

GREBEL NOW

Conrad Grebel University College Magazine



Engaging our Community

Circle Rippling Outward

SPRING 2016



Vol. 32 No. 2

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It's all about Education

Creating a growing community education program is part of who we are at Grebel and part of our strategic visioning plan. This edition of *Grebel Now* includes stories and examples of ways in which our faculty, students, and alumni are engaged in education in various communities. "Community education" is a large envelope that includes:

- Continuing education: PQCS Conflict Management Certificate program and the new Anabaptist Learning Workshop
- Public lecture series: Bechtel, Sawatsky, and Eby Lectures
- Camps for elementary students: Ontario Mennonite Music Camp and Peace Camp
- Exhibits in our Archive Gallery and our Grebel Gallery
- Concerts and music events, like our Community Gamelan
- Student projects like the recent refugee project or Make-a-Difference Market.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Grebel Now* as it gives you a peek at the wide range of ways we help to teach and inform you, our community!

Fred W. Martin, Director of Advancement
 Jen Konkle, Editor of Grebel Now and
 Marketing & Communications Manager

Front Cover: UW Balinese Gamelan end of term concert. Read more about the gamelan on page 9.



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From the President's Desk

Community Engaged Education for a Lifetime

BY SUSAN SCHULTZ HUXMAN

"Oh, the Places You'll Go . . . and Go . . . and Go!"

"Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!"

Many of us recognize these lines from a classic Dr. Seuss book. We often give it as a congratulatory gift to our graduating loved ones as they complete their four- or five-year degree plan at university. But long gone are the days when students graduate at age 22, race out the door, and never return to university for other engaged learning opportunities. And long gone are the "ivory tower" images of universities that only serve traditional students and ignore the communities in which they are located.

Today, in higher education, we speak of the value of "community service," "continuing education," "building community by growing engaged constituencies" and "life-long learning from cradle to grave." Some schools, including Grebel, even build this noble idea of engaged community education into their very identity. Our identity as a Mennonite college is imbued with strong ties to the region of Waterloo, the church, and relief agencies around the world.

From the beginning, Grebel took great satisfaction in seeing its educational mission as community engaged; as a two-way, nurturing, and collaborative partnership with the Mennonite and larger faith community. For many, the stained-glass windows in our chapel symbolize this reciprocal and resonant sharing of "light;" we share our special insights as others shine theirs and together we "seek wisdom." Twenty-five years ago, Grebel's annual report on community began with this observation:

"Conrad Grebel College has sometimes been described as a teaching, research, and community college, or at other times as a residential, academic and community college. Both are correct. The services provided to the community are much more extensive than frequently recognized."

Indeed, for our day, community engagement is still much more extensive than frequently recognized. Grebel offers camps, exhibits, concerts, lectures, workshops, book launches, certificate programs, academic conferences, faculty forums, a Centre for Peace Advancement full of community engaged advocates, and many student initiatives such as Make A Difference Market, student MEDA ambassadors, the Ray of Hope Tuesday Soup kitchen crew—and the list goes on and on.

The collective wisdom sharing from these endeavours is palpable and powerful. Our community-engaged education tackles big trans-disciplinary ideas that are important to us and our communities. Here are some questions to consider: 1) What Thursday evening non-credit class draws people from K-W to Toronto, young and old, and from diverse ethnic and religious traditions? 2) What's a "peace incubator" and what are our new members "incubating" in the Centre for Peace

Advancement? 3) What exhibit marshals the resources of a Mennonite history class, an archival collection, and Grebel alumni? If you want to know the answers to these questions and more, check out this special issue of *Grebel Now* that features compelling stories from the range of community education being offered at Grebel.

How will Grebel ramp up on life-long learning?

First, we are adding new community engagement programs that complement our signature traditional academic programs in Music, Theology, Peace and Mennonite Studies. This year that includes a community gamelan class, a new Anabaptist learning certificate program resourced by MCEC and delivered by Grebel, and a new stream in family mediation in the successful and long-standing Grebel Conflict Management Certificate Program.

Second, we are committed to making more visible, and consolidating, community education. For example, we are looking at ways to combine special events and forecast them months out for more sustained engagement opportunities with more diverse constituencies. Regular monthly or bi-weekly "lunch & learn" days at Grebel may feature an invited speaker or performer, an art exhibit tour in the Grebel Gallery and lunch with faculty, staff, and others in our Schlegel Community Education room.

Third, we want to deepen and expand our partnerships in the community. We don't want life-long learning to be one-directional—mere outreach. Mutual partnerships take time, patience and imagination. We cherish our partnerships with MCEC, Kindred Credit Union, Project Ploughshares, Tamarack, RIA-Schlegel Villages, Centre for Family Business, and others. We intend to develop others.

We believe Conrad Grebel University College should be a vibrant place of life-long learning. Four to five years of a person's life engaged in university is an underutilized time span for an institution to fulfill its mission and for individuals to grow as responsible citizens. So, yes, with a nod to Dr. Seuss at convocation time we say "you're off and away" and marvel at "the places you'll go!" And, at the same time we say: "We hope your learning adventure has just begun."



Circle Rippling Outward

BY JENNIFER BALL

Death threats, explosive media coverage, threats of lawsuits. The generational conflict had escalated again—this time to unprecedented levels. Communities were polarized. On one side was the agricultural community and on the other, lakeshore residents. The issue? Water quality in Lake Huron. Accusations had always been that farmers, with their manure spreading, polluted the waterways feeding into the lake, causing high levels of bacteria leading to increased beach closures. Farmers blamed lakeshore residents for faulty septic systems and towns for installing sewage bypasses. Individuals on both sides were indignant and irate. There seemed no hope of resolving a conflict so entrenched. But what if it was possible to change the conversation?

A colleague and I took a risk. As planners and action researchers, we believed in building the capacity of communities to manage their own conflicts. Garnering buy in, tentative as it was, from community leaders—municipal councillors, the cottage association, and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture—we introduced the idea of Circle.

What is Circle?

Circle is a process for dialogue that intentionally creates space for multiple diverse voices and perspectives to be heard. Structurally it involves sitting in a circle, ideally without any tables but with a centre that provides focus much like when sitting around a campfire. Circle space is framed by an opening and closing. It is undergirded by a set of shared values and agreements consensually determined by the group, with contributions from each member. This sets an intention for the quality of space to be collectively held. Values such as honesty, respect, trust, and patience are often named. These reflect and call each to their ‘best self’. They also combine to create a strong container that can hold difficult conversations and many strong emotions.

Into this container, people speak using a talking piece, an object with meaning for the group (like a stone or piece of driftwood.) The talking piece is passed consecutively around the Circle. The person holding it speaks or may choose not to speak, and then passes it on. This happens in rounds in response to questions initially prepared by the ‘keeper(s)’ or facilitator(s) but which later may evolve from the group’s discussion. This format inherently slows down the conversation, allows time for reflection and deep listening, and invites stories and insights from lived experience. It is this way of using the talking piece that holds the potential for transforming conversations.



But Circle is more than a process or technique; it reflects a particular way of being in the world. Circle is the embodiment of an indigenous worldview that understands everything to be profoundly interconnected, incapable of disconnection. This is in contrast to our predominant reductionist worldview that purports the possibility of disconnection, of the reduction of anything to its component parts, of being an objective observer without having impact. From a place of holism, we are all connected to the problems around us. “Bringing everyone together to address the problem, as Circles do, only makes sense. How else could we gain a whole picture of what happened and a whole solution that works for everyone?”¹

With this in mind, to address the escalating

water quality conflict, we organized Circle training for community members willing to work with us. Together we co-kept a series of Talking Circles—two in the agricultural community and two with lakeshore residents, exploring similarities and differences of perceptions of the issues. These culminated in a larger combined Circle, following a shared dinner. Fear and trepidation were palpable as people entered. Three hours later, seemingly impossible shifts had taken place—one farmer spontaneously sharing her business card along with an invitation to visit her farm or call to ask questions, a cottage association member expressing intent to invite farmers to speak to their group. Leaving that evening, there was a sense of possibility, that things could be different. And they have been. The conflict was by no means resolved conclusively but it has never escalated to this level since; along with perceptions, the whole conversation had been changed.²

Ten years ago now, in 2016, this was the first time I had put my passion for Circle to the test in community. It has been rippling through my work ever since.

Circle inspires my teaching. In 2008, as a sessional instructor of the PACS course, *Doing Development: Issues of Justice and Peace*, I took a risk, but nevertheless received positive feedback and have continued to integrate Circle pedagogy in many undergraduate and graduate classes. Why? What does Circle offer teaching and learning?

Using the framework of Circle creates a qualitatively different learning environment—one that evolves out of connection, to oneself, to each other, and through these to the course material. Taking time for fuller introductions in the first class and then snippets of personal stories shared in weekly check-ins creates points of connection that, over time, result in a tangible sense of community. As one student reflected, “Circle has taken a generation growing dangerously

Jennifer Ball is Assistant Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies. Her research interests include women's community based peacebuilding, Circle as pedagogy and community engagement process, community resilience, rural planning and community development, and narrative methodologies.



antisocial and created genuine connections and community. It has encouraged a student body to shed their competitive coldness and disengagement from others and instead become interested in learning about one another and caring about one another. It is for certain that development is not only in the global south, development can exist exactly where we are and it begins within ourselves.”³

With core values intentionally integrated into the process and kept visible—written out in the centre—Circle offers a safe space in which to practice thinking and interacting in a values-informed way. This is active peacebuilding. Through practice, students learn deep listening, reflection, and speaking from a place of greater head-heart integration—skills valuable in all professions. For some, Circle has been transformative - feeling heard for the first time, experiencing that their voice and perspective has value, being personally connected to peers and their professor in the classroom, and even awakening to a new sense of calling.

For any instructor, Circle asks much. It requires a willingness to share power with students, engaging them in the teaching and, as such, to have less airtime in deference to their leadership and participation. Viewing myself as a co-teacher and co-learner, I must be prepared to model what I expect as a Circle way of being, which means a certain vulnerability in my own sharing. Flexibility is needed to plan well and then be prepared to change mid-stream in response to what is emerging from their ideas and discussions. Inevitably, I find myself surprised by synchronicities!

Grebel is graduating students equipped with more than theoretical knowledge. Circle complements the holistic learning experience that Grebel values with its smaller class sizes, offering greater interaction with peers and instructors, internship opportunities with practical experience, and courses that make meaningful connections to the larger world and students' lived realities.

How is Circle rippling out beyond Grebel?

Every five weeks, a group of community members, known as the Waterloo Region Restorative Justice Circle, meets at Grebel. We hold a vision of Waterloo Region as a restorative region and grapple with the questions of what does this look like, and what could it mean for the larger community. With no predetermined mandate, we meet in Circle with the intent to build relationships, further our skills, establish space to creatively imagine a different way of being in community, and lead toward action. Through rounds of discussions, it's become clear that Waterloo Region is already a restorative region and so, how do we amplify and leverage existing initiatives to build this restorative consciousness? The invitation is open. Attendance ebbs and flows with participants from all sectors of society. As host, Grebel provides a service to the larger community, increases exposure to its facilities, personnel, and programming, and is represented by both staff and faculty.

Another key ripple is through the annual 'Peacemaking Circles' training workshop that I co-facilitate through the Conflict Management

Certificate Program offered at Grebel. This workshop evolved six years ago through collaboration with other international trainers. Since then, Circle connections have emerged in Australia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Japan, and the U.S.. Participants take their learning back into diverse contexts—corporate, NGO, government, community—experimenting and using Circle for difficult conversations and conflicts. As a local trainer, I'm often called on to follow up with mentoring and coaching.

In an unexpected ripple, after the Director of Human Resources (HR) for the Great Lakes Division of the Salvation Army took the Circle training last year, she was inspired to imagine a series of Circle trainings to build capacity in her organization. Her vision is to empower employees to be able to manage conflict locally, thereby decreasing demands for HR interventions. So, in partnership with Grebel, this year I will co-lead four 3-day Circle trainings for 60 Salvation Army administrators and officers (pastors), with the possibility of more in future. The potential for organizational change through such leadership development is exciting.

From Huron County to the classroom, from supporting a restorative vision for the broader community to annual trainings and networking internationally, the ripples of Circle are ever widening out from Grebel.

¹ Ball, J., W. Caldwell, K. Pranis. (2010). *Doing Democracy with Circles: Engaging Communities in Public Planning* (p.33). St. Paul, MN: Living Justice Press.

² Story adapted from the above (pp. 82-87)

³ Dena Badawi, Nov. 20, 2015.



Choral Music Creates Community

We Breathe Together

Reflecting on Conrad Grebel University College’s history of fostering connections in the community through choral music, it won’t be surprising to hear that after graduation, many alumni become involved in choral music in their community at some level—whether they are singing, accompanying, or directing.

Grebel’s first music professor, Helen Martens, established the Inter-Mennonite Children’s Choir in 1967. Since then, Grebel music profs have continued to direct choral music ensembles in Waterloo Region: Ken Hull leads Spiritus Ensemble, Mark Vuorinen directs the Grand Philharmonic Choir, and Professor Emeritus Len Enns leads Da Capo, which actually began as a way for Chapel Choir members to continue singing with Len after graduation.

We caught up with four alumni from across North America who have a passion for leading community choral music. Watch out—their stories may make you want to run out and join a choir!

LYNN MCRUER

Lynn McRuer (BA ’95 Music and Psychology) can’t think of any experience in her life that didn’t involve music. “Music is in my soul!” she explained. “It enriches and enlivens our day-to-day living. It lets one express every human emotion, from laughter to tears. Music is like breathing; without it, we perish.”

Indeed, Lynn has fed her soul by working with many community groups over the years, including The Hoot, Glen Morris UC church

choir, the North Dumfries Children’s Choir, Waterloo Region High School Choral Festival, Kaleid, and more. “There is no better thing I can imagine than making music with one’s family and one’s community. It’s hard to be in conflict when you are singing or playing.”

When reflecting on the value of community music, Lynn believes that it enriches the society in which we live, allowing for expression of common emotions and the sharing of new perspectives. “Making music together allows us to feel emotion with others in a way that does not threaten our self-image. It gives individuals an opportunity to become one voice in a creative and vital way. I hope community music-making allows us to be kinder, gentler people with sensitivity towards our differences and awareness of our similarities.”

Showing her passion for local music, Lynn and her husband Bill Labron founded Lyrical Lines Education Network (LLEN), a registered charity, which builds community through the support and facilitation of accessible music experiences in Waterloo Region. Lyrical Lines has brought together hundreds of young students from many schools to sing with guest conductors and instrumentalists. It also provides choral experiences for young adults that include festivals, ensembles, and masterclasses, and plans a yearly Choral Symposium for conductors. LLEN brings people together through music making, allowing them to connect with new communities and thus building a stronger local and global community.

“Grebel opened me to new musical ideas and experiences. Studying with Bill Maust, Len Enns, and Ken Hull was a privilege. That music making, be it in the classroom or the choirs or at the piano, was

influential in setting me on the course of music making in my world, my community. Their generosity in sharing their passion for making music touched my soul. I was inspired to want to do the same.”

As Lynn retires this year from her career in music retail as owner of Music Plus in Kitchener, she is contemplating starting a new community choir. “I feel profoundly changed when I make music in community, especially choral community. It is a deeply spiritual experience to make such music.”

www.lyricallineseducationnetwork.org



Lynn McRuer directing a mixed choir

JANE RAMSEYER MILLER

Jane Ramseyer Miller (BA '85 Psychology) grew up in a Mennonite community surrounded daily by four-part harmony. “Music is part of my DNA,” she explained. “When I arrived at Grebel I had no idea what I wanted to study but I had some kind of message in my brain that it wasn’t practical to be a musician unless I was a teacher. I had no interest in teaching so I picked a really practical major—Psychology!” At Grebel, Jane studied music theory, conducting, and voice, and sang in the choir. Looking back, she realized that she had more music credits than psychology credits when she graduated, and that should have clued her in about where her real vocation lay.

After Grebel, Jane was hired by the Mennonite Church to create the Service Venture program, aiming to get Mennonite youth involved in service and learning projects. “When my partner and I got married,” explained Jane, “it turned out the Mennonite church no longer was interested in my skills, and I lost a vocation that I had really enjoyed. It was a painful few years to figure out where I would work in the world.”

After moving to Minnesota with six Grebel friends living in intentional community, Jane began doing some community organizing and worked for Habitat for Humanity and then Christian Peacemaker Teams. “I had been involved in Peace and Conflict Studies at Grebel and volunteered with the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program in Kitchener. Those skills were very valuable in community organizing and working in situations of conflict. Both Grebel and my family valued community and justice work so it was a natural fit and passion.”

Jane kept music as a hobby, until she was asked to conduct a church choir. “I learned as I went and found that my ear and my instincts were strong.” Next, Jane got a part-time job as the music director for One Voice Mixed Chorus (Minnesota’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allies chorus.) “I soon was conducting four choirs including a neighbourhood children’s choir and a feminist women’s chorus.” At the age of 40, Jane went back to school and got a master’s degree in choral conducting.

Through working as Artistic Director for One Voice Mixed Chorus for 20 years, Jane has discovered that collaborating with other arts organizations in her community makes for very interesting outcomes. Thanks in part to her strong community organizational skills, Jane has helped to build the choir into a large non-profit chorus. “We now have 3 full-time staff, 125 singers from ages 15 to 78 and we sing for over 10,000 people in a year.” In addition, Jane started a program called OUT in Our Schools where she does a two-month residency in public schools and then the singers from One Voice take a day off work to sing with the students in those schools. “It is very powerful for my singers to be out in a school setting and for the students to get to sing along-side LGBT adults.”

“I program concerts that address current issues, and that educate and challenge listeners. We have a large number of individuals who identify as transgender who have joined the chorus and 30 percent



Jane Ramseyer Miller leading a sing along

of the chorus are straight allies. Last year we programmed a concert exploring gender and gender stereotypes and worked with students in exploring their own gender expression and identity. Some of my favorite collaborations have been with a women’s prison choir, a youth spoken-word ensemble, a puppet and mask theatre company, a women’s cancer centre and a Minnesota recycling program!”

Reflecting on her time at Grebel, Jane remarked that “Grebel gave me a place to write and perform creative work, serve on committees, play many practical jokes, organize to my heart’s content, volunteer, sing, compose and make great friends. All of those things have contributed to my work as a musician, but more importantly to the way that I do my work in the world.”

www.OneVoiceMN.org

STEPHANIE MARTIN

Calling herself a “dual citizen,” Stephanie Martin lived at Grebel in 1981-82 as she worked on a BMus degree at Wilfrid Laurier University. She remarked on how well the Grebel kitchen staff took care of her as she spent long hours practicing organ and harpsichord before coming back “home” well after mealtime hours.

“The College has grown and changed a great deal since I was a student, but music making is an enduring and treasured activity for Grebelites,” noted Stephanie. “It would be a great benefit for every person to sing in a choir—any kind of choir—it doesn’t have to be one that is performing at a dizzying level. Just getting together and singing camp songs around a fire is a fantastic human experience everyone should be able to enjoy.”

After graduation, Stephanie taught a History of Music course at Grebel for about 15 years, conducted the Chamber Choir and University Choir while the College’s regular professors were on sabbatical, and directed Ontario Mennonite Music Camp. She credits her experience teaching at Grebel as instrumental in setting her on the teaching path she took, leading to a position as a full-time professor at York University in Toronto.

Stephanie has conducted Pax Christi Chorale in Toronto for 20 years and will be retiring from this role next spring. Singing with a full orchestra, this Mennonite and Brethren in Christ choir that includes many Grebel alumni is known for presenting dramatic choral masterpieces, performing with passion, conviction, and heart. “We try to present traditional repertoire with a twist,” explained Stephanie, describing the way that the choir has incorporated theatre, lighting, and dance into their oratorio performances.

“Choirs have been my life’s glue,” observed Stephanie. “It’s a sticky activity that binds people together in a very special way. Choir people commit to each other. We commit to not let down the team. We breathe together. We work hard and create something beautiful. We take something strange and unknown, and through disciplined practice, we unpack it, polish it, and share it with others. We understand the importance of working as a team, of persevering when things get tough; of bringing everybody up to their greatest potential.”

As she looks forward to spending more time composing music, Stephanie heard her choral symphony premiered in April as part of Laurier music’s 40th anniversary. www.stephaniemartinmusic.com



Stephanie Martin

Alumni in Choral Music

Grebel has many other alumni who are involved in leading choral music in their communities. Here are a few. If you belong on this list, send us an update for the People section of Grebel Now! grebel@uwaterloo.ca

Jacob deGroot-Maggetti (BA '16)

Director, St. Joseph Parish Choir

Brandon Leis '01 – Music at WLU

Minister of Music at Stirling Mennonite, Kitchener

Tim Shantz '95 - Music at WLU

Founding Director of Spiritus Chamber Choir; Founding Director of Luminous Voices; Chorus Master for the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra;

Mark Diller Harder (BA '89)

Board Chair, Menno Singers

Sandra Horst '80s – Music at WLU

Chorus Master, Canadian Opera Company Chorus

Roger Bergs – Music at WLU

Music Director, Knox Presbyterian Church, Toronto and Artistic Director of the John Laing Singers, Burlington

Jane Schultz Janzen (BA '87)

Director, Waterloo County Teachers' Choir

Tim Corlis (BSC '98)

Was Founding Director of Vancouver Peace Choir

Amanda Brunk '95 – Music at WLU

Producer and Music Director of The Singers Theatre, KW

Amanda Kind (BA '06)

Artistic Director, KW Glee

Corey Cotter Linforth (BA '13)

Music Director, St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church, Cambridge

DUFF WARKENTIN

Never intending to pursue a career in music, Duff Warkentin (BA Fine Arts and Music '78) arrived at Grebel already possessing a Bachelor of Church Music from Canadian Mennonite Bible College in Winnipeg. With that experience, Duff made a great TA for music prof Len Enns in his first year of teaching at Grebel. Duff sang in both choirs at Grebel, as well as with the Wilfrid Laurier Singers. “I still well remember singing the Bach motet *Komm, Jesu, Komm* in the Grebel chapel,” reminisced Duff.

After graduating, Duff became the music director at Rosthern Junior College in Saskatchewan in 1979-82, and then again from 1987-92 after completing a MMus in Choral Conducting at the University of Regina. He also taught at Westgate Mennonite Collegiate in Winnipeg, was Choral Artist in Residence in two Saskatchewan communities, and spent two years as term choral director/instructor at the University of Saskatchewan.

As a highlight in his career, Duff recalls premiering Len Enns' *Psalms Cyklus* with the mass choir of the Canadian Association of Mennonite Schools in 1990. “Len came to Saskatchewan that year, and worked with my choir from Rosthern Junior College. Wonderful!”

Eight years ago, Duff was looking for a more regular paycheque, so he began work at Case New Holland. “It is completely non-musical, regular hours, good benefits package, and it pays the bills and allows me to pursue music as an avocation.”

It seems like community opportunities gravitate towards Duff. He loves directing the Station Singers of Rosthern, a non-auditioned community choir of between 45 and 75 singers. With this choir, he emphasizes that everyone's contribution is important, regardless of ability, experience, or training. Duff conducts the choir at his church, Nutana Park Mennonite Church in Saskatoon, and his involvement with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra choir has been growing. He will be conducting the Saskatchewan Youth Choir in the coming year, a program of the Saskatchewan Choral Federation.

“Our communities, small or large, need cultural activities to thrive,” explained Duff. “Life is so much more than making a living. Culture makes a life. The late Robert Shaw spoke of choral singing as essentially creating community. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts. We need each other to realize the beauty of choral music. We breathe together. We listen to each other. We support each other. We appreciate each other. It is magical, it is mystical, and it can't be explained, only experienced.”



Community Gamelan

As a new enterprise for this academic year, artist-in-residence, I Dewa Suparta, along with Grebel music professor Maisie Sum, started the Grebel Community Gamelan. Comprising 11 community members in its inaugural year, the vision for this growing ensemble is to participate in multiple forms of outreach activities including workshops, church visits, conferences, and concerts off-campus.

The more established UWaterloo Balinese Gamelan (made up of students and community members) has already made its presence known in Waterloo Region, introducing many children, youth, adults, and seniors to a new sonic and cultural experience. Through this type of musical engagement, listeners become more open to learning about unfamiliar music traditions and cultures in the world, sparking positive feelings for other cultures.

Last summer for the Mennonite World Conference, held in Pennsylvania, Dewa arranged a gamelan setting of *O Prince of Peace* to accompany the singing of the hymn. He has since arranged *My Soul is Filled with Joy*. Both pieces have been adding a unique aspect to traditional chapel and church services as the ensembles make visits around Waterloo Region.

Aligning with Grebel's core values of community building, generosity, creativity, global engagement, and active peacebuilding, Music Department Chair Laura Gray believes that the Community Gamelan "brings more community profile to the music program and the College as a place where you can do really cool things." Focusing on Grebel's strategic plan, "the Gamelan has strong potential for community building through interesting and collaborative goals that engage our growing constituencies and elevate our distinctive programs."

What makes learning this music unique is that Balinese gamelan is constructed, taught, and learned in a way that fosters community building. It requires interaction and communal interdependence for success—so much so that the ensemble is often thought of as a single living organism. Dewa explained that "Balinese gamelan music is characterized by multiple instrumental layers and interlocking parts, and often has sudden shifts and changes in tempo and dynamics—all of which adheres to a gong framework—so it requires all players to pay attention and listen to each other. When the ensemble is able to create a unified sound and feeling, players feel deep joy and satisfaction and hope that the feeling transfers to the audience."

Grebel is one of the only places in Canada where people have the opportunity to play Balinese gamelan on a set of *semaradana* instruments, learning from an expert musician and composer native to Bali, Indonesia. The ensemble's leader, Dewa, hails from a renowned musical family in Pengosekan Village, Ubud and he is founding member of the innovative Gamelan *Çudamani*.

With interested members already coming in from as far away as Toronto, the Grebel Community Gamelan will start up again in the fall 2016 term, welcoming new and aspiring players. Sign up online at uwaterloo.ca/music/community-gamelan.

Tradition of Travel Courses

Another way that Grebel reaches beyond its regular student audience is through travel course opportunities. A travel course was first offered in 1978 when music professor Wilbur Maust began working at Grebel. Every other year—even into retirement—Bill took groups of students and community members to Vienna, Austria to experience the rich musical culture of the city. This trip appealed to all ages, creating strong friendships and even resulting in a bequest from a past participant to establish the Liz Lane Music and Culture Award.

Continuing the tradition, music professor Ken Hull began offering a music and culture travel course to London in 2002. Since then, this trip has been mixed with travel to Leipzig or Oxford, and once was offered in conjunction with UWaterloo's fine arts department. Students embark on the sixth iteration of this course June 3-20, 2016.

Music professor emerita Carol Ann Weaver also invested substantial effort in her music and culture course to Durban, South Africa, leading four trips before she retired in 2014. This course brought students into direct contact with South Africans from varied ethnic groups and walks of life, sharing in many cultural and musical experiences.

Beyond the music department, religious studies professor, Derek Suderman, has been a co-leader in several YELLA! young adult trips to Israel and Palestine, sponsored by Mennonite Church of Eastern Canada and Mennonite Central Committee. Many Grebel students participated in these trips, enriching their understanding of Middle Eastern politics and historic biblical locations.

Before he retired, religious studies professor emeritus Tom Yoder Neufeld led numerous trips to Turkey and Greece to explore places where Paul traveled during his missionary journeys, "Exploring the World of Paul."

Looking to the future, Lowell Ewert is leading a three-week PACS travel course to Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa this August in conjunction with Waterloo International. Maisie Sum is in the early stages of planning a music and culture trip to Indonesia and Bali in 2021 that will coincide with Mennonite World Conference.

An In-between Space

BY MICHELLE JACKETT, Coordinator, MSCU Centre for Peace Advancement

In the heart of the MSCU Centre for Peace Advancement (CPA), you will find the Grebel Gallery. If you're wondering whether this claim is meant literally or figuratively, the answer is yes in either case. It is true that the Gallery sits in the centre of the CPA—amidst offices, innovation spaces, meeting rooms, and a seminar room. However, its significance has more to do with its ability to catalyze meaningful community engagement.

As one of our three core activities, community engagement drives much of the CPA's efforts. In addition to our two other areas of focus, research and incubation, we strive to engage community members who might not otherwise find themselves connected or gathered in our space. The Grebel Gallery has been one means for achieving this goal, and remains a program with abundant potential.

that increase the capacity of the Gallery and spread the word about “what’s on display in the CPA.”

Near the end of its second year, the Gallery's walls have seen an assortment of media, from paintings to photographs to quilts. The winter exhibit was titled *As the Women Sew: Community Quilts of Mamuján, Colombia*. Through partnership with Mennonite Central Committee Colombia, we curated a series of four quilts and ten photographs to tell a story of displacement and resilience. The women who contributed to this quilting project, who call themselves Women Weaving Dreams and Flavours of Peace, won the Colombian National Peace Prize in 2015. This prize acknowledges their ability to share their own collective healing strategy with other communities around them and, in doing so, interrupting a cycle of violence. This

exhibit in itself was an example to me of meaningful community engagement.

Our Spring 2016 exhibit is titled *Stories in Art from Iraqi Kurdistan*, and consists of artwork created by those impacted by displacement in that region. Through partnership with Kathy Moorhead Thiessen of Christian Peacemaker Teams and Ray Dirks of The Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery in Winnipeg, we are exhibiting artwork created by Iraqi Kurds, Syrian Kurds, Yazidis, Assyrian Christians and Iraqi Arabs.

Each exhibit has brought an opportunity for engagement, via partnership in the curation process, or through the cross-pollination of ideas that take place as people visit the art. It is for these reasons that I consider the Grebel Gallery to be one of the most exciting spaces in the CPA. We are committed to developing new ways to use the Gallery to promote mutual learning and shared action, and to capture the insights, reactions, and questions from community members who visit our exhibits.

As we move into the Gallery's third year of engaging the community, your energy and ideas are not only welcome, but encouraged, as the space is yours too. uwaterloo.ca/centre-peace-advancement



The Grebel Gallery is designed to promote a manner of engagement that is whole-bodied, and that promotes mutual learning and shared action. The Gallery challenges the expectations of those who enter – it's not your typical gallery, and it's not your typical informational display. Through the Gallery, we aim to form an “in-between space” for various expectations and perceptions to interact. This is the quality of space the CPA is committed to generating, for we believe it has the power to stimulate new insights and collaborations.

We are delighted to work with a Grebel Gallery Team, consisting of approximately ten individuals who bring artistic gifts and passions

Spring 2014

Bertha von Suttner: A Life of Peace, an exhibition of photos and documents about the life and work of Bertha, who won the first female Nobel Peace Prize in 1906.

Fall 2014

Along the Road to Freedom, an exhibition of 22 paintings by Winnipeg artist Ray Dirks. A project of the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery, Winnipeg.

Winter 2015

Taking Community from the Farm to the World, an exhibition of David L. Hunsberger's photographs from the 1950s and '60s.

Fall 2015

Exploring Resilience through the artwork of Shannon Moroney, an exhibition of the honest, dynamic artwork of Shannon Moroney.

Winter 2016

As the Women Sew: Community Quilts of Mamuján, Colombia, showing how quilting has become a way of recovering their past to weave a better future.

Spring 2016

Stories in Art from Iraqi Kurdistan displays artwork created by those impacted by displacement.

Extension Agents

BY MATTHEW BAILEY-DICK,
Coordinator, Anabaptist Learning Workshop

No, the picture on the right is not a photo of hockey fans at the moment when the home team scores the winning goal. This is a group of church members at Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church in the moments after being asked to use their bodies to show what it feels like to learn something new.

I was visiting this church as part of my work with the Anabaptist Learning Workshop (ALW)—a program offered by Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC) in cooperation with Grebel. You can see that learning something new feels exciting and inspirational, and it can bring people together. How can we foster this kind of experience?

For agronomists and farmers, “extension education” is a well-known approach in which “extension agents” go out into the field—literally and figuratively—to facilitate education on things such as soil science, livestock husbandry, and farm economics.



The purpose of extension education is not only to impart information but also to empower farmers to act together as agents of change in their own communities.

MCEC currently identifies its mission as “extending the peace of Jesus Christ.” Grebel currently identifies its strategic plan as “extending the Grebel table.” Through the ALW program, church people do both kinds of extension work as they nurture Christian faith, advance scholarly innovation, build peace, and celebrate the unconquerable love of learning.

In the ALW program, one of the leading edges has to do with collaboration—for example, learning together as laypeople and pastors, or as people with various cultural backgrounds—in other words, learning “in community” or “as a community.”

During a Saturday workshop in the ALW program, community education becomes the “how” of learning more than the “where”—we become agents of collaborative learning as we extend the table and extend the peace of Christ. I invite you to join us! mcec.ca/alw

**ANABAPTIST
LEARNING
WORKSHOP**



A CHURCH AND MINISTRY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM OF

**Mennonite
Church
Eastern
Canada**

AND



**Conrad Grebel
University College**

More than just Public Workshops

BY SUSAN BAKER, Manager, Conflict Management Certificate Program

The Conflict Management Certificate Program (CMCP) has been providing public workshops at Grebel for almost 20 years. This professional development program, built on longstanding values of inspired teaching and scholarly excellence, has successfully introduced thousands of people to Grebel. Not only are participants learning skills to effectively manage conflict, but for many it has created interest and action in furthering their academic career through our undergraduate or graduate programs in Peace and Conflict Studies or Theological Studies.

The CMCP contributes to community engagement in a variety of ways. *Programmatically*, we offer a distinctive program, offering a range of topics ranging from negotiation to peacemaking circles, and from transformative mediation to facilitation skills. These topics not only provide breadth of knowledge and skills, but also attract a diverse group of participant experience. *Geographically*, the value of global engagement is upheld as we welcome participants both from within Canada, and from places such as Australia, Japan and Denmark, enriching the conversation. *Ecumenically and contributing to faith formation*, the pastors and lay leaders that attend

the congregational leadership workshops provide a rich and unique opportunity to learn and engage in a wider church conversation.

Since the CMCP was introduced, the mediation field has become more specialized. In recognition of the growth and complexity of the issues surrounding families in conflict and the shortcomings of the court justice system, we will soon offer a Certificate in Family Dispute Resolution. We will continue to offer topics that meet the accreditation requirements of the Family Mediation Associations, as well as workshops that are beneficial to those facing the reality of family conflict. Conflict Coaching, Mediation from the Inside Out, and Elder Mediation are just a few of the topics planned—watch for more details soon.

There are many compelling reasons to register for a workshop. Check out the website and consider joining the growing community of engaged participants in the Conflict Management Certificate Program.

uwaterloo.ca/conflict-management

**CONFLICT
MANAGEMENT**
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A PROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM OF

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WATERLOO**

Days Filled with Music

BY ANNA KUEPFER AND JOANNA LOEPP THIESSEN*

Flashback to 2009. I was 12 years old and crammed into the back row of Grebel's Great Hall for the annual Ontario Mennonite Music Camp final concert. It was while watching the second half of the concert—a musical—that I decided to go to OMMC.

OMMC is a music camp. That means hours of every day are filled with music-making in many forms. Each day starts with chapel and by the end of the four-part singing session in Grebel's beautiful chapel, everyone is ready to go for the day. Then there is choir, where campers learn more songs that will stick with them for years. The other part of camp is composed of master classes where students explore the instrument of their choice as they prepare for that year's musical.

**Anna and Joanna are now Grebel students!*

Every day we met in small groups to discuss our faith. We gathered when people needed prayer and discussed tough topics with guidance from the counselors. One of the things I value most about my years at OMMC is how it allowed my faith to grow from being my parents to being my own. I learned to search for answers to the questions I had, and was given the safe space to do so.

OMMC taught me the value of a nurturing and supportive community. I have so many positive memories of community at OMMC, whether it was a silly prank, a funny meal, or a meaningful camp-wide talk. Through my camp experience, I knew I could continue to find community at Grebel as I made the transition from high school to university. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.



Ontario
Mennonite
Music Camp
August 14-26, 2016

Pairing exceptional musical instruction with traditional camp activities, OMMC provides an exciting camp adventure for 12 to 16 year olds

REGISTER AT GREBEL.CA/OMMC



140 Westmount Road North | Waterloo, ON

Peace in Action

Youth in the Waterloo Region will be discovering community through peace during the week of August 8-12 at Grebel's Peace Camp. Youth aged 11-14 will experience a week packed with exciting activities, crafts, games, and field trips, all with a social justice spin that encourages youth to inspire lives, strengthen ties, and make peace happen.

This summer's Peace Camp theme is "Peace in Action" and focuses on empowering youth by teaching them that no matter who you are or what you like to do, you can be a peacebuilder. Campers will become more aware of how their skills and passions can create peace in their own lives, and in the global and local community.

2016 Peace Camp leaders Rebekah DeJong and Kaitlyn Skelly are upper-year students in Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) at Grebel. While Rebekah plans and directs the camp programming taking place in August, Kaitlyn

will take the peace curriculum on the road in May and June, doing workshops in elementary schools across the region. Last year, Peace Camp facilitated peace-building and conflict resolution workshops with 2,415 elementary school students in 119 local schools.

About her role as Coordinator of Peace Camp, Rebekah commented that "being a PACS student has made me curious about

why peace curriculum was not a part of my education sooner. I'm thrilled that camp and peace education are coming together and I am excited to be a part of the process."

A program of the MSCU Centre for Peace Advancement at Grebel, Peace Camp is made possible through funding from the Lyle S. Hallman Foundation.



August 8-12, 2016
Peace Camp
Day Camp at Conrad Grebel University College for youth ages 11-14

-  Games, crafts, field trips
-  Diverse people
-  Storytelling
-  Peace is possible!

 Full day including lunch: \$190
*subsidies available

 Register at: grebel.ca/peacecamp



What Would You Ask?

BY LAUREEN HARDER-GISSING, Archivist-Librarian

In 1974, graduate history student David Fransen (BA '76) interviewed 34 Mennonite men who were conscientious objectors ("COs") during the Second World War. Because of their objection to participation in war, these men were required to do Alternative Service in forestry, agriculture or industry. Ten thousand Canadian COs participated in Alternative Service from 1941 to 1946.

In the fall of 2015, Professor Marlene Epp's Mennonite History class undertook an assignment requiring each student to listen to one of the Fransen interviews and develop a museum exhibit profile. From the interview, students extracted basic information, anecdotes and reflections that now appear in an exhibit. They chose a suitable photograph for display from among the nearly 600 CO photographs collected by the Mennonite Archives of Ontario. Finally, each student was asked to contribute a question, something they would have liked to have asked "their CO" if they had the chance.



Jacob Peters

Over the course of the term, students read background material, heard presentations from Mennonite Archives of Ontario archivist Laureen Harder-Gissing, and shared their progressing work in small group discussions. Unlike many academic assignments, this one had the added component of resulting in a public display of each student's work.

A highlight of the assignment was a discussion in the Archives reading room with David Fransen, who revisited his interviewing experiences 40 years later. Students engaged in thoughtful conversation with Fransen as they sought to understand the COs, their motivations and experiences. Both the students and Fransen remarked on the varying personalities and viewpoints displayed by the COs. In summing up his

impressions for the exhibit, Fransen wrote that the COs' experiences "opened their eyes in new ways to the world around them, and to themselves . . . Many of these young men returned home with a conviction that they had a duty to look beyond themselves, to a world in need . . . Alternative Service was transformed into lives of service."

The students' work is on display until December as part of the Mennonite Archives of Ontario exhibit *Conchies Speak: Ontario Mennonites in Alternative Service*. Further information on the exhibit can be found at: uwaterloo.ca/grebel/altservice.

WHAT WOULD YOU ASK A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR?

Each student was asked to contribute a question, something they would have liked to have asked "their CO" if they had the chance. The following are some of their questions.

Do you think that if you were a single man without a child that your Alternative Service experience would have differed?

You said "I would have gladly done something more worthwhile" than the work that was assigned in the camps. If you could have chosen more worthwhile work, what would it have been?

You said that you are impressed by the depth of knowledge that young people today have on conscientious objection. Do you think you and others had a trailblazing effect on future generations?

Did your brother's decision to join the Air Force affect your relationship with him once the war ended?

You said you regretted that the church did not fully explain the peace stance. How would you change this, so that young people today would have a better understanding of what it means to be a CO?



Marlene Epp's Mennonite History class with Laureen Harder-Gissing (back right) and David Fransen (front, 2nd from right)

GLOBAL MENNONITE PEACEBUILDING CONFERENCE & FESTIVAL

JUNE 9-12, 2016

The Grebel community is looking forward to hosting a diverse group of academics, practitioners, artists, and church workers at the Global Mennonite Peacebuilding Conference and Festival, June 9-12, 2016. Involving at least 130 people from more than 18 countries, over 80 proposals for workshops, panels, papers, and art exhibits have been accepted.

Opening plenary addresses will be offered by Fernando Enns, Director of the Institute for Peace Church Theology at Hamburg University; Paulus Widjaja, Director of the Duta Wacana Christianity University's Centre for the Study and Promotion of Peace; and Lisa Schirch, Director of Human Security at the Alliance for Peacebuilding.

The conference will explore a rich diversity of peace-related topics, covering areas such as inclusion and exclusion in the Mennonite church, development and livelihoods, history and theology, reflective practise, and case studies from India to Indonesia, Colombia to Canada, and from Laos to South Africa. Some titles to note include: "Mennonites and the Wages of Whiteness"; "Responding with both Humility and Boldness to the Ecological Crisis"; "Travel for Transformation: Alternative Tourism in Israel/Palestine and the Call to Christian Peacemaking"; "People of the Land: Mennonites and the Doctrine of Discovery"; and "Mennonite Peace Theology and Violence Against Women."

The conference will provide an opportunity for Anabaptist-Mennonites from a variety of different cultural backgrounds and geographical settings to have discussion and debate, and build fellowship and community. The conference will close with a Sunday morning worship service and final plenary. [Register at uwaterloo.ca/grebel/GMPC](http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/GMPC)

Funding for the event comes from numerous sources, including the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.



Thanks to MEDA for sponsoring the keynote speakers.

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Peace News



INNOVATION IN PEACE

In April, MSCU Centre for Peace Advancement Director Paul Heidebrecht and Epp Peace Incubator member Elle Crevits spoke with the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. Elle and Paul, along with participants in St. Paul's University College GreenHouse program, aim to expand the UWaterloo's innovation narrative to include a concern for social impact. As a champion of environmental issues and Indigenous reconciliation, the Lieutenant Governor was a receptive audience!



ROTARY PEACE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER

Muhammad Amin Khan is the 2016-17 winner of a Rotary Peace Scholarship. Amin began his Master of Peace and Conflict Studies degree at Grebel in January 2016, where he has continued to pursue his interests in cross-culture understanding. He is also keenly interested in advocating for democratic values globally, as well as conflict analysis and conflict resolution. Previously, Amin completed his bachelor's degree in International Relations and Politics from International Islamic University in Islamabad, Pakistan. In 2005, he worked as a volunteer after the earthquake in Pakistan and again in 2010 during the floods in Pakistan. Upon completion of his MPACS degree, Amin aspires to work with a United Nations Organization.



PEACE SPEECHES

At the end of March, Charity Nonkes was the winner of the annual student C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest with her speech on "The Three E's of Peace." She will go on to compete in the bi-national contest against other winners from Mennonite colleges and universities. Brianna Logan was the runner-up with her speech on "Seniors Issues are Peace Issues." Allison Keys spoke on "Peace Through Forgiveness" and Oswald Buhendwa reflected on "The Pivotal Role of the Church in Times of Great Moral Conflict."



NEW SCHOLARSHIP

In April, John Reimer, CEO of PeaceWorks Technology Solutions, signed an agreement with Susan Schultz Huxman to establish the PeaceWorks award. This new award will support Grebel students who are pursuing degrees in technology at the University of Waterloo and who have a demonstrated passion for peace and justice issues. Founded in 1996 by Grebel alumnus Nolan Andres (MMATH '98), PeaceWorks has employed other alumni from Grebel and UWaterloo, and provides IT services for the College. This award is part of the organization's 20th anniversary celebrations.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Conflict Management Certificate Program (CMCP) congratulates Barbara Landau, a CMCP trainer and the patron of The Landau Family Scholarship, who received the Leading Women Building Communities Award presented through the nomination by MPP Kathleen Wynne, the Ontario Premier. Barbara was introduced at Queen's Park on April 7, 2016. With this award, the province of Ontario annually recognizes and celebrates the contributions of women across the province who act as positive role models and who have made a difference in their community.

Convocation 2016

Together We Are a Masterpiece

On a gorgeous spring day in April, President Susan Schultz Huxman welcomed Grebel's graduating students to the 2016 Convocation ceremony.



John Neufeld

Making up a group of almost 700 people, friends, family, faculty, staff, donors, and board members, the Grebel community marked the hard work of undergraduate and graduate students who had lived in residence or participated in Grebel's programs in Music, Peace and Conflict Studies, Mennonite Studies, and Theological Studies.

"It doesn't matter how you came into the doors of Grebel. What matters is how you're leaving them," counselled convocation speaker John Neufeld (BA '96), Executive Director at House of Friendship in Kitchener. "Grebel has given you the gift of extending the table. A table where all faiths, cultures, backgrounds, and academic disciplines gather and listen to each other and learn from each other. And during this time at Grebel, we each experience a little taste of what justice could look like; a little taste of what a more humane world could look like."

Based on social justice activist Bryan Stevenson's teaching, John gave students four pieces of advice and explained how these lessons are all modeled at Grebel:

1. Try to get close to the problems you care about.
2. Change the narrative of fear.
3. Remain hopeful.
4. Do uncomfortable things sometimes.



Brandon Alcox, Rhiannon Ball, Natasha Barlow, Emma Bartel, Lisa Bauman, Stephanie Bauman, Buss, Natalie Chan, Victoria Chan, Priscilla Chow, Donna-Marie Cloes, Ryan Coverdale, Morgan Durrani, Sarah Dyck, Sonya Penner Dyck, Ian Easterbrook, Reem El Mugammar, Media El Tayara, Giangualano, Kaleigh Gillis, Margaret Gissing, Jonna Gladwell, Michelle Good, Samantha Graham, Heather Ikert, Laura Janzen, Hannah Johnson, Alannah Keddie, Niamh Kinsella, Paul Klassen, MacDonald, Christine Bianca Maiolo, Joey Maiolo, Julia Martin, Natasha Martin, Katelyn Miller, El Gabriel Patti, Michael Pavey, Laura Pilmoor, Katrina Plenert, Daniel Rabinovitch, Justin Raimbault, Savard, Sukhraaj Singh Shergill, Lindsay Sheridan, Gibo Shim, Alexandra Siebert, Nicole Simone, Tiangson, Eric Tichbourne, Zachary Tikl, Garima Tilokani, Spencer Van Leeuwen, Jan van Nieke

"We need each other to be whole. We are a community of the broken going into the broken world," John finished. "I challenge each of you: Look around the table. Who doesn't have a seat at the table? What can you do? What role do you play? Be bold. Be brave. Work towards a society where others can have a seat at the table."

Graduating students shared their future plans with the audience, revealing plans for graduate studies, marriage, relaxation, new jobs, volunteering, job searching, starting businesses, travel, and changing the world!

"Four or five years ago, we all made a choice," reminisced undergraduate valedictorian David DeVries. "We chose to do something hard—to come to Waterloo to study. And here we are at the other side of



David DeVries

that choice, and I'd say it was worth it. Whether it was those courses that kept you up to sunrise, studying instead of playing one more game, stepping outside of your comfort zone, or chatting to 3 am with an assignment due the next day, you all did these things, knowing that they were hard. Similarly, for those of us who lived inside of Grebel, we took on the challenge of spending nearly every living moment with each other, requiring us to push ourselves to be critical members of a complex social ecosystem. And we were rewarded with heightened understanding, loving friendships, beautiful expressions of who we are, and memories that will not soon fade."

"I challenge all of us, every single one of you," David concluded, "to make the right and often hard choice, even if the rewards aren't immediately evident. Our passions do not often align with that which requires minimal effort, but rather with that which inspires and drives us to push farther and harder. I wish you all the best on these challenging journeys."



Evan Benjamin Lichti Bechtel, Elaina Bentz, Elora Bishop, Kristen Bonney, Caroline Bordignon, Julia Nicole Bowman, Kevin Maarten Brink, Christine Brown, Emily Brubaker-Zehr, Shelley Crane, Reyhan Cuming, Dantong Tu, Chantal Davidson, Marushka D'Cruz, Jacob deGroot-Maggetti, Rebekah DeJong, David DeVries, Cameron Deweerdt, Kevin Michael Dufault, Amna, Hannah Enns, Perry Everett, Thomas Fast-Sittler, Taziah Fioze-Booker, Cosette Francis, Justin Fujimoto, Maia Fujimoto, Jacklyn Marie Furlong, Vince Tianren Gao, Jacob Gaudaur, Lawrence, Tim Greenwood, Miraya Groot, Monica Grove, Sara Elizabeth Harder, Jani Harris, Nathan Henderson, Brittany Catherine Grace Hicks, Zach Huber, Emily Hunsberger, Elizabeth Ibrahim, Michael Angelo Knight, Konica Kochar, Jared Koiter, Michelle Koop, Nicole Kudoba, Trevor Kuepfer, Michael Kuurstra, Taylor Lambert, Selina Long, Luna Xiaowan Lu, Rebecca Lyon, Maggie Elizabeth Wendy Milne, Aparna K Mirchandani, Katherine Arianna Moes, Daniel Bryan Morris, Kim Nguyen, Emma Nussli, Maria Oliver, Margaret-Jean Nana Oteng-Pabi, Easton Page, Tina Park, Benjamin Rasera, Ian Reed, Andrew Reeves, Katy Robinson, Jacqueline Marie Rodrigues, Conchita Rodrigues Fragoso, Adam Michael Russolo, Partap Sandhu, Daniel Saunders, Morgan, Chloe Simpson, Lynn Skelly, Rebecca Skolud, Sarah Steiner, Huma Sylejmani, Harvey Tang, Robin Taves, Alyssa Thomas, Graham Thomas, Alicia Thompson-Cappadocio, Nathan Salvador, Mitchell Van Noy, Ruth Wagner, Graham Watson, Andrew Wenger, Stephanie West, Jacob Winter, Rebekah Winter, Evelyn Wright, Emily Yarascavitch, Lydia Zhang, Kristina Zorn

Representing graduate students in Peace and Conflict Studies and Theological Studies, MPACS graduate Aly Ostrowski based her speech on a beautiful metaphor of Grebel's iconic chapel windows. "To appreciate the beauty of stained glass, we need to start with a grain of sand, gradually transformed into a piece of glass in a high temperature oven," she said. "Depending on the minerals involved in the process, glass takes on a distinct colour. Individual panes of glass are scored and cut into a unique shape and soldered into one composition."

"When we first arrived at Grebel, we were like particles of sand," Aly explained. "We were individuals seeking to fulfill a personal calling or a quest for higher education. We were eager to learn. Soon, the pressure started to build as we struggled to balance school with work and family life, while trying to make our way through endless lists of readings. Tinted by our personalities, perspectives and talents, we have been refined into uniquely shaped pieces of stained glass."

"Faculty, in particular, have nurtured critical thinking and encouraged deeper self-awareness through reflection and contemplative prayer. Their depth of knowledge astounded us and yet in their humility, they have treated us as colleagues. As a community, we have been taught, fed and funded by those who represent the lead on a stained glass window that solders us together."

"In this community, we as professionals have also shaped each other through kindness, respect and creative discussions. Through these collaborative efforts, we have constructed a rich and diverse mosaic! It reflects our perseverance, our commitment to excellence and our collective wisdom. As Grebel graduates, we have together become a stained glass masterpiece!"

"For a masterpiece to be revealed in its full splendour, the stained glass must be illuminated. With light pouring through the coloured panes of glass, the images come to life! A picture becomes an experience. Going forward, for us to shine to our fullest potential, we must connect with something greater than ourselves. Something bigger, brighter, more powerful. Wherever we go, our uniquely shaped and shaded piece of glass will become part of a new



Aly Ostrowski

community, a new supportive structure, and will hold new creative potential. Let grace and humility shine through us to form a truly illustrious chapter in our lives, brightly illuminated by something greater than ourselves."



Master of Theological Studies Graduates
(Alphabetical order) Stuart Andrew Blyde, Jonathan Brubacher, Jakob Burse, Jonathan Tyler Campbell, Chalsi Eastman, Elijah Tracy



Master of Peace and Conflict Studies Graduates
(Alphabetical order) Shinjita Alam, Menke Maria Meijer, Adam James Moreash, Chinenye B. Chukwuma-Nwuba, Ifeanyi Ogwuru, Aly Ostrowski, Nirupama Sharma Paudyal, Crista Renner, Michael Fraser Southcott, Vik Suagh, Katherine Jean Weaver-Rutten

Carved out sheets of glass
Stained with purpose, lit by love
A transformation

~ Aly Ostrowski

Student Life



Tobin Reimer (BA '08) provided perspective and advice as an alumnus at the annual Grad Dessert on April 13. As a member of the Alumni committee, he encouraged graduates to remember the values and friendships from Grebel and to keep connected by attending events, connecting on Grebel's Social media, reading *Grebel Now*, and of course supporting the college with donations.



Students are beyond thrilled to have the new Grebel Gym in operation at the back of their games lounge! Seed money from a donor was the catalyst for the gym, supplemented by money from Student Council and Grebel's budget, plus an in-kind donation. And the kitchen staff just happened to win a big screen TV that they donated to students. Filled with weights, as well as large and small equipment, the gym is almost always occupied.

Reading Week Trips



JAMESTOWN TRIP: On February 12, 2016, fifteen excited Grebel students departed from Waterloo for an adventure of a lifetime. They would travel over 2300 km, taking 22 hours, to Jamestown, Colorado, where a flood in 2013 had devastated the 250 residents of this small community-minded town. The students worked on two houses, whose future owners lost their houses in the flood. It was an amazing experience in a beautiful location, and many are looking forward to participating again next year. ~*Amelia Baker*

Watch a video recap of their adventures! uwaterloo.ca/grebel/mds

TORONTO TRIP: Nine Grebel students spent three days in downtown Toronto, completing MCC's TOOLS program on homelessness. We made connections between this and social equality, while making friends on the street and at the Good Shepherd Shelter. These beautiful people reminded me of the gap between cultural authenticity, worth and happiness; all we needed to get along was our humanity and willingness to be genuine. I saw joy in awful situations and met Christ more times than I could count. ~*Caitie Walker*



Women in STEM Programs Thrive at Grebel

Grebel residents are students at the University of Waterloo, studying in one of the six faculties (Arts, Engineering, Science, Mathematics, Environment, and Applied Health Sciences) and receive a University of Waterloo degree at the end of their studies. As a result, student life at Grebel is a mix of fascinating people from diverse backgrounds with a huge expanse of interests. Grebel is part of the HeForShe campaign—a global

effort to remove social and cultural barriers that prevent women and girls from achieving their potential and together positively reshaping society. Grebel and UWaterloo aim to boost female student participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) experiences to increase the potential for future female leaders in traditionally male-dominated disciplines.

“At Grebel, we are committed to caring for the physical, social, emotional, and academic needs of our students,” noted director of student services Mary Brubaker-Zehr. “STEM students thrive in our environment because they readily find the right balance between hard, disciplined, focused study and nurturing their emotional, physical, and social needs.”

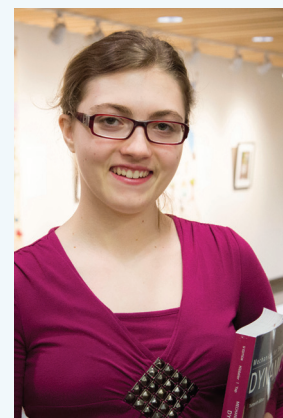
Meet some of our STEM students!



“Grebel has always seemed like a place I would love,” reflected first year Mechanical Engineering student **Amanda Enns**. “The community is truly what makes Grebel so unique!! I’ve made many friends and have had so many great experiences here—I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else!”

While attending university, many students are pleased to have space at Grebel to grow their faith—through Chapel services, Bible studies, and service trips. “I’ve found God in unexpected places,” said Amanda. “I’ve felt God’s presence during impromptu worship jam sessions with friends, in the kindness and generosity of others, and outside, especially walking to class.”

“What drew me to Grebel was its peaceful and community-oriented atmosphere,” explained **Charly Phillips**, a first year Biomedical Engineering student. “I think it’s important to surround yourself with a diverse crowd of people, especially if you’re in engineering, since we need to cross inter-disciplinary boundaries.”



The Grebel student community is supportive and nurturing. “It’s a blessing to come back to Grebel at the end of the day. Grebel has definitely helped me to balance my life!” noted Charly. “I struggled with Calculus last term and thought I was the only one. But encouragement from upper-years at Grebel who had a similar experiences gave me the motivation to keep working at it.”

Defying the trend of a 75 percent male program, **Katrina Sikkens** choose to study Nanotechnology Engineering because of the program’s coop job opportunities and reputation. “I enjoy nanotechnology because of the broad range of subjects taught,” she remarked. “It has smaller class sizes with the opportunity to get to know your classmates.” And when looking for a place to live on campus, it was the welcoming community at Grebel that first piqued her interest.



Sonya Dyck was “drawn to the University of Waterloo for its world-renowned reputation as an innovative and high quality university. I knew that coming here would mean learning from world-class professors and receiving an excellent education.” As a Biomedical Science student, Sonya has pushed her comfort zone by taking courses that sounded daunting, like molecular biology. As she prepares for her next step after graduation, Sonya is applying to become a Nurse Practitioner. “The past four years at Grebel have been a season of growth, both academically and spiritually,” reflected Sonya. “Not only have I tackled courses that I didn’t know existed, but I had the opportunity to take on leadership roles which stretched and challenged me.”

Responding to Refugee Crisis

As the Syrian refugee crisis remains at the forefront of international news, Conrad Grebel University College is working on numerous refugee related initiatives. These tangible and educational responses are rooted in the Mennonite heritage of the College that includes refugee experiences and an impulse to respond to those in need.

Fundraising

In December, Grebel students organized the Make-a-Difference Market—an afternoon of shopping with local and fair-trade vendors, music and food. In a separate endeavour, students also held an auction to raise money, donating over \$1000 to refugee support.



Donating

Partnering with the Faculty of Arts, Grebel collected relief kit items and blankets. These

items were given to Mennonite Central Committee to give to people facing crisis and displacement.

Welcoming

As part of their student fees, Grebel students each pay \$10 a term to support a World University Service of Canada (WUSC) student refugee living in the Grebel residence. Similarly, UWaterloo students pay \$1 per term to cover tuition for two refugee students a year at the University.

Discussion

In the fall term, the MSCU Centre for Peace Advancement collaborated with Mennonite Central Committee to host an evening for community members to learn about the ongoing humanitarian and peacebuilding response to the Syria and Iraq crisis: “The

Syrian Crisis: What is a Small Player to do?” In the winter term, Marlene Epp was a panelist in a public discussion on understanding the refugee crisis: historical, global, and local perspectives—an initiative of the Faculty of Arts, UWaterloo Community Relations, and Kitchener Public Library.

Personal Commitment

“We need to understand refugees also as individuals with strength and resilience and hope that can offer a lot to any community that welcomes them with openness and compassion,” observed Professor Marlene Epp. With this in mind, many Grebel students, alumni, staff, and faculty are actively advocating for refugee issues and attend churches which are sponsoring refugees.

Refugees and Forced Migration Event

In the winter term, Grebel offered a new course titled “Refugees and Forced Migration,” with professor Marlene Epp. This third-year undergraduate course taught students understanding and possible responses to the current global refugee crisis. Marlene drew on case studies from past and present to understand why people flee their homelands to seek refuge elsewhere.

As their culminating project, students planned a public event to raise awareness of the plight of refugees and also to raise funds for Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support. The afternoon event included displays on many topics including seeking asylum in Canada, family reunification, mental health in refugees, and sponsoring refugees.

The student poster presentations were well received by visiting students, faculty, staff and members of the larger community. The Waterloo Collegiate Institute group, Crossing Borders, gave meaningful input through story, song and dance. The event as a whole was insightful and meaningful to those in attendance.

With a matching donation and food sales, these peace and conflict studies students raised over \$2000 and sparked an article in The Waterloo Region Record. Congratulations to the many students who were involved in this day!



2016 Distinguished Alumni Service Award

Welcoming the Stranger

The Alumni Committee of Conrad Grebel University College is pleased to announce the selection of Ted (BA Religious Studies '90) and Darlene Enns Dyck (BA Social Development Studies '92) as the 2016 recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

For Darlene, Grebel was the context in which the world opened up to her. "I left the comfort of my family, church, friends, and with them, the fairly homogeneous way of seeing the world," she says. "Grebel allowed vibrant conversations of faith and life to take place amongst diverse people. It was where I first met someone of B'hai faith, where I was confronted and convicted about the way of peace, and where I was given the freedom to explore both my personal passions and callings and that of the community of faith."

"Grebel was an amazing place," added Ted. "I fondly remember taking an independent study course with Jim Reimer and later a classroom course, which allowed me to go deeper in my theological thinking but more importantly allowed me to build a relationship with Jim. His passion and down-to-earth character really impacted me. The Grebel community provided a safe and diverse place to think about what matters and how life should be lived and explored. Many of the friendships and relationships I formed there continue to be important to me today."



Darlene and Ted are the founding pastors of Seeds Church in Altona, Manitoba. They have provided effective and creative leadership for this innovative and thriving congregation. Their ministry has reached well beyond the church, as they have also given active leadership to a variety of community initiatives.

The couple came to Grebel from Winnipeg. Ted had completed a BTh from Canadian Mennonite Bible College and Darlene came for Social Development Studies at Renison College. She lived in residence

(1989-92) and Ted was an active associate (1989-90), also taking a variety of courses at Grebel. They were active in the chapel program and worked with the interim Chaplain at the time, Harold Schlegel.

Harold, who now serves as a pastor in Gretna, Manitoba, nominated Ted and Darlene for this award, noting their Build-A-Village effort as an example of building community around refugee sponsorship. Over the past decade, the group has drawn people together to sponsor 25 families under the couple's collaborative leadership. The recent sponsorship of five Syrian families added 44 people, or one percent to the town's population.

Grebel alumnus Curwin Friesen (BA '93) from Altona, member of Seeds Church, also speaks highly of Darlene and Ted's leadership and spiritual direction of the congregation.

"I am the daughter of a refugee . . . this is close to my heart," explained Darlene. "To prepare a place for the uprooted is to be in union with Jesus. We are driven to do this work because we are driven to be like Jesus. As we work in this way, we encounter Jesus, we allow His life to flow in us and through us."

"Our commitment to working with refugees as a church and community came out of a desire to love God and love our neighbours," added Ted. "In the life of our church, it became evident that our neighbors are not only close by but around the globe. As we became aware of how the world was coming to our doorstep through settling newcomers, we saw this as a place we were being invited to make Jesus real. We are thankful that we have been able to partner with many people and churches in our community to prepare a place for the uprooted. We are also grateful that a new awareness and openness to the newcomer has gripped our nation. Our hope is that others can develop the learning and passion for this work we have discovered over the last ten years."

The Distinguished Alumni Service Award recognizes alumni who have made a significant and unique contribution to the church, community, nation, or world. In the spirit of Grebel's mission, Ted and Darlene are serving their church and society as collaborators and community builders as they embody justice and peace in their small town.

On Wednesday, September 21 at 7:30, the couple will visit Grebel for a public Peace Day event. They will speak about their experiences with refugee sponsorship and will receive their award.



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

2015-2016 Award Recipients

Jean Caya Music Award

Sage Streight, Sonia Zettle

Clemens Scholarships in Music

Jacob deGroot-Maggetti, Claire Heggart, Ryan Nunes, Christina Park

Ford-Harrison Church Music Award

Susan Allen

Agnes Giesbrecht Choral Music Scholarship

David Mamujee

Rudolf and Hedwig Rempel Music Award

Gabe Guerra, Niamh Kinsella, Ingira Reimer, Janelle Santi

Music and Culture Travel Award

Jacob deGroot-Maggetti, Ingira Reimer, Kristiana Wilson

William Dick PACS Field Study Award

Allison Keyes, Kassia Kooy

Becky Frey Student Scholarship

Anna Giesbrecht, Anneke Pries-Klassen

Walter and Mary Hougham PACS Award

Rebekah DeJong, Katrina Draper, Sara Harder, Anneke Sears-Stryker



Vic and Rita Krueger Family PACS Award

Kai Butterfield, Charity Nonkes, Sage Streight

Elliot I. McLoughry Fund Scholarship

Rachel Krueger

PACS Internship Award

Media El Tayara, Jacob

Gaudaur, Kenneth Hildebrand, Maria Oliver, Deborah Shorinds, Kayleigh Swanson, Rachel Zammit

Peter C. and Elisabeth Williams Memorial Fund Scholarship

Kieran Klassen, Emily Schmidt

Lina Wohlgenut Award

Maria Oliver

Karin Packull Anabaptist Studies Award

Katie Steckly

Jacob Andres Achievement Scholarship

Luke Reed

Dorothy E. Bechtel Award

Briar Hunter

College Anniversary Legacy Award

Amelia Baker, Jared Baribeau, Élise Devoie, Ryan Dunham, Jesse Friesen, Alex Gee, Robyn Gossen, Hannah Hill, Zoë Humphries, Elizabeth Ibrahim, Jessica Jones, Kieran Klassen, Angela Krone, Brooklyn Lester, Kathleen MacDonald, Lily Mikelsons, Katelyn Miller, Samantha Mills, Juan Montoya, Abby Neufeld Dick, Liam Palmer, Lucas Palmer, Eric Rempel, Rebecca Rossi, Lily Roth, Kyla Tanner, Jessalyn Teed, Shania Trepanier, Staci Weber, Sarah Wright

Eby Leadership Award

David Cox, Matthew Lindsay, Sarah MacKeil

Alice Eisen Leadership Award

Jared Baribeau, Luna Lu, Remi Marchand

Good Foundation Scholarship

James Loewen, Aaron Shantz, Jonathan Smith, Rachel Trites

Grebel Student Award

Loren Janzen, Jessica Jones, Kieran Klassen, Rebecca Osborne

Hildebrand Family Award

Ryan Dunham, Keren Rashish, Anneke Sears-Stryker, William Turman

Robin Coupland Jutzi Scholarship

Amelia Baker, Andrew Welsh

Marpeck Leadership Award

Richard Cunningham, River Wong

Matching Mennonite Congregational Student Aid

Katie Bentz, Lynea Brubacher Kaethler, Loren Janzen, Hannah Klassen, Emily Kornelsen, Anna Kuepfer, Ryan Martin, Sam Meyer-Reed, Juan Montoya, Daniel Penner, Kelsey Ramseyer, Aaron Ruby, Bobby Soosaar, Haley Staller, Isaac Thiessen, Tyrone Winfield, Jesse Yantzi

MCEC Bible Quizzer of the Year

Staci Weber

Out of Province Mennonite Entrance Award

Jacob Rudy-Froese

David Regier Student Award

Caleb Barber, Noah Janzen, Craig Petersen, Sara Reimer, Eric Rempel

Lucinda Robertson Scholarship

Nathan Bush, Erin MacDonald

Rockway Mennonite

Collegiate Diploma Award

Connor Huxman, Hannah Klassen, Jonathan Klassen, Spencer Kschesinski, Joanna Loepf Thiessen, Daniel Martin, Aaron Ruby, Bobby Soosaar, Lukas Winter

Sauer Family Award

Jenny Farlow, Michelle Truong

George E. and Louise Schroeder Award

Mika Driedger, Jacob Stere

Spirit of Generosity Award

Alexandra Siebert

Student Council Award

Melissa Prickaerts, Lydia Schonherr, Jessalyn Teed

Stauffer Entrance Award

Juan Montoya, Kelsey Ramseyer

Stauffer Student Council

President Award

Abby Neufeld Dick

Upper Year Residence Award

Joel Becker, Michelle Poon, Ingira Reimer, Katie Steckly

Volunteerism Residence Entrance Award

Daniel Betres, Chelsea Campbell

Joan Weber Award

Angela Krone, Jesse Yantzi

Nathan Paul Krueger Wiebe Award

River Wong

Shantz Travel Fund

MCC TOOLS and MDS trip participants

Global Conflict Management and Transformation Award

Muhammad Khan

Vic and Rita Krueger Family MPACS Award

Adam Moreash

MPACS Internship

Hari KC Bahadur, Adam Moreash, Vikramveer Suagh

MPACS Student Support

Shinjita Alam, Amanda Bellefeuille, Kennishia Boahene, Jacqueline Boychuk, Chinenye Chukwuma-Nwuba, Aislynn Cooper, Issa Ebombolo, Maya Ewert, Olivia Fullerton, Hari KC Bahadur, Muhammad Khan, Nolan Kraszkiewicz, Menke Meijer, Adam Moreash, Erin Nearing, Ifeanyi Ogwuru, Aly Ostrowski, Nirupama Sharma Paudyal, Crista Renner, Fiorella Rojas Jaramillo, Michael Southcott, Vikramveer Suagh, Katherine Weaver-Rutten, Asma Yaqoob

Lina Wohlgenut Award

Issa Ebombolo

Rotary Peace Scholarship Award

Issa Ebombolo, Muhammad Khan

WXN Yousafzai Award

Chinenye Chukwuma-Nwuba

Landau Family Scholarship

Kathleen Wright

Rotary Peace Scholarship Award

Eric Boynton, Nicole Schlichte-Chan

Church Support

Shari Nash, Danielle Raimbault

Magdalena Coffman Scholarship

Joy DeVito, Colleen Dotzert, Cheryl Robitaille, Elijah Tracy

Full Time TS Tuition Award

Faraj Alhajemimi, Stuart Blyde, Jonathan Brubacher, Jakob Bursey, Stephanie Chandler Burns, Joy DeVito, Colleen Dotzert, Julie Eby, Thomas Fisher, Stephen Kennedy, Maxwell Kennel, Zacharie Klassen, Erika Mills, Bryan Moyer Suderman, Shari Nash, Lisa Obirek, Alvis Pettker, Danielle Raimbault, Michael Shehan, Neil Thomas, Heike Walker, Mesfin Zeme

Grad Student Support Fund

Faraj Alhajemimi, Tyler Campbell, Chalsi Eastman, Shari Nash

J.H. Janzen Award

Jakob Bursey, Erin Huber, Michael Shehan, Margaret Van Herk

Out-of-Province Theological Studies Tuition Support

Tyler Campbell, Chalsi Eastman, Elijah Tracy

Jane Plas Scholarship

Julie Eby, Elijah Tracy

A. James Reimer at TMTCA Award

Allison Murray

Reimer Scholarship in Theological Studies

Joy DeVito, Bryan Moyer Suderman

Clifford Snyder Memorial Bursary

Stuart Blyde, Michael Shehan, Mesfin Zeme

Stephen Family Theological Studies Award

Faraj Alhajemimi, Shari Nash

Theological Studies Award for MCEC Pastors

Jonathan Brubacher, Norman Dyck, Mollee Moua, Joshua Penfold

Theological Studies

Entrance Award

Mollee Moua, Shari Nash, Margaret Van Herk

Women of MCEC

Theological Studies Award

Stephanie Chandler Burns, Mollee Moua, Shari Nash, Danielle Raimbault

Grebel Fund Hits Goal!

For the 20th straight year, Grebel donors have responded generously to support our program expenses and student aid through the annual Grebel Fund. As of April 30 we received over \$360,000 from 426 donors. These donations provide a strong foundation for the College's finances by supporting program expenses that are not covered by tuition or government funding. They also provide Student Services and our academic departments with extra funding for student awards.

"We are thrilled by this level of loyal and generous support for our students and programs" remarked Susan Schultz Huxman.



Susan Schultz Huxman with Mervin and Mary Ellen Good, and Fred Martin

May is "Leave a Legacy" Month

Many supporters of the College have arranged a "Legacy Gift" through gifts of life insurance or bequests in estates. At Grebel, these gifts are directed towards permanent assets, either for building projects like our recent academic building, or for endowments. Currently we have over \$6 million invested in endowments where the capital is not spent, and annual earnings are used to support scholarships or program expenditures (like the Ralph and Eileen Lebold Endowment for pastoral training in our Theological Studies program).

Mary Ellen and Mervin S. Good, of London, have been long-time supporters of Mennonite educational institutions and have had five* of their grandchildren live at Grebel. As a financial planner, Merv is aware of the importance of using money wisely. He and Mary Ellen wanted to ensure that their family values would be reflected through their assets. In order to arrange this, the Goods established a scholarship endowment at Grebel to assist future students to participate in leadership roles in the residence program.

The Goods established this endowment with an initial gift in 2014 and added to it recently. However, in working with Mennonite Foundation of Canada, they have made arrangements for a percentage of their estate to come to the College as a bequest. Those funds will be added to this endowment. This is wonderful way for recipients of the "Good Family Residence Award" to receive financial support from a family who values the role Grebel will play in the future—a true legacy gift!

**Part of the family legacy are five grandchildren, now alumni: Caleb Gingrich (BASC '12), Rachel Gingrich (WLU '14), Sarah Winter (AHS '10), Tyler Good (BSC '14), and Michelle Good (BSC '16).*

For information about making your "Legacy Gift" contact Fred W. Martin, Director of Advancement at 519-885-0220 x24381 or fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca. uwaterloo.ca/grebel/legacygiving



Were you a donor to the Next Chapter Campaign? If so, watch for an invitation in the mail to a special "Thank you" event—it will include fireworks! This event will be a small way of thanking supporters of this amazing campaign that raised over \$6.4 million for our new academic facilities!



MPACS Impact Award

Morgan Grainger (BMATH '09) was an active student at Grebel and served as Student Council president in 2008. As a result of his faith and passion for peace studies, Morgan established an endowed scholarship award with a major gift in January. This award will support international students in the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies program.

"We are thrilled with this award," said PACS director Lowell Ewert. "We have so many good applicants from overseas, but don't have sufficient financial resources to assist them. This gift will make a real impact to address this need."

"I'm very pleased to be able to support the PACS program with this gift," said Morgan. "As a student, PACS introduced me to new ideas and broadened my perspective, so I'm excited that international students will have the opportunity to learn at Grebel and become advocates for peace in diverse contexts."

This award is invested in Grebel's endowment portfolio and \$5,000 will be ready to be awarded in 2017.



Lowell Ewert and Morgan Grainger



The Spiritual in Music

BY NICOLE SIMONE

In March, Conrad Grebel University College and the Grand Philharmonic Choir were honoured to welcome Sir James MacMillan, one of the world's foremost living composers, as the 2016 Rodney and Lorna Sawatsky Visiting Scholar. Sir James MacMillan is a Scottish composer and conductor most known for his sacred choral works. MacMillan's lecture on March 1, entitled "The Spiritual in Music," was both engaging and thought-provoking.

MacMillan is an eloquent—and occasionally humorous—speaker. He drew on a vast range of references, both musical and literary, to explore the relationship between the spiritual and the arts. An overarching theme of the lecture was the place of religious works in an increasingly secularized culture, and the question of whether using material rooted in religion limits the scope of the work or hinders innovation in the art form. MacMillan, along with many others, argues against this view; quoting poet Michael Symmons Roberts, "the relationship between creative freedom and religious belief is far from limiting. Most of these writers and composers would argue on the contrary that their religious faith was an imaginative liberation."

An example of this was English poet William Blake. MacMillan spoke of Blake's work and the criticism of it from other writers such as T. S. Eliot, who believed that Blake's rejection of tradition and the invention of his own religious ideas, "was a distraction from the vocation of writing original poetry." Quoting Eliot, "the concentration resulting from a

framework of mythology and theology and philosophy is one of the reasons why Dante is a classic, and Blake only a poet of genius."

MacMillan went on to discuss the current culture in which the religious framework is often rejected. One of the most interesting parts was his discussion of English composer Edward Elgar. MacMillan spoke of the frequent downplaying of Elgar's religious beliefs and the public's reluctance to acknowledge his Catholic upbringing in order for his music to be more palatable and "safe" for British audiences.

MacMillan concluded with highlighting parallels between music and spirituality. Music, which many refer to as the most spiritual of the art forms, can have transformative powers and has the ability to change people's lives.

MacMillan welcomed questions from the audience after the lecture, which prompted the discussion of topics such as the frequently reported death of classical music, the relationship between ethics, morality, and classical music, and even the problematic term "classical" music itself.

As a music student, it was exciting to hear the insights of this renowned composer and conductor, especially in the links he drew to material studied in classes at Grebel. For example, MacMillan made several references to the spiritual nature of music by twentieth-century composers such as John Cage, particularly his famous 4' 33". This piece, in which the performer is instructed to not play their instrument and let there be four

minutes and thirty-three seconds of silence, was originally called Silent Prayer. Though it can sometimes be hard to identify in more modern, experimental music, many of these composers never gave up their "search for the sacred."

In addition to his lecture, MacMillan met with faculty and students, and spent much of his time in rehearsals with the University of Waterloo Chamber Choir, the Grand Philharmonic Choir, and Choir 21. The week culminated in a joint concert with these groups featuring MacMillan's music, conducted by MacMillan himself.

Listen to the lecture at grebel.ca/sawatsky

Nicole Simone is a fourth-year student pursuing a Joint Honours Major in Music and Systems Design Engineering.



The Rodney and Lorna Sawatsky Visiting Scholar Lecture was established in 2004 to honour Rodney's tenure and Lorna's involvement at Conrad Grebel University College. Above, Lorna Sawatsky stands with Sir James MacMillan.

C. Henry Smith Peace Lecture

In January, Grebel alumna Dr. Rebecca Janzen (BA '07), assistant professor of Spanish at Bluffton University, presented the C. Henry Smith Peace Lecture (a lectureship sponsored by Bluffton University and Goshen College.) She discussed Mexican perceptions of Low German-speaking Mennonites and examined the ways these conservative Mennonites are represented in Mexican popular culture throughout the 20th and early 21st century. Professor Janzen argued that by better understanding how Mexicans understand Mennonites, we can think about ways to build bridges between this religious minority and the broader society.

Listen to the lecture at uwaterloo.ca/grebel/events/lecture-series/special-lectures

Bechtel Lectures in Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies

In early February, Dr. Janneken Smucker presented the Bechtel Lectures in Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies, giving two engaging lectures on Amish and Mennonite quilts and Hmong textiles, delivered at a Mennonite Studies fundraising dinner and a public lecture. At the dinner, Dr. Smucker explored the diverse output of Amish quilt makers. She challenged cultural assumptions while placing this beloved tradition in historical context, demonstrating just how hard it is to answer the question, "What makes an Amish quilt Amish?" At the evening lecture, she discussed how the distinct needlework traditions of Amish/Mennonite and Hmong needleworkers entered the consumer marketplace and how they unexpectedly intersected, resulting in both cultural tensions and expressive adaptations. Janneken is a fifth generation Mennonite quilt maker and is author of *Amish Quilts: Crafting an American Icon* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013). As assistant professor of history at West Chester University in Pennsylvania, she specializes in digital history and American material culture. Listen to the lectures at grebel.ca/bechtel

Benjamin Eby Lecture

Dr. Troy Osborne presented the annual Benjamin Eby Lecture on March 31, introducing a full house to "The Bottle, the Dagger, and The Ring: Church Discipline and Dutch Mennonite Identity in the Seventeenth Century." The Grebel professor looked at 150 years of church discipline in Amsterdam to uncover the Mennonites' changing place in the society of the Dutch Republic during its "Golden Age." As the Dutch Mennonites disciplined their members, they created a public reputation as obedient subjects that they then used on behalf of repressed Anabaptists in other parts of Europe. A professor of History and Theological Studies at Grebel, Dr. Osborne is a historian whose research and teaching interests center generally on Mennonite history and the Reformation, particularly on the development of the Dutch Anabaptist tradition. His research uses discipline records and political appeals to trace the development of a Mennonite identity within the Dutch Republic that extended transnationally across Europe. Listen to the lecture at grebel.ca/eby



Leah Reesor (BA '08) (left) and Jacquie Harms (WLU '07) (right) visit with Rebecca Janzen (middle). The trio met when they lived in residence together at Grebel.



Bruce Bechtel, Janneken Smucker, Deb Shapansky (BA '89), and Marlene Epp visit after the lecture. Bruce and Deb's father, Lester Bechtel, established the lectureship in 2000.



Practical Theology

The Conrad Grebel University College Board of Governors has enthusiastically approved the recommendation to hire **Carol Penner** as Assistant Professor of Practical Theology.

“The Theological Studies department is excited about the impressive background that Carol brings to our program,” said Troy Osborne, Acting Director. “Her academic background and experience leading congregations will shape the theological training of our students in profound ways.” Teaching in the area of practical theology is becoming increasingly important as students are searching out graduate programs in Canada to prepare them for ministry.

“After pastoring for many years, I welcome the opportunity to reflect academically on what leadership means in Anabaptist churches,” said Carol. “The Grebel community is well equipped to resource the next generation of ministry leaders.”



Carol is well known to Grebel, having taught courses in Theological Studies on campus and at the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre on behalf of Grebel. She completed a PhD in

Theology at the University of St. Michael's College in 1999, where she focused her teaching and research on feminist theology and violence against women.

In ministry, Carol first worked at Welcome Inn in Hamilton, then spent almost 10 years in ministry at The First Mennonite Church in Vineland, Ontario. In 2014 she became senior pastor at Lendrum Mennonite Brethren Church in Edmonton.

“I am thrilled to be returning to the Grebel community; it's a place I've always felt at home. I've been an associate student, a sessional lecturer, a board member and even a parent, as our daughter Katie lived at Grebel. When I was pastoring in MCEC, Grebel was a frequent destination for resources and events and I look forward to returning this September.”

Carol will be fulfilling some of Marianne Mellinger's role, who is retiring in June.



Making Things Strange

BY ARIFEEN CHOWDHURY, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo

In his biblical studies courses at Conrad Grebel University College, Professor **Derek Suderman** says his goal is to “make things strange.” He does this because many students enrol in his courses with pre-existing assumptions about the biblical scriptures, whether they are coming from a religious background or not. It can be difficult for them, he says, to recognize the limitations of the world view they have grown up with, just as it's hard for a fish to realize that it lives in water. But it's only after doing so that students can start to see the biblical texts more authentically, recognizing the perspective of the unfamiliar ancient cultures that produced them. Interacting with the scriptures in this way “gives students a mirror to look at their own contemporary culture...they're confronted with another possibility, an awareness that people haven't always thought the way we think.”

Suderman believes that this ability to assume alternative perspectives is important in all academic disciplines. Often, he says, the scholars or researchers who make a breakthrough in a discipline are the ones who can step outside of it and place it in a larger context. Being able to see things from someone else's perspective was also central to Suderman's work as a Conflict Resolution trainer in Colombia and in penitentiaries with the John Howard Society in Manitoba, prior to coming to Waterloo nine years ago.

Suderman doesn't use much technology when he teaches. He relies instead on tried-and-true learning activities such as group discussion and think-pair-share. One of his most effective strategies involves role-playing: he identifies an issue embodied in a passage of scripture, and then divides his class into two groups, with each group taking a different side. The wrinkle, though, is that the students can only draw upon arguments and evidence that would have been available to the original biblical writers. This proves to be a great equalizer between students, and also forces them to look at the material from a different perspective than they would have initially.

When Suderman assigns readings in his courses he also provides students with guiding questions so that they read with more purpose and focus. Most of these assigned readings are from primary texts—the Hebrew Bible and New Testament—because he wants students to engage with them directly, rather than merely read what others have said about them. The historical and cultural context for those readings often comes in the form of his lectures.

Helping his students see the relevance of ancient texts is something Suderman does by drawing contemporary analogies. The messianic theme of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, for example, might seem rather remote to students until he points out the same theme in blockbusters such as *The Matrix*, *Hunger Games*, and *Lord of the Rings*.

Of course none of these teaching strategies and learning activities matter, says Suderman, unless his students—who come from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, agnostic, and other backgrounds—experience the classroom as a safe place, a space where they can ask any question, from any perspective. Judging from comments made by his students—“He will blow your mind with his insights,” “Get ready to have your brain broken, in a good way!”—Suderman is very successful in creating a learning culture where students are eager to be challenged.

Grebel President accepts call from EMU

At its April 12 meeting, the Board of Governors learned that Conrad Grebel University College president, **Susan Schultz Huxman**, had accepted a call to become the president of Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

“It is not easy for me to consider leaving Grebel—a school that I love and that is thriving. But this invitation to serve EMU, an exceptionally innovative and healthy Mennonite institution back in the States, is an attractive match, professionally and personally, both for my husband Jesse and me.”

“We are obviously saddened by this news which comes early in Susan’s second term as Grebel president,” said Board Chair, Geraldine Balzer. “However, we understand the possibilities that EMU offers her. Susan is a strong believer in Mennonite education and the opportunity to be president of an independent Mennonite university will offer her new challenges.”

Since Susan came to Grebel from Wichita State University in 2011, Grebel completed a successful capital campaign to expand its academic facilities and partnered with Mennonite Savings and Credit Union to open a new Centre for Peace Advancement. During this time there were nine faculty searches to replace retiring faculty and new positions were added. Grebel also celebrated its 50th anniversary.

“I am so very grateful to have been given this amazing opportunity to serve Conrad Grebel in a pivotal period in its history and to help advance its distinctive and attractive mission ‘to seek wisdom, nurture faith, and pursue peace in service to church and society,’” said Schultz Huxman. “Together, we have accomplished some extraordinary changes in this half-decade.”

“As a gifted communicator, President Schultz Huxman has served a key role at this point in our history and Grebel is well-positioned to move forward,” said Fred Redekop, former board chair. “The board has actively worked with her, along with faculty and staff, to create a Strategic Visioning plan. ‘Extending the Grebel Table’ will provide direction for the College beyond 2020. We have been privileged to have Susan work alongside us and lead the College as we continue to offer an Anabaptist perspective on post-secondary education.”

EMU, the largest Mennonite liberal arts university in North America, will be celebrating its centennial in 2017-18. It is anticipated that Schultz Huxman will begin her role as its ninth president on January 1, 2017. She will finish her formal duties for Grebel at the October AGM. Grebel’s former dean, Jim Pankratz, has accepted the invitation to serve as interim president.



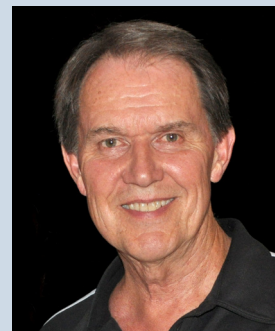
Interim President

The Conrad Grebel University College Board of Governors is pleased to announce that former Grebel dean, Jim Pankratz, has accepted the invitation to serve as Interim President at the College. The transition will commence this fall around the time of the College’s annual general meeting on October 1.

“As academic dean of Conrad Grebel University College, Jim Pankratz provided strong leadership of the academic program and mentored faculty,” said board chair Geraldine Balzer. “His commitment to the college, his knowledge of Grebel, the University of Waterloo, Mennonite higher education and the Mennonite Church landscape, will provide strong leadership while the board engages in a presidential search. We are grateful to Jim and Goldine for serving the College in this leadership role during their retirement.”

Pankratz served as the College’s dean from 2006 until his retirement in 2014. Prior to that time he was in Fresno, California at the Mennonite Brethren Seminary and served as president of Concord College during the time of the creation of Canadian Mennonite University.

While at Grebel, Pankratz directed the Theological Studies program and taught graduate courses on the relationship of Christianity to other faiths. His present research focuses on the interaction of Mennonite missionaries with the religions and cultures of India during the twentieth century.



“Goldine and I have a deep commitment to Grebel and rich friendships here,” said Pankratz. “I hope that I can serve and lead in a way that inspires and empowers Grebel during this time of transition.”

“Jim was very highly regarded for his vision and leadership when he served as academic dean, and we look forward to working with him again,” said Lowell Ewert, faculty representative to the Board.

A search committee will be struck for a new president at the June board meeting.

Faculty News

Grebel faculty are active in the community and the wider world, speaking at churches, facilitating workshops, and attending and presenting at conferences. Listed below are some of our recent faculty publications and activities. Complete listings are available at uwaterloo.ca/grebel/faculty

JENNIFER BALL is a member of Girl Rising K-W, and was on the organizing committee that planned the public screening of the *Girl Rising* documentary on March 11, 2016 at Kitchener Public Library. Almost 200 people were present and about 60 stayed afterward for small Circle discussions.

ALICIA BATTEN published the article “Honor and Shame in the NT,” on Bible Odyssey. She also worked on a Korean edition of a 2009 book with Paulist Press: *What are They Saying about the Letter of James?*

MARLENE EPP was a presenter on panel, “Understanding the Refugee Crisis: Historical, Global, and Local Perspectives,” organized by the Faculty of Arts at UW and hosted by Kitchener Public Library, March 15, 2016. Her article “Peppernuts and Anarsa: Food, Religion, and Ritual” was published in *Anabaptist Witness*, vol. 2, no. 2 (November 2015): 87-90.

LOWELL EWERT contributed the article “Should the Church Care about International Law?” to Steve Heinrichs’ *Wrongs to Rights: How Churches can Engage the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, published by Mennonite Church Canada in March 2016. Lowell was appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Pakistani Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies*. This is a semiannual journal developed by the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Peshawar, Peshawar, Pakistan.

NATHAN FUNK served as an academic panelist for the conference on “Religion and Global Citizenship: Can Faith Be a Force for Peace?,” March 11, 2016 at Wilfrid Laurier University, sponsored by the Department of Religion and Culture and the Department of Global Studies.

PAUL HEIDEBRECHT, with Tania Del Matto, facilitated a workshop on “Experience Incubators: Best Practices for Supporting Social Innovators” at the Ashoka U Exchange, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana on February 26, 2016. His article “Incubating peace: Making space for the Spirit to move” appeared in *Canadian Mennonite* 19/23 (November 23, 2015): 4-6.

KENNETH HULL had an article published: “Unity by Inclusion’: James Edmund Jones, *Canadian Churchman*, and the Creation of *The Book of Common Praise* (1908)” in *Worship* 90 (January 2016), 45-65. He conducted the Bach *Christmas Oratorio*, with the Spiritus Ensemble in Waterloo on December 13, 2015.

ED JANZEN led worship services at Nithview Home and at Schlegel Villages University Gates.

MARIANNE MELLINGER presented at KW’s Third Age Learning Forum on Spirituality and Wellbeing in Older Adults as part of a winter series on “Living Well in Retirement.”

REINA NEUFELDT presented two papers exploring dimensions of the ethics of peacebuilding at the International Studies Association Conference in Atlanta, GA, on March 18 and 19, 2016. She also participated in a one-day meeting of the Peacebuilding Evaluation Consortium advisory group in Washington, DC on February 26, 2016.

DEREK SUDERMAN was invited to present on “Hearing Voices of Lament as Cries for Shalom” at the War, Peace, and the Struggle for Shalom Symposium, ACTS Seminars, Trinity Western University, Abbotsford BC on November 14, 2015.

MAISIE SUM presented on new research in the area of music, health and wellbeing at the British Forum for Ethnomusicology Annual International Conference in Kent, UK on April 14-17, 2016. Her paper is titled: “Healing on the Margins: Rhythm and Repetition in Moroccan Gnawa Music.” On March 11, 2016 Maisie, with members of the Grebel Gamelan, gave a short performance, lecture demonstration, and a series of workshops for Grades 1 to 6 Presentation and full day of workshops for all students of Sandowne Public School in Waterloo.

MARK VUORINEN was a conductor of R. Murray Schafer’s *Apocalypse* released by ANALEKTA, February 2016. He also conducted at several public performances including Handel’s *Messiah* and Bach’s *Mass in B minor* with the Grand Philharmonic Choir and Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony.



TREVOR BECHTEL’s two-year contract as dean and associate professor of religious studies and theology ends in June 2016. Trevor spent the Winter 2016 term teaching, supervising graduate student theses, and serving as the interim director of the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre. Trevor was a leader in “elevating distinctive programs,” a key priority in the College’s 2016-2020 strategic plan. His accomplishments included initiating new recruitment measures for Theological Studies, collaborating in the creation of the Anabaptist Learning Workshop, and paving the way for a new faculty position in practical theology. President Susan Schultz Huxman remarked, “I thank Trevor for his service to Grebel and the Mennonite Church. His gifts and expertise, especially in teaching and student-centred initiatives, are widely affirmed.”

MARLENE EPP, professor of history and peace and conflict studies at Grebel, was named interim dean.



Ruth Martin



Elizabeth Gerber

Retirements

Over the Spring 2016 term, Food Services said goodbye to two long-time staff. Elizabeth Gerber retired in January after 25 years of cooking in the Grebel kitchen. She was involved with 75 term-end banquets and 900 community suppers, and baked at least 182,000 cookies! Her co-workers describe her as dedicated, humble, hard working, always willing to help, caring, and an excellent baker with a tender heart. Elizabeth is systematic and organized—someone who can get an awful lot of work done in a day. Cheri Otterbein, food services manager, sent Elizabeth off with the traditional kitchen spatula salute (as seen above) and this wish for the future: “Remember the past with fondness, look to the future with eagerness and live each moment to the fullest.” Keep an eye out for

Elizabeth as she tours the countryside on the back of her husband John’s motorcycle!

Ruth Martin held the distinction of being the longest serving member of the kitchen team before she retired in April after almost 34 years of service—an impressive achievement. Ruth helped prepare for many Grebel events, coffee breaks, and receptions, 100 term-end banquets, 1,089 community suppers and lots of wedding receptions, Christmas parties, and retirement dinners. First impressions of Ruth are often that she is quiet and serious, but the twinkle in her eye lets you know that she’s up to something mischievous. At Ruth’s farewell, Cheri remarked, “We will miss you, Ruth. But at this time we celebrate the changes that are in store for you, and the opportunities to explore new things. More

opportunities to work on your flower beds and take another bus trip or two. And occasionally to do nothing. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for the time and dedication of your many years of service to the college.”

Food Services welcomes Susan Bauman (right) as a new cook.



Staff Transitions

Tamara Shantz (BA ’03) was on a leave of absence and has decided not to return to Grebel. She is finishing a spiritual direction program and will pursue opportunities in leading spiritual exercises and other training programs in spiritual direction. Tamara was the College’s first Student Services program assistant and helped to shape and define the role. She worked with many students, getting them settled into university and residence life, and organized numerous serving and learning trips. We will miss her! Chris Brnjas is currently covering this role.

Jessica Scott (BA ’13) (far right) worked as Grebel’s recruitment and conference coordinator beginning in August 2014 to cover Rebecca Gibbins’ secondment to Waterloo Unlimited. Jessica embraced this role with great vigour and did a wonderful job in attracting students to Grebel’s academic and residence programs. Rebecca (BA ’02) (right) has returned to her role at Grebel and is already preparing for a heavy summer of conferences.



Campus Hosts

Michelle (BA ’11) and Caleb Jackett (BA ’11) (pictured at right) will complete their term as Campus Hosts this summer. They have served the College with energy and enthusiasm and their presence as Campus Hosts will be missed!



Rylan and Lynn Skelly (pictured below) will be Grebel’s next Campus Hosts. Lynn is a former Grebel resident and 4th-year Social Development Studies student. Rylan is completing his 3rd year of in Religious Studies and has taken numerous Grebel courses. Having worked in student housing, children and youth camps and UW Athletics, they bring good experience in hospitality work, managing interpersonal relations and crisis management.



People



For the past few years, **Katie Honck** (BA '12) has been completing apprenticeships to become an Equity stage manager. Katie has worked in various theatres around Southern Ontario, including the Stratford Festival, Tarragon Theatre, Opera Atelier, and Thousand Islands Playhouse. Currently she is an assistant stage manager on *As You Like*

It and *John Gabriel Borkman* at the Stratford Festival for the 2016 season. Katie has had the opportunity to work on a variety of productions, including musicals and operas. In between contracts, she has enjoyed working as an assistant stage manager with the Baroque ensemble *Tafelmusik*.

Greg Dick (BSc '93) is an author, trailblazing educator, and passionate advocate for scientific literacy. Since 2007 he has served as the Director of Educational Outreach at Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo where his leadership and entrepreneurial spirit have enabled international expansion of Perimeter's Outreach



programs. Through delivery of innovative public programming and development of award-winning educational resources, Greg and his team share the joy, mystery, and power of science with millions worldwide. He is the 2015 winner of the UWaterloo Faculty of Science Distinguished Alumni Award.

As a gift to Grebel, an ornate mirror was created by the husband of former kitchen staff person **Draga Franjic**. Draga is on long-term disability, but wanted to show her appreciation to the College for the enjoyable experience she had and



the opportunities that the college gave her for furthering her career in food services.

It was a pleasure to have Minister **Bardish Chagger**, (below, centre) MP visit Grebel for the Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support AGM in January. Here she chats with Peace and Conflict Studies students **Anneke Pries Klassen** and **Khadija Hamidzai**.



After graduating from Waterloo, **Matthew Attard** (BA '13) went to the University of Toronto for a Bachelor of Education in Music and Business. He is a teacher with the Peel District School Board, working towards a permanent position. Matthew also teaches private drum, guitar, and piano lessons at the Arcadia Academy of Music, as well as playing drums full time in his band Dan Daly. Dan Daly has been featured on the radio station 102.1 The Edge for the past two years in "The Edge: Next Big Thing," and have been invited to play the Canadian Music Week festival in Toronto in May 2016.



Peter Harder (BA '75) has been appointed as the Liberal government's leader in the Senate, named by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. He has served in the government for almost 30 years, including as deputy minister for five prime ministers and 12 ministers

in five departments, including Immigration, the Treasury Board, Industry, and Foreign Affairs. After retiring from public service in 2007, Peter worked as senior policy advisor at an international law firm.

Darren Brunk (BA '01) recently moved to Wellington, New Zealand with his family. Since leaving the Department of Foreign Affairs last year, he has been working on humanitarian operations with the United Nations during the West Africa Ebola response, and with Oxfam NZ, coordinating their response to the El Nino drought in Tonga. Darren is now the Humanitarian Coordinator at the Council for International Development, the principal coordination, advocacy and policy body for New Zealand development and humanitarian agencies.

In his new memoir, *Go Well: A Global Pilgrimage*, **Ron Mathies** tells the story of growing up in New Hamburg, Ontario, the son of Mennonite immigrants. He and his wife volunteered as teachers abroad with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) soon after their marriage. This experience influenced them profoundly, and he spent many more years committed to the work of MCC.

In March, Grebel participated in an "across the creek" alumni event at a Toronto Raptors game. Here, **Fred Martin** stands with St. Jerome's University dean **Scott Kline**, **Rachel Harder** (BA '00) and **Matthew Snider** (BSc '99) with their sons **Toby** and **Adam**, and **Megan Shore** (BA '99).



Six years after undertaking a Diploma on Peace and Conflict Studies at Grebel, **Rose Ong'ech** (DPCS '09) is still determined to continue working and planting seeds of peace in Kenya and beyond. She writes, "The diploma from Grebel provided a theoretical framework that has influenced my practical work with both communities in Kenya and beyond." In September 2015, Rose graduated from Moi University in Kenya with a BA in Sociology and works with Seeds of Peace Africa International as a Program Coordinator. SOPA International works along the borders of Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda with a major focus on peace and development programs. One of its successful initiatives is the Peace and Sports Program with pastoralist communities who experience violent conflicts instigated by cattle warriors. The photo above shows Rose (standing far left) with the Sports Leaders International Exchange program in Amsterdam in June 2015.

In December, **Kong Kie Njo** (BA '84) visited Grebel as part of a reality TV show that was filming his life in Canada over the last several decades.



He retraced some personally important places at the College that included playing hymns on the piano in the chapel and reuniting with his old roommate, **Savio Wong** (BAsc '84). In February,



Savio returned to Grebel to speak at a Community Supper about his experiences as a pacifist on recent battlefield tours in Europe.

Paul Penner (BA '83) visited with **Scott Roper** (BES '86) and **Ron Giesbrecht** (BSc '83) at Niagara College's semi-annual Caps, Corks and Forks event in the winter. In 2013, Ron joined the faculty at Niagara College's Canadian Food and Wine Institute.

Scott works at Brock University as project manager in campus planning, design and construction.





President **Susan Schultz Huxman** hosted a table of Grebel students, staff, alumni, and donors at the March International Women's Day dinner at Fed Hall.



Jim Penner (BA '85) was spotted in April accompanying the Waterloo Region District School Board Special Ed Choir. Jim has been involved with this enthusiastic choir for 10 years as the group has grown to 120 students who sing and sign each piece.



Leah (BA '08) and **Luke Reesor-Keller** (BAsC '08) visited Grebel with their new son **Isaac**. They are currently Mennonite Central Committee Country Reps in Nepal.

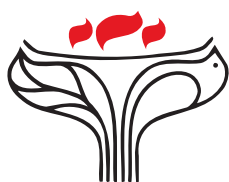
KEEP IN TOUCH!

Let's continue to fill up this People section!

Send us a note to share about your life since graduation. We'd love to hear about your adventures, career, family, retirement, babies, weddings, or general updates.

Email grebel@uwaterloo.ca

Conrad Grebel University College



REUNION

revisit. reunite. relive.



Do you recognize anyone in these photos? Remember these red hockey jerseys? Know what event Paul Penner is celebrating? Take a trip down memory lane on

Saturday, October 1 at 6:00 pm
for the '80s Era Grebel Alumni Reunion!

Hot hors d'oeuvres, beverages and cash bar. Live Band including: Brian Rudy '89, Steve Martin '88, Brent Klassen '90, Durrell Bowman '89 and Ken Stevens '89.

\$25/person. Registration opens this summer. grebel.ca/reunion



Calendar

Spring 2016

Stories in Art from Iraqi Kurdistan art exhibit

2016

Conchies Speak: Ontario Mennonites in Alternative Service archival exhibit

May 29, 2:30 PM

Grebel Family Bike Trek
Visit Grebel Alumni in KW with stops at Brubacher House, Little City Farm, and Berlin Bicycle Cafe.

uwaterloo.ca/grebel/bike-trek

June 2, 6:30 PM

Ralph and Eileen Lebold Endowment for Leadership Training Fundraising Banquet
The Messiness of Becoming People of God

June 9-12

Global Mennonite Peacebuilding Conference: A Conference and Festival

June 9, 7:30 PM

Voice for Peace Concert

June 11, 7:30 PM

Yellow Bellies: an Alternative History of WWII

June 12, 2:30 PM

Yellow Bellies: an Alternative History of WWII

July 7, 5:00 PM

Reception for Walter Klaassen in Saskatoon

October 1

Grebel's Annual General Meeting

October 1, 6:00 PM

'80s Era Grebel Alumni Reunion

November 3, 7:30 PM

Eby Lecture with Jeremy Bergen

uwaterloo.ca/grebel/events

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**GLOBAL
MENNONITE
PEACEBUILDING
CONFERENCE & FESTIVAL**

JUNE 9-12, 2016

The Global Mennonite Peacebuilding Conference and Festival includes special evening events. Thursday, June 9 at 7:30 pm, the public concert “Voices for Peace” features choirs, gamelan, and an original composition titled “Earth Peace” by Carol Ann Weaver, Professor Emerita of Music. Friday’s banquet features guest speaker Leah Gazan, a member of Wood Mountain Lakota Nation who teaches in the Faculty of Education at the University of Winnipeg. She is a well-known speaker who actively engages the broader public to stand in solidarity with indigenous communities. Saturday, June 11 at 7:30 pm brings the public premiere of “Yellow Bellies: An Alternative History of WW II,” a play by Theatre of the Beat on the theme of conscientious objection.

Thanks to St. Jacobs Country for sponsoring the Voices for Peace concert.



JOIN US!

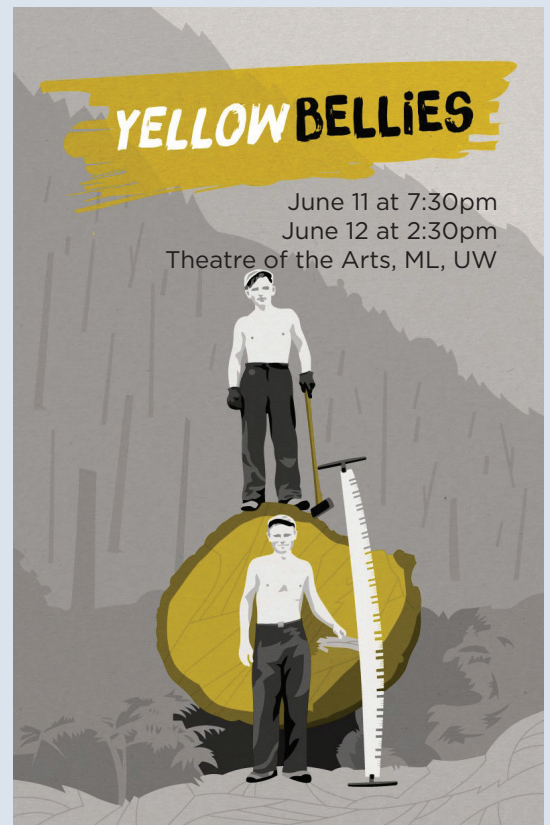
**The Global
Mennonite Peacebuilding
Conference & Festival**

welcomes you to buy tickets for our public events or to register for the conference.

Find more information at uwaterloo.ca/grebel/GMPC

**Voices for Peace: \$10
Yellow Bellies: \$20**

*Both concerts take place at
Theatre of the Arts, ML, UW*



Thanks to TourMagination for sponsoring the Yellow Bellies play.



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