

# GREBEL NOW

Conrad Grebel University College Magazine



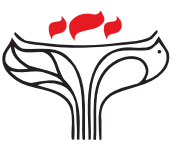
## Tech for Good

The growing momentum of the tech for good movement

## Alumni Changing the World with Tech

Alumni describe the innovative ways they are using technology to better the world

FALL 2022



Vol. 39 No. 1

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## Working for a Better World

Grebel's new strategic plan explains that our students draw on their experiences at Grebel to become community-builders in the wider world. The world needs people who ask, "who is my neighbour," and our goal is to point students towards opportunities to serve their neighbours at home and abroad. We challenge students to consider how they might contribute to a more just and peaceful world with a sustainable future, whatever

their field of study. Therefore, our students and alumni frequently find themselves working for a better world using varied and multi-disciplinary approaches, often with a technological spin. This issue of *Grebel Now* focuses on tech for good, and highlights the many interesting ways that students and alumni are using technology to benefit society and the world—either as a profession or a passion.

*Front cover:* Students take the new art piece "Engines of Joy" for a spin. Read more about this sculpture on page 24.

This issue also includes the 2021-2022 Annual Report, stories about the work of our professors and some new scholarships, and we bid farewell to a number of long-serving members of the Grebel community.

We hope to see you at one of the many events planned for 2023.

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



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

# If at First You Don't Succeed...

BY MARCUS SHANTZ, PRESIDENT

In 1979, my father helped Cal Redekop launch a solar energy business. My dad, Milo Shantz, was an entrepreneur with a grade eight education, and was involved in many different small businesses. Cal was a professor of Sociology here at Grebel. The two were great (if somewhat unlikely) friends.

Cal's idea was to use solar panels to heat buildings. Milo helped to set Cal up with space and some accounting support. He also invested in the business—called “Sunflower Solar”—along with a number of other investors. Obviously, they wanted the business to be financially successful. They also hoped to be a small part of an energy revolution that would one day eliminate the need for fossil fuels.

The business shut down after a few years. The technology at the time was costly and unreliable, and Sunflower Solar could not find customers for their system. As Cal remarked, “it was ahead of its time.”

I don't remember either my father or Cal dwelling on this entrepreneurial failure for very long. Both picked themselves up and began new projects, taking knowledge and lessons from the experience. Their attitude was that it's better to fail than never to try at all.

Reading stories of Grebel alumni working in “tech for good” in this edition of *Grebel Now* brought Cal Redekop's solar business to mind. Many of these alumni work in start-up businesses—including a number of start-ups in the Grebel Peace Incubator. They are all trying to apply new ideas to pressing social, economic, and environmental problems.

We hope that many of these projects will succeed—but we know that some won't, even when great people give their best efforts. For example, Demine Robotics, a Grebel Peace Incubator start-up from 2016-2021, developed technology to clear landmines in Cambodia and around the world.

Despite talented leadership and remarkable international attention and interest, Demine's founders decided to wind up the business

earlier this year. Co-founder and CTO Jared Baribeau, a Grebel alumnus, has taken his experience at Demine to a new start-up focused on making the global textile industry more sustainable. Far from being disheartened, Jared remains upbeat about the capacity for entrepreneurship to instigate positive change: “It only takes one person with a different mindset to inspire and motivate people, to breathe new energy into a problem and bring new perspectives. This is important from a generational standpoint because differences will unlock solutions that a previous generation would not have thought of.”



I imagine that Cal Redekop and my father would agree with Jared wholeheartedly! They might add that older generations can also set the stage for future solutions by trying to develop new ideas—even if they don't work out at the time.

The presence of many STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) students in our residence and classrooms is one of the delights of Grebel. Tech students have been part of the College since we were founded in the 1960s. Grebel presents them with the opportunity to link formal studies with big questions of ethics, peace, social justice, and faith.

Many Grebel alumni have brought technological expertise to pressing problems in fascinating ways. Building on this experience, we now operate the Grebel Peace Incubator and the PeaceTech Living-Learning Community. We've also developed courses like “Peace and Engineering” and “Math for Good and Evil” to more deliberately connect technical knowledge with the values we espouse.

In this issue of *Grebel Now*, you'll find profiles of alumni who have tried to apply science and technology to good purposes. I hope you are as intrigued and inspired by their stories as I am.



# Tech for Good

BY PAUL HEIDEBRECHT, DIRECTOR OF THE KINDRED CREDIT UNION CENTRE FOR PEACE ADVANCEMENT, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

“The role of technology in contemporary society is expanding every day, and critical reflection on the impact of technology now pervades a growing number of scholarly and popular contexts. Not only is it a struggle to keep up with accelerating technological developments, we can be overwhelmed by a deluge of observations, opinions, and analyses of these developments. Indeed, thanks to the rise of new technologies like social media, there are many more ways that our attention is being drawn to the impact of technology.”

These are the words I used to introduce a recent issue of *The Conrad Grebel Review* devoted to “Insights on Technology from an Anabaptist/Mennonite perspective,” and you may be thinking I was simply stating the obvious. Of course technology looms larger than ever in contemporary life! And of course we are all talking about technology more than ever!

As someone with a longstanding interest in asking big questions about technology, I sometimes forget how new this preoccupation with technology is. It is only in recent years that it has become common to hear people talk about technology as a problem rather than the solution to all of our problems. Even more, there appears to be a growing recognition that technologies have the power to shape our daily habits, the ways we think, and even the things we believe.

Decades before conversations about the nature and impact of technology went mainstream, Grebel was providing a context for students to reflect critically on this important topic. This too may be stating the obvious, at least to readers of *Grebel Now*! After all, as an academic and residence community located on the campus of a university that was rapidly ascending as an engineering and computer science powerhouse, technology has always been an aspect of culture that was front and centre.

As an engineering student living at Grebel in the early 1990s, I recall coming across Conrad Brunk’s 1985 Eby Lecture on “Professionalism and Responsibility in the Technological Society.” Jim Reimer lent me his copy of the Canadian philosopher George Grant’s book *Technology and Justice*. And Ron Mathies arranged an internship for me with Mennonite Central Committee’s appropriate technology team in Bangladesh. Even more important than the prodding of Grebel profs were the dorm and dining room conversations about technology with fellow Grebelites majoring in programs in arts, environment, and health as well as engineering, math, and science.

In my view, the Grebel community has long created a container for particularly poignant conversations about technology because the conversation partners have included more than concerned citizens and consumers of technology—they have also included the creators and developers of technology. And so perhaps it should come as no surprise that, as this issue of *Grebel Now* demonstrates, our alumni would find many ways to use technology to make the world better.

Conversations in contemporary society have tended to be much more compartmentalized. Media headlines in recent years point to a growing and very public “techlash” against the power of large technology companies. Concerned citizens and consumers of technology are organizing and speaking out with the support of activists, and politicians are taking note.

At the same time, there has arisen a corresponding but less well-known “tech for good” movement within the tech sector itself that has also found support among universities, investors, and others involved in developing new technologies.

In Waterloo region, for example, Communtech, an organization dedicated to supporting tech start-ups, re-branded their annual summit around the theme of tech for good in 2018. As





Paul Heidebrecht's research interests reflect a range of academic fields and professional experiences, including the intersection of peacebuilding and social innovation, technology and ethics, and political advocacy.



Communitech's then CEO Iain Klugman put it, it was time for tech companies to "slow down and fix things"—a sharp contrast to Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg's famous motto: "move fast and break things." The summit included a process to develop and launch the Canadian Tech for Good Declaration, an effort to build the commitment of companies to a set of six principles, including things like "leave no one behind" and "think inclusively at every stage."

This was just one of literally dozens of declarations and manifestos that have appeared in recent years, and, beyond words and conferences, there has also been a proliferation of tech for good organizations, many of which aim to contextualize what is meant by the expression. Questions that have been wrestled with include: How should we define what is good? Who gets to define it? And, perhaps most importantly, how do we achieve it?

In recent years I have tasked my students in a Peace and Conflict Studies course called "Engineering and Peace" to review and augment my working list of tech for good initiatives, and I always learn about new efforts. One of the busiest clusters of activity falls under the "AI for Good" or "Data for Good" rubric. Another cluster of organizations can be grouped under what is sometimes referred to as "Civic Tech" or "Public Interest Technology." And, of course, there is a longstanding and significant effort to apply technology to sustainability challenges; numerous projects and organizations that make up the "Green Tech" or "Clean Tech" movement can also be thought of as examples of tech for good.

At Grebel, we are making our own contribution to this broader tech for good movement through the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement's leadership in the emerging field of *PeaceTech*.

There are two important dimensions to our PeaceTech efforts: first, we leverage insights from the field of peacebuilding in order to critically engage developments in technology. For example, the Centre for Peace Advancement is home to researchers with Project Ploughshares who are focused on the military and security implications of emerging technologies of warfare such as lethal autonomous weapons systems.

Second, we leverage technological expertise to augment the advancement of peace. For example, the Grebel Peace Incubator has supported eight PeaceTech start-ups since 2015, including a venture developing hardware to make the clearance of landmines and other unexploded ordnances faster and safer, and a venture developing software that enables organizations to implement and grow diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

Furthermore, since 2019, students in Grebel's PeaceTech Living-Learning Community have met weekly to consider both of these angles to PeaceTech: asking big questions about, and exploring ways to create positive change with technology. All of these efforts were highlighted through a recent International Symposium on Technology and Society panel session entitled "More than Tech for Good: PeaceTech at Waterloo and Beyond."

It seems to me that the growing momentum of the tech for good movement is a hopeful sign. After all, if the recent flood of societal concern over technology is going to lead to constructive change, it will need to engage those responsible for the new directions technology is leading us. And there are now lots of entry points for engagement.

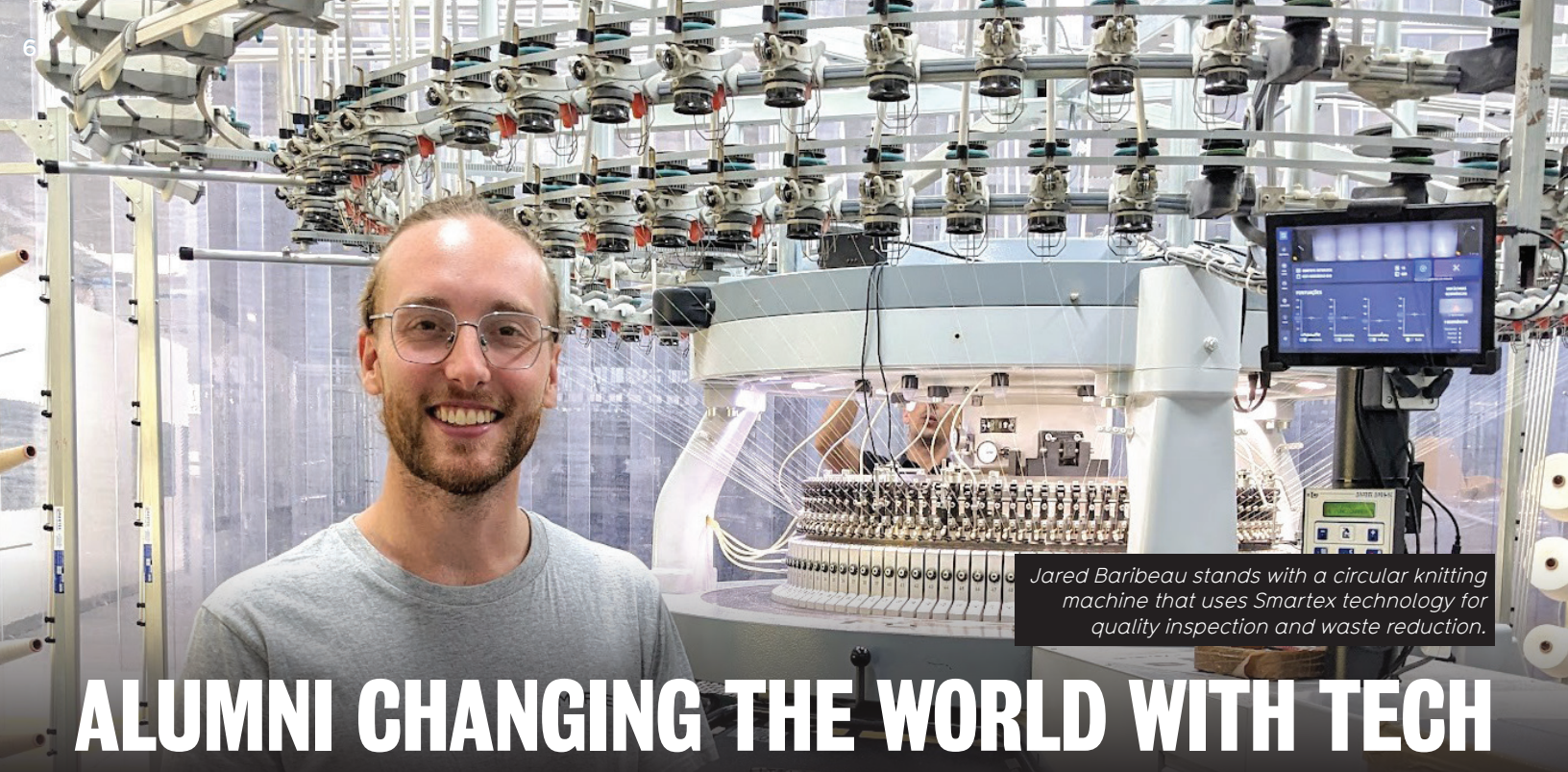
As the literary critic and professor of the humanities Alan Jacobs noted in a recent article in *The New Atlantis*, there have been cogent and correct critiques of technology since at least the 1950s; the problem is that they have been "utterly powerless to slow our technosocial momentum, much less alter its direction." I agree with Jacobs' conclusion that we need more than insightful thinking. We need new ways of living and new kinds of technologies.

The obvious question to ask is how we can strike the right balance at Grebel in this regard. Are we inspiring and equipping our students to be enlightened creators and changemakers as well as articulate critics of technology? How do we guard against complacency or contentment to simply coexist with technology?

Tech for good practitioners across the creek and down the street are looking to spark an appropriate technology movement for the 21st century. Faculty, students, and tech start-up founders, as well as leaders at the University of Waterloo and Communitech, are demonstrating a new kind of responsibility and a focus on problems that really matter. They recognize that there aren't technical fixes to all of our problems, but that technology *can* make a meaningful contribution to addressing many pressing problems that continue to befuddle us. They are also eager to collaborate, even when that takes them out of their disciplinary or professional comfort zones.

I wonder how—or if—you think Grebel should step up and join this effort. More pointedly, I wonder if Grebel has a responsibility to rethink our role at Waterloo in light of the shifting questions and assumptions about technology we are surrounded by. Is PeaceTech an interesting niche or novelty, or is nurturing a tech for good mindset core to our mission in this time and place?





Jared Baribeau stands with a circular knitting machine that uses Smartex technology for quality inspection and waste reduction.

# ALUMNI CHANGING THE WORLD WITH TECH

Grebel alumni are involved in many interesting initiatives that use technology for good—in start-ups, projects, support roles, research, and hobbies. The following profiles highlight some alumni who are involved in activities that use technology to make a difference in society and the world. We asked them to reflect on these questions: How are you making the world a better place using technology? How has this involvement changed you, challenged you, or enriched your life? Why are you driven in this direction? How did Grebel inspire this path?

## JARED BARIBEAU (BASC 2018)

Systems Architect, Smartex.ai, Porto, Portugal

Currently I'm working at Smartex on tech that helps enable zero-waste textile manufacturing and supply chain traceability. A massive amount of resources are wasted throughout fashion supply chains, and brands (and we consumers) have nearly zero visibility into where the materials are coming from. This has left everyone's hands partially tied.

I love connecting with nature, and feel deeply pulled to play a role in moving human consumption to be in harmony with what our beautiful planet has to offer. Working on this gets me thinking about how badly we need nations, industries, companies, and individuals to want to be in harmony with the planet. So, one of my favourite things to do is go camping—to inspire myself and others through quality time with nature.

Conversations and classes at Grebel dramatically broadened my mind on what activism can look like, and helped expose me to how change happens. I've been inspired by so many people I met through Grebel—and particularly through the Centre for Peace Advancement.



## DALE BRUBACHER-CRESSMAN (BASC 1987)

Angel Investor, New Hamburg, ON

I invest in start-up companies. My investing focus is on companies with technologies and ideas that reduce humanity's carbon footprint. This includes installation of solar generation (VCT Group, Community Energy Development Co-op), reducing energy consumption through intelligent monitoring (Power Takeoff), reducing vehicular traffic through sensors and software for remote control and collection of data (eleven-X, Miovision), and alternative electric powered transport vehicles (Veemo).

This focus comes from a desire to do good. The challenges are many and varied. Most notably, I find myself stretched in my knowledge of how to build a successful business. The businesses have overlapping challenges, but also many unique to their particular situation. There is no end of learning opportunities.

My upbringing in the Mennonite Church, extended into university life at Grebel, fostered in me a sense of responsibility and desire to make the world a better place. The opportunities at Grebel to be surrounded by like-minded people, coupled with an environment where the status quo was challenged and students were encouraged to think deeply about the challenges in society, all contributed to this aspiration.



## GRACE WRIGHT (BA 2021)

Business Development Manager, GeoMate, Kitchener, ON

I work at GeoMate, a tech start-up with a mission to make mobility in cities more accessible for everyone. Using our technology, we are able to support more inclusive and safer forms of mobility for a variety of different stakeholders, from cities to automotive companies. As the business development manager, I help bring our technology to end-users, helping them find the solutions they need to support their products and customers.

Working at a young start-up focused on tech for good has been a really gratifying experience for me because I can see the direct impact of our technology on creating healthier, safer, and more inclusive communities. Seeing



the process of building a company from the early stages and meeting with many different people working across the mobility space has given me insight into the importance of incorporating different groups and perspectives to build better technologies that can have widespread positive social impact.

From working at the Centre for Peace Advancement, to helping lead the PeaceTech Living-Learning Community, working with Project Ploughshares, and now being a part of a start-up in the Grebel Peace Incubator, Grebel has played a central role in not only developing my understanding of how technology can be used as a tool for building peace, but giving me opportunities to put that into practice through my work. Grebel provided me with unique exposure to the interdisciplinary nature of bridging peacebuilding and technology and helped me develop a strong appreciation for how the two can work in tandem to create positive change.

## KEVIN WILLMS (BCS 2012)

Senior Manager, Cloud Operations Reliability Engineering, D2L, Kitchener, ON

The most important feature of a product is availability. By iteratively identifying opportunities for improvement and overseeing the creation of automation to ensure our Brightspace Learning Management System is always functioning well for all users, I help ensure learners around the globe are able to get an education and access learning resources when they need them.

I'm definitely more sensitive to, yet empathetic about every day outages that happen everywhere, from the Super Bowl lights failing to traffic jams. I like solving problems that make people's lives easier, and so caring about delivering a good customer experience makes my current role a great fit.



As a don at Grebel for three terms, making lives easier is the name of the game—whether that's making sure everyone can sleep who wants to without ruining all the fun for those staying up late, or making sheet change fun by parodying songs and inserting sheet-relevant lyrics. That experience likely helped solidify my drive to create a great client experience.



## NEIL BRUBACHER (BASC 2021)

MASC student in Systems Design Engineering, Vision and Image Processing Lab, Waterloo, ON

I'm researching ways in which machine learning can be used to automatically interpret satellite and aerial imagery, with applications in arctic sea ice mapping and marine mammal surveying. Part of my research is in collaboration with the Arctic Eider Society, an Inuit-driven charity that links Indigenous knowledge and technology to help build richer understandings of a changing climate, particularly as it affects sea ice and wildlife.

As much as I strove to choose a meaningful program of graduate study, I must admit my involvement in these projects was quite serendipitous. I came into the sphere of remote sensing with a vague hope to apply some of the technical image processing skills I'd learned in my engineering undergrad to some flavour of environmental monitoring, but did not anticipate that my work would be quite so closely linked to communities. It's been rewarding to see how following a hunch about where interesting opportunities might arise has evolved into work that I find exciting and meaningful, and I'm reminded that one need not always have perfect foresight to pursue such opportunities.

I'm quite sure that certain qualities nurtured during my time at Grebel (not to mention a handful of supportive and influential individuals!) helped open doors to my current work. A couple memorable PACS electives examining intersections of engineering, peace and technology, as well as several terms of involvement with the PeaceTech Living-Learning Community, helped guide my ideas of meaning in a post-graduate occupation. I also credit the rich opportunities for interdisciplinary thinking and context-building fostered by many years in the Grebel residence community—I believe this ecosystem amplified my interest in, and capacity for, taking on projects where understanding the perspectives of scientists, mobilizers, funders, and community members is nearly as important as the technical proficiency in bits and bytes that gets a machine learning grad student hired. From what I can see, this kind of connective thinking is only becoming more important in the tech world, and I think Grebel provides a superb foundation for these skills.



## SCOTT BAUMAN (BASC 2007)

PeaceWorks, Manager, Software Solutions, Waterloo, ON

When I graduated with a degree in Computer Engineering, I wasn't interested in just any tech job. I wanted "making the world a better place" to be central to my career. That's when I learned about PeaceWorks, a tech company founded on this principle.



With PeaceWorks, I've had the privilege of working with nonprofits and charities to help them advance their mission. We work with organizations directly impacting

the reach of food banks, affordable housing, international economic development, local food production and distribution, human rights advocacy groups, and much more. The first step is always to get to know the organization we're working with, to understand their goals and pain points. We then use our technical skills to create a solution that fits within their budget and addresses their needs. Along the way, I get to form relationships with people working at organizations doing great work. I get to be involved in projects where everyone has a role to play, each person using their unique skills to contribute to a common goal.

I've been supported and challenged by my coworkers and my clients. There were always people who believed in me when I was still rough around the edges—people who saw me not just for the person I was, but the person I was becoming. This has kept me motivated and driven to continue the work. Due to the limited budgets of some of our clients, my team and I look for new and innovative ways to achieve results with less resources. It motivates me, knowing I'm working for an organization that is purpose-driven more than it is profit-driven. I have had opportunities to not only use my software skills, but also to sit on the board of directors, drive sub-committees, and manage a team of web developers. As a worker-owner, I'm also able to impact the direction and goals of the company.

My years at Grebel were formative in preparing me for this path. At Grebel, I learned how to relate to different types of people and what it feels like to belong to something larger than myself.

## MARTIN EDMONDS (BMATH 1987)

Weaver and Supporter of Technologies, The Working Centre, Kitchener, ON



I work as part of a team, supporting technology at a non-profit, The Working Centre, in downtown Kitchener. In our work, basic technologies provide most benefit: communication tools for outreach workers who support people in our shelters and living on the street, key fobs for our low income low barrier housing, public VoIP phones and voicemail service, internet access, security

cameras, monitoring of fridges and solar panels, file servers, software for our health and dental clinics, and recycling of computer equipment to make it available to people who would not otherwise be able to afford it.

My involvement in this work has connected me with people from all walks of life: generous donors, volunteers, and people who are struggling with loneliness, job loss, homelessness, and addiction. This connection with people has challenged me to think about when to apply technology to solve a problem. Is access to the technology and its benefits fairly distributed, or does it leave some people disenfranchised? Does the technology make work more meaningful, or does it take away someone's work and opportunity to make a valuable contribution? Will the technology build community, or leave people more isolated? As people inclined and trained in technology, we play an important role in leveraging technology, but we also bear the responsibility of assessing whether, when, and how it should be applied. The answers are never clear-cut, but they help to guide me in my work.

Discussion and reflection at Grebel has been significant in forming my values. At Grebel, I developed my primary network of friendships that have continued to provide me with inspiration, support, and accountability.

## DR. MADELAINE LIDDY (BASC 2014, PHD 2022)

Quantum Sensing Resident, SandboxAQ, Palo Alto, CA

My work has taken me to focus on quantum sensors. Counter to classical sensors, we can extend the sensitivity and applications to more sophisticated devices, building better sensors to improve navigation, communication, and medical devices.

Every day I am challenged in a new way to push the boundaries of what is possible with technological devices. I love to think of new ways to create devices and it helps my personal motivation knowing that these devices may be used to better the world and help people.



Having a music degree reshaped the way I think about things, and when you pair engineering and music together, you are encouraged to expand your approach to problem solving. I found that music and engineering massively complemented each other. Approaching music with a technical mindset let me break down the pieces I was studying into the smallest increments and then build it back up again. And using music to approach an engineering problem made me a lot more creative in my problem-solving because it eliminated boundaries beyond just thinking technically and what had been done before.



### **LEENA MILLER CRESSMAN (BA 2010)**

Owner/Director, The Branches, Kitchener-Waterloo, ON

### **EMMA DINES (BIS 2011)**

Creative Director, The Branches, Kitchener-Waterloo, ON

Our yoga studio, The Branches, has been teaching yoga and meditation classes for years, and when the pandemic began, we shifted to offering our classes and courses online. We have maintained our online offerings even though we are now permitted to gather in-person again, and we feel that this offers an important aspect of accessibility to our community. We have also created an online library of classes that members can stream at any time. Many of our offerings centre on caring for our mental health and positive body image/body positivity, so we are glad to be able to nudge the culture and reach more people with our online offerings.

It was definitely challenging to hit the ground running at the start of the pandemic and try to quickly learn how to offer our classes in this way. We had to learn a lot about microphones, video quality, lighting, and how to interact with people in a yoga class online. We received a lot of feedback from our yoga students early in the pandemic that our online classes were a lifeline of connection for many of them—that attending our yoga classes amidst so much uncertainty in the pandemic was really helpful. We are so glad that we were able to offer that to our students and we know we can reach more people by continuing to offer our classes and programs with online options.

It was definitely a community effort to get our online offerings going—we reached out to our community for help, and people with technological expertise offered a lot of time and advice to help us get going. Our yoga studio has always been supported by the community around it, and Grebel definitely was part of inspiring our values in this direction.

### **LISA SCHIRCH, PHD (BA 1990)**

Professor of the Practice of Technology and Peacebuilding, Richard G. Starmann Sr. Endowed Chair in Peace Studies, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

At the University of Notre Dame, I direct the PeaceTech and Polarization Lab where I work with colleagues and students to design and develop tech products that foster justice, reduce digital hate and disinformation, and foster social cohesion that people can participate in developing creative solutions to challenging problems.

I teach a course on Digital Peacebuilding and Peacotech that explores the various roles tech can play in bridge-building dialogue, advocacy and social movement, human rights documentation, and democratic decision-making.

There are powerful forces using technology to further divide people and stymie efforts to come together to solve problems. Those of us working for peace and justice are looking for ways to amplify and scale our impacts. There are new tech platforms that are designed for improving healthy relationships and collective decision making; platforms that intentionally make it easier for people to solve problems and harder for people to attack each other. The future of peacebuilding and democracy requires us to work together to scale the use of such platforms.



I bring Anabaptist ethics and peacebuilding processes I first learned at Grebel to the tech design process.

### **DONNY CHEUNG (BMATH 2001, MMATH 2003, PHD 2007)**

Technical Lead Manager, Google Canada, Toronto, ON

I am incredibly grateful that my career has provided me with opportunities to work on various healthcare technologies. I currently lead the software development team responsible for AI-powered healthcare data services offered through Google Cloud. My hope is that these technologies will ultimately allow care providers to make better-informed decisions by providing a deeper understanding of a patient's health, history, and care journey.



In my work, I've been able to meet and exchange ideas with some truly incredible and inspirational thinkers and doers about the challenges and opportunities facing data-driven healthcare today. So much of our notion of justice is grounded in our ability or inability to collectively tend to our health needs and the needs of those dear to us. The arrival of our child Teo last year has also re-energized my passion to contribute in some small way to making progress on one of society's toughest long-term challenges.

Encounters during my time at Grebel taught me to approach the toughest technical and organizational problems from a place of compassion and justice first, and then from a place of intellectual curiosity. These lessons have helped me to focus on the work that I believe can have the widest impact on the common good.



## JOSEPH TAFESE (BSE 2022)

PhD Candidate, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON

My PhD research is focused on developing tools that help engineers mathematically prove that the software they write, or circuits they create, are correct. This is particularly useful for technologies such as cancer radiation therapy machines, simulation software, commercial aeroplanes, etc. My PhD focuses on the formal verification of software systems, specifically where we can do so in an automated fashion. I find this field particularly interesting because of the ubiquity of technology in our society and the value that can be added to the lives of people at a global scale. Prior to my PhD, I helped run the engineering team of a software-as-a-service start-up, ESGTree, that works out of the Grebel Peace Incubator.



Striving for excellence has been a huge goal in my life. Excellence, not only for my individual contributions, but also in the way that I lead. This came in the form of humility and creativity at ESGTree, and it takes the form of resilience and

proactivity in my research. I am reminded of the Prophet Daniel from the Old Testament who “became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him” (Daniel 6:3 ESV) during his exile in Babylon. Since graduating, there are two domains in which I hoped to be excellent—not out of some grandiose need to be praised but to serve in a meaningful way.

At ESGTree, an early-stage start-up, we needed to make sure that our resources—finances, time, and relationships—were used sustainably. With tight timelines, we had to invest in projects that would help us acquire customers and grow the business. But it was crucial to ensure that the relationships we had fostered within the company, and our partners, were treated with a long-term view as well. It’s not often that this combination of values are top of mind for engineering leaders in tech start-ups but, like Daniel, it was crucial to our success to be found faithful and excellent.

My PhD is a seemingly different endeavour with surprising overlaps. Like a start-up, it is important to be creative about what problems you work on and how they can be of value to society. To this end, there is tremendous value in persisting through the highs and lows—whether that be failed projects to learn from or projects that inspire co-creation. Furthermore, it is crucial that the contributions adhere to the highest standards of integrity, both academic and moral.

Looking at where my life has gone through the lens of Daniel’s life in exile gives me great hope—even when the situations look bleak, we strive for excellence because we serve an excellent God.

Grebel makes room for a thinking engineer. This comes through diverse opinions on society, impact courses, and relationships that have influenced how and what I work on. It’s been good to see how a couple of years can transform my concept of engineering.

## DR. MAXWELL KENNEL (BA 2013, MTS 2015, TMTC 2021)

Director of Pandora Press, SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Toronto, Thunder Bay, ON

Making the world a better place through technology is a complicated idea, and complexity is difficult to capture on screens or within the character limits of social media posts. In my work as director of Pandora Press, I use a variety of technological advances in printing and publishing to promote challenging and thought-provoking books in and around the area of Mennonite Studies. New print-on-demand technologies have allowed me to bring nearly all Pandora Press books back into print, making available over 100 titles that range from Anabaptist history and Mennonite Theology, to dialogues between religion and science. Pandora Press’s recent philosophical novel—Ronald Tiessen’s *Menno in Athens*—is the first ebook released by the press, and it was recently applauded by Margaret Atwood on Twitter.

In the world of images, the new Pandora Press logo—designed by Jonathan Dyck—gives the press an image that feels both old and new. Technological advances in optical character recognition (OCR) have also made it more expedient to edit archival materials and typescripts, such as the forthcoming edition of C.J. Dyck’s dissertation on the Dutch Anabaptist Hans de Ries. As well, technologies as common as a video chat allow me to stay in touch with fellow publishers at CMU Press and the Institute of Mennonite Studies at AMBS, and journals like the *Mennonite Quarterly Review* and *The Conrad Grebel Review*.

Seeking out, reviewing, editing, typesetting, and publishing creative and scholarly work in Mennonite Studies has been so enriching because it allows me to give voice to ideas and issues that matter.

Working with authors is inspiring and challenging, and seeing a project through from idea to publication is a very gratifying experience that uses technology—from the pen to the printer—for good causes, whether that’s the good of creativity or the cause of social justice.



My time at Grebel in the MTS program inspired much of my work with Pandora Press, especially as I discovered the hidden treasure trove of neglected, unpublished, and rare works by and about Mennonites. Finding Edgar Metzler’s brilliant 1968 pamphlet on extremism in the TMTC library, and learning about a German biography of Anabaptist figure Hans Hut in a course with Arnold Snyder, both showed me a fascinating hidden world of Mennonite publications that I can now make public through the Pandora Press platform: [www.pandorapress.com](http://www.pandorapress.com)

## COLE ATLIN (BES 2010, PHD 2019)

Impact Assessment Specialist, Calian Nuclear  
Adjunct Professor, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON

I work as the Impact Assessment Specialist for Calian Nuclear. We are involved in supporting numerous new nuclear projects across Canada in various industries such as clean energy production, medical isotopes and even emergency response. Besides providing cheap and reliable carbon-free base load power, new nuclear technologies such as small modular reactors provide a feasible solution for remote communities to justly transition off fossil fuels and towards energy independence.

Remote communities in Canada currently consume 90 million litres of diesel fuel a year for electricity generation. Not to mention that transporting diesel to remote locations often provides its own challenges, so the promise of new nuclear technologies would be a total game-changer that would absolutely transform these societies by ending energy poverty with the added benefit of being carbon emissions free. I support the assessment of these new projects, including designing assessment processes, supporting Indigenous engagement and consultation, and developing public engagement approaches. In so doing, I help move these new projects from an engineering drawing to an actual project.

I have worked in assessment for 12 years and completed my PhD in Social and Ecological Sustainability from Waterloo in 2019, focusing on conflict and impact assessment in extractive industries, particularly as it relates to Indigenous and settler conflict. I had my son in 2020 and I was starting to feel that my work was not going to assist significantly in improving his future. Calian came to me with this opportunity, and it felt right. Nuclear is a seemingly obvious path forward that can move the needle on climate change in a major way. However, it does not come without its challenges—particularly



in building social license and public stakeholder support. Despite nuclear being among the safest industries in the world, with far fewer associated deaths per unit of energy than any other kind, incidents like Chernobyl and Fukushima provide major setbacks in garnering public support.

Because of such incidents, it's not surprising that there hasn't been a new nuclear facility built in Canada in over 50 years, even though statistically the data speaks for itself. There are also challenges moving forward to make sure that we're doing a good job and that we are engaging people in this technological revolution in a meaningful way. My expertise can lend a lot of value to these conversations and to this important work. The challenges are big but the rewards are significant, particularly for the next generation.

Grebel gave me skills in looking at conflict and breaking it down into useful components. I think that conflict is generally perceived as destructive. But it can be constructive and assist in developing pathways to better futures. Conflict helps identify how decisions should be made, what information needs to be part of good decisions, where information gaps and misinformation exist, and how effective engagement and assessment should manage conflict, not avoid or squelch it. The conflict surrounding nuclear development is often immense and overwhelming. Grebel inspired me to disentangle this conflict and map it for the problem. One of the most pressing potential applications for the skills that Grebel taught me is to further nuclear development in Canada to assist in overall decarbonization.

## Tech, Spirituality, and Older Adults

BY JANE KUEPFER, SCHLEGEL SPECIALIST IN SPIRITUALITY AND AGING

Until recently, technology and older adults were unlikely friends. Now I'm not surprised when a 96-year-old scrolls through their tablet to show me their latest great-grandchild, or asks their smart tech device to play some music. For many, technology has become a vital link to their faith community. On a daily basis, hearing aids, medication reminders, fall detectors, robotic pets, as well as devices used for communication and entertainment have older adults increasingly engaged in the world of technology.

This is sparking intriguing questions for spiritual care providers and researchers in spirituality and aging around the world. How might the use of technology enhance pastoral care? Can virtual reality facilitate meaningful experiences? Can robots provide emotional support? How is tech enabling both independence and connections?

Beate Stellar, a spiritual care provider in aged care in Australia, pioneered the use of Skype to connect residents with special events and distant family, long before the pandemic made virtual connection commonplace. Cosmin Munteanu, the Schlegel-UW RIA Research Chair in Technology, is working on co-creating meaningful experiences in virtual reality with older adults to share with family and friends. Tracy Trothen, professor of ethics at Queen's University, is evaluating the benefits and risks of intelligent assistive technology (chat bots, physical bots and pet bots) related to meeting spiritual needs among older adults. This June, these three will come together at Grebel to form a panel discussing technology, spirituality and aging at the International Conference on Ageing & Spirituality—just one of many plenary sessions to stimulate worldwide conversation about the conference theme of *Challenges and Choices: Spirituality and Dignity in Later Life*.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CONFERENCE AT: [uwaterloo.ca/ageing-spirituality](http://uwaterloo.ca/ageing-spirituality)





The Grebel MEDA delegation enjoys time together between sessions at the Mennonite Economic Development Association Convention 2022: Celebrating Entrepreneurship in Lancaster, PA, in early November. L-R) Liv McClelland, Paul Heidebrecht, Nicholas Heide, Emma Kirke, Hanne Kuhnert, and Hannah Bernstein. Not pictured: Marina Wheaton, Marcus Shantz, and Fred Martin

## Breaking Down Silos with PeaceTech

**EMMA KIRKE, 4TH-YEAR ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES, AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Throughout my four years at Grebel, of the many hats I have worn, the one that has had the most impact has been as a PeaceTecher. You might wonder, what is a PeaceTecher?

In 2019, PeaceTech joined the roster of living-learning communities (LLC) across the University of Waterloo to foster a space where students in any faculty could gather and discuss the opportunities at the intersection of peacebuilding and technology. The members of the PeaceTech LLC, affectionately referred to as PeaceTechers, vary in disciplines of study. PeaceTech was the first LCC on campus to bring together students from different years and programs, a strength inherent in the intentional interdisciplinary and multi-year design of the Grebel community.

Arriving at Grebel as a transfer student, I found it difficult to integrate as a new student already in my second year of studies. But I have never felt this way in the PeaceTech space. Rather, we each come in with our own lived experiences and knowledge and a readiness to learn from each other.

Particularly through the two-and-a-half years of public health restrictions, I found my PeaceTech meetings to be a supportive anchor that connected me with guest speakers committed to their careers and peers who shared my hope for the possibility of contributing to a positive future. Amid the seemingly never-ending online classes, PeaceTech kept me grounded in my *raison-d'être* as a student at Waterloo.

In participating in PeaceTech, I have grown more aware of the inherent disconnections in our siloed higher education system that often limit opportunities for students to engage in subjects beyond their discipline of choice. In particular, some programs focus

so intensely on technical skill-building that the social impact of what students are learning might never be discussed in the classroom. Yet, once graduates reach the workplace, they are expected to engage and collaborate with others who come from a range of disciplines and contrasting worldviews.

Building off what I was observing in the PeaceTech community, I co-founded the Sustainability Literacy Initiative to advocate for broader inclusion of sustainability education across disciplines at Waterloo. This fall, we hosted a blended conference to provide an opportunity for University of Waterloo affiliates and external stakeholders to discuss embedding sustainability education into the post-secondary curriculum.

PeaceTech helps break down the silos, continuing the bridge-building spirit that inspired Grebel's design, with students from every faculty at Waterloo participating. By focusing on what unites us rather than what divides us, PeaceTech leaves its members with the gift of a shared sense of responsibility to be ambassadors for peace in our daily lives.

Regardless of how community members draw on their PeaceTech experience in their professional lives, I believe that this unique and valuable experience leaves each of us with the self-assuredness to engage critically and the desire to explore further beyond our disciplines. Most importantly, PeaceTech leaves its members uplifted with the hope that many around them are also committed to working together to expand peace in our world.



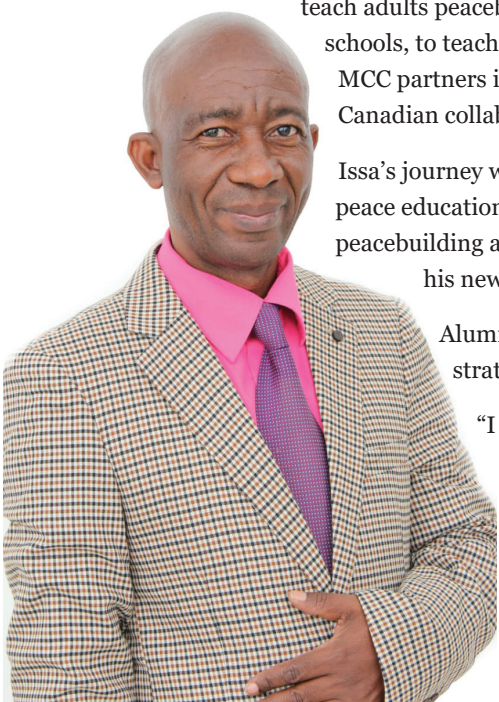
Photo by Anne Hamels

# Issa Ebombolo: Building Peace in Zambia and Malawi

BY ZOE BEILBY, PACS COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

To look back on Issa Ebombolo's (MPACS 2017) career thus far is to look back on a journey of leadership, collaboration, and great accomplishments. From developing a peace curriculum, helping develop programs and support for refugee camps, and now, in his current role, working with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) as Peacebuilding Coordinator for Zambia and Malawi, he has helped promote peace and restorative justice in all that he does. It is fitting that he has been chosen as the 2022 recipient of Conrad Grebel University College's **Distinguished Alumni Service Award**. The Master of Peace and Conflict Studies website states that "turbulent times like ours call for people who understand systems of violence and conflict and are prepared to build peace with justice." Issa embodies this mindset and has spent his career developing systems and programs with communities, governments, and Mennonite Central Committee, to promote peace and build systems of restorative justice and peacebuilding.

One of many outstanding accomplishments that Issa looks back on proudly is the founding of Peace Clubs. Formed in 2006, Peace Clubs as an organization now has more than 650 different clubs through 14 African countries in schools, communities, churches, and refugee camps. Issa formed community Peace Clubs to teach adults peacebuilding and conflict transformation skills. They then spread to schools, to teach abuse prevention and peacebuilding, and conflict resolution. Now MCC partners in Central America and Haiti are starting Peace Clubs, as well as a Canadian collaboration with The Meeting House church.



Issa's journey with MCC started in 2003, when he attended a two-week class in peace education. He then used an MCC scholarship to get a 3-month certificate in peacebuilding and conflict transformation through the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Kitwe, Zambia. With his new credentials he was hired by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Alumni Committee Chair Michael Shum commended Issa for his service. "Issa's work is a clear demonstration of how the PACS program at Grebel can lead to incredible outcomes for the wider community."

"I chose to take a leave from the workforce and to go back to school to do a master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies at Grebel in 2014 to increase my professional growth in the field of peacebuilding," reflected Issa. He easily applied the knowledge and skills from the program when stepping into his role with MCC in 2017 as the Peacebuilding Coordinator for Zambia and Malawi. His work now involves collaboration with community organizations, individuals, and government of Zambia and Malawi.

Issa reflected that "since re-entering the professional sphere in my current role with MCC in May 2017, I have had the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills I acquired at Grebel." Examples of these applications are extensive. Issa has worked to implement peacebuilding initiatives and programs with governments and with 68 Zambian and 31 Malawian correctional facilities to build a culture of peace among inmates and officers. Issa has also helped Zambia and Malawi correctional services establish a newly created Restorative Justice and Peace Building Unit in their departments and is "proud to have helped both the government of Zambia and Malawi to move away from a punitive system to a correctional system." He has also worked closely with civil society to encourage the government of Zambia to implement the Correctional Act of 2021, promoting love, peace, restoration, and responsibility, in replacement of the Prison Act, which promoted violence that has existed since the colonial period.

"This work has taught me leadership, community programming, to be organized, and to remain focused," reported Issa. "I have developed the desire to serve others with humility." These accomplishments, and many more, embody what the Peace and Conflict Studies program at Grebel hopes to promote.

"Issa Ebombolo is inspirational!" explained PACS Chair Reina Neufeldt. "His deep reflection and knowledge of peace and conflict dynamics, paired with his transformational experiences and courageous spirit, make him a leading voice in peacebuilding in Zambia and Southern Africa."

**The Distinguished Alumni Service Award will be presented to Issa at the MPACS 10th Anniversary Celebration in March 2023.**



# Small Fixes Can Lead to Large Solutions

BY TIM SAARI, COMMUNICATIONS COOP STUDENT

“I’d rather repair something than replace it” is an uncommon statement to hear in a throwaway society, yet it is one voiced by Grebel resident Liam Armstrong. Liam is in the Construction Techniques program at Conestoga College and intends on specializing in electrical after completing his current program. He enjoys fixing the small, practical items of everyday life that others often replace after the product loses its shine or stops working.

“I had an old iPhone 4 for most of high school,” Liam described. “The back was falling off, but I just taped it together; the headphone jack didn’t work great, but it would be OK if the cord was twisted just right.” In his view, the product does not need to look great or operate flawlessly, it just needs to serve its purpose. “It’s not worth throwing an item out just because there is a nicer-looking or newer one available.” This approach to ownership is what inspired Liam to fix items around his house, such as a blender, bike, pepper grinder, ripped pair of jeans, and a broken pair of slip-on shoes.

Recently, Liam learned of a growing initiative that holds a similar approach to product ownership: the Right to Repair movement. The Repair Association’s purpose is to advocate for “repair-friendly policies, regulations, statutes, and standards at the national and local levels.” Right to Repair impacts many different sectors, with a current focus on making tech repair a more accessible and legitimate activity for owners.

At Grebel, Liam would like to get other students involved in this movement by starting a repair café. He hopes students from a diverse range of academic backgrounds will bring their broken items



Liam Armstrong works on his bike.

and together figure out a way to “get a little more life out of their belongings.” It is his goal to have participation as broad as possible, and to encourage students to draw from their unique personal expertise and learn from others in the group.

“Just try; it’s not hard to try. Take stuff apart and learn how it works,” advised Liam. Taking ownership over your stuff does not mean you need to know exactly how to fix it. Taking ownership means you will try, and trying leads to learning. Through his choice to repair, Liam picked up skills he would not have otherwise developed. “I worked construction this summer and when I ripped my jeans, I learned how to patch them so I could use them for the rest of the season.” His experience repairing construction pants, though a quick fix, taught him basic sewing skills.

The Right to Repair movement is gaining traction as more and more companies pledge to develop repair-friendly products. However, change can start immediately—and close to home. At Grebel, where learning, sustainability, and community are core values, Liam’s dream of a repair café has a solid foundation and vibrant culture to build on. He knows that innovation is not dependent on a group or large movement. Rather, it is the small lifestyle changes that make a big difference, even if it is simply choosing to fix an old pepper grinder.

**2022-2023  
BECHTEL LECTURE**

In late October, Grebel was fortunate to host Dr. Mark L. Loudon as the 2022-23 Bechtel Lecturer in Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies. His presentation on “Reconstructing Linguistic History: What Did Ontario’s Earliest Amish Speak?” took the audience on a fascinating trip through the linguistic history of the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect.

WATCH THE LECTURE:  
[youtu.be/sWWKEh8CYCE](https://youtu.be/sWWKEh8CYCE)

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

**MASTER OF PEACE  
AND CONFLICT STUDIES**

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.

[uwaterloo.ca/mpacs](https://uwaterloo.ca/mpacs)





# CONRAD GREBEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE 2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

## READY FOR RENEWAL

2021-22 was another demanding year at Conrad Grebel University College—as it was everywhere. Much of this year at the College was spent ‘pivoting’—adapting our programs to the constraints of the pandemic. We made plans, and frequently changed them, as COVID-19 developed in unexpected ways. Most classes remained online through the fall term, and the return to in-person study in winter term was delayed due to the Omicron wave.

In these less-than-ideal circumstances, Grebel continued to express its mission in powerful ways. There were stimulating public lectures, remarkable concerts, and countless “ah-ha” moments in the classroom. In April, we held a moving in-person Convocation celebration for our graduates—our first in three years.

Our residence continued to be a place of welcome and belonging for a wonderfully diverse group of students. Thalia Stefania Criollo Guererro, a Music major from Chile, described her first-year experience this way: “I was surprised about the true commitment to community.... Here I have also met friends for life from multiple backgrounds, not just cultures, but also with identities and sets of beliefs different than mine.”

In a year when it was challenging to look even two or three weeks ahead, we lifted our sights to develop a new three-year Strategic Plan, which our Board adopted in April 2022. Thinking together about the future was a welcome respite from pandemic pivoting, and it helped to restore our sense of purpose and hope. The plan, entitled “Renewing an inspired community” expresses our thirst for new vitality and spirit, and our interest in reimagining what Grebel can be at its best. After two years of pandemic, we are ready for renewal.

Our plan invites us to build on the best of what we do at Grebel—focusing on the student experience, the reach of our teaching and scholarship, and the quality of our relationships with the University of Waterloo, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, and our many other community partners. We hope you’ll take some time to read the plan, which is available at [uwaterloo.ca/grebel/strategic-plan](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/strategic-plan).

Grebel is a vibrant, resilient place because of the many people who belong to the College community. On behalf of the Board, we thank everyone—our faculty, staff, alumni, partners, donors, and especially our students—for your diverse contributions to the College through these trying times.

Marcus Shantz | Paul Fieguth  
President | Chair, Board of Governors



In April, President Marcus Shantz addressed graduating students and families at Grebel’s first in-person Convocation in three years.



By the end of the winter term, Music students were pleased to perform together and enjoyed a small audience at their concerts.



Move-In Day required creative balancing of crowds, but incoming students still experienced the thrill of moving out on their own and were welcomed by enthusiastic upper-year leaders.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Faculty and staff persevered and enjoyed connecting with students in person when possible, even as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to complicate teaching plans. Given uncertain public health conditions, Grebel faculty prepared to teach fall courses in a variety of online and in-person formats. After planning for a completely in-person winter term, courses went fully virtual once again, before eventually moving in-person.

As part of strategic planning, academic program personnel identified numerous ways to explore new pathways for learning while individual programs continued conversations on how to integrate anti-racism and intercultural competence into their programs. For example, the PACS program began to review and revitalize core curriculum, while Theological Studies worked on public, intentional, and explicit affirmation of LGBTQ+ students.

Music faculty navigated COVID-19 protocols for singing and playing instruments, and delivered a successful music studio and ensemble program by streaming concerts and recitals on YouTube. PACS navigated faculty and staff changes, and benefited from energetic student leadership in both the undergraduate and graduate programs. Over the year, MPACS emphasized extracurricular learning and networking opportunities, as well as engaging in a local context. Theological Studies offered numerous events, workshops, initiatives, and structured conversations to build community and foster discussion. Spirituality and Aging hosted a global conference online over the duration of three weeks. Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre (TMTC) offered a well-attended series of monthly forums for attendees from across North America. The Milton Good Library maintained full in-person services for most of the year, thanks to Grebel's dedicated and creative librarians. Considerable work was done in the Mennonite Archives of Ontario on Indigenous issues and requests for remote archival services were the highest in ten years.

Johonna McCants-Turner began her role as Associate Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies in July, and David Neufeld was hired as Assistant Professor of Mennonite History.

## UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

Grebel course enrolments rose for the sixth consecutive year, the result of a sustained effort to grow enrolments in keeping with our teaching commitment to the University of Waterloo. Attracting students from all faculties at UWaterloo, Grebel offered major, minor, and diploma programs in PACS and Music, and taught undergraduate courses in Mennonite Studies, History, Religious Studies, and Sociology.

## GRADUATE STUDIES

In 2021-22, Peace and Conflict Studies (MPACS) and Theological Studies (MTS) welcomed 22 and 8 new master's students respectively. With graduate course enrolments at 368, there were 41 MTS students and 52 MPACS students enrolled. TMTC, a graduate teaching and research centre, celebrated six Associate and Fellow doctoral defenses.

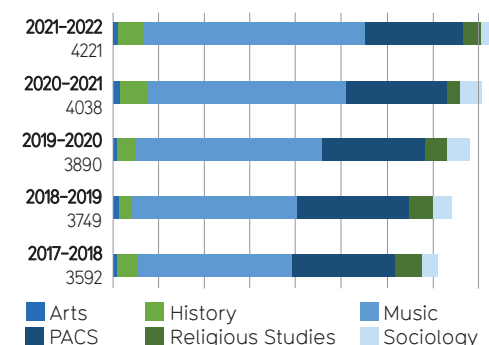
## CONFLICT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

This popular continuing education program successfully delivered all training online, in two streams: Conflict Management and Mediation, and Conflict Management and Congregational Leadership. There were 581 workshop registrants and 35 participants were granted certificates.

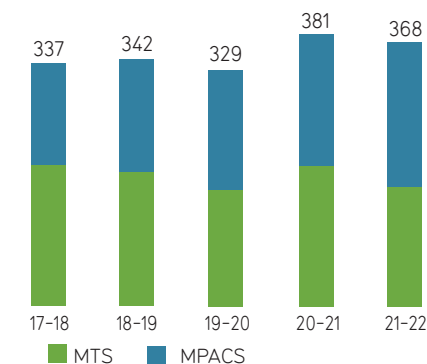
## KINDRED CREDIT UNION CENTRE FOR PEACE ADVANCEMENT (CPA)

Twenty-six students worked in the CPA and enjoyed practical learning opportunities with peace practitioners, entrepreneurs, and researchers. The CPA deftly led the PeaceTech Living-Learning Community, the Map the System Challenge, and the Peace Innovators program. Two new start-ups joined the Grebel Peace Incubator while three finished in the program. \$96,426 in external funding was leveraged for projects with CPA participants in 2021-22. Despite visitor restrictions, the CPA hosted two Grebel Gallery exhibits.

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSE ENROLMENTS



## GRADUATE COURSE ENROLMENTS



Faculty taught in creative locations in the early fall, and students especially enjoyed the outdoor classroom.

## SCHOLARSHIP, SERVICE, AND OUTREACH

Over the course of the year, numerous virtual public lectures, concerts, panels, book launches, faculty forums, and conferences showcased the variety of scholarly expertise of Grebel faculty. Faculty activity highlights can be found in every issue of *Grebel Now* under Sampling of Scholarship, and include published books, chapters, and articles, as well as workshops and presentations.

# RESIDENCE AND ASSOCIATE STUDENTS

2021-22 was another year of shifting plans and transition for Student Services. COVID affected all aspects of programming, but 280 students built a vibrant community despite the remaining public health restrictions. The residence and apartments were open with increased capacity each term, and by the end of the winter term, associates and visitors were invited back to campus. Our expanded kitchen and dining room were put to good use as we welcomed more and more people back to Grebel.

88 student leaders planned many activities to create connection and community among students on campus. 22 students who had been virtual residents the previous year transitioned to residence seamlessly and many took on leadership roles. Student leaders were essential in welcoming new Grebelites and introducing beloved traditions such as Orientation Week, the Roommate Challenge, Mocktails, talent shows, and GrebelBowl. Students also planned extra community-building activities like campfires, fundraisers, skating parties, snow sculptures, games nights, walk-a-mile, door decorating, and so much more!

Highlights of the year included a bike trip to Queen's Bush, a Student Leaders Symposium, welcoming new students and their families on Move-In Day, a re-imagined retreat on the Grebel campus during Orientation Week, and a much-anticipated Lessons and Carols service. The year culminated in an in-person live-streamed Convocation service in April.

Students showed active citizenship through local Reading Week excursions, volunteering at the House of Friendship and St. John's Kitchen, participating in the student refugee program, initiating Green Team activities, and competing in the C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest.

Faith development took many forms, including Tuesday Night Worship, Sunday Night Hymn Sing, and Wednesday Chapels.

Along with the Chaplain, a team of 10-12 Chapel Conveners steered the weekly worship service, focusing on stories of challenge and transformation, and asking the question, "where is God?" Faculty, staff, and students were invited as speakers.

Until February, Community Supper was restricted to residents only, and it was a joy to finally welcome associates back to this weekly meal. Spanning a wide variety of topics throughout the year, Community Supper speakers included Cesar Jaramillo from Project Ploughshares, who spoke about the war in Ukraine, Grebel faculty sharing about their programs, a panel of alumni lawyers, and graduating student reflections.

The pandemic heightened concerns about student mental health in universities across Canada. Grebel's Student Services team was alert to student wellness issues, connecting students to professional supports. Fall residence numbers were significantly lower due to uncertainties about campus life during the pandemic and the challenge of virtual recruitment. However, the promise of a return to fully in-person learning resulted in a record number of brand-new students moving into Grebel for the winter term.

In the spring term, Chaplain Ed Janzen retired and Jessica Reesor Rempel was hired for the interim. Plans for Mary Brubaker-Zehr's retirement as Director of Student Services resulted in the hiring of Beverly Fretz, who began work in July 2022.

Amidst the challenges and restrictions, students and staff showed resilience and good humour as they successfully worked together to create a warm and welcoming place for both new and returning students this year.

Grebel followed the University of Waterloo's vaccination and mask mandates to ensure a safe environment for students and employees.



Chapel services took place online for the spring term and during the January lockdown. They moved outside from September to November, and finally met back in the Chapel during the cold months.



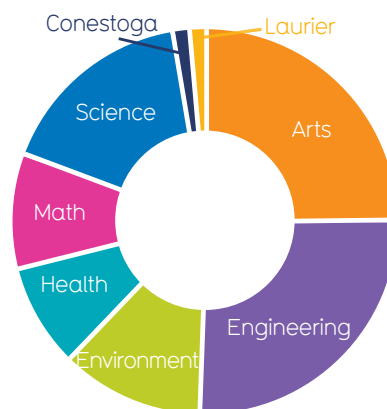
It was exciting to hold end-of-term celebrations in person again, including yet another epic Grebel talent show!

## REGIONS

### LOCATIONS STUDENTS

British Columbia	6
Alberta	1
Saskatchewan	7
Manitoba	7
Ontario	241
Quebec	2
Nova Scotia	1
USA	5
International	10

## AREAS OF STUDY







**GREEN INITIATIVES**

A new Green Team was created, comprising students, staff, and faculty who meet regularly with Sustainable Waterloo Region advisors to form a plan for reducing Grebel’s carbon footprint. As a first step, WalterFedy completed an energy and water audit for Grebel that identifies opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through equipment upgrades and facility improvements. Sustainable Waterloo Region awarded Grebel a “Rookie of the Year” award for the College’s progress over the first year of membership. Grebel has seen increased use of the electric vehicle charging stations and has enjoyed the seasonal changes on completed green roof of the new kitchen.



# FINANCE

Revenues recovered somewhat this year, but were still below pre-pandemic levels by more than \$1,000,000. The decreased revenue was due to fewer students in the residence compared with a normal year, and almost no ancillary revenue from rental groups and summer conferences. Despite this challenge, Grebel ended the year \$185,000 better than budget through careful expense management.

Undergraduate tuition is the largest single source of income for Grebel, representing 31 percent of total revenues. Tuition is regulated by the Ontario government and has been frozen since 2018. An annual provincial grant tied to enrolments represents another 16% of our revenues. This per-capita grant has also been frozen for many years. Ten percent of revenue came from donations to operations from Grebel supporters, including \$146,462 from Mennonite Church Eastern Canada.

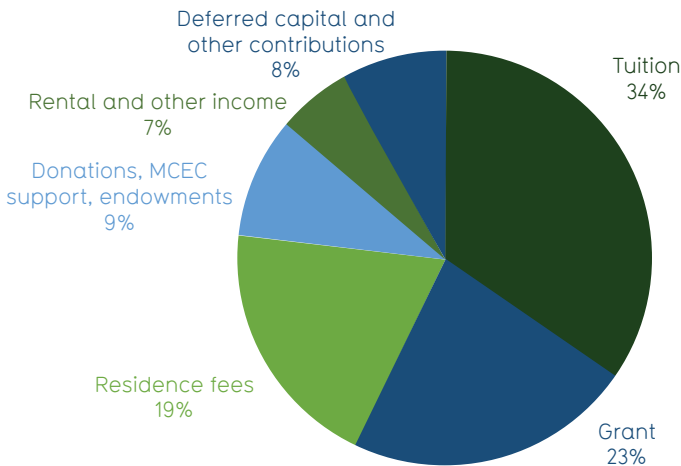
Grebel provided \$496,000 in financial assistance for students in 2021-22, an increase of \$31,000 over the prior year. These awards are funded from a combination of endowment income, annual donations, and general operating funds. Roughly \$300,000 of this total goes to students in the College’s two graduate programs: Master of Theological Studies and Master of Peace and Conflict Studies. Strong financial aid from Grebel lowers barriers to attend university, increases student retention, and attracts talented students.



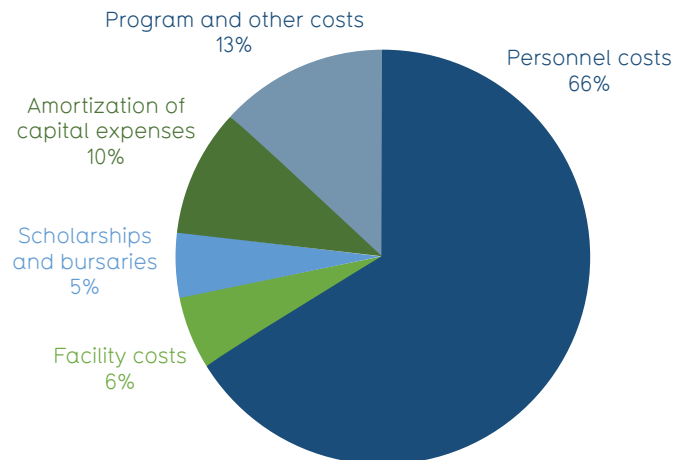
Merveille Mwankin is one 187 Grebel students who received an award or bursary in 2021-22. Donors are key in helping to make post-secondary education affordable and attainable.

**187** Grebel students received a total of  
**\$496,068** in awards and bursaries in 2021-22.  
**\$247,940** (50%) was allocated from operations and Grebel Fund.  
**\$248,128** (50%) came from annual donor gifts and endowment earnings.

**2021-22 TOTAL REVENUE**



**2021-22 TOTAL EXPENSES**



# ADVANCEMENT

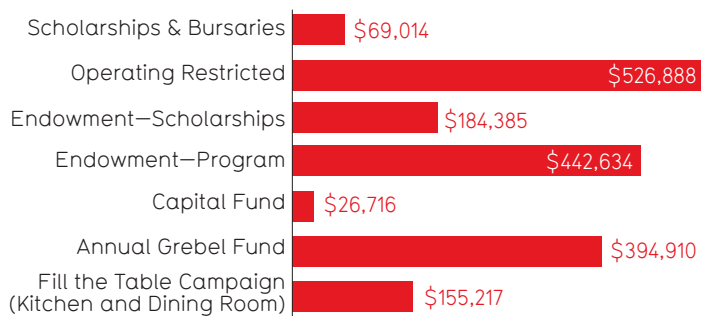
Grebel donors stood by the College once again during another year of reduced revenues and budget challenges. With an ambitious goal of \$400,000 for the annual Grebel Fund, donations came within 99 percent of that target. This support provided much-needed financial aid for students and funds for programs such as the Library and Archives, the Chapel program, and Mennonite Studies.

In addition to giving to the Grebel Fund, donors provided \$527,000 for special projects that included the Indigenous-Mennonite Encounters conference held in May 2022, art acquisitions, a memorial garden, and the Spirituality and Aging research program.

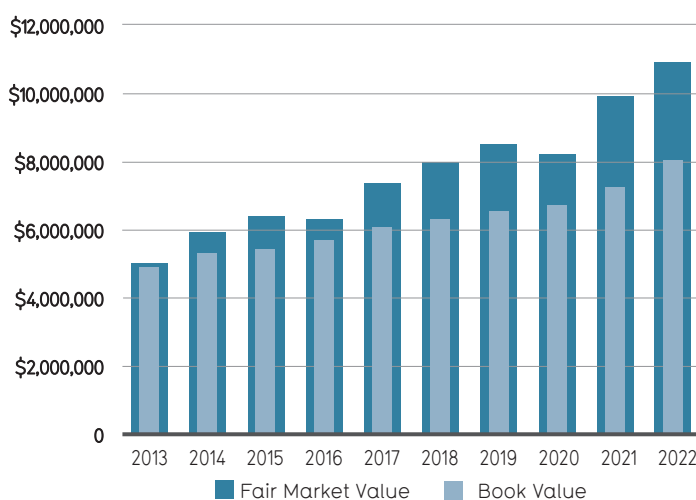
Gifts to endowments totalled \$626,000, a significant increase over the 2020-21 tally of \$246,000. Endowed gifts were designated for programs such as Mennonite Studies and for a variety of student awards. The annual income from these endowments is intended to support students and programs in perpetuity.

Due to the success and completion of the Fill the Table building campaign, total donations in 2021-22 decreased from the previous year. Grebel raised \$1,800,000 this year, compared to \$2,125,000 in the previous year. When building campaign gifts are excluded, the College had a record year for donations. This strong support has helped Grebel to weather both the pandemic and another year of flat revenues from other sources. Thank you!

## DONATIONS RECEIVED: \$1,799,765



## ENDOWMENTS: GROWTH OVER 10 YEARS



Ann L. Schultz (BA 1990) was presented with Grebel's 2021 Distinguished Alumni Service Award at a brunch that featured a panel of alumni educators who reflected on Teaching in Challenging Times.

Donations on Giving Tuesday were used to purchase audio recording equipment for the Music Department. Donations were matched by challenge champions David and Dianne (Daniels) Conrath (BA 1988).



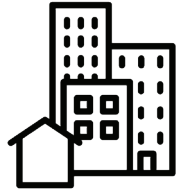
Former Grebel Dean and Interim President Jim Pankratz, with his wife Goldine, established a planned gift to fund the yearly Benjamin Eby Lecture series.



Family and friends of Becky Frey were part of a student Memorial Garden dedication service.



# GREBEL'S INDEX Interesting numbers from 2021-2022



Average cost of undergraduate arts tuition at an Ontario university in 1990:

**\$1,653**

In 2022:

**\$6,083**

Students assisted by Grebel's student awards in 2021-22:

**187**

Median amount received by each student:

**\$2,653**

Typical monthly rent for a single room off-campus in Waterloo:

**\$600-\$900**

Average debt owed by Canadian bachelor's degree students at graduation (2021):

**\$26,075**

Annual amount donated by Grebel students to sponsor refugees to live at Grebel:

**\$10,700**

Number of student refugees sponsored by Grebel students since 2007

**9**



Original goal of Fill the Table fundraising campaign for the kitchen and dining room:

**\$3,000,000**

Final amount raised by Fill the Table campaign:

**\$4,200,000+**

Market value of Grebel's endowment portfolio on April 30, 2022

**\$10,559,382**

Fundraising goal per year published in Grebel's 2022 Strategic Plan:

**\$2,000,000**

Funds generated from Grebel's endowments to support scholarships and programs in 2021:

**\$370,327**

Annual emissions, in metric tons, of greenhouse gases from Grebel's campus:

**435**

The year Grebel's PACS program became the first undergraduate peace studies program in Canada: **1977**  
Number of PACS undergraduate course enrolments in 2021-22: **1069**

Percentage growth in annual undergraduate course enrolments at Grebel since 2018: **18%**

Amount UWaterloo has committed to reduce its GHG emissions by 2030:

**35%**

Total number of residence and associate students: **280**

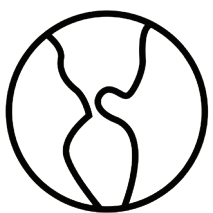
Number of students in residence student leadership roles: **88**

Countries of origin for residents and associates: **10**

Religious traditions represented: **6**

Percentage of residence and associate students who identify as Mennonite: **29%**

Percentage of students who identified as Mennonite in 1970-71: **23%**



Number of students majoring in one of Grebel's undergraduate programs in 2021-22: **109**

Number of majors in 2021-22: **39**

Number of students graduating from Grebel's MTS and MPACS programs in 2022: **28**



MTS students enrolled in practicum experiences in churches and other settings: **17**

Minimum cost of improvements required for Grebel to reduce its emissions by 35%:

**\$3,000,000**



Number of moving flywheels in "We Are All Engines of Joy" art installation: **28**

Year Grebel offered the first music courses at the University of Waterloo: **1964**  
Number of music course enrolments in 2021-22: **2462**



Tablespoons of yeast required for one batch of community supper bread dough:



# THANK YOU TO GREBEL'S GENEROUS DONORS

612 DONORS SUPPORTED OUR STUDENTS AND MISSION THIS YEAR!

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Marcus Shantz met with inter-cultural pastors of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada at the 2022 Pastor's Breakfast in April.

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**Lloyd and Erla Koch**  
**Angie Koch**  
**Jennifer and Scott Konkle**  
Robert and Lois Konrad



Graduating students were invited to a Grad Class Send-Off reception where they were welcomed as Grebel alumni.



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Alfred and Elizabeth Koop  
Helen H. Koop  
Helen Koop  
**Shelbey Krahn and Hoi Cheu**  
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**Maurice and Phyllis Martin**  
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Vic and Rita Krueger visited Grebel and met Joshua Cheon, the recipient of The Vic and Rita Krueger Family PACS Award.

**David and Doris Martin**  
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**Pauline Martin**  
**Kevin Martin and Kim Bowman**  
**Nathan and Julia Martin**  
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Lloyd Martin  
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\* We are saddened by the loss of these friends.

Bolded names denote alumni households

# Award Honours Grandmother's Dreams

BY FRED W. MARTIN, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

Sara Froese Berg (1893-1979) had an unfulfilled dream to receive an education. This dream was fulfilled as granddaughter Geraldine Balzer and great-granddaughters Kerstin and Alina graduated from the University of Waterloo and attended Grebel.

“My grandmother was an inspiring woman who loved to read and wanted nothing more than to go to school. However, her father believed six years in the village school was enough education for a girl. The Russian Revolution and the death of her parents and one brother meant my grandmother was the family matriarch before she was 25. She arrived in Canada in 1923 in the second group of Mennonite refugees from Ukraine and began work as a housekeeper on Saskatchewan farms. She taught herself to speak, read, and write English, married a widower with two children, and was widowed herself with two young children. In spite of her dire economic circumstances, she ensured that her children received a high school education at Rosthern Junior College. But her dream was that her grandchildren might have the resources to go to university,” Geraldine explained. “She was keen to hear about my experiences in Waterloo and often had an extra \$5 or \$10 to slip into my pocket. Unfortunately, she died before I completed my first degree, but I often imagine how proud she would be of me and my daughters who more than fulfilled her dream,” said Geraldine who lived at Grebel in the mid-70s, completed an MA in English from UWaterloo in 1983, and served on the Grebel board.

Geraldine and Gordon's daughters came to Grebel from Saskatchewan. Alina Balzerson completed a BA in Music and Women's Studies in 2012 and now works as a midwife. Kerstin Balzer-Peters finished a BA in Sexuality, Marriage & Family Studies in 2017 and works at ApplyBoard in Kitchener.

“We are pleased that our children have also contributed to this entry award, honouring their great-grandmother and recognizing the value of the Grebel experience,” added Geraldine. This endowed award will be for resident students identifying as female whose province of origin is west of Ontario.



Geraldine Blazer, Kerstin Balzer-Peters, Alina and Dan Balzerson, and Gordon Peters

## GREBEL FUND SUPPORTS STUDENTS

Each year Grebel's operating budget includes generous support for our students, especially in graduate programs. The Grebel Fund also allows donors to support College programs that are special to you. This could be our PACS or Music Departments, Theological Studies, the residence program, the Mennonite Archives of Ontario, or the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement. Watch for a letter from Marcus Shantz or go online to make an donation to the Grebel Fund today!

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

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

## GREEN FUND

The Green Team is meeting regularly to examine different options for reducing carbon consumption on Grebel's campus. Part of the goal will be achieved by a combination of new HVAC equipment, better windows in the residence building, and some 'Scope 2' initiatives that involve travel and other energy reduction behaviour changes.

A proposal for a new multi-zone unit to heat and cool the academic building could reduce greenhouse gases by over 56 percent. The team is also working to add more electric vehicle charging stations to the parking lot.

Donations to the Green Fund will assist in our efforts to reduce Grebel's carbon footprint!







Jim Paterson's *We are all Engines of Joy* is a colourful and energetic addition to a new fireplace lounge in the dining room. In this photo, Jim (BFA 1981) stands with his wife Lynn (BA 1983) after the piece was installed.



## Sculpture Completes New Dining Room

BY MARGARET GISSING, COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

A glowing, curious object sits above the fireplace in the corner of the Grebel's dining room. Its oranges, blues, and greens call from across the space, inviting closer inspection of the whimsical and intricate arrangement of shapes.

In late July, the kinetic sculpture *We Are All Engines of Joy* created by Grebel alumnus James Paterson (BFA 1981) was installed at the College. "It's a happy piece of celebration, for all of us here going forward and out into the world," Jim explained as he turned the main wheel of the sculpture.

The idea for the new artwork first began in a conversation between Jim and Director of Operations Paul Penner at an art show in Ottawa. "We got talking about how empty of students the College had been during the COVID pandemic and the hope that it would soon all be over," Paul shared. "I began to think that it would be neat to have a touchstone to both signal and celebrate our coming out of this season, something that would be joyful and bring hope." Soon after, Grebel commissioned a sculpture to become the centrepiece of a new lounge area in the updated Grebel dining room.

Jim looked to summon a sense of colour and positivity to the familiar Grebel space, taking inspiration from the iconic stained glass windows designed by Nancy Lou Patterson. Nancy was a mentor to Jim during his Fine Arts studies. "She always encouraged me to be myself, to be human and not give in." Nancy Lou Patterson founded the Fine Arts Department at UWaterloo, which continues today as a vibrant visual arts program.

*We Are All Engines of Joy* unites a variety of symbols representing pieces of Grebel's past and present. Its main structure—made from twisted steel wire and vivid resin—consists of large, moving circles representing the six faculties at the University of Waterloo. Each

wheel moves in unison when the main wheel is turned by hand. Some motifs, such as the little spirals and a familiar peaked roof, are more subtle. A nod to Grebel's musical connections is included with piano keys and the neck of a stringed instrument, alongside ploughshares at the base of the sculpture. Windmills, which further represent Mennonite agricultural history are driven by the six circles. Together, the piece becomes reminiscent of a whimsical engine, blown forward by the flag-like sails, which, as Jim described, "suggest the wind of the Spirit enlivening us all and blowing us forward out into the world."

"My hope is that people who see this art piece will come away with an infusion of joy and delight. That they will be reminded there are mysteries in life worth probing, inner journeys of discovery worth taking, and deep resonant rhythms sounding around us that we must listen carefully for if we are to hear them and be awakened to the redemptive nature of God in creation," explained Jim. "I want people who see my art to reclaim a childlike sense of wonder as they go forward believing that one day all things will be made new again."

The re-imagined lounge space features couches and chairs with small tables, designed for comfortable study sessions and relaxing with friends by the fireplace. The intention is to bring back the feeling of gathering in the old Lower Lounge space that many alumni remember. This new space was made possible by the continued generosity of Grebel alumni. Thirty alumni donors from Jim's era donated \$19,288 toward this project, with additional funds coming from the Fill the Table campaign and Student Council.

Students have been enthusiastically using the lounge to gather since its completion, whether to catch up on readings before class or meet before heading out to campus. Among the hustle and bustle of Grebel's life, the bright, whimsical engine will undoubtedly invite attention and interaction by everyone passing by.



# Award Supports Students from House of Friendship Programs

BY FRED W. MARTIN

For two high school students who connect to House of Friendship programs in Waterloo Region, a substantial grant from the Lyle S Hallman Foundation will make the dream of a Grebel residence experience and a University of Waterloo degree a reality. Youth from community centres and family resource programs run by House of Friendship might not consider applying to UWaterloo if they can't afford it. Even if they are able to cover tuition, living in residence is often out of the question.

The House of Friendship Leadership Scholarship will cover four years of tuition and related fees (like co-op, books, and supplies) and will enable students to live for two years at Grebel. It will also fund two work terms in a House of Friendship program.

“The idea is to promote the possibility of post-secondary education in families that may not consider it because of the related costs,” said Grebel’s Director of Advancement, Fred Martin. “We want to give youth something to shoot for and encourage them to volunteer to improve their leadership experience so they can qualify for this generous award. Getting good grades is also part of the equation, as they need to be accepted to a Waterloo program.”



Grebel’s new Strategic Plan includes a commitment to increase needs-based financial assistance. “This new award is a great step towards this goal,” said Grebel President Marcus Shantz, noting that the College currently distributes close to \$500,000 in student awards per year and regularly welcomes refugee students through World University Students Canada (WUSC).

“This is a dream come true for youth in our communities,” said Dauda Raji, Community Development Manager at House of Friendship. “We have so many young leaders in the communities we serve who are brimming with potential, and this will help them overcome the financial challenges they face. We know that lives will be changed as a result of the House of Friendship Leadership Scholarship—and we can’t wait to witness that.”

“Our Student Services team is excited to see how this scholarship award will expand our community,” said Director of Student Services Beverley Fretz. “We believe this comprehensive award will attract people to Grebel who may not have otherwise been able to be a part of the community.”

“We are really happy to partner with Grebel and the University of Waterloo to make an impact in the communities where House of Friendship is working,” noted Laura Manning from the Lyle S Hallman Foundation.

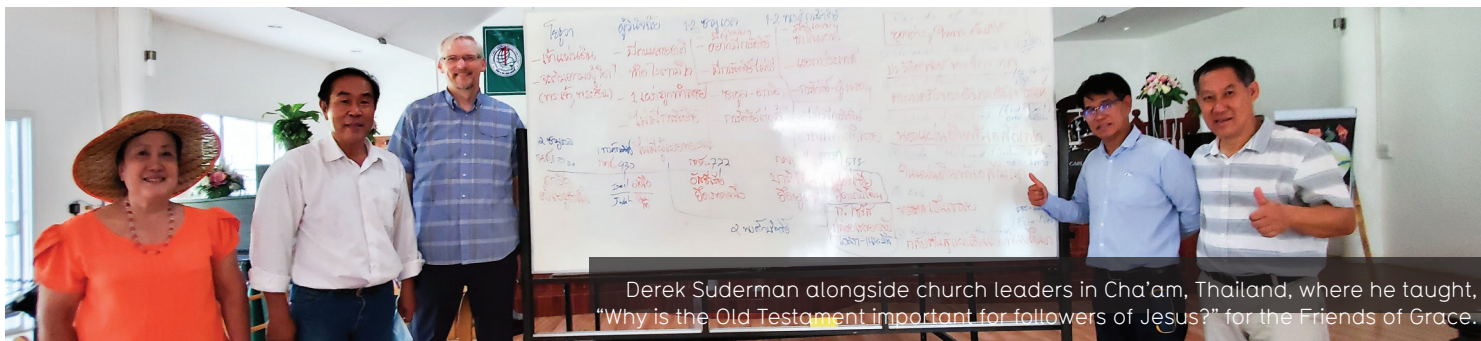


## TREMAINE MAP FINDS A HOME IN MENNONITE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

This map of Waterloo County from 1861 includes landmarks, buildings and lot demarcations along with the names of settlers. Teacher and genealogist Ezra Eby used this map in Waterloo County classrooms. His Biographical History of Waterloo Township was a foundational work of local history and genealogy. Christian Eby, a traditional healer and Ezra’s brother, used the map to locate his clients. The map was passed down to Christian’s son Gordon C. Eby, whose children have donated the map and arranged for its preservation, with other donors supporting the costs for framing. The map is on display at the Mennonite Archives of Ontario, in the Milton Good Library at Grebel. *Pictured above: Archivist-Librarian Lauren Harder-Gissing with Rene and Sandy Eby, and Lynda and Kim Eby.*







Derek Suderman alongside church leaders in Cha'am, Thailand, where he taught, "Why is the Old Testament important for followers of Jesus?" for the Friends of Grace.

## New Perspectives on a Familiar Story

BY JEN KONKLE, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Grebel Professor Derek Suderman is passionate about connecting with global Anabaptist churches and contributing to cross-cultural teaching. This summer, he taught courses in Cuba and Thailand to resource the Global Mennonite Church.

Amid food shortages and electricity blackouts, Derek traveled to Palmira, Cuba this past June to teach a 26-hour course in Spanish, "El Pueblo de Dios en el Antiguo Testamento" (The People of God in the Old Testament). Participants included leaders in the "Hermanos en Cristo" (Brethren in Christ) denomination, a member church of Mennonite World Conference. The several dozen pastors, church leaders, and Cuban missionaries appreciated the depth and new insights that emerged from a focus on the language, culture, history, and geography of the Bible. Derek recounts how students resonated deeply with a long history of living under the shadow of foreign powers, while the implications of water scarcity in the Old Testament provided a sharp contrast with their lived reality. Seeing the Bible as a library and exploring diversity within it on the issue of how to interact with foreigners generated significant discussion about the Bible itself and its contemporary implications.

"The denominational leadership in Cuba has a very strong commitment and desire for their churches to be Anabaptist, but many pastors come with little religious background or from other denominations. So, developing this identity is a challenge," explained Derek. "The economic situation in the country is also dire and getting worse. The fact that

organizers were able to find enough food for this large of a group to gather for a week, and were able to find transportation for all of them to come, seemed like a miracle."

"The church in Cuba is growing and providing leadership training is one of their primary priorities. The kind of support Derek provides in teaching a course on 'The People of God in the Old Testament' is not available elsewhere," remarked former MC Canada General Secretary Jack Suderman, who coordinated the effort and co-taught a course with Rebecca Yoder Neufeld at the same location in September.

Derek then travelled to Roi Et and then to Cha'am, Thailand in July where he taught two courses on "Why is the Old Testament important for followers of Jesus?" for the Friends of Grace, a network of house churches supported by Mennonite Church Canada Witness. Witness worker Tom Poovong provided essential support as both translator and cultural interpreter, along with local leader Pastor Khamphan.

"It was invigorating to engage with such passionate and resourceful leaders," commented Derek. "For me, it was also eye-opening to witness these dedicated Christians sharing the good news of Christ and engaging constructively as a tiny minority in the broader culture, which is approximately 99% Buddhist. After talking about the gods of Egypt in Exodus, one leader commented that 'in Thailand there are thousands.' Interacting with these Thai leaders gave me a new perspective on a familiar story and it's clear I still have much to learn."

"It is very exciting to see this developing partnership between Conrad Grebel University College, Mennonite Church Canada Witness, and the global church to share gifts in this way," remarked Jeanette Hanson, Director of International Witness for Mennonite Church Canada. "Derek's willingness, energy, and ability to teach well cross-culturally is a gift that can be shared. He then brings what he has learned through interaction with training participants in various contexts back to Conrad Grebel and congregations in Canada. It is a beautiful example of God's gifts to the global church being shared with each other."

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

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# A Sampling of Scholarship

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

**ALICIA BATTEN** published a chapter “James the Dramatist” in *Who Was ‘James’? Essays on the Letter’s Authorship and Provenance*, edited by Eve-Marie Becker, Sigurvin Lárus Jónsson, and Susanne Luther (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2022), 313-330.

**JEREMY BERGEN** presented a paper, “Christian Martyrdom, Cultural Trauma, and Conspiracies of Silence,” and contributed to a panel discussion on the papal apologies and visit to Canada at the annual meetings of the Canadian Theological Society in May.

**LAURA GRAY** has been appointed as President of the Canadian University Music Society for a 2-year term. She was previously Vice-President.

**LAUREN HARDER-GISSING** gave a presentation entitled “What was Lost, What Remains, What is Possible’: Attempts at Truth and Reconciliation in a Mennonite Archives,” at the Indigenous-Mennonite Encounters in Time and Place conference and community education event held at Grebel in May 2022.

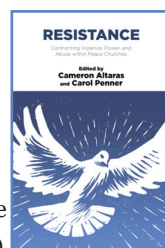
**PAUL HEIDEBRECHT** published an article entitled “PeaceTech” in *IEEE Technology and Society Magazine* 41/3, September 2022.

**JANE KUEPFER** published “Supporting Spirits in Changing Circumstances: Pandemic Lessons for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes” in the *Religions* journal special issue entitled “Spirituality and Aging: Finding Meaning in the Context of Personal and Societal Change” for which she served as guest editor.

**ERIC LEPP** published two new journal articles: ‘Civil Sanctuary: Clearly marked spaces of civility in divided urban settings’ in *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding* and ‘A Side-by-Side Methodological Approach: Shared experience, informality, and adaptation’ in *Qualitative Research*.

**DAVID Y. NEUFELD** presented research entitled “Archiving Anabaptist Error: Officers, Information Management, and the Project to Rid Zurich of Dissent” at the meetings of the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference, October 2022.

**CAROL PENNER** co-edited and published *Resistance: Confronting Abuse, Power And Violence in Peace Churches* with Cameron Altaras (Elkhart, IN, Institute of Mennonite Studies, 2022).



**JOHONNA MCCANTS-TURNER** published an article co-authored with Michelle Garred “Far beyond a tool: Do No Harm as spiritual (trans)formation for interfaith cooperation and action,” in *Development in Practice*, 2022, and was the invited keynote speaker for the Virtual Peacemaking Colloquium 2022: Restoring and Reaffirming Sacred Relationships through PeaceCircles - A Resiliency Model, held in September.

**REINA NEUFELDT** presented her research on “Mennonites as Implicated Subjects in Treaty 1 Territory” at the Indigenous Mennonite Encounters in Time and Space gathering and conference held at Grebel in May 2022.

**DEREK SUDERMAN** taught three international, week-long courses for local pastors and leaders this summer: “The People of God in the Old Testament” in Cuba (in Spanish) and “The Importance of the Old Testament for Followers of Jesus” in two locations in Thailand.

**MAISIE SUM** delivered the keynote address for the 23rd annual Western University Graduate Symposium on Music in August 2022, titled “Rules, Rites, and Respect: Performing Black Moroccan Music and Culture in a New Era.”



**KAREN SUNABACKA** released her first album of all her solo piano works with pianist Darryl Friesen (pictured above) on September 23, 2022. The album, titled *Curlicue*, is available to download or stream digitally as well as in CD format.

**MARK VUORINEN** has recorded a CD of new music at the CBC’s Glenn Gould Studio with the Elora Singers and TorQ Percussion Quartet to be released in spring 2023 and include works by Carmen Braden, Paul Frehner, Melody McKiver, and Annika Socolofsky.





Orientation Week Leaders are such a welcoming group!



The MEDA Team chatted with Grebel Board member and MEDA CEO Dorothy Nyambi at the MEDA Conference in Pennsylvania.



Community Supper



A rousing rendition of "We Love You Grebel" on Move-In Day.



Taste of Grebel is back and we loved sharing the Grebel experience with families.



A Reader's Theatre during Wednesday afternoon Chapel.

# #Grebelife

The air was buzzing at Grebel on September 3, as new students moved into the residence, accompanied by their parents and welcomed by enthusiastic upper-year students.

The energy that comes with starting something new continued all week and was evident across the entire University of Waterloo campus, with groups of new students—many on campus for the first time—navigating new friendships, locating classrooms, and adjusting to life on their own.

"We who make up the Grebel community today represent a wide range of cultures, traditions, and backgrounds," remarked President Marcus Shantz at the Opening Celebration. "My view is that a community that values complexity is likely to be a good one. A good community honours, celebrates, and respects that the individuals within it are unique."

This school year promises to be a year of connection and community, as Grebel explores new pathways for learning together.



Grebel's Act of Community was to assemble school kits to be distributed by Mennonite Central Committee.



Everyone pitched in at the car wash.



We brought back another tradition: the All-Grebel Retreat at Camp Trillium!





## WORDS OF TRIBUTE FOR MARY

"You are someone who has the profound capability of seeing the strengths and gifts of each person." - Sage Streight (BA 2019)

"You've made an impact on countless students' lives, including my own. You leave behind a wonderful legacy." - Nathan Henderson (BES 2016)

"Thank you for the space you held for us and the laughs you shared with us." - Alissa Bender (WLU 2002)

"Thank you for always having an open door and providing a safe place to laugh, to cry, and to be vulnerable." - Hannah Hill (BES 2020)

"You have a way of seeing and serving everyone with such genuine care and attention. I have learned so much from you directly, but even more by witnessing how you live your own life." - Briar Hunter (BSC 2020)

"Thanks to Mary, I felt welcomed, safe, heard and stimulated. She is a caring leader who makes people want to be the best version of themselves each day." - Mary Ann Collishaw (Student in the '90s)

"She was such a delight to talk to and work with. She was always positive, provided wise guidance, and cared very much about students." - Kyle Gossen (BA 2009)

"You have been such a stable, caring presence in your leadership. My life was greatly impacted by living in residence at Grebel - and I benefitted from the culture that you gave leadership to." - Chris Brnjias (BA 2012, MTS 2014)

"I was a student representative on the team that interviewed Mary, and soon after was on the Don team working with her. She was a wise, kind, and comfortable presence from the start!" - Janine (Wideman) Odreman (BSC 1998)

"You've played such a central role in Grebel for so long, that many of us can't imagine it without you! You have such a kind and loving nature, caring for each of us in our home away from home." - Kathryn Wu (Current Student)

## Leading with Empathy and Care

BY JEN KONKLE

It took a multitude of events to properly say goodbye to Mary Brubaker-Zehr, Grebel's Director of Student Services since 1996. At each event (end-of-term banquets, a Don reunion, a retirement party, and many other "lasts") and in different ways, students and colleagues celebrated the contributions that Mary has made to the College over the last 26 years. Beginning in 1996, Mary's primary responsibility has been oversight and administration of the residential program. She worked tirelessly with students to create a person-oriented community where high value is placed on respect, inclusion, honesty, interdependence, responsibility, and engagement.

"Mary persistently met students and colleagues with an empathetic heart," explained former Chaplain Ed Janzen, who worked with Mary for 22 years. "What I have learned from Mary is that empathy is a decision to attend to the person regardless of circumstance or moment."

"Mary's clarity about the mission and vision for the residence program and how it fits into the larger work of the College meant that we could have good discussions and debates about programs and initiatives," explained Grebel President Marcus Shantz. Mary's determined position to maintain a 50/50 blend of first-year and upper-year students despite the University's requests was a key decision in Grebel's history. "Mary knew we needed upper year students to create the continuity, mentorship, community that Grebel is known for," added Marcus. "That stance took bravery, courage, and a sense of what's important."

With cheerful footsteps, Mary led with grace and was always optimistic despite the many challenges of her job. In her interactions with students, she was warm and welcoming, kind and encouraging. Mary was open to new ideas and new ways of thinking, she created strong traditions, and she embodied the Grebel Spirit. It is fitting, then, that Mary's parting gift to Grebel students was the establishment of an award called the Spirit of Grebel Award.

We hope that Mary will remember that "moderation is cool" even when it applies to retirement activities like gardening and tennis.





# Inspiring Academic Leader Marlene Epp Retires

BY JEN KONKLE

The Grebel community celebrated Professor Marlene Epp's 27 years of service at the end of June. A Professor of History and Peace and Conflict Studies, Marlene has also served the College as Dean, Director of the Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies, and Editor of *The Conrad Grebel Review*.

Marlene is a Canadian historian with eclectic research and teaching interests in Mennonite studies, immigrants and refugees, women and gender, the history of peace and nonviolence, and the history of food and culture. She has had a distinguished career as scholar, teacher and administrator at Grebel. In addition to writing over 24 book chapters and 19 peer-reviewed articles, she has written four books and edited three others. Her scholarship has made notable contributions to the fields of oral history, women's history, Mennonite history, and the history of food.



Throughout her career, Marlene has taught courses in Peace and Conflict Studies and History. She made a conscious effort to include elements of practical and experiential learning in her courses, incorporating interviews, public exhibits, potlucks, and guest speakers with lived experience. "She wanted us to engage with the material on a fundamental, personal, and critical level," reflected a past student.

"Marlene is a superb teacher whose work bridges the classroom and community to the mutual enrichment of both," explained colleague and former student Professor David Y. Neufeld. "She motivates students to share in her intrinsic fascination with the past, but always in service of history's potential to inspire students to action in the present."

During her career, Marlene supervised 14 MA students and a PhD student, and served as second reader on Master's Research Papers, cognate essays, and theses for UWaterloo's History Department and the Tri-University Graduate History program. She played a significant role in the academic and professional success of many students, and was described as "a mentor and colleague, rather than merely a supervisor."

Leaving a lasting footprint on Grebel from an administrative standpoint, Marlene served as the College's Academic Dean from 2002-2006, Acting Dean in 2010, and Dean from 2016-2019. Grebel Professor Emeritus Lowell Ewert noted that she "supported and mentored faculty to be the best they could be in the classroom."

Likewise, Reina Neufeldt, Chair of PACS described Marlene as "an exceptional teacher and mentor," and added that "Marlene's style and the ways in which she created deep, critical, and respectful engagement on issues that people care about, transformed them in the process."

Troy Osborne, current Dean at Grebel, explained that "Marlene was in a pivotal position between two generations of faculty and she gracefully carried the institutional memory of Grebel during an extended period of transition."

Marlene led and actively participated in the Institute for Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies. She is a sought-after speaker and authority by community groups and the media for her expertise in Mennonites and Anabaptists. She cultivated links with different Mennonite groups in Waterloo Region, as well as the Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre, and refugees locally and in other parts of the world. Colleagues admire her just and creative relationship-building and her ability to open space for genuine dialogue.

Described by colleagues as an academic defender, forward-thinking, curious, compassionate, thoughtful, a valuable source of wisdom, and a visionary academic leader with inspiring integrity, Marlene will be greatly missed at Grebel. As a long-serving and highly respected scholar, teacher, and administrator, she has been awarded the title of Professor Emerita.

In her retirement, Marlene is pursuing multiple ideas, hoping to work on fulfilling projects that are also useful to the world.



## Transitions and Reappointments



**Jennifer Ball** has moved on from her role as Assistant Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at Grebel after seven years. She is well-recognized for her work and expertise in

the use and development of Circle practices, both as a conflict resolution process and as classroom pedagogy. Students appreciated Jennifer's knowledge and her engaging approach to teaching, and they valued the relationships she cultivated inside and outside of the classroom. She continues to lead workshops in Grebel's Conflict Management Certificate Program.



**Stephen Jones** "turned the page" this summer, into retirement. Steve served at Grebel for 27 years, many stellar years as the Managing and Copy Editor of *The Conrad Grebel*

*Review*, where he showed phenomenal attention to detail, graceful persistence, good-natured humour, and great wisdom and tact. Steve was commended for his "effortless effort," a breadth of connections, and his talent for nurturing the voice of writers and editors. At his farewell, speakers described Steve as a contemporary Renaissance thinker—someone who embraces knowledge from many different areas.



After five years as Director of Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre, **Kyle Gingerich Hiebert** stepped down from this role. Kyle oversaw a number of significant

initiatives and transitions during his time at TMTC, including development of the Fellows Program and the TMTC Public Lecture. Reflecting on his time at TMTC Kyle said, "it has been an enormous privilege to work alongside so many talented graduate students." Kyle has accepted a new position as editor of *The Conrad Grebel Review*.



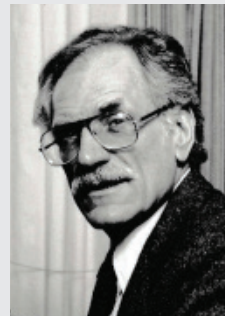
The Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging and Grebel are pleased to announce the renewal of **Jane Kuepfer** as Schlegel Specialist in Spirituality and Aging. Jane's research

in the area of spiritual care and aging has contributed greatly to the quality of life of older adults and especially residents in senior living communities. As part of her teaching at Grebel, "Jane's courses on spirituality and aging have given students valuable training that is necessary for serving the growing aging community," noted Troy Osborne, Dean at Grebel.



The Grebel Board of Governors reappointed Professor **Troy Osborne** as Dean for a second term of four years, until December 31, 2026. "Troy has supported and mentored faculty

during particularly difficult circumstances over the past several years," commented President Marcus Shantz. "Faculty appreciate his sincere interest in their work, his thoughtful advice, and his advocacy on the wider University campus. Troy is a conscientious administrator who tends carefully to small details and also promotes the larger strategic goals of the College."



**Professor Emeritus Calvin Redekop** passed away on July 19, 2022, at the age of 96 years. Cal was a sociologist, writer, teacher, and activist, and he tirelessly worked for

environmental change and sustainability. He taught sociology at Grebel from 1979 until 1990. Cal was a prolific writer and continued authoring books until his death. Topics included creation and the environment, Mennonite faith and economics, Mennonite and Indigenous relations, Mennonite identity and society, entrepreneurship, and finding meaning in work.



### CONFLICT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

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Skills-based  
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management  
training,  
now virtual.



# Cheri Otterbein Retires

BY LORIE YANTZI, ASSISTANT FOOD SERVICES MANAGER

In August 2022, Grebel celebrated Cheri Otterbein's 32-year career as Food Services Manager at the College! At the heart of Grebel's kitchen, Cheri played an important part in the university experience for decades of Grebel students. At Cheri's retirement, Lorie Yantzi shared what Food Services staff have appreciated about Cheri over the years. –Editor

Cheri brought a lot of who she is to the role of manager. She gave more than 100 percent on many days. Not one to sit at her desk for long, she enjoyed being involved with the minute details, moving eight-foot tables by herself, using her collection of tools from her trusty toolbox to fix simple malfunctions, carefully packing a van full of food for the Silver Lake Retreat, helping out with dishes, and sharing her love of yoga

with students. She also adhered to strict guidelines for health and safety.

The College grew and changed over 32 years, and Cheri shaped the Food Services Department to accommodate the growth. She created more paid positions and hire more staff, and during periods of renovation, worked endless hours to ensure the kitchen work space and equipment were appropriate and made sense to use and enjoy.

Cheri used her creativity to expand the types of beverages and foods offered. She expanded the menu of grilled cheese, pork chops, meat loaf, and hot dogs and introduced some of the now staples and favourites of the menu—items like nachos, Philly steak, and fajitas. She introduced the concept of themed meals and favourite food days and threw herself into decorating the

kitchen to match the special holiday.

Cheri took the time to listen to staff when they needed an ear and to celebrate milestones. She showed her care by keeping close tabs on the schedule and tirelessly advocated for kitchen staff salary equity.

For all these things, Cheri—Thank You! You have inspired us with your dedication and commitment. Thank you for your intense involvement through kitchen renovations, your commitment when freezers broke down, when water shut off, for being the first in, early in the morning and covering when staff were not able to work, and ensuring our equipment was working so the job of feeding our students could be done well. We knew you loved to be at work by the happiness and energy you displayed. We will miss you.



Cheri (middle, orange) celebrated with several decades of Food Services staff.

## ALUMNI GATHERINGS AND REUNIONS

It's been a joy to connect with many Grebel alumni and friends at gatherings and reunions during the past 6 months. Keep your eyes open for more events in 2023!



2020 & 2021 Make-Up Convocation



Winnipeg Gathering



Vancouver Gathering



MTS Reunion



Late '70s to Early '80s Reunion



Lancaster Gathering



# Concert Highlights Indigenous-Mennonite Relationships

BY JEN KONKLE

As part of the Indigenous-Mennonite Encounters conference organized by Grebel in May 2022, Indigenous and Mennonite musicians offered a concert addressing relationships, beauty, nature, hope, and betrayal.

The Andromeda Trio, a Waterloo-based musical group pictured below, commissioned a new work by Grebel Music Professor Karen Sunabacka (bottom right). As a composer, Karen often finds inspiration from her Métis and mixed European heritage, and her new piece explores the relationships between Mennonites and Métis in Treaty 1 Territory. Miriam Stewart-Kroeker (WLU 2010), the cellist in the Trio, is a descendant of one of the first Mennonites in Manitoba in the 1870s.

The commissioned piece, “The Place Where the Creator Rests,” includes spoken voice, piano, violin, and cello. The piece begins with a brief history that highlights the values of the two peoples—the Métis in the Red River Settlement and the Mennonites in Europe. The middle of the piece then looks at the relationship between the two groups when they first encountered each other in the 1870s as Canada was expanding into the West. The final movement focuses on relationships and ways to move forward. Weaving together quotes,

stories, and music, the piece shares the hopes, dreams, sorrows, and betrayals of these communities in what came to be known as Manitoba—the place where the Creator rests.

The concert also featured a new composition for choir titled “kâ-nîmihitocik: They Who Are Dancing” by Juno-nominated cellist and composer Cris Derksen, of Mennonite and Cree heritage. A special choir performed “kâ-nîmihitocik” and several other pieces, directed by Grebel Music Professor Mark Vuorinen. Cris Derksen ended the concert with a memorable solo segment that combined Indigenous and urban elements using loop pedals, a drum machine, and electric cello.

Indigenous-Mennonite Encounters in Time and Place was an academic conference and community education event that offered stories and analyses of encounters and relationships between Indigenous peoples and Mennonite settlers from point of contact to the present. The intent was to advance understanding on the part of Mennonites and other interested participants of their colonial histories, and to advance reconciliation and bring justice to Indigenous-settler relations.



1996–Present Don Reunion and Farewell to Mary Brubaker-Zehr



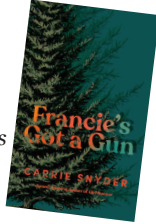


# People



**Carrie Snyder** (BA 1997) attended a Community supper and shared memories of writing classes and Prof Emerita

Hildi Froese Tiessen. She also read from her new novel *Francie's Got a Gun* and led students in a writing exercise.



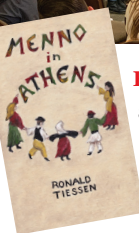
**Gideon Prins** (BES 2001, MA 2006) shared at Community Supper about his work with refugees and his career path that included a degree in geography and an internship with MEDA.



**Darren Brunk** (BA 2001) returned to Grebel for Community Supper this summer and spoke about his work as a principal policy advisor for the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

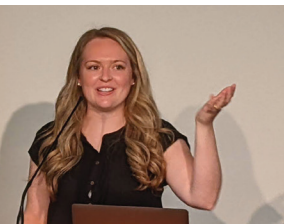


The Grebel Chapel Choir performed Professor Emerita **Carol Ann Weaver's** new composition "Praying for the Children (of Ukraine)."



**Ronald Tiessen** (BA 1969) has written a new book, *Menno in Athens: A Novel*. Menno, the narrator, undertakes a pilgrimage to Greece, where he visits sites once home to ancient poets, sages, playwrights, and philosophers.

Former Grebel Librarian-Archivist **Sam Steiner** released his memoirs, *A Mennonite Draft Dodger in Canada: A Memoir*.



**Hannah Hill** (BES 2020) was a guest at Community Supper and she spoke about her MEDA connections that began when she was a student.



Taste of Grebel was the perfect day to host three generations of Grebelites at once—to relive some memories and make new ones. **Ed Harder** (BMATH 1977) and **Rebecca (Harder) Heide** (BA 2001) were tickled to discover that **Nick Heide's** room is right beside his mom's from first year. Dad **Duane Heide** (BA 1994) isn't pictured.

**Josie Winterfeld** (BA 1983), **Joanie Willms** (BA 1984), **Maggie Andres** (BA 1983), and **Esther Willms** (BSC 1981) walked the Camino de Santiago together in Spain this September.



**Marianne Enns** (BA 1967) edited a book, *Lieber Bruder Hans*, detailing the immigration story of Maria Fransen and her family from Mariawohl, Molotschna Colony, South Russia to Vineland, Ontario.

Grebel friends **Jean (Finlayson) O'Gorman** (BA 1974), **Diane (Crossland) Broad** (BA 1973), **Val Campbell** (BA 1974), **Lynda McClure** (BA 1974), **Margee Moorehead**, **Sue Peachey**, and **Trudi Heimbach** recreated a group photo of themselves from 1973—almost 50 years later!

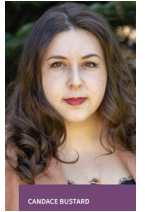


**Marianne Enns** (BA 1967), son **Tom Enns** (BES 1999), and grandson/nephew **Liam Enns** (2027?) celebrated being three generations of Grebelites!

**Gemma Ricker** (BA 2021) returned to Grebel in the role of Student Life and Recruitment Coordinator. She previously worked as the Volunteer Coordinator and Kitchen Lead at St. John's Kitchen in Kitchener.



**Candace Bustard** (BA 2020) received an honourable mention in the Grand Philharmonic Choir's most recent composition competition.



**Rachel Wallace** (MTS 2019) is pastor of Eigenheim Mennonite Church in Rosthern, SK and was ordained on September 24.

**King Y Horiguchi** (PhD 1969) was given an honorary membership to the Alumni Association (Rakusoukai) of the Department of Chemical Engineering at Kyoto University in Japan.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Jake (Andy) Hiebert** (BA 1989) - April 11, 2022

**David Brubacher** - September 13, 2022

**Kaitlyn Roth** - April 28, 2022

**Ron Leis** (BMATH 1974) - May 21, 2022

**Will** (BSC 1980, MSC 1983) - October 15, 2022 and **Carol Fick** (BA 1981) - July 21, 2021 (pictured right)



**60**  
STORIES  
FOR  
**60**  
YEARS



To celebrate Grebel's upcoming 60th Anniversary, we want to share stories about interesting Grebel alumni!

*Who should we feature?*

Send us a note to suggest alumni who live into Grebel's values, are making an impact in the world, show leadership, or are doing cool things.

**SEND US YOUR UPDATES!**  
grebel@uwaterloo.ca

[uwaterloo.ca/grebel/alumni-stories](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/alumni-stories)



# Calendar

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

## Noon Hour Concerts

Most Wednesdays  
@ 12:30pm  
in the Grebel Chapel



SATURDAY  
JAN  
14  
4:30PM  
2023

## Ottawa Reception & Conversation

With President Marcus Shantz and special guest Senator Peter Harder.

THURSDAY  
FEB  
02  
7:30PM  
2023

## Sawatsky Visiting Lecturer

Dr. Darla Schumm  
HOLLINS UNIVERSITY



SATURDAY  
MAR  
18  
DAYTIME  
2023

## March Open House

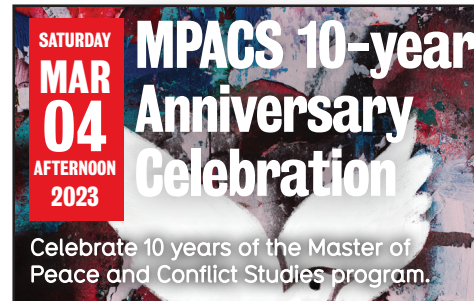
Explore the Grebel residence, programs, and more.



SATURDAY  
MAR  
04  
AFTERNOON  
2023

## MPACS 10-year Anniversary Celebration

Celebrate 10 years of the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies program.

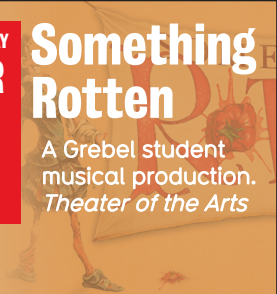


MAR  
30  
-  
31  
2023

SATURDAY  
APR  
01  
2023

## Something Rotten

A Grebel student musical production.  
*Theater of the Arts*



FRIDAY  
JUN  
02  
7:30PM  
2023

## Beer and Bites Alumni Event

Join alumni from all four colleges for drinks, snacks, and tours.



JUN  
04  
-  
07  
2023

## International Conference on Spirituality and Ageing

10th annual conference coming to Grebel in June 2023.



SATURDAY  
JUNE  
03  
2023

# GREBEL REUNION '80s ERA

Get ready to reconnect with classmates from the late 1980s! Your planners are: Steve Martin (BA 1988), Cindy Lebold (BA 1987), Ken Reid (MA 1988), and Sue Campbell (BA 1986). [grebel.ca/reunion](http://grebel.ca/reunion)



AUG  
13  
-  
25  
2023

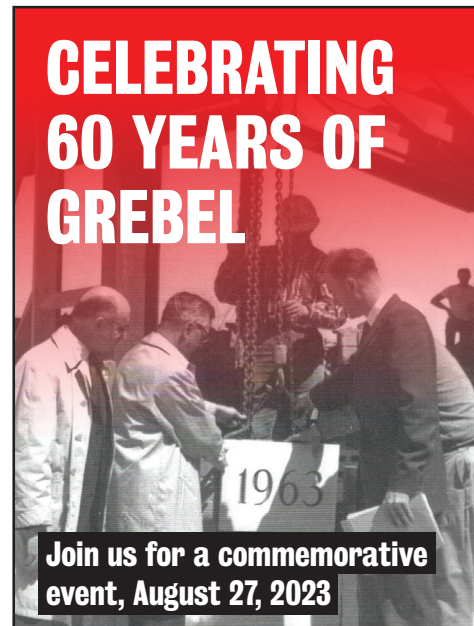
## Ontario Mennonite Music Camp

Combining music education with classic camp activities for students Gr. 6-12.



## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF GREBEL

Join us for a commemorative event, August 27, 2023



## Mennonite Heritage Tour

June 2025

Visit sites of early Anabaptist importance with Grebel history professors Troy Osborne and David Y Neufeld. Travel to Switzerland, the Netherlands, and along the Rhine.





# DO YOU KNOW A FUTURE POST-SECONDARY STUDENT?



## SHARE YOUR TREASURED MEMORIES OF GREBEL!

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

GET STARTED AT

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



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