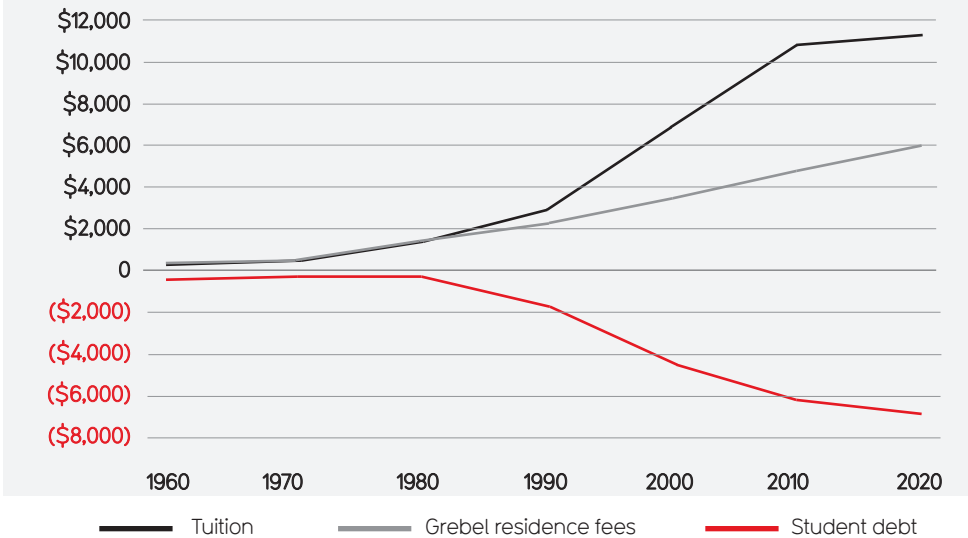
The yearly operating revenue has increased steadily since 1963. Donations were on a slow incline for decades, with a slight decline from 2014 to 2024.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES AWARDED



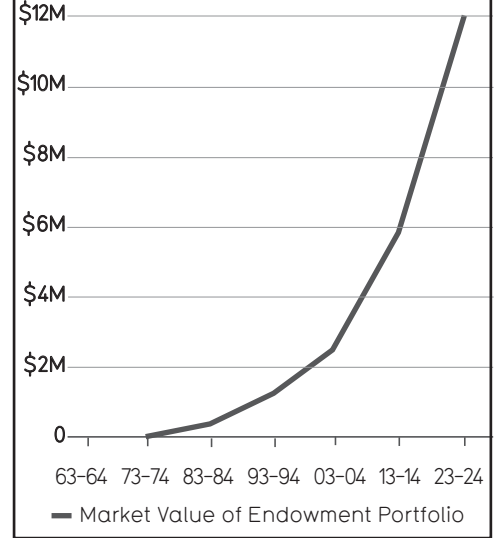
This graph shows the dramatic rise in financial aid, starting in 2003, due to increased MTS support and the addition of the MPACS program. Since then, there has been a steady rise that is expected to continue as endowed scholarships grow in the future.

ONTARIO TUITION AND RESIDENCE FEES VS NET STUDENT DEBT



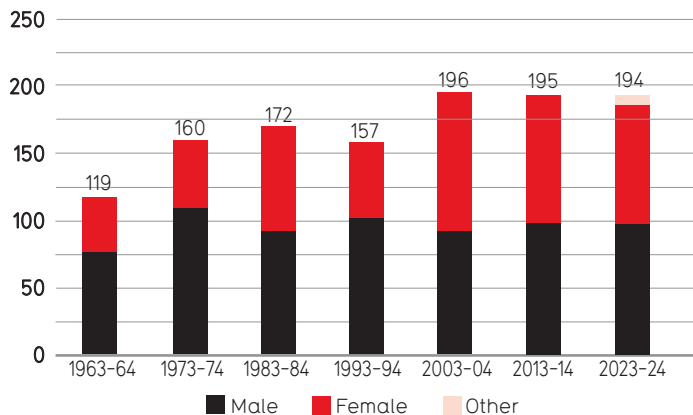
This visual shows the changes in tuition, residence fees, and student debt throughout the decades. In the 1960s, university tuition in Ontario was around \$400, residence fees at Grebel were \$395, and a student could earn almost \$1,000 working at minimum wage for the summer. Today, students graduate with an average debt load of almost \$30,000. The drastic changes beginning in the 1990s reflect changes in the economy in the past few decades.

ENDOWMENT PORTFOLIO



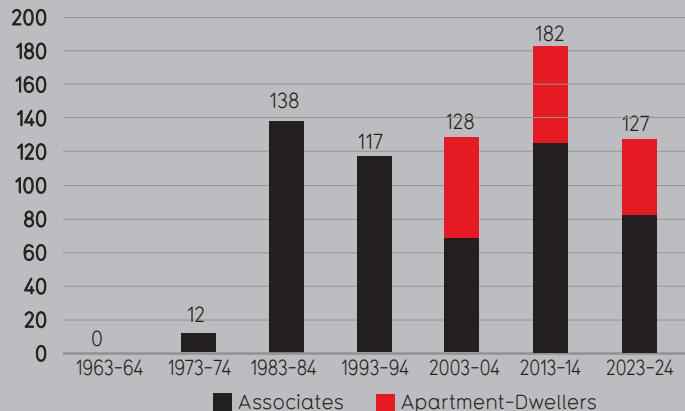
The value of the endowment portfolio has increased over time through donations and increased market value. Each year, a portion of the endowment income is available to spend on programs and awards.

RESIDENCE NUMBERS AND GENDER



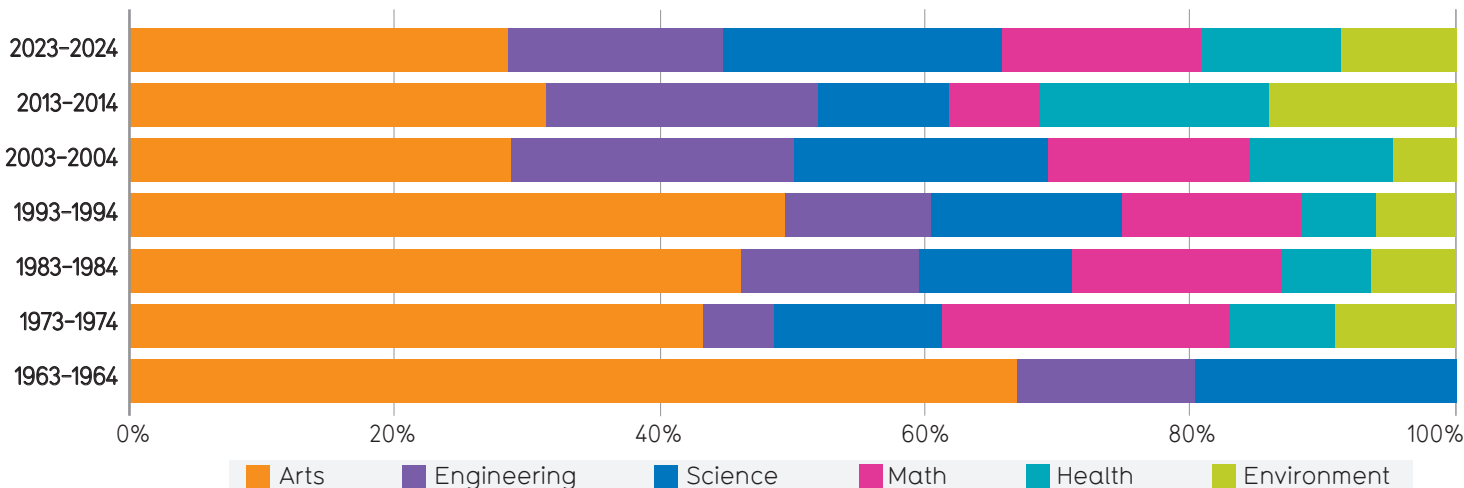
This chart shows the number of individual students who lived in residence over three terms each year, as well as their gender breakdown. Unlike earlier decades, students can now indicate a gender beyond the binary. In 2003, 26 extra beds were added to the residence, and since then, residence numbers have remained static, limited by space.

ASSOCIATES AND APARTMENT-DWELLERS



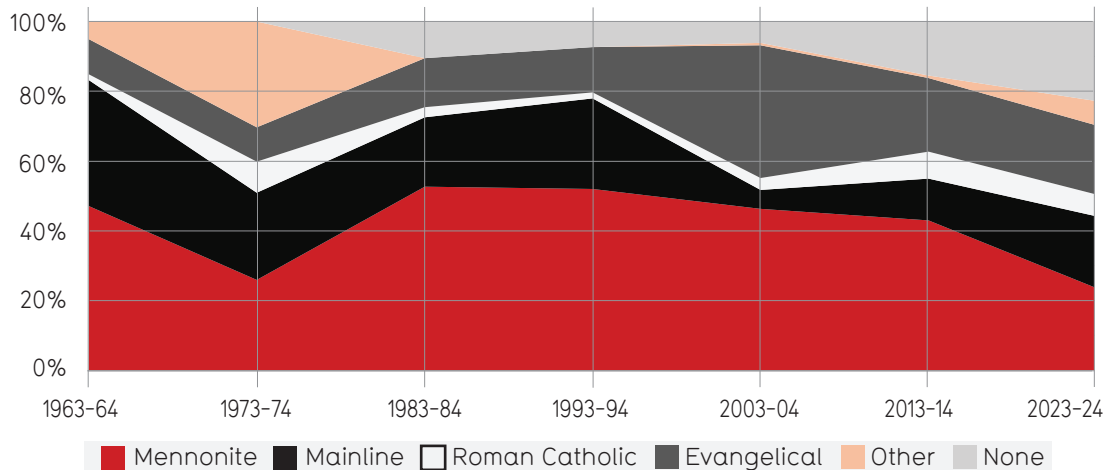
The growth of Grebel's Associate program is evident in this chart. It was established in the early '70s and modified in 2003 with the opening of the 32-bed apartment building. Associate numbers were lower than usual in 2023 as a lingering effect of the pandemic.

FACULTIES OF RESIDENCE STUDENTS



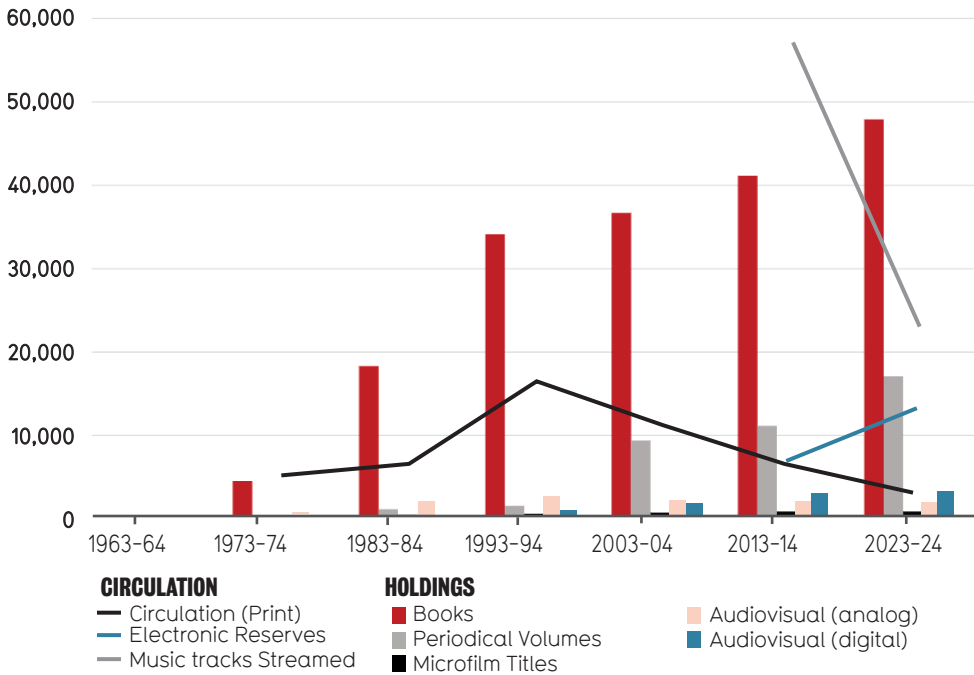
The number of Arts students connected to Grebel has consistently outnumbered other faculties. Today, the faculty breakdown is becoming more even.

FAITH BACKGROUNDS OF RESIDENCE STUDENTS



The percentage of students identifying as "Mennonite" has fluctuated over the years, reaching its lowest point in the 1970s, rising above 40% from the early 1980s through the early 2000's. Percentages in different decades do not equate to the same number of actual students, since Grebel now has over 50% more beds on campus than it did in 1964. The "Other" category represents many different faith backgrounds, including Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism, and Indigenous traditional beliefs.

LIBRARY CIRCULATION AND HOLDINGS



The library has grown and changed along with the academic program. New print books are still being published and acquired, while long-term holdings have unique research value. At the same time, the library continues to respond to changing information needs: from vinyl records and cassette tapes, to electronic books and databases.

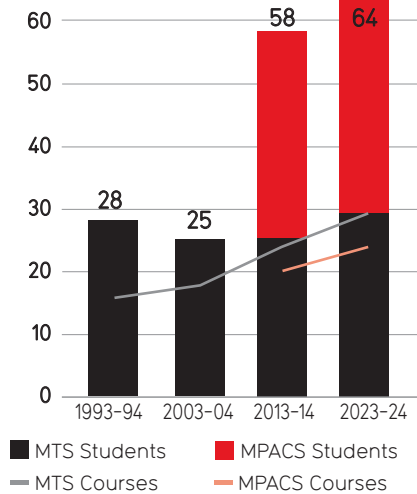


FACULTY NUMBERS

	1964-65	1973-74	1983-84	1993-94	2003-04	2013-14	2023-24
Full-Time Faculty	1	8	13	18	13	14	15
Sessional Instructors			12	9	22	34	27

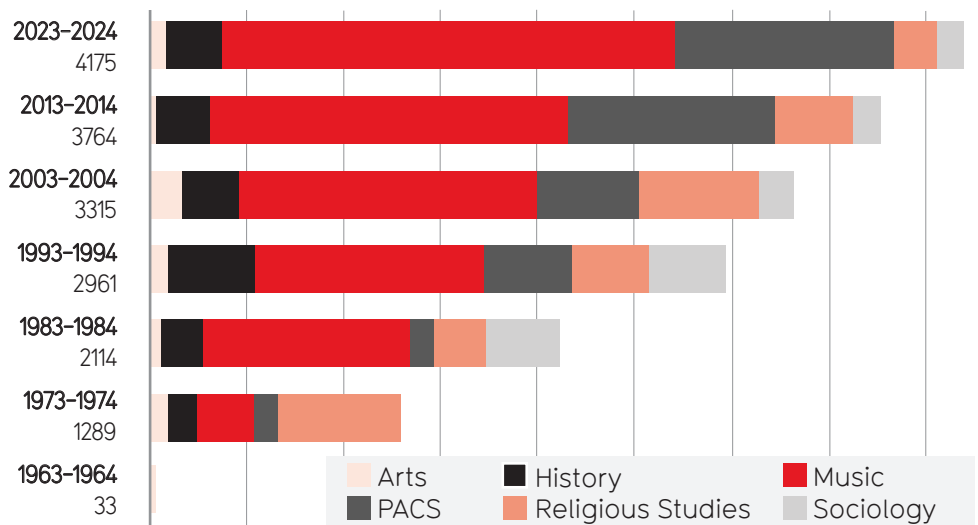
As Grebel's course enrolments increase, so does the College's need to hire sessional instructors. Offering musical instruction in around 20 instruments also requires that Grebel hires experts for studio courses.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS



MTS course offerings have increased since the program began in 1987. The total number of students enrolled in the program, both full-time and part-time, has stayed consistent. MPACS course offerings have slightly increased since the program's founding ten years ago but student numbers remain consistent.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE ENROLMENTS



The number of students enrolled in undergraduate courses has risen steadily, while fluctuating within this growth. "Course Enrolments" is a tally of students enrolled in courses and counts each student individually, no matter how many courses they take at Grebel. The course categories are simplified: Jewish Studies is counted in RS, English and Psychology are counted in Arts, Legal Studies courses are cross-listed with PACS, and Church Music and Worship courses are counted in Music.

Vic (BA 1975) and Marilyn (Laurier 1975) Winter (top centre) on vacation with their grandchildren and children. Front row l-r: Brandon (BA 2006) and Jessie (BSC 2007) Gingerich, Ben (BSC 2009) and Sarah (AHS 2010) Winter, and Suzanne and Art (BSC 2005) Winter.



Two Generations of Family Values

BY JENNIFER KONKLE

In 1972, Vic Winter decided to live at Conrad Grebel College while studying English at the University of Waterloo. This decision, influenced by friends from Leamington, shaped the lives of Vic, his wife Marilyn, and their children Art, Jessie, and Ben. Two generations of Winters have now made Grebel their home, where they discovered the importance of community, the joy of tradition, and the enduring impact of lifelong connections.

In 1974, Marilyn also found a home at Grebel while studying music at Laurier. Vic was Student Council President in '73-'74, and then "we got married in the summer of '75," explained Marilyn. "After a year in the married student apartments, we were back to live at Grebel as Senior Residents in '76-'77."

"We never overtly advertised Grebel to our kids, but we maintained Grebel friendships over the years, perpetuating the old Grebel stories, and showed them the campus," shared Vic. "Our positive experience must have rubbed off. However, each of the kids chose Grebel independently."

"I feel that I had some of the responsibility for carrying on the family tradition, being the oldest and thus first to head to Grebel of the second generation," said Art, who studied pre-health. "Certainly, I was encouraged through the stories of various shenanigans that Dad had gotten up to."

"I had watched Art and Jess both have great experiences and felt a great deal of longing to experience something similar when I moved away from home," reflected Ben, a science grad. "I had seen friendships built at Grebel, heard numerous stories, and knew it would be a place where I would feel comfortable." Many of Ben's closest friendships were forged at Grebel, and it's where he met his wife, Sarah (Good).

"My Grebel years were at a time of several transitions—the addition to the 'short end' and the building of the apartments and atrium," reminisced Art. "Building community and friendships at Grebel seems to happen immediately and easily," he added. "I think the focus on community, the open-door tradition, and all the Frosh Week activities contribute to that."

"During my time, the open-door tradition was how we built a sense of community," agreed Jessie, who studied Kinesiology. "Grebel was 100% the right choice for me. 20+ years later, and the connections I made there are still some of my most important. It's also where I found my husband (Brandon Gingerich)."

Many of Grebel's traditions have stayed the same across decades. The Winters recalled All-College Retreats, coffee houses, sports teams, singing with Professor Len Enns, and late-night conversations and activities. Ben and Art each noted their participation in the student musical: Ben in *Footloose* and Art in *Godspell*. And the second generation noted GrebelBowl, patio hockey, and ultimate Frisbee games as memorable activities.

"And skybunks!" added Jessie. "It was neat to see them passed on with the names written of those who had used them before."

"I also lived in the Grebel apartments, before spending my last year at Waterloo off campus as a Grebel associate," noted Ben. "These were both great experiences as well—I enjoyed staying in touch with Grebel even as I was preparing to move on."

The Winters agree that Grebel is much more than just a place to live or study. "My community and social life were centred at Grebel and some of the friendships I made there are lifelong," described Marilyn.

"In a lot of ways, I think Grebel is a unique place in the way that it invites second year students to continue to live in the residence mixed amongst the first years," added Ben. "This is what keeps these great traditions alive. From what I can tell, my parents, my siblings, and even students today are still experiencing a remarkably similar experience living at Grebel. This would only be possible with returning students to 'show the way' and pass on the traditions."

"The lasting friendships made at Grebel feature in all our lives," summarized Vic, who also served on Grebel's Board of Governors for seven years. "Two of our children found their life partners there. Marilyn and I came to know many of our kids' Grebel friends (who sometimes were children of our friends) and that web of connection and experience made the Grebel experience palpable and strong."

A Family Legacy

BY JENNIFER KONKLE

The Grebel experience has been foundational for the Harder-Heide family, as three generations have lived in the College residence.

ED HARDER (Lived in residence 1963–66)

Ed Harder was one of the first students to experience the new Grebel community. The energy and optimism that surrounded the school was unmistakable and it created a deep connection to the College and lifelong friendships among his cohort.

Ed frequently shared with family about his time at Grebel—regaling them with stories of his “shenanigans,” as well as some of the outdated rules. He recalled the dining experience, with family-style meals where a jacket and tie were often required. The strict separation between the men’s and women’s floors stood out in his memory too, particularly the limited Sunday afternoon visits where doors had to remain open and one foot had to be on the floor. However, students were allowed to smoke in their rooms!

As a lover of music, Ed appreciated singing in the choir under the direction of Professor Helen Martens and liked playing on the hockey team. He especially enjoyed the pranks. Ed often talked about the night he and his friends carried a Volkswagen Beetle into the cafeteria, much to the surprise of students arriving for

breakfast. Other adventures involved sneaking snacks from the kitchen by crawling down the laundry chute—a testament to the lengths students would go for a late-night treat.

Ed passed away in June 2024 but was pleased to know that his grandsons were continuing the family’s legacy at Grebel.

REBECCA (HARDER) HEIDE (Lived in residence 1992–94)

Decades later, Ed’s daughter Rebecca carried on the family tradition, living at Grebel in the early 1990s. “I loved living on the beautiful Grebel campus with my room overlooking the university,” she shared, emphasizing the sense of community that comes from living among familiar faces while also meeting new people. Many of the relationships Rebecca formed in university continue today.

The All-College Retreat at Silver Lake was a meaningful tradition for Rebecca, especially as a former SLMC staff person. She still cherishes memories of events like the Christmas and Spring End-of-Term Banquets and Community Suppers, and spoke fondly of



Nick Heide, Ed Harder (BMATH 1977) and Rebecca Heide (BA 2001) represent three generations of Grebelites.

when “Duane and I got engaged in 1994 while still living at Grebel!”

“We were thrilled to drop off Nicholas in September 2022 and we discovered that he was going to be living in the room right next to my old one,” Rebecca added. “Grebel still does an amazing job at pairing up roommates. Nick really got along well with his roommate, just like I did with mine in 1992!” She is looking forward to helping her other son, Noah, move in to Grebel this fall. “Grebel is the perfect place for students to be during their first year living away from home,” she added. “It’s close to main campus, has the best home-cooked food, and has wonderful established community. It’s a home away from home!”

DUANE HEIDE (Lived in residence 1991–94)

Duane, Rebecca’s husband, also lived at Grebel in the early ’90s. “I lived in the Quad with John Brubacher and Paul Janzen one year,” he recalled, highlighting the close-knit friendships they developed. Not only was Duane the Editor of *GrebelSpeaks* for one of his years at Grebel, but he had also recently acquired his private pilot’s license. On weekends and evenings, Duane flew Grebelites over the University of Waterloo campus and neighboring townships. He even took the cooks to see their homestead farms from a birds eye view!

NICK HEIDE (Lived in residence 2022–23)

Nick’s family history at Grebel added a layer of significance to his experience, as he lived in a room “looking over the volleyball court.” He loved “hanging out with friends in the lounge and playing pool in the games room,” as well as playing on the Grebel intramural sports teams. A particularly memorable moment for Nick was “touring my Grandpa around Grebel during an open house, but it quickly turned into him touring me around.”

NOAH HEIDE (Living in residence 2024–25)

Now, as Noah moves into Grebel, he is looking forward to “meeting new people and potential lifelong friends” and is excited about the food. As he begins his classes at Waterloo in Global Business and Digital Arts, Noah feels connected to his family’s history. “I’ll think of my Grandpa walking those same halls 60 years ago. It will be special to live at Grebel and have that connection, especially with his passing this year. And my parents were there 30 years ago!”



Rebecca, Noah, and Duane on Move-In Day 2024.

Carrying on the Grebel Tradition

BY JENNIFER DRIEDIGER (BSC 1996), ON BEHALF OF STEVE (BASC 1996), SARAH (BSC 2024) & RACHAEL (BASC 2028)

“When did you first hear about Grebel?” When this question was posed to parents during a Grebel residence interview, I realized there had never been a time in my life that I had not known about Grebel! My oldest brother, John, was a Grebelite before I was even born; my other brothers followed suit thereafter. In 1991, I brought us full circle becoming the fourth and final of my siblings to live at Grebel.

Steve and I met at Grebel and became what is now termed a “Gr-ouple” or a “statistic,” marrying shortly after graduation. Over the years, we have often reminisced about our Waterloo days—hence our Grebel stories and memories have been woven into the lives of our daughters from a young age.

Our girls’ first tangible exposure to Grebel was through Ontario Mennonite Music Camp. We were amazed that, years after our own graduation, many of the original drapes were still in action in the residence rooms! Listening to stories from music camp, it was evident that OMMC was a microcosm of the greater Grebel community. When the time came for Sarah and Rachael to consider universities, it was not surprising that UWaterloo was at the top of their list, with Grebel ranking as one of UWaterloo’s greatest assets.

All things evolve with the passage of time, but comparing our family’s Grebel experiences, it’s clear that some aspects of Grebel life have stood the test of time. Mealtimes remain an important time to connect with fellow Grebelites and it’s encouraging that the “fill the table” tradition is alive and well. The guys’ hall always smelled funny; that hasn’t changed. Grebel bread continues to be the highlight of Wednesday Commie Supper meals. Impromptu social opportunities still abound, serving to establish the intricate and essential network of relationships that make Grebel a “home away from home.”

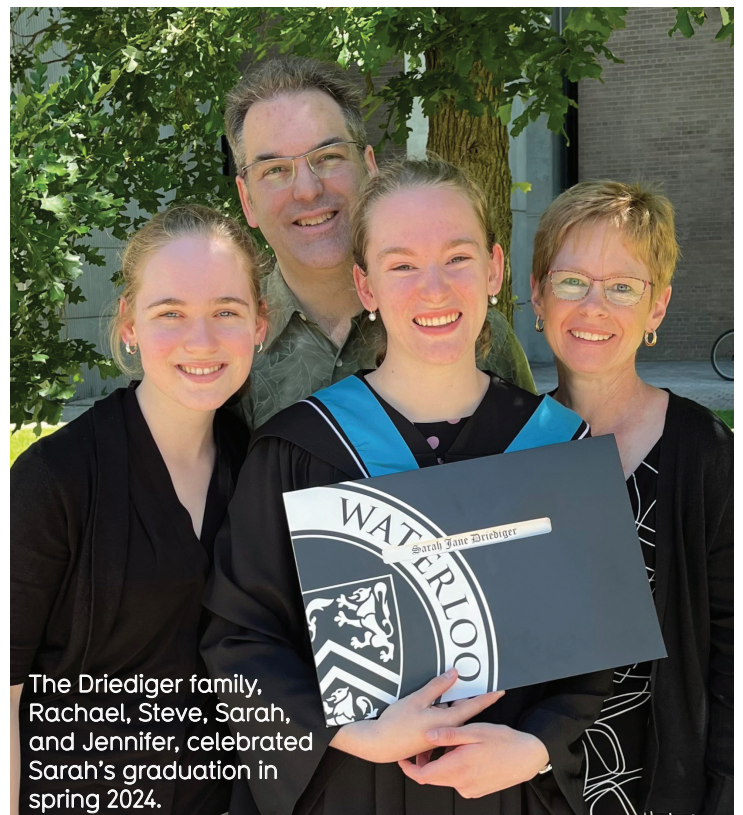
College facilities have undergone significant transformations over the years. The garbage chutes are no longer in operation; sheet change is a distant memory! Laundry facilities have been centralized and relocated to the basement. Modular furniture has replaced the vintage wall-mounted furniture of yesteryear, so while that has caused the tradition of home-grown bunkbeds to suffer, it has opened up new and creative (and quite possibly safer) possibilities for room layouts. The addition of the Grebel apartments provides another option for upper-year students seeking more independence ... yet still craving Commie Supper bread!

Grebel’s long-standing intentional emphasis on community has been instrumental in setting it apart from other communal living environments. Grebel continues to be a place where people of faith are not made to feel out of place because of their beliefs. Weekly

Chapel services and Community Suppers provide time deliberately set aside for residents to reconnect with one another on a deeper, more meaningful level. Walking the residence halls now is not quite the same as it once was; there are fewer open doors. This likely reflects a societal shift brought about by the pandemic. We are hopeful that the “open door” tradition will continue to be encouraged ... some of our most memorable, most bizarre, most random, and most hilarious conversations took place simply because the door was open.

Sixty years in, the Grebel community is as vibrant as ever. Grebel remains a wonderful place to meet people who share similar values. While many of us look back fondly on our Grebel years, many alumni (Marcus Shantz, Paul Heidebrecht, and others) have been drawn back, and some familiar faces such as Janet and Loretta Martin have never left! This is truly a testament to the fact that there is something special about the Grebel community.

We are delighted that Sarah and Rachael have chosen to carry on the UWaterloo/Grebel tradition for another generation. All four of us are grateful for the ways in which Grebel has shaped our lives individually and as a family.



The Driediger family, Rachael, Steve, Sarah, and Jennifer, celebrated Sarah’s graduation in spring 2024.

The Pollinator Garden was a true community project and anchored several significant Grebel events, while demonstrating Grebel's commitment to environmental sustainability, supported by the generosity of donors.

CONRAD GREBEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

TODAY'S ACTIONS, TOMORROW'S IMPACT

Paul Penner retired last year after 35 years of dedicated service, first as Business Manager and then Director of Operations. As he was cleaning out his filing cabinets, he came across an internal memo from the early 1990s which described a dire set of financial conditions at Conrad Grebel.

The memo cited unexpected losses of funding, rising expenses, lowered enrolments, and so on. All of this amounted to an unprecedented and existential 'budgetary crisis' at Grebel. The crisis was eventually resolved through years of painful workforce reductions, successful new fundraising efforts, and ultimately changes in government policy that improved core funding for Ontario universities.

As students at Grebel in the 1990s, we were happily unaware of the hard financial realities our college was facing. To the credit of the faculty, staff and administrators who served at the time, the student experience remained excellent, and fiscal problems were mostly kept behind the scenes.

Over thirty years later, Ontario universities face a similar set of dire financial realities. Domestic tuition rates are frozen by law; operating grants have not kept pace with inflation, and international student enrolments have fallen dramatically due to caps on visas. Grebel, along with all Ontario universities, faces a 'budgetary crisis' once again.

Thanks to the lessons learned in the 1990s, Grebel is in better shape to weather a financial crisis. Endowments, reserves, and generous annual giving have partially mitigated the worst impacts of this crisis. But we have also begun reviewing expenses and trimming costs, and we will need to continue doing so unless and until revenues improve.

In 2023-24, we celebrated Grebel's 60th anniversary. For us, one of the lessons of our history is that hard work and good decisions today will ensure that Grebel thrives tomorrow. We are grateful for those who wisely led the College through past challenges, and we are committed to doing the same.

On behalf of the Board,

Marcus Shantz | Andrew Roth
President | Chair, Board of Governors



At Paul-a-Palooza, the College celebrated the career of Paul Penner, pictured here with Nelson Scheifele, Paul's predecessor.



Elder Myeengun Henry, Indigenous Knowledge Keeper for the Faculty of Health, was a guest in Chapel and Community Supper, speaking on living together in peace, friendship, and respect.



It is Grebel's tradition to welcome new students and their families on Move-In Day. Marcus Shantz explained the value of a diverse and welcoming community.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Grebel professors taught engaging courses and connected with thousands of students at UWaterloo. Among other guest speakers and lecturers, Ray Aldred asked “Is Reconciliation Possible?” and John Eicher spoke on “Mennonite Narratives in the Age of Nationalism.” With the UW Research Institute for Aging, Jane Kuepfer hosted an International Conference on Ageing and Spirituality. Grebel also participated in “Russlaender 100” activities surrounding the 100th anniversary of the migration of Mennonites from the former Soviet Union. The Milton Good Library experienced high remote research requests, increased demand for group study space, and more in-class library instruction sessions than previous years. Professors encouraged students to think deeply about equity, diversity, belonging, and inclusion.

In addition to hosting 15 Noon Hour Concerts, the Music Department organized 21 ensemble concerts (drawing almost 5000 attendees) with 537 UWaterloo musicians. Concert highlights included the Three Choir Concert that celebrated Grebel’s 60th anniversary with two alumni compositions commissioned for the occasion, and a 10th anniversary concert of the Gamelan. Professor Maisie Sum gave the Eby Lecture on “A Story of Morocco’s Iconic Lute.” The Department created three new specializations in the Music program.

As the undergraduate PACS program grew 8% from the previous year’s enrolments, the new Restorative Justice diploma and specialization was launched. It foregrounds the experiences of racialized and marginalized communities and historical harms. A total of 19 PACS and MPACS students participated in internships across the globe. PACS partnered with other UWaterloo departments and clubs to organize and host the Urgency of Social Justice Event, with department members serving as designated dialoguers and speakers. Kalkidan Ararso won first place in the C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest.

Eleven Master of Theological Studies students participated in Supervised Experience in Ministry placements in seven Mennonite churches or related agencies, and as well as other experiential learning opportunities. As a way of creating new relationships sharing resources, TS cross-registered a course with MPACS, “Womanist Theologies,” and continued a partnership with Canadian Mennonite University to share enrolment in two online courses. “Theology from the Margins” highlighted theology developed by 2SLGBTQIA+ Christians. Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre ceased operations and held a virtual closing ceremony to mark the end of its 33-year existence.

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

Grebel had 4175 individual undergraduate course enrolments from students across all faculties at UWaterloo. This is a 7.5% increase over five years, and a 20% increase over ten years.

GRADUATE STUDIES

Peace and Conflict Studies and Theological Studies admitted 13 and 9 new master’s students, respectively. Course enrolments fell 27% from the previous five-year average, with a total of 35 MPACS and 29 MTS students in the program in the fall.

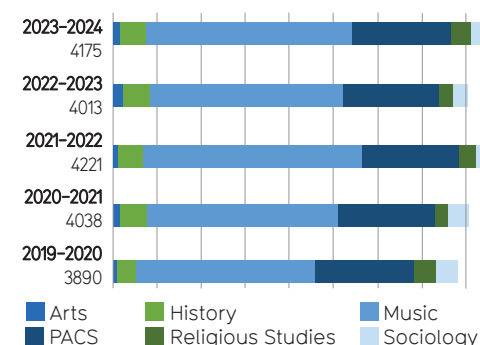
CONFLICT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

Continuing education workshop demands were unpredictable, but registrations improved mid-year. Supported by a generous donor, the program hosted a hybrid day of conversation on “Leading the Church in a Post-Christian, Postmodern World,” with Grebel faculty and alumni as keynote speakers, and national participation across church denominations.

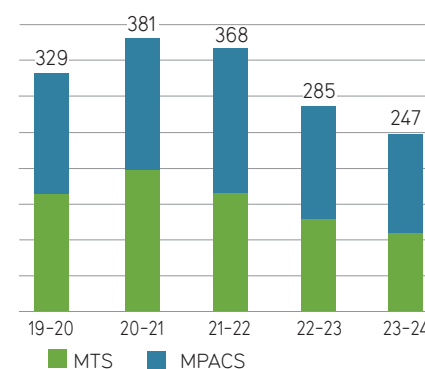
SCHOLARSHIP, SERVICE, AND OUTREACH

Grebel faculty demonstrated diverse scholarly expertise through public lectures, panels, concerts, book launches, faculty forums, and conferences. They published books, chapters, compositions, articles, and delivered workshops and presentations. UWATERLOO.CA/GREBEL/PUBLICATIONS

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE ENROLMENTS



GRADUATE COURSE ENROLMENTS



KINDRED CREDIT UNION CENTRE FOR PEACE ADVANCEMENT (CPA)

The CPA strengthened relationships with various organizations and initiated 10 new partnerships. They welcomed 39 new participants and 29 continuing peace practitioners, entrepreneurs, and researchers. Five organizations are affiliated with the CPA, two new start-ups joined the Grebel Peace Incubator as four moved on, and 23 students connected with the CPA. \$178,500 in external funding was leveraged for participants. The Grebel Gallery hosted three exhibits.

RESIDENCE AND ASSOCIATE STUDENTS

The 2023-24 year in Student Services saw high student engagement, reimagined traditions, and a strong sense of community. With enthusiastic support from students, staff, and faculty, creating and tending the new Pollinator Garden served as a focal point for the spring 2023 Chapel series and the College's fall 2023 Opening Celebration, symbolizing a commitment to environmental stewardship and spiritual reflection.

A largely new Student Services team found its stride and walked alongside students in navigating university life and young adulthood. The team took a close look at long-standing traditions, such as Move-In Day, the All-College Retreat, and the fall family open house, and reimagined them to be more cost-effective and time-efficient in planning while still building a sense of community. In that same spirit, the Living-Learning program were suspended this year, due to limited student interest.

Student engagement was strong, with many applications for various roles, including Dons, Ambassadors, Orientation Week Leaders, Student Council, and Larger Leadership Team. 95 residents and associates were involved in formal leadership roles. In total, 87 residents and associates were awarded \$157,555 in scholarships and awards, which recognize leadership, achievements, needs, and contributions to Grebel and the wider community.

With a full residence and apartment building, Grebel residents and associates totalled 272 unique students, in all years of study, in programs across all UWaterloo faculties.

Students enjoyed a vibrant social calendar, as Student Council and Leadership Team organized many events, including mocktails, upper suppers, laser tag, salsa dance night, and a glow-in-the-dark ABBA dance. The "turn out the lights" challenge, initiated by the Environment reps, prompted sustainable actions. The Chapel program collaborated with the Master of Theological Studies program to host a PIE (Public, Intentional, Explicit) Day that celebrated Grebel's 2SLGBTQIA+ community members.

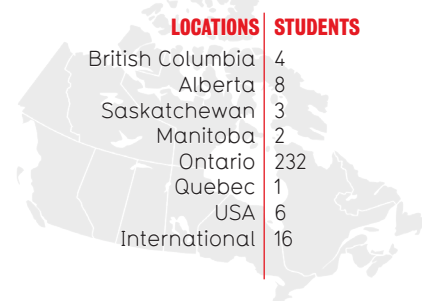
The student body's faith composition included 24% Mennonite, 21% Protestant, 20% Evangelical, 7% Catholic, and 7% other religions. 31% indicated no faith tradition, reflecting larger demographic changes underway in Canada. International students comprised 6% of the student body, including a refugee sponsored by Grebel students.

The year culminated in the annual Convocation service, where 80 undergraduates were celebrated—a lower number than in the past due to the smaller pandemic cohort. At the University of Waterloo's Convocation service, at least seven Grebel students received high honours for outstanding achievements and top marks in their respective programs and faculties. Reflections from graduating students during the last Chapel and Community Supper highlighted resilience, connections, and achievements, demonstrating personal emergence and inviting future possibilities after graduation.

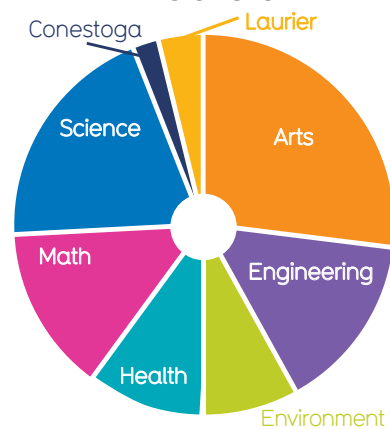
A memorable service trip with Mennonite Disaster Service saw ten students travel to Crisfield, Maryland, where they helped to rebuild homes in a place of need.



REGIONS



AREAS OF STUDY



UNDERGRADUATES OF 2024





PHYSICAL PLANT

Under the supervision of a new Director of Operations and a new Building Operator, the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system servicing the academic wing was replaced for the first time since it was originally installed in 1976, at a cost of \$1.6 million. Work began in late January 2024, with the system changeover in April. The new equipment is modeled to significantly reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. This project is part of a longer-term plan to replace aging infrastructure and equipment at Grebel. Donations to the Green Fund supported this project.

Grebel commissioned WalterFedy engineers to evaluate costs and options for the residence renewal project. Proposed updates included window replacement, washroom renovations, heating and cooling upgrades, and improved insulation. The project aims to replace outdated components, enhance resident comfort, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Efforts are focused on prioritizing these updates and creating a cost-effective, minimally disruptive implementation plan. Improvements will help reach the goal of 35% reduction in emissions by 2030, which was approved by the Board.



FINANCE

The College finished the year with a sizeable operating deficit that was largely (but not entirely) due to the installation of a new heating and ventilation system servicing the academic wing—the first time this equipment was replaced in 50 years. This was part of a longer-term effort to replace aging building systems and reinvest in our physical plant.

Grebel’s largest source of funding is for undergraduate teaching, which is based on a fixed percentage of undergraduate enrolments in the Faculty of Arts. Last year, all Arts enrolments decreased slightly, resulting in a revenue shortfall.

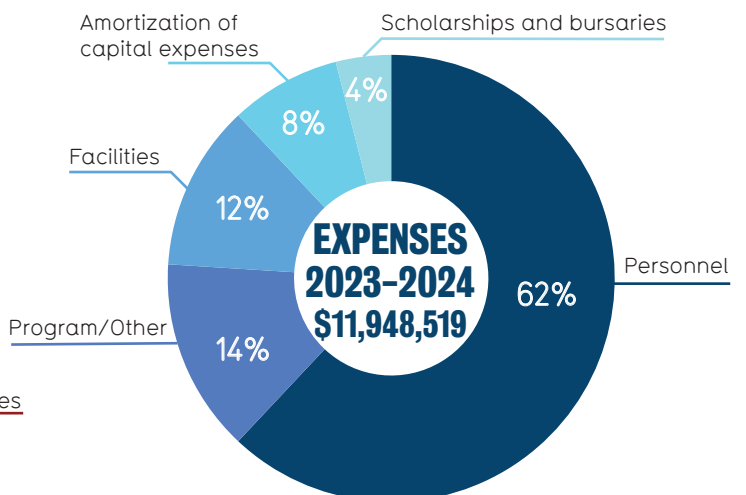
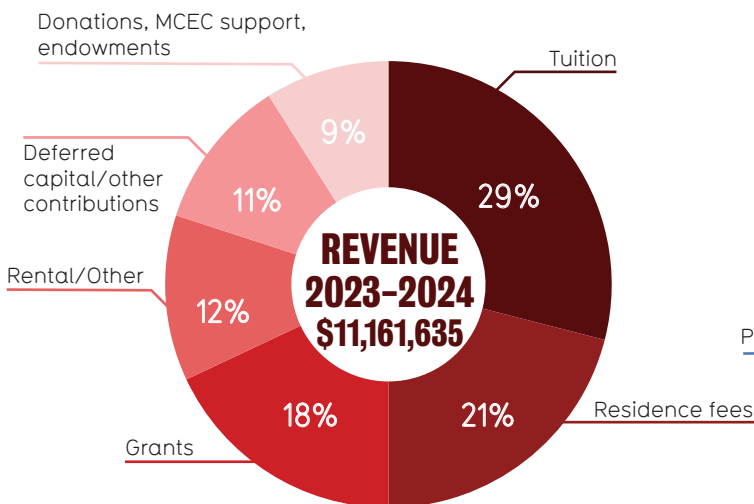
As noted earlier, Ontario universities continued to struggle with flat revenues and rising costs in 2023-24. Grebel is not immune to these challenges. The College trimmed expenses, reduced activity levels in certain programs, and in some cases, declined to fill vacant positions.

In these tough financial times, we are grateful for our endowment portfolio, which generated \$673,884 to supplement program revenue and provide student assistance. We are also very thankful for our generous donors who enabled us to meet our annual fund target of \$375,000.



The annual Scholarship and Bursary Reception connected 26 donors with 90 student recipients, with visiting and a short program.

184 Grebel students received a total of
\$505,228 in awards and bursaries in 2023-24.
\$110,070 came from external sources
\$118,103 came from internal sources, and
\$277,055 came from endowment earnings.



ADVANCEMENT

In 2023-24, the Advancement office focused on engaging with the broader community through fundraising, alumni and church relations, and communications. These relationships are built through personal experiences, storytelling, sharing news, providing resources, and strengthening connections. The College once again received strong support from a loyal extended community. Combined with Grebel Fund donations totalling \$375,034, overall donations and pledges for the year reached \$1,951,873 (4.4% of the total amount raised at UWaterloo last year).

The capital campaign, Windows to the Future, gained momentum, raising money for urgent improvements to the air handling systems, washrooms, and plumbing infrastructure. These essential upgrades will enhance the building's overall functionality and efficiency, and contribute significantly to environmental goals, as well as student satisfaction and comfort. Supported by a Campaign Advisory of alumni and Board members, as of April 30, 2024, Grebel raised \$2,434,751 in donations and pledges toward a \$4 million goal.

With a 10.2% return on investment last year, Grebel's endowments are critical for long-term stability. Two new awards were established: the Marshall Perseverance Award and the E. Paul Penner & Dolores Harms Penner Leadership Award. The Penners also established a new endowment for Student Council to fund residence capital projects and furnishing upgrades. Other gifts to existing endowments honouring friends and family members resulted in donations of \$104,816 for scholarship endowments and \$216,944 for program endowments. Eight estate gifts totalling \$161,446 were received.

54.46% of Grebel donors are alumni, and 364 alumni households donated last fiscal year. Donor retention was strong, and 73% of donors returned to support Grebel students, programs, and projects again this year. Donations are essential for maintaining core programs in a time of funding constraints. Thank you to our donors for your steadfast support as you make a lasting impact at the College.

DONATIONS RECEIVED: \$1,951,873

Scholarships & Bursaries	\$123,600
Operating Restricted	\$474,625
Endowment—Scholarships	\$104,816
Endowment—Program	\$216,944
Capital Fund	\$92,602
Annual Grebel Fund	\$375,035
Windows to the Future (Residence Renewal)	\$564,251

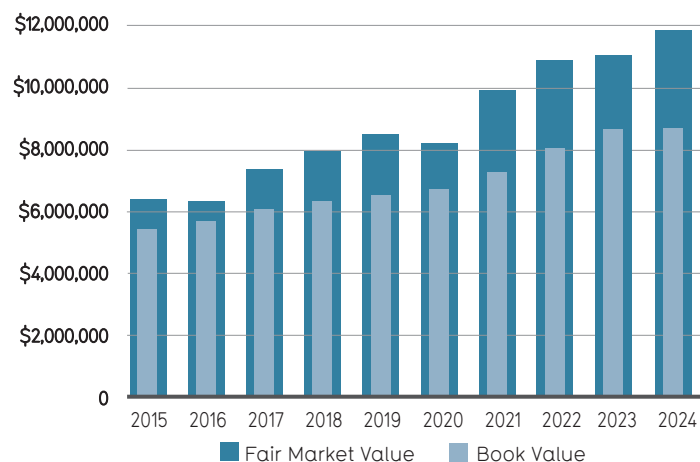


President's Circle donors were invited for a thank you reception before the Three Choirs Concert that celebrated Grebel's 60th Anniversary.



The 60 Alumni Stories project connected with Grebel alumni living around the world to share and celebrate interesting and inspiring life paths and accomplishments, representing six decades of alumni.

ENDOWMENTS: GROWTH OVER 10 YEARS



Angie Koch (BA 1999) received the 2023 Grebel Distinguished Alumni Service Award at an event called "Planting the Seeds of Community," which also included a panel discussion about food production, sustainability, and prioritizing wholesome food as consumers. Panelists were Alleluia Buist (student), Leena Miller Cressman (BA 2010) and Angie.

THANK YOU TO GREBEL'S GENEROUS DONORS

704 DONORS SUPPORTED OUR STUDENTS AND MISSION THIS YEAR!

Abundance Canada
Acton Rotary Club
Carolyn and Andrew Alberti
Angelica and Blair Allen
Gordon and Valerie Alton
Rachel and Sean Anderson
Magdaline Andres and David Neufeld
Nolan and Margaret Andres
Rudy and Helen Baergen
Dr. Cynthia Bahoshy
Susan and Phil Baker
Geraldine Balzer and Gordon Peters
Kerstin Balzer-Peters
Alina and Dan Balzerson
Francis Bardet
Pam Bartel
Alicia Batten and Terry Rothwell
Susan and Marcus Bauman
Roy and Lorraine Bauman
Clare and Eileen Bauman
Phares Bauman
Lester Bechtel Family Foundation
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Byron and Ann Weber Becker
Scott Beech and Cindy Lebold
Margaret and James Beer
Chris Beer and Kim Bassett
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Shelley Bull and Wayne Carrick
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Donna Chow and Philip Toy
Lydia and Barry Church
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Lewis Coffman
Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster
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Conrad Grebel Student Council
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Catherine Falconer
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Marg Heinrichs
Vic Heinrichs
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Ian Kasper
Katherine Lemke
Heinrichs Scholarship
Michelle Kazmer
Roger and Heather Kehl
Teresa and Chester Keller
Karen and David Kendel
Richard Kennel
Sidra Khan



The Alumni Committee planned 12 alumni events, including a late 80s reunion, an anniversary picnic, a gala, a Blue Jays game, gatherings in regional areas, and a talent show retirement party for Paul Penner. These events drew more than 1000 people in total.

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Nathaniel Kim
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Brent Komer
Jennifer and Scott Konkle
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 Alfred and Elizabeth Koop
 Helen H. Koop
J. Randy and Judy Koop
Victor and Irene Koop
Tamara Kottenko
Shelbey Krahn and Hoi Cheu
Natasha Krahn and
David Chodos
 Travis Kroeker and Grace Kehler
Marlene Kroeker and
Mark Regier
Ryan Kroeker and
Aleda Klassen
 Mary Krueger
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Megan MacDonald and
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 Mandy Macfie
Alta and Jim MacFie
Jim and Yvonne MacMillan
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 Lloyd Martin

Steve Martin and
Donna McLellan
Anna M. Martin
Nathan and Julia Martin
Sara Martin
Wilmer Martin and
Phyllis Miller
Ruth Martin
Kevin Martin and
Kim Bowman
Fred Martin and Wanda
Wagler-Martin
Maurice and Phyllis Martin
Ernie and Edith Martin
David and Doris Martin
David Martindale and
Chris Hitchcock
Phyllis Martin-Neufeld and
Keith Neufeld
Ronald and Gudrun Mathies
 Shannon and Greg Matsuo
 David and Nancy Matthews
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Jeannie McDowell
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Ann Schultz and
Steve Pfisterer
Susan Schultz
 Schurch Family Association
 Susan Schwartzentruber
Murray Schwartzentruber
and Mary Wright
Lorna Schwartzentruber
Sharon Schwartzentruber



Faculty regularly spoke at MCEC churches and resourced the wider Mennonite church through the Grebel-to-Go program and personal invitations, visiting 20 different congregations in 2023-24. Kate Steiner taught a Worship Practicum course and visited churches with her class and the Chapel Choir.

Jennifer Park
 Fanny Patterson and Peter Rozee
 Nancy Pauls
 Carolyn Pawelko
 PeaceWorks Technology Solutions
 Kate Pearce
Allen Pengelly and
Jenna Paikowsky
 Carol and Eugene Penner
 Marie Penner
 Glenn Penner
 Robert and Nianda Penner
 Brian and Joanne Penner
Christine Penner
Donald and Kristen Penner
E. Paul Penner and
Dolores Harms Penner
Kimberly Penner and
Dylan Tarnowsky
Alecia and Ryan Petryschuk
Jill and Tim Pletsch
 Louise and Lawrence Pogue
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Wendy and Murray Priebe
Gideon and Brenda Prins
Patrick Quealey
Kevin Ranney and
Chris Hiller
Elaine Ranney and
Henry Wiebe
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Leanne Ropp
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 Anna Reesor
Barry Reesor and
Lori Guenther Reesor
Anne Reesor
Norma Reesor
Lois Reesor
Steven and Jessica Reesor
Rempel
Luke and Leah Reesor-Keller

Rockway Mennonite Church
Victoria Roeder Martin
 Marion Roes
 Edgar Rogalski
 David and AnneMarie Rogalsky
Anne Ross
 Rotary Club of Brampton
 Rotary Club of Cambridge North
 Rotary Club of Cambridge Sunrise
 Rotary Club of Erin
 Rotary Club of Kitchener
 Rotary Club of Milton
 Rotary Club of Mississauga
 Foundation
 Rotary Club of
 Mississauga-Meadowvale
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Rick and Ruth Ann Shantz
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Ted Sherk
Emily Shuh Robson
Michael Shum
 Dorothy Sittler
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Josie and Will Winterfeld

Horst and Sharon Wohlgemut
Savio Wong
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 Roxanne Wright
Mark and Glennis Yantzi
 Yantzi Home Building Centre
 Thomas and Rebecca
 Yoder Neufeld
 Philip and Janet Yordy
 Delphine Zehr
Dawn and Greg Zehr

51 Anonymous Donors
 * We are saddened by the loss of
 these friends.
 Bold = Alumni Households



Nuhu Abdulmalik received a 2023-2024 Rotary Peace Scholarship. The Rotarians of District 7080 worked toward their three-year commitment to sponsor three students each year as part of this scholarship.



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE



CENTRING ON STUDENTS | belonging, vocation, faith formation, programming, alumni

Departments prioritized creating an inclusive community through events and policy improvement, and offered financial aid to historically under-represented students. Students attended presentations and activities that focused on community service and vocation, like the Map the System contest. The Archives worked with students exploring the heritage field, and CPA provided 23 paid co-op jobs or internships. Alumni events connected like-minded students and alumni, while the 60 alumni stories project showed a wide variety of career paths possible after graduation.



ENGAGING OUR PARTNERS | UWaterloo, Mennonites, community

University College (AFIW) leaders regularly met to define their partnership with the University of Waterloo. PACS cross-listed more courses and collaborated on events, while Conflict Management expanded community partnerships. CPA programs supported Waterloo's social impact goals and inspired student involvement, and Student Services strengthened ties with Waterloo's Indigenous Knowledge Keeper. Grebel faculty spoke at MCEC churches, MTS students had placements in Mennonite organizations, and the Library and Archives served as a resource for MCEC and beyond.



EXPLORING NEW PATHWAYS FOR LEARNING | enrolment, scholarship, community, EDI

Theological Studies collaborated with Canadian Mennonite University on shared online courses. With careful course content and diverse guest speakers, TS fostered a student body that values EDI. Music's three new specializations make the curriculum more accessible and decolonizes the curriculum. Both Conflict Management and Spirituality and Aging built on remote learning options with a wider audience. With the inclusion of the Centre for Community Based Research as a Core Collaborator, the CPA expanded opportunities for research activities for faculty and students.



BUILDING RESILIENCE | environment, sustainability, resources, potential

Advancement raised nearly \$2m for operations, scholarships, and capital projects, grew the endowment portfolio by 6.6%, and increased planned giving gifts. The Green Team encouraged environmental stewardship, set the 35% greenhouse gas reduction goal, and initiated the Pollinator Garden. The HVAC upgrade, reducing emissions, was a vital infrastructure upgrade. Student Services scaled down traditions, and other departments examined their programs for efficiencies. To enable employees to realize potential, HR oversaw new staff policies and a salary adjustment.



A Student Council meeting circa 1995.
Photo from the Jaby Jacobs collection.

MEMORIES FROM PAST STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

To capture the spirit of Grebel residence life over six decades, we reached out to former Student Council Presidents to reflect on their time in office. We asked about the student body's key concerns, Grebel's biggest challenges, and their most significant achievements. They also shared memories of the social and political climate on campus, key traditions, and unexpected moments. While memories may have faded, these reflections offer a window into Grebel's past and may spark your own recollections. You can catch up with some of Grebel's earlier Student Council Presidents as part of our 60 Alumni Stories project, including Corwin Cambrey (BA 1967, MA 1973), Ron Thiessen (BA 1969), Peter Harder (BA 1975), and Dorothea Funk (BA 1976).

MARK LIGHTY (BA 1983)

Student Council President 1980–81

Now: Retired, Shakespeare, ON

Some of my favourite Grebel memories include Frosh Week, Commie Supper, Talent Nights, Fed Flicks with Grebel friends (especially “Rocky Horror” night), progressive supper at faculty and staff homes, and “tobogganing” down Grebel’s hill on dining room trays. The National Club at 11 pm watching *The National* with Knowlton Nash was an essential nightly ritual.

Campus life was generally quiet during the early 1980s. While climate change, artificial intelligence, and foreign interference had not entered the conversation, concerns about Reaganomics, the Cold War, and the arms race were top of mind during this era. The Peace Society organized a disarmament symposium, even managing to attract the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the day to Grebel for a panel discussion. With reference to the Doomsday Clock, the theme of the symposium was “7 Minutes to Midnight.”

For a crazy late-night out, we played broomball versus the other Church Colleges. Unlike our opponents, who must have doubted the bit about Mennos as plain people, Grebelites dressed up in outlandish garb, such as garish pyjamas with a flowing technicolour scarf. In other sports memories, I have a vintage Conrad Grebel jersey with a cartoonish, professorial-looking duck, the campy Grebel mascot of the era.

After 30+ years as a desk jockey in offices around GTA, I've retreated to rural life among trees, birds, and wildlife on a farm near Shakespeare, Ontario. I've made peace with the ubiquitous weeds by counting the colourful ones as wildflowers, as long as

they're not prickly or full of burrs. I enjoyed the city though haven't missed Canada's busiest highway. I'm still a habitual viewer of The National, which mercifully now streams at 9 pm.



PAUL PENNER (BA 1983)

Student Council President 1982–1983

Now: Retired, Waterloo ON

The primary concerns and priorities of the student body were the quality of food and a burgeoning associate program. The “new” academic wing was only six years old but the need for more space was already a big concern. Other issues the College was facing were resident students not taking Grebel courses despite the requirement to do so and the decline of Inter-College cooperation. My biggest achievement as president was establishing a new “Day Student” program for students who wanted to associate with Grebel yet were willing to go without Community Supper.

Nuclear disarmament was top of mind for everyone because the Cold War was intensifying. To combat the political climate, Grebel started a recycling program and hosted a showing of *Not a Love Story: A Film About Pornography*—a film critiquing the porn industry.

The key traditions and activities during my time were In Search of Connie G, the All-College Retreat at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp,



broomball wearing crazy outfits, singing in the stairwells, playing Nylons music for sheet change on Monday nights, throwing people in the shower on their birthday, pranking Louise Wideman (often stealing her bathrobe), dancing til dawn following the Term-End Banquet and then going to Smitty's at Westmount Mall for breakfast, and Geoff Gladwell cooking on weekends, making omelets to order.

A funny or unexpected moment from my presidency involved Joan Weber, Grebel's receptionist, who was always very serious in the workplace. I didn't even know she liked me, but I got invited to her house, with about a dozen other students, to sing hymns. She had an organ in her apartment which she played with gusto and we students belted out hymns over top of her accompaniment.

Now, I'm newly retired and enjoying traveling, playing squash and pickleball. I also enjoy going for walks and having coffee with friends.

MONICA SCHEIFELE (BA 1991)

Student Council President 1990-1991

Now: Office Administrator for a Lutheran Church, Waterloo, ON

I think the environment was a primary concern during my time as Student Council President. I don't really remember what the political climate was like at that time, although I think there were protests against the Gulf War. During this time, the Student Council also put forward a motion or resolution to the Grebel community that part of resident and associate fees going forward would be put toward future Grebel building projects, and the student body passed it. Dealing with the grief and shock following the death of Timothy Sutherland, a Grebel resident who was killed in a bike accident, was another challenge that we faced in the fall.

I'm not sure if it was funny then, but we put the new Grebel logo on that year's Grebel T-shirt without permission from the Grebel administration. Some activities at the time were the Peace Society, Community Suppers, Chapels, sports teams, Winter Retreat, many small groups (knitting, euchre, Star Trekkies), many practical jokes, lots of couples becoming engaged that year, and a conservation committee was formed to explore ideas for "greening" the College.



CAROL BERKHOUT (BA 1995)

Student Council President 1991-1992

Now: Religion Teacher, Fenwick, ON

I think the primary concerns of the student body then continues to be the same concerns today—how to build community within a residence space that includes students from many different backgrounds, studying different disciplines, who have diverse interests and views. We placed a priority on planning a variety of events, and then being as invitational as possible to entice students to participate. I remember a particular challenge was how to best accommodate and continue to include co-op students and those living off campus. The associate program was very popular, but having enough physical space for everyone to attend Community Suppers was tricky—a frequent conversation was how to ensure that associates felt part of the community. Also, at that time the residence and academic buildings were not connected, so there were numerous conversations about how to build more social connections between the faculty and the residents. One solution was to form small groups of students who would be hosted by faculty members at their houses.

It was a time of guarded optimism. On one hand, the Berlin Wall had just come down, leading to increased freedoms and openness in/with other parts of the world. However, the after-effects of the Montreal Massacre were still felt on campuses. Groups like OPIRG were raising awareness of environmental issues by distributing reusable mugs on campus, and many groups (including Grebel) were making efforts to increase recycling programs (Student Council had a Recycling Rep).

Our main goal was to work together to plan fun and creative events amidst busy schedules. Key traditions included Orientation Week—Frosh Wash + 'In search of Conrad and Connie G, All-College Retreat at Silver Lake, annual talent shows (Charles on his banjo, Lisa tap dancing, Al on his saxophone were highlights), movie nights in the common room, and weekly Chapel and Community Suppers, of course! Our council developed some very good skills at using coasters to score goals across the boardroom table! Clearly, our meetings were not always serious and on task.

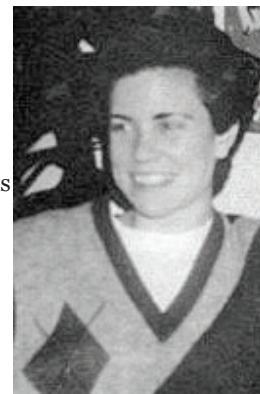
After graduating in 1995, I worked as a TA at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate for two years, then earned my BEd at U of T and was hired by Niagara Catholic Board of Education to teach at the high school I had attended, Notre Dame College School in Welland. I have been a Religion teacher there since 1998. I live in Fenwick with my husband, Dave Augustyn (SJU '95). Our two children, Lucas and Krystyna, both study/work in Toronto.

JABY JACOB (BMATH 1998)

Student Council President Spring 1996

Now: working in insurance, Long Island, NY

I was co-president with Kenneth Friesen for the spring term, which was a much more laid-back term than the fall-winter. As such, our primary concerns were more social in nature. In addition, we helped the incoming team with Frosh Week activities and arrangements.



I don't remember many of our traditions from that time, but patio dining, square dances, and sand volleyball featured prominently.

Now I'm living on Long Island, NY, working in insurance, I'm active in my local church and on the boards of a couple national para-church ministries. I still keep in touch with many of my Grebel friends and get together with them once/twice a year, and I follow many more on social media. Grebel was my happy place and many of my deepest friendships were established there. Even though we don't keep in touch as much, when we get together, we pick up where we left off. (Jaby is pictured in the bottom right, along with other members of "The Secret Service.")



lounge was converted to classrooms, the businesses under the Chapel were relocated, and Student Services and lounge spaces were consolidated into one area, much closer to where the students live.

We also restructured Student Council from one giant group of 20+ people to an executive that was better equipped to make decisions, with a larger advisory group that guided, shaped, and gave leadership to student life. Figuring out how to get co-op students more accurately represented was a conversation that we started, but didn't complete. Most Council roles at the time required a fall-winter resident space, which left out co-op students.

Some traditions from my time were Frosh Wash, Penny Event, DQ Walk, Silver Lake Retreat, End-of-Term Banquets, recording the second Chapel Choir CD, Ultimate Frisbee in the field in front of St. Paul's, and "Feats of Humanity" (sometimes involving campus security). We played patio hockey in the winter, moving the snow with shovels we probably "borrowed" from Sylvan, or perhaps with Sylvan's help, and piling it around the edges like boards to keep the puck in.

Today I'm a Resilience Facilitator and Energy Practitioner at a wellness clinic in Waterloo (Functional Medicine Uptown). I help my clients get out of chronic fight-or-flight, access more peace and calm, release stored emotion and trauma, and build resilience to better withstand the stresses—big and small—of living.

DOUGLAS FRIESEN (BMATH 2001, PHD 2015)

Student Council President Spring 2001

Now: applying machine learning in finance, Edmonton, AB

I was the Grebel summer Student Council President in 2001, as well as Vice-President in fall 2000 (with Jocelyn Burkhart as President, pictured with Douglas below). A major win for us around that time was getting wired internet connections in every room, which replaced our tradition of wiring computers together throughout the residence every term. Grebel had building expansion plans, so this was a major area of focus for the year. There was also the incoming double cohort on the horizon to prepare for as Ontario eliminated grade 13. The summer was always a time of fun and great relationship building, as there were fewer residents and everyone in the summer term lived on one floor. A highlight was a summer retreat at the start of the term that a majority of residents attended, and this was great for building a foundation for relationships over the summer. The annual summer reunion was a highlight as well.



Since my time at Grebel, I've focused on improving healthcare and have led research experiments in understanding biological electrical information processing while doing my PhD at the University of Alberta, with applications in understanding consciousness and enabling organ regeneration. I'm currently working in applying machine learning in finance at a startup in Edmonton, Alberta.



JENNIE WIEBE (BES 1999)

Student Council President 1996-1997

Now: Resilience Facilitator and Energy Practitioner at a wellness clinic, Waterloo, ON

When I was on Student Council, the world was still reeling from the genocide in Rwanda and Earth Day was starting to be a thing. At Grebel, we were adjusting to a new Dean of Students (Mary Brubaker-Zehr), and reduced hours for Student Services (John Fast's role as Chaplain had just been reduced to half-time). John Toews was the new College President, hired to get Grebel out of debt, so everyone knew there was going to be (and had to be) a shake-up in how Grebel operated. Things were flavoured with an undercurrent of tension and uncertainty.

As part of a search for more classroom space, John Toews tasked me with assessing student spaces (the old basement alumni lounge, mailboxes, morgue, along with the Student Services offices under the Chapel) and student needs, and how the use of all these fit together. Shauna Leis (VP, pictured right with Jennie on the left) and I gathered the exec for an intense brainstorm session. Equipped with building drawings and coloured markers, we eventually came up with some options that felt workable. As a result, the alumni

CALEB BOYD (BBA 2005)

Student Council President 2003–2004

Now: working in equipment finance, Charlotte, NC

Our priorities as Student Council were centred around enhancing the overall campus experience at Grebel by organizing fun activities and events. During Grebel's 40th year, the campus took on a new look with the completion of the atrium and apartments. This was an exciting time but also challenging as we navigated campus life in the midst of a major construction project. Grebel's first musical production (Godspell) and the Blue Mountain Ski Trip were some highlights. The climate at Grebel was in a really good place overall. Without the distractions of social media, real authentic community thrived. Our only "Facebook" at the time was an actual book of faces that was mailed to us prior to term.

Key activities from the time were Commie Supper, GrebelBowl, DQ Walk, Jumanji, Silver Lake Retreat, Talent Show, Ultimate Frisbee, Stairway Jam Sessions, and of course going to see The Educated Skeptics perform on campus (my band at the time)! A funny moment from my presidency was when my roommates and I converted our quad room into the "Narnia Quad" by removing the back of the dresser closet and placing it in front of the entrance to our bedroom so that you could only access the room by crawling through the closet. People always wondered where we slept!

After graduation, I moved to Charlotte, NC to pursue a career in equipment finance and I have been here ever since. I am married and have two boys ages 10 and 12. I got into running, completing 20 marathons including 10 Boston Marathons. (Pictured left below.)

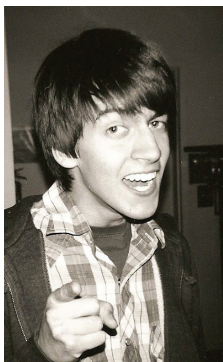


JUSTUS KAUFFMAN ZIMMERLY (BA 2010)

Student Council President 2006–2007

Now: marketing for The North Face, Denver, CO

I think the general priority of Student Council at the time was the facilitation of a strong community for residents and associates through activities and programming. I don't recall any major challenges, but the College was thinking about how to maintain and modernize its facilities with an eye on its future health. One of our biggest achievements during my term was voting to increase residence fees to cover expenses for a refugee student to live at Grebel. There was a lot of support from students, and I think this was a strong indication of the community putting its values into practice. Having lived in the US for the last 12 years, I remember the climate on campus as one that was far less polarized! While students wrestled with current events and a sense that the world was changing, conflicting viewpoints were generally engaged in good faith.



Key traditions during my presidency were Commie Supper, campus games like Menno Run, and dorm movie nights. A funny memory was when a significant chunk of the student council got in trouble for an escapade that was inspired by the movie "School of Rock"!

I currently live in Denver CO with my wife and 5-year-old daughter. I moved to the States twelve years ago and currently work in marketing for The North Face.

MORGAN GRAINGER (BMATH 2009)

Student Council President Spring 2008

Now: full-time Software Developer at Apple and part-time graduate student at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

At the time, spring term student council was run independently from the fall/winter student council. The main goal of spring Student Council was building cohesion and belonging among the much smaller group of students. Grebel as a whole seemed to be doing well. From a student perspective, the coming and going of different conference groups required constant flexibility, including having a picnic for dinner one night to free up the dining hall for the Shad Valley banquet! I served on the committee that hired Sara Cressman, who is still at the College as Director of Finance, and who I regularly work with now in my role as Finance and Development Committee Chair on the Board.



Students were interested in environmental issues, like Canada's progress towards emissions targets in the Kyoto Protocol and potential withdrawal. There was also talk of Indigenous issues like the then-recent Residential School settlements and land disputes. Students were also concerned about the rising cost of higher education and the debt that often resulted. Some key traditions from my time: "Heat Week," summer reunion for fall/winter students, College-wide games of Gotcha and Mafia, Feats of Humanity, and pick-up Ultimate Frisbee.

EMILY MININGER (BA/PACS 2014)

Student Council President 2012–2013

Now: Manager of Internal Communications at the University of Guelph, Guelph, ON

Our priorities were pretty similar to most years, I imagine—create opportunities for our community to engage meaningfully with each other, have fun, and build relationships while also improving Grebel through various projects and pursuing new ideas. One of our biggest projects that generated a lot of discussion was working on updating our constitution to define what clubs were part of the Larger Leadership Team and were given a budget each year, versus clubs that needed to apply for money. It seemed like a simple project at the beginning, but quickly evolved into a complex discussion. We wanted to create a process and criteria that were fair, transparent, and meaningful. It was a learning experience on how to build consensus and work through differing opinions! The thing that sticks out to me the most was how unexpectedly challenging

this work was. I remember at one point thinking there was so much disagreement on how to structure clubs and LLT that I broke Grebel! Clearly, that was not the case and Grebel was very much not broken, but it certainly felt like we had created a bit of a mess. Looking back though, it is quite humorous how dramatic that all felt.

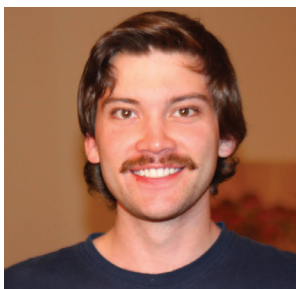
For Frost Week, we collaborated with the other University Colleges to do a cross-college event. I'm proud of our Council for trying to build connections outside of Grebel—as wonderful as our community was, I thought it was important to branch out too. Solar Grebel also put solar panels on the roof during my term, which was a really exciting project. Some traditions from my time were Walk-a-Mile, Frost Week, Make-a-Difference Market, Grebel Musical, GrebelBow!, the Penny Event, Trick or Eat, Apartment Mocktails, Blue Mountain Ski Trip, Associate Flap Jack Fridays, Val-o-week, and Secret Cupid.



Currently, I live in Guelph with my husband Jeff Weber and I work at the University of Guelph as Manager of Internal Communications. I also volunteer with Wyndham House, a local organization that supports vulnerable youth, serve on the executive for the University of Guelph Professional Staff Association, and play clarinet in the Guelph Concert Band. I still enjoy baking new things, having board games nights, and playing music.

JONO CULLAR (BES 2015)

Student Council President 2013–2014
Now: President and Co-owner of Electroform Equipment, New Hamburg, ON



The main focus of the student body was Grebel's 50th anniversary. To celebrate Grebel's birthday, Student Council started three projects: building tables and benches (which used lumber from trees cut down for the library addition to make benches), a mural, and a commissioned painting by Margaret Gissing. Jim Pankratz also retired as Dean during this time, and the new library and peace center were being built—noise was a big concern.

Determining funding between official clubs and non-official clubs was an issue the Student Council faced. Gents, a social group for men, was inducted into the Larger Leadership Team (LLT) on a probationary basis. LLT facilitated handball tournaments, blood donations, bingo nights, documentary screenings, forums, the clean plate club, protests, and a myriad of other shenanigans. The Executive Team hosted events like pizza parties, mocktails, Grebel-wide games like Assassin, Froyo night, Olympics, Valo-week, and many more. Through the 100+ officially sponsored events, there seemed to be a nice variety of opportunities for student involvement. We also received \$6,700 from SLEF funding to help fund new tables and chairs for the Morgue.

Some of the memorable moments from that time were craving Community Supper bread, beach volleyball in the summer, Camp Trillium, off-campus dinner (where students living at Grebel had

dinner with Grebel associates living off campus), Sock Wrestling, and the Gourmet Mac and Cheese competition. Another thing of note was that because of the construction project, the fire alarm went off what felt like weekly. A funny memory for me happened when I was meeting with Mary Brubaker-Zehr in her office, there was suddenly a loud crash, and a soccer ball shattered through her window.

I am currently President and Co-owner of Electroform Equipment, which strives to accelerate the adoption of electric powered landscape equipment.

KAYLA BURMASTER (EXPECTED BA 2025)

Student Council President 2023–2024

Now: current student at UWaterloo, Waterloo, ON

During my time as StuCo President, the student body was primarily concerned with the discomfort that comes from years in isolation due to the pandemic. Students in their final year were itching to get back to the Grebel they loved in their first year, while some younger students felt more socially anxious about events or were avoiding them altogether. Despite this, the spirit of Grebel was still found in these students as they navigated supporting their friends.

One of the biggest challenges faced at Grebel during my term was high rates of turnover in major staff roles at the College. I never thought I would be involved in StuCo, but as I was elected President in my fifth year, I found confidence in the sense of stability I brought to the people in new roles at Grebel. StuCo's biggest achievement during my term was signing a new yearbook contract with Friesen's. This also involved a lot of organizational work in our banking system (also a notable achievement).

The social and political climate was fairly positive overall. Invigorating discussions happened at meals and late into the night when we should have been studying. Otherwise the community is still adjusting to life after a pandemic. Some discourse was created by disagreements over when people should wear a mask and if they should "fill the table." Our traditions were Fort-Night, StuCo: Who Said It?, dances, coffee houses, club photo contest (StuCo recreated the last supper, featuring Conrad Grebel and a non-StuCo member posing as Judas. We won!) (*Pictured below with Kayla on the left.*) The funniest part of being on StuCo was the hilarious things people would say in meetings. The idea of a Grebel hot tub was often brought up and always shut down by lines such as "no, we will not have Grebel soup" and "no, we have a hot tub at home."

Currently I'm still living at Grebel, preparing for To Be Honest/TBH (the student orientation musical that used to be called Single & Sexy), and getting ready to do my final year of my undergrad in Music, Psychology, and Theatre and Performance.



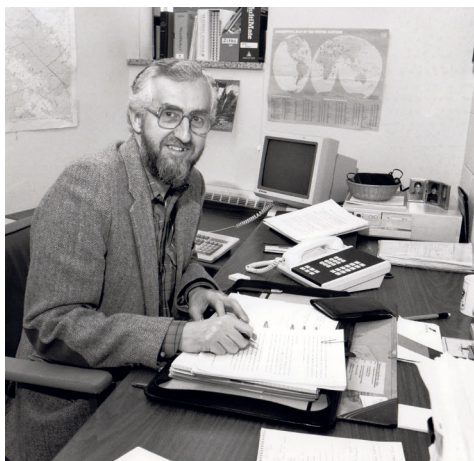
Expanding Grebel's Impact in the Community

BY PAUL HEIDEBRECHT, DIRECTOR, KINDRED CREDIT UNION CENTRE FOR PEACE ADVANCEMENT

Institutional anniversaries provide the occasion to reflect back on our roots in order to, ideally, provide inspiration to both persevere and innovate as we navigate the challenges and opportunities of our present context. As Grebel's 60th anniversary celebrations come to an end, the College is marking the 10th anniversary of the launch of the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement. This brief article draws attention to the ways that both Grebel and the Centre for Peace Advancement have welcomed affiliate organizations, providing a home for mission-aligned professionals in addition to students, staff, and faculty. This is a unique and understated facet of the tradition of community-building that Grebel is renowned for.

The aspiration of the Centre for Peace Advancement from the outset was to create a collaborative hub for advancing peace, and thus offices for affiliate organizations were built into the design of the space. Some of the very first occupants of the fourth floor of Grebel's new academic wing in 2014 were staff with Project Ploughshares.

Project Ploughshares was making a return to Grebel, where it was started by Ernie Regehr and Murray Thompson in 1976. Regehr was invited by Grebel's second president, Frank Epp, to develop a peace research institute alongside the academic program in Peace and Conflict Studies that new faculty member Conrad Brunk was



Ernie Regehr, co-founder of Project Ploughshares, in an office at Grebel.

launching. Regehr and Thompson developed Ploughshares into a leading Canadian peace and disarmament organization supported by a broad network of individuals and sponsoring churches under the umbrella of the Canadian Council of Churches.

In 2002, Ploughshares moved to the Centre for International Governance Innovation in uptown Waterloo due to space constraints resulting from growing academic programs at Grebel. But the sense that something important at Grebel was lost with that move was one of the impulses that led to the creation of the Centre for Peace Advancement.

In addition to Ploughshares, the Centre has provided a home for five other long-established organizations:

- **Tamarack Institute**, a national organization focused on building community and enabling social change that was co-founded in 2001 by Grebel alum Paul Born, has also affiliated with the Centre since 2014.
- **Community Peacemaker Teams** (formerly Christian Peacemaker Teams), an organization that supports and amplifies the voices of local peacemakers and traces its roots back to the 1980s, was part of the Centre from 2016-2017.
- **Centre for Community Based Research**, an organization that has conducted and promoted research that is participatory and action-oriented since 1982, joined the Centre in 2023.
- **Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG)**, a student-run organization focused on social and environmental justice that started in 1973, was part of the Centre from 2014 until they closed in 2017.
- **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)**, which marked its centenary in 2020, has been formally affiliated with the Centre since 2018.

Two additional affiliate organizations currently in the fold are among the more than thirty peace-startups that have been supported by one of the Centre's key programs, the Grebel Peace Incubator.

- **Intercultural Dialogue Institute (IDI)** of Kitchener-Waterloo has advanced social cohesion across cultures, faiths, and ethnicities through dialogue since 2014.
- **The Ripple Effect Education (TREE)** has equipped children, youth, and adults with tools to transform conflict, seek justice, and uphold positive peace since 2015.

Several decades before the founding of the Centre for Peace Advancement, Grebel played a role in starting other organizations and initiatives in addition to Project Ploughshares; established organizations were also welcomed into the College at various points in time. Indeed, the Centre's hospitable and innovative spirit has deep roots—physical space has been generously shared and administrative support extended for many decades now, and meaningful connections with Grebel's academic programs have been plentiful.



Members of the Centre for Peace Advancement today, including staff from Project Ploughshares.

For example, Grebel's first president, J. Winfield Fretz, also served as the inaugural president of the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario when it was formed in 1965. The Society was incorporated as an independent charity in 1968, but it has continued to affiliate with Grebel. Beyond making use of the College's mailing address and relying on Grebel faculty and staff for leadership roles, it has supported programs such as the Mennonite Archives of Ontario and Brubacher House Museum. Indeed, the Society helped to furnish and develop educational programming for this historic Mennonite farmhouse on the north campus of the University of Waterloo when restorations were completed in 1977.



Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario Board of Directors in 1966. l-r: Dorothy Swartzentruber, Barbara Coffman, Herbert Enns, Elven Shantz, J.W. Fretz, Wilson Hunsberger, Lorna Bergey, Harold Nigh, Orland Gingerich.

An example of an independent organization that later found a home at Grebel is *The Network: Interaction for Conflict Resolution*. Growing out of workshops and resources offered in the early 1980s by MCC and Community Justice Initiatives (itself an offshoot of MCC Ontario), the emergence of this network was also influenced by the involvement and interests of Conrad Brunk, the inaugural director of Grebel's PACS program. Originally called *The Network for Community Justice and Conflict Resolution* when it was established in 1984, it was registered as a charity in 1988, and organized regular consultations and a national conference for conflict resolution practitioners. In 1992, they moved their offices to Grebel from their original home at the Quaker Meeting House in Kitchener. Like Ploughshares, the Network moved on from Grebel in 2002, although it folded in 2005. Dean Peachey, who first began teaching PACS courses at Grebel in 1980, played a leadership role in the Network throughout much of its history.

In addition to co-founding Project Ploughshares, Ernie Regehr played a key role in the development of the Horn of Africa Project (HAP), a collaboration between MCC and Grebel. This project operated from 1984 to 1991, and, like Ploughshares

and the Network, was formally connected to Grebel through its membership in the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies. HAP aimed to address conflict as a root cause of hunger in East Africa at a time when international attention was focused primarily on famine relief. Facing ongoing challenges in securing funding as a hybrid academic/non-governmental organization, HAP eventually morphed into the World Order and Regional Conflict project within Project Ploughshares. Despite its relatively brief history, HAP organized several significant consultations and had an outsized impact on both the peacebuilding and humanitarian sectors.

A final example to mention from Grebel's family of affiliated organizations is the Centre for Family Business, led initially by former Grebel Chaplain John Fast. Started in 1997 as a result of conversations between Fast and a few local business leaders (including Milo Shantz, the father of Grebel's current president), this Centre continues to support families who run businesses through regular breakfast meetings, workshops, and educational resources.

There have also been many other expressions of the outward-facing orientation of the Grebel community. In fact, the Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia entry for Grebel highlights twelve "Community/Affiliated Programs," including community music programs such as the Inter-Mennonite Children's Choir (1968-1981) and Menno Singers (formally affiliated for just one year on 1974-75), and a Music-Lecture Series that began 1967 and became the Noon Hour Concerts in 1977. This entry also lists educational outreach programs of the college such as the School of Adult Studies (1965-1983), the Conflict Management Certificate Program (1999-), and the Anabaptist Learning Workshop (2015-2020). Other educational programs hosted or initiated by Grebel not on this list include the Ontario Mennonite Music Camp (1984-), Peace Camp (2011-2018), and the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre (1990-2023).

The Grebel community has always included communities beyond our students, staff, and faculty. When we consider the organizations and initiatives that have affiliated with the College throughout its history, we can layer on a remarkable collection of leaders and entrepreneurs, facilitators and organizers, teachers and trainers, activists and artists, not to mention administrators and communications specialists. Enriching our community with practitioners has added additional layers of meaning and connection to conversations in hallways and around dining room tables, and provided unique learning opportunities for students in our classrooms and through internship and co-op placements.

60 Years of Community Education

BY SUSAN BAKER, MANAGER OF THE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM | NATASHA FORTH, COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT COOP

In May 1999, at the kickoff of the Conflict Management Certificate Program, Rick Russel reflected on the Grebel logo, referencing the flames which to him represented the dynamic force of the ideas that Grebel has cultivated for years, unleashed and put into action in a world that sorely needs it (*Grebel Now*, July 1999).

For 60 years, Grebel has prioritized continuing education alongside its graduate and undergraduate teaching. Whether the “dynamic force of ideas” was in the form of workshops, lectures, forums, conferences, or music concerts—featuring faculty, students, or community partners—Grebel has sought to bring opportunities for personal growth and the exchange of new ideas within the community.

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

In the mid-’90s, a visioning session of the Peace and Conflict Studies Department (PACS) recommended the implementation of a non-degree, skills-based certificate program in Conflict Management. This suggestion recognized rapid growth in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), creating a demand for mediation services. The first workshop-based program was initially approved in 1999 on an experimental, one-year basis that required it to be a “cost recovery” project of the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies.

In 2025 the program will celebrate 25 years of impact. The mission and vision of the Conflict Management Certificate Program is to provide practical, relevant skills training in conflict management, preparing participants to respond to conflicts in creative and positive ways. The program has seen 13,316 enrolments, offered 800 workshops, and celebrated 617 graduates, with either a certificate



Participants presenting during a Certificate in Conflict Management and Congregational Leadership workshop, led by Marg Van Herk-Paradis and Jason Dykstra who are both graduates of the program. September 2018.

in Conflict Management and Mediation or a certificate in Conflict Management and Congregational Leadership, the latter of which was introduced in 2008 to support clergy and lay leaders.

Rick Russell, a key contributor to the development and design of the Conflict Management Certificate Program, and Betty Pries, who joined as a regular instructor in 2001, have both significantly influenced the program. Betty’s doctoral thesis and subsequent book, *The Space Between Us*, continue to shape her contributions. Both Rick and Betty remain active as regular trainers in the program.

Community Justice Initiatives have partnered with the program for more than 20 years. Kay Pranis has brought her Peacemaking Circles work to Grebel annually since 2011, and several graduates of the program have been invited to become trainers. As PACS Director until 2017, Lowell Ewert guided the program’s growth while daily administration was managed over the past 25 years by Mary Lou Swartzentruber, Josie Winterfeld, and Susan Baker.

The program’s success led to the creation of a custom-designed training space as part of Grebel’s 2014 building project. During the pandemic, the program demonstrated its adaptability by transitioning to virtual workshop delivery, greatly expanding its geographic reach and paving the way for future delivery possibilities.

SCHOOL OF ADULT STUDIES

Established soon after Grebel opened, the School of Adult Studies program operated for almost 20 years and engaged hundreds of participants each year. It offered a wide variety of programming that responded to the needs and interests of the Mennonite community. Offerings included a Parables Seminar, a church librarian workshop, a choral director’s workshop, a consultation on Historical Jesus Studies with Leander Keck, a “Sunday Evening Players” drama group led by Bertha Landers, and workshops for house churches.



Ralph Lebold speaking at the School of Adult Studies and Family Life Commission seminar “Helping Families that Hurt,” October 1982. *Mennonite Archival Image Database*.



Anabaptist Learning Workshop participants in Hamilton, facilitated by Chris Brnjas and Jessica Reesor Rempel. 2016.

ANABAPTIST LEARNING WORKSHOP

In partnership with Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC), Grebel established the Anabaptist Learning Workshop (ALW), a creative educational program that began in the fall of 2015 as another way to resource Mennonite churches. The purpose of this program was to offer an alternative education option for lay people, church leaders, pastors, seekers, new Canadians, and others. This five-year pilot project, funded by MCEC, created learning opportunities for those considering the intersection of Anabaptist-Christian faith and contemporary life.

During its existence, and under the leadership of Matthew Bailey-Dick (BA 2000), ALW offered more than 50 events covering topics that included: “How to Lead a Dynamic Bible Study,” “Prayer and Preparedness for Local Tragedies,” “Laypeople Doing Spiritual Care,” “Shacking Up: Love, Sex, and Church Commitment,”

“Following Jesus Together While Having Very Different Beliefs,” and “Exploring Anabaptist Theology.” Leaders connected with more than 1600 participants for interactive, practical, and engaging learning within MCEC.

Grebel has historically been affiliated with additional adult learning programs, such as The Network: Interaction for Conflict Resolution—a teaching initiative on conflict dispute and resolution, week-long courses for seniors through Elderhostel, and educational programs run in collaboration with the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario at the Brubacher House.

As Grebel continues to evolve, the College’s commitment to fostering education, creating opportunities for community engagement, and offering dynamic programming remains steadfast.

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
uwaterloo.ca/conflict-management

Skills-based conflict management training.
 In-person and virtual workshops.

MASTER OF PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

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

The Master of Peace and Conflict Studies at Grebel is a vibrant, interdisciplinary academic program that empowers students with knowledge and skills to contribute to nonviolent peacebuilding.

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**Study the Bible.
 Seek wisdom.
 Nurture your faith.**

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

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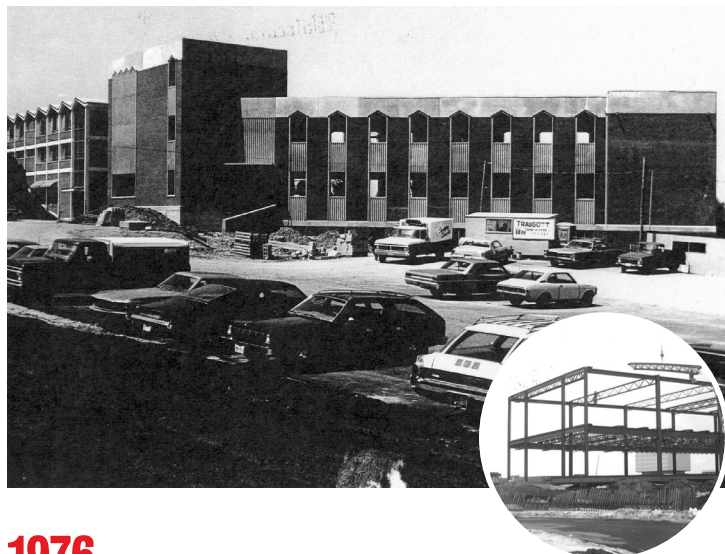
Grebel Buildings and Renovations



1964

The original building opened. Administrative offices were located in what is now the third floor short end. Classrooms and a library were located in the area under the Chapel.

Approximate cost: \$600K



1976

The academic wing opened. Offices were relocated to the new wing and old offices were converted to residence rooms. The area under the Chapel became a games lounge and offices for the *Canadian Mennonite* and Project Ploughshares.

Approximate cost: \$1M



2003

The atrium, short end extension, and apartments were opened just in time for the double-cohort. Finally the gap between the residence and the academic wing was covered. An elevator connected the space to the residence wing, with simple ramps providing access. The apartment became a highly-desired alternative to off-campus housing.

Approximate cost: \$6M



2014

The academic wing expansion opened. The Library and Archives almost doubled in size and a Peace Centre was added. The reception desk relocated to a new main entrance. The atrium expanded with enlarged bridges connecting the elevator to the residence wing.

Approximate cost: \$8M



1992

The patio was added and kitchen and dining room renovated.

Much of the funds raised were used to upgrade the electrical and mechanical infrastructure of the residence building, leaving little to create a new games lounge and study room under the new patio.

Approximate cost: \$3M



2021

The dining room and kitchen expansion and renovation

opened during COVID. The project included a new staircase and an elevator to the Chapel lobby. The patio was renovated and made slightly smaller to make the dining room larger, while a new kitchen was added.

Approximate cost: \$6M



Residence Renewal

BY MARCUS SHANTZ

The first building at Grebel was the student residence. It turned 60 years old this year, with sixty-year old plumbing, heating, washrooms, and so on. Many of our building systems are well past their expected service life, and their time is almost up. We recently refurbished the kitchen and dining hall, and it's now time to renew the residence itself to serve future generations of students and guests.

Our goals are to replace aging infrastructure, make the residence more comfortable for residents, improve our energy efficiency, and significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

While we are still developing the final scope of the project, our hope is to install energy-efficient heat pumps to provide both heating and (for the first time) cooling during hot summer months. We're also planning to improve air quality and ventilation, replace aging pipes and plumbing, and renovate the washrooms to provide more comfort and privacy.

Taking these steps not only demonstrates Grebel's commitment to environmental stewardship, but it also shows commitment to students, who rightly expect us to respond to the climate crisis in meaningful ways.

Our goal is to raise at least \$4,000,000 for these projects, and we've already received close to \$3,000,000 in donations and pledges from generous supporters! Will you consider joining them? Your gift will help create a more welcoming, liveable, energy-efficient, and environmentally responsible residence for the next generation of Grebel students.

DONATE TODAY!

[UWATERLOO.CA/GREBEL/2024-RESIDENCE-CAPITAL-CAMPAIGN](https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/2024-residence-capital-campaign)

\$10,000 WILL HELP UPGRADE THE HVAC IN ONE RESIDENCE ROOM

With 70 rooms to choose from, help us reach our goal of \$700,000 to upgrade our HVAC system and improve air quality in the residence.

Pledge on your own or together with a past roommate!

- \$10k per room (\$167/month x 60)
- \$5k with your roommate (\$84/month x 60)



CALENDAR



2024

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Alumni Community Supper

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Grebel Gallery Opening | Resurfacing

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Open House

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Eby Lecture with Eric Lepp

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Youth Gathering at Grebel

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Balinese Percussion

Ensemble Concert

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

20th Anniversary Orchestra Concert

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Chamber Choir Concert

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

University Choir Concert

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Jazz Ensemble Concert

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Instrumental Chamber

Ensemble Concert

2025

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Anabaptism at 500
Commemorative Service

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

Bechtel Lecture with Karl Koop

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

March Open House

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Balinese Percussion

Ensemble Concert

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Jazz Ensemble Concert

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Instrumental Chamber

Ensemble Concert

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Grebel Convocation

MAY 18-30

Friends of Grebel European Tour

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

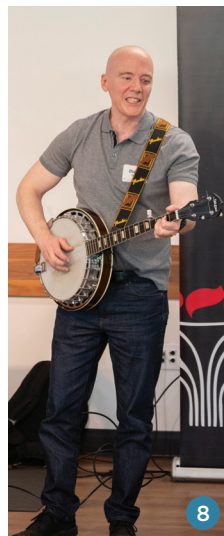
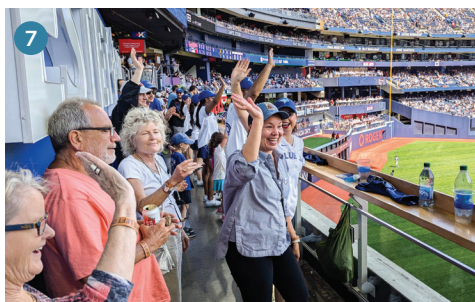
Beer and Bites Alumni Gathering

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

1995-2000 Era Alumni Reunion

Recent Alumni Events

Last year, Grebel hosted a wide range of alumni events! Gatherings and activities included: **1** a tour of the Confederation Building in Ottawa, **2** Paul-a-Palooza, a celebration of Paul Penner's career at Grebel, **3** a panel discussion with Distinguished Alumni Service Award Winner Angie Koch, and **4** the Three Choir Concert featuring special commissioned pieces by Julia Jacklein and Candace Bustard. In the spring, **5** alumni volunteered at the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale at the cream bun tent, **6** did a Beer and Bites tour with the University Colleges, **7** went to a Jays Game, and **8** reconnected at the Early '90s Era Alumni Reunion.



60 Stories of Inspiring Alumni

As a way of celebrating the many people who have made Grebel a unique place to live and study over the last 60 years, we have been sharing alumni stories of accomplishment, interest, and creativity. With just a few left to go, this page highlights stories from the last nine months. All are available to read in full on the Grebel website. Get ready to be inspired, amazed, impressed, and delighted!



Deepak Wanner
(BASC 1986)



Barb Smith-Morrison
(BA 1994, MTS 2007)



Jessalyn Teed
(BES 2017)



David Fransen
(BA 1976, MA 1977)



Rick Martin
(BA 1983)



Gina Nighswander Driedger



Karla Del Grande
(BA 1974)



Madeleine Bonsma-Fisher
(BASC 2014)



Carrie Snyder
(BA 1997)



Joshua Rasera
(BASC 2013, MASC 2015)



Melody Christa Chen
(MPACS 2014)



Peter Harder
(BA 1975)



Gorwin Cambray
(BA 1967, MA 1973)



Christine Brubaker
(BA 1992)



Neil Thomas
(BA 2013)



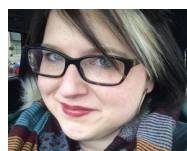
Mark Diller Harder
(BA 1989)



Connor Huxman
(BASC 2020)



Panteli Tritchew
(BA 1979, MA 1981)



Jacqui Foxall
(BA 2006)



Gordon Campbell
(BA 1967)



KyongJung Kim
(MTS 2018)



Ralph Torrie
(BSC 1979)



Samantha Coelho
(PACS 2017, MTS 2019)



William Ng
(BES 1988)



Lori Guenther Reesor (BMATH 1991, MTS 2008)



Hingman Leung
(BES 2008)



Ian Stokes-Rees
(BASC 1998, MASC 2000)



Paulinus Okoye
(MTS 2021)



Nadia L. Hohn
(BA 2001)



Njo Kong Kie
(BMath 1984)



Wali Muhammad
(MPACS 2014)



Shelley Bull
(BMath 1976, MMath 1977)



Jane Ramseyer Miller
(BA 1985)



Linda Sauder Ruby
(BA 1986)



Patrick Quealey
(BES 2002)



Ruth (Richardson) Ragovin
(BA 1978)



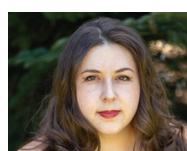
Kristin Reimer
(BA 1998)



Curwin Friesen
(BA 1993)



Kaylee Perez
(MPACS 2014)



Candace Bustard
(BA 2020)



Darren Kropf
(BA 2007, MPACS 2014)



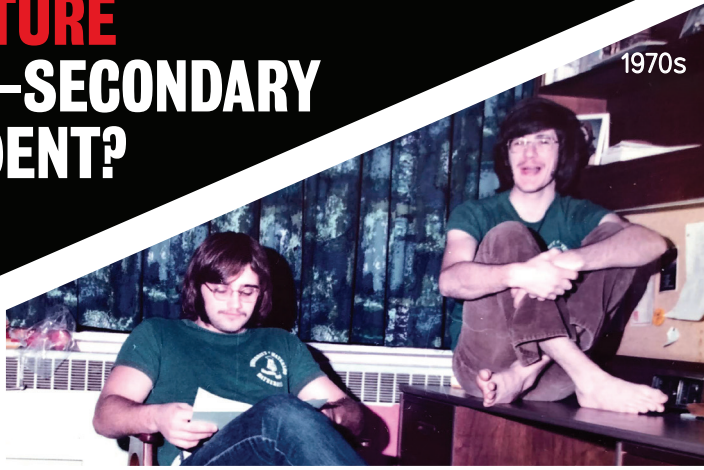
READ ALL THE STORIES

uwaterloo.ca/grebel/60-stories

DO YOU KNOW A FUTURE POST-SECONDARY STUDENT?



2010s



1970s



1990s



1980s



1960s



2000s

SHARE YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORIES OF GREBEL!

Do you know someone planning to attend UWaterloo in the coming years? We need your help as alumni, parents, families, and friends to spread the word about Grebel! Students can visit us at an open house or arrange for a private tour to get a taste of residence life and our academic programs.

FIND OUT MORE: uwaterloo.ca/grebel/future-students



**VISIT
GREBEL**

**NOV
09
2024**

**MAR
22
2025**

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