

The BLAZER

CONNECTING ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF CMU

FALL 2022



The BLAZER

After a two-and-a-half-year hiatus from the full-length production of *The Blazer* through the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, I'm happy to mark the return of this magazine to a 32-page collection of news, stories, and inspiration. Even through the pandemic, the teaching, research, and service at CMU continued to inspire and equip students for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society. Having a front-row seat to witness all the good work and growth has been gratifying—there are many stories to tell and achievements to celebrate.

This issue marks the start of a new series that will consider CMU's four commitments, which form the cornerstones for all curricular and extracurricular pursuits. This review of the commitments will consider many of the societal and global issues—poverty, racism, climate change, elder care, and war to name a few—that have come to light in new and significant ways since “coronavirus” became a household term.

Over the pages that follow, you will read stories of alumni who are working through the church and other agencies to model invitational community to those who live on the margins.

What's striking about the concept of invitational community is the intentionality of integrating individuals from different backgrounds to create a safe space out of which deeper understanding and learning emerge.

In the context of a liberal arts education, invitational community is a CMU differentiator. It leverages the benefits of interdisciplinary learning, develops perspective, and cultivates a capacity for engaging differences and for critical thinking that equip one for post-graduate life.

As we draw into the final weeks of the 2022 calendar year and reflect upon the year that was and the one ahead, it's my hope that you'll find inspiration to find new ways to incorporate elements of invitational community into your own dailyness, no matter how small.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in CMU and its mission.

Kevin Kilbrei
Director, Communications & Marketing

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

An invitation to relationship

In present times we hear many calls to diversity, inclusion, and equity. These calls convey a desire for radically transformed ways of being—not only to address injustices but indeed so that we all would be changed. Carried out through organizational policies as much as everyday habits of work and life, the call resonates with CMU's commitment to modelling invitational community. Yet we also recognize a friction surrounding the phrase “equity, diversity, and inclusion” in church and society at large. For some, the phrase confronts blindspots and sin in the church and elsewhere, and opens eyes to see, hearts to repent, bodies to heal, systems to change, and the lowly to be exalted—to quote Mary's Magnificat, Luke 1. For others the phrase represents a triumph of secularism over faith. Amid this friction, we need the will to hear what is at stake for one another,

« CMU is entrusted to invite one another into relationship across different starting places and standpoints. »

so that conflicting experiences become a productive, not a destructive, tension. CMU is entrusted to invite one another into relationship across different starting places and standpoints. Pray with us that we would honour what is at stake for others as we listen to each other's stories and seek to be community together. And, join with us too, as fellow travellers invited into relationship with Christ.



Hold in Common Project

Recently a friend of CMU presented me with an idea, a compelling, heartening, brilliant idea. Here it is: Would CMU do a study of what it means to hold things in common? Big things, like institutions, with many friends, alumni, and constituencies converging together as a diverse community of co-owners who do not as a whole hold formal mutual accountabilities with each other yet who collectively create capacity for institutions to fulfill their missions over time. The project would draw on many alumni, constituencies, and others with affiliation to CMU. The study's findings would work to strengthen the depth and range of grassroots ownership in the university and seek the wisdom of generations over time. Yet, the findings would matter far beyond CMU and apply to any organization that also is more like a “co-op charity” or “grassroots movement” than a function of government or of a singly-defined constituency.

CMU is taking her up on the idea. We invite your wonderings and wisdom in this study. Whether you are closely invested or more distantly connected to CMU, you are welcome to online focus group conversations in the heart of winter (Monday, January 16, 7:00-8:30 PM CST).

Watch for further details or sign up today at AdminAssistant@cmu.ca.

Peace and joy,
Cheryl Pauls
CMU President

Pushing financial research to include people on the margins

Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe | CMU Staff Writer

Jerry Buckland, Professor of International Development Studies at Menno Simons College, co-authored the book *Financial Vulnerability in Canada: The Embedded Experience of Households* with Brenda Spotton Visano, a professor in economics and public policy at York University. It was published in March by Palgrave Macmillan.

“The hope with the book was to contribute to the knowledge of financial vulnerability in Canada, because of the state of finances for many Canadians,” Buckland says.

His research project uses financial diaries, journals of financial purchases and transactions, to understand the finances of vulnerable Canadians and improve financial empowerment. Buckland got to know his participants and their financial patterns, struggles, and strengths by having weekly one-on-one conversations for a year; this work informed his contributions to the book.

The book aims “to discern the varied features of the multifaceted idea of financial vulnerability,” Buckland says. What leads to situations where people’s finances are deteriorating or at risk of crisis?

Buckland and Spotton Visano discovered a disconnect:



« What leads to situations where people’s finances are deteriorating or at risk of crisis? »

“For a lot of policy makers, their concern about financial vulnerability has to do with when that financial vulnerability will affect the economy,” Buckland says, “whereas the average low and modest middle-income person is not thinking about the consequences for the economy, but the consequences for themselves, for their well-being, their family, their communities.”

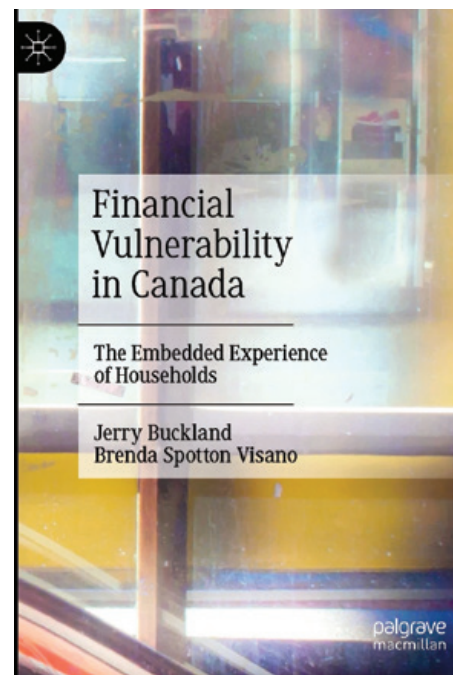
Buckland gives the example of the debt-to-income ratio, which has been rising steadily for 15 years. Policy makers

worry that if a factor like interest rates were to change drastically, affecting people significantly in debt, it would cause a recession. But that does not acknowledge that most with low and middle incomes seldom borrow from formal institutions like banks, which are reluctant to lend to those with considerable debt. Rather, they navigate finances through family, payday loans, and corner stores.

“We were trying to push the concept of financial vulnerability to include the experience of people who’ve been marginalized,” he says. “Just because people are low-income doesn’t mean they’re irrelevant.”

The book also explores the opposite of vulnerability, financial well-being, and its dependence on many elements, like social connections that offer support when people can’t get credit or loans from banks. Having a steady job provides not only regular income but also a livelihood asset, putting the individual in a better position to access further work and financial services.

“Many of our participants demonstrated a lot of resilience, but they live well below the poverty line. They need additional supports, and they will use those supports very effectively,” Buckland says. He hopes his new book will “inform policy makers about what would support more financial resilience.”



CMU bids farewell to stalwarts Gerald Gerbrandt and Harry Huebner

Myles Tiessen | CMU Staff Writer



Harry Huebner and Gerald Gerbrandt have been instrumental figures in Canadian Mennonite University’s history for over 50 years. Gerbrandt and Huebner worked side by side as the institution transitioned from Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC) to CMU. With Gerbrandt as President and Huebner as Academic Dean, the duo

helped expand and develop programming as CMU was in its early infancy. They now transition into full-time retirement, leaving behind an immeasurable legacy of leadership and discernment that CMU will greatly miss.

Gerbrandt will be remembered for his humble and considerate guidance at CMBC and CMU, creating a vibrant community within the context of Christian higher education. “During the CMBC era, the whole faculty met together for a few hours every week as we worked through the school’s agenda, leading to a strong sense of a close team among us,” says Gerbrandt. “Sometimes I quite miss those days.”

Huebner’s long and distinguished career at CMBC and CMU began in the early 1970s. His work as a professor, scholar, administrator, and influential figure in theology cannot be understated. He was also a dear friend to everyone who passed through the halls.

Both Gerbrandt and Huebner worked part-time as they slowly transitioned into retirement. During that time, their shared office became a space for social gatherings and relaxed conversation. CMU expresses profound thanks to the two for their many years of service and innumerable contributions to the university and its community.

CMU welcomes John Brubacher home

Myles Tiessen | CMU Staff Writer

There are recurring themes in science-fiction that have captivated the public imagination for generations. Nanotechnology, cellular regeneration, and genetic enhancements for eternal youth are all speculative theories better suited for a pulp novel rather than serious debate—or are they? What is stranger than fiction for any ordinary citizen is, for CMU’s Associate Professor of Biology John Brubacher, a daily reality.

Brubacher spent the past three years on a research leave working at the Morgridge Institute for Research at the University of Wisconsin (Madison), studying and analyzing freshwater planarians—tiny flatworms with unique regeneration abilities.

“You can take a single worm and cut it up into a dozen pieces, and each piece will redevelop all the parts it needs to be a full worm,” says Brubacher. He says that by studying planarians, he can learn more about tissue regeneration and repair—and possibly even apply it to other animals and humans.

To study these worms, Brubacher ended up streamlining a new process of developing nanobodies that involved a library of 500 million different yeast cells, microscopic fluorescent trackers, and magnets. “There are a number of ways I can imagine bringing this kind of work into teaching labs here at CMU,” says Brubacher.

He says he will introduce many of these new research tools in his upcoming Microbiology course this year. This course introduces students to the world of microorganisms and provides ample opportunities to learn and develop techniques for growing and identifying microbes. Brubacher says, “There are so many potential applications to bring nanobodies into the classroom, so stay tuned.”

In the meantime, CMU is happy to welcome Brubacher back home to CMU, where he continues to teach, inspire, and help students engage with the world in new and innovative capacities.



Modelling Invitational Community

Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe and Myles Tiessen | CMU Staff Writers



CMU tempers the individualism of our time by modelling and nurturing invitational communities. These diverse communities are places to learn together, and where people support one another, fostering compassion and hope.

This CMU commitment is personified in the following stories, highlighting the CMU alumni who serve the church and the broader community. The pastors in these stories provide safe spaces, give voice to the marginalized, and extend friendship to the lonely.

They are making a difference.
And we are grateful.

Congregation's welcome begins in sanctuary, extends to streets

Modelling invitational community starts right in the foyer at Hope Mennonite Church, where Lynell Bergen (CMBC '84) is pastor. The congregation is located in Winnipeg's West Broadway neighbourhood, where many struggle to access adequate housing, food, and other basic necessities.

The church has participated in outreach work in the surrounding area since its beginnings. It's one of the partners that form Crossways in Common, a collective of community-based organizations that share space and support each other in serving the people of West Broadway. They address needs of food, housing, safety, and employment, among others.

The multi-use building hosts Hope Mennonite Church's offices, and until recently was also the worship space for the congregation of around 150 people. Some of them are regular volunteers with the partner organizations, like 1JustCity's lunch program and drop-in centre.

But it's important to Bergen and her congregation that the work of being an invitational community start right at home, in their gatherings. "I think it means creating space for people, where they can feel safe and feel welcomed and feel valued...to be who they are," she says.

"Whether they're transitioning from one gender to another,



"The challenge is balancing invitation, which comes with risk, and safety."

whether that means we create large-print bulletins because they have a visual impairment...[we're] trying to meet people where they're at," she says, adding that they built another ramp to access their worship space and invited people to include their pronouns in the church directory.

It's not always simple, though. Bergen aims to leave the church's doors unlocked during worship services,

so that anyone can join. Yet the congregation meets in a neighbourhood where theft and drug use are more prevalent, which has sometimes led to uneasy encounters, and being a safe place for children is a priority. The challenge is balancing invitation, which comes with risk, and safety. "We're working at that balance and we're trying to do it together," she says.

Every time someone expresses their appreciation for the church community, Bergen is reminded how much it's worth it. It's also central to her faith: "As a Christian, of course I see Jesus doing that all the time, walking into places where no one else would go and welcoming, loving, and supporting all kinds of people."

Bergen, who has pastored at Hope Mennonite Church for 13 years, has long cared about inviting in those who are not the first to be invited. Prior to pastoring, she worked for Hope Centre Ministries, supporting people with disabilities and their inclusion in churches. She loves volunteering as a pastor at Camps with Meaning's camp programming for adults with disabilities.

She's careful to emphasize, though, that doesn't mean she's always good at it. "I'm often better at theoretically believing in inclusion than I am at putting it into practice consistently," Bergen says. "Being inclusive is a whole church project—others notice barriers that I don't see and invite us to do something about it."



Working on the margins to bring good news to the poor

"What is unique about Anabaptism is that we have the audacity to believe that Jesus said what he meant and meant what he said. If that's true about Anabaptism's core values and commitments, then Jesus' self-proclamation of anointing to bring good news to the poor is our anointing; there's no way around it," says Jonathan Neufeld, former pastor at Seattle Mennonite Church (SMC).

Jonathan and Melanie Neufeld (CMBC '95) spent 14 years working as community co-pastors for SMC, building community and ministry with people experiencing homelessness in Lake City, a neighbourhood northeast of downtown Seattle. The couple says their work, marked with companionship, love, and dialogue, followed the path cleared by Jesus; "Jesus worked on the margins, that's really important to understand. That is how we see our work as being important. It is doing God's work in the world," says Melanie Neufeld.



"I want to get people thinking about what it means to work on the margins and what it means to share radical hospitality."

In Seattle, the Neufelds and SMC joined forces with various denominations in the community when they created Lake City Partners, a non-profit based out of SMC. With the goal of ending homelessness, the organization provides a 24/7 shelter, medical respite, case management, and street outreach. Associated with Lake City Partners is the drop-in day centre, God's Li'l Acre, which provides laundry facilities, showers, a kitchen, and a food closet, among other trauma-informed resources.

Recently, the couple moved back to Manitoba, where Melanie took the Director of Mission Engagement position at Mennonite Church Manitoba. In her new role, Melanie





"It's the Christ-like hospitality that we're called to that sits at the core of One88 that makes a difference."

Working on the margins story continues...

says she looks forward to continuing working and supporting churches and the community.

"I'm preaching a lot [as the Director of Mission Engagement], and I'm sharing a lot of these stories of Seattle as a way to inspire and encourage congregations. I want to get people thinking about what it means to work on the margins and what it means to share radical hospitality," says Melanie.

As Jon and Melanie settle into the next chapter of their life in Manitoba, they hope to keep an open mind and heart and share in God's abundance. "The curiosity and openness can build a lot of connection and collaboration. And we just are bringing that spirit of curiosity where we are," says Jonathan.

Diverse education and work guides alum's community leadership

House of Friendship has a presence in every low-income neighbourhood in the Waterloo, ON region. It is a non-profit organization providing food, housing, addiction treatment, and neighbourhood support to more than 42,000 people every year.

Its Executive Director, John Neufeld (CMBC '95), says CMU provided the foundation for his work there. "CMU sparked my passion for [community] and why it matters, why community is important, and modelled what it could look like," he says.

Neufeld has been Executive Director at House of Friendship (HOF) for 13 years, overseeing approximately 300 staff and the organization's operations. After studying theology at CMBC, he studied social work and business, taking all the concepts and theories and trying to implement them in his leadership work. "It's been interesting because theology, social work, and business have all given me a different lens on invitational community," he says.

At CMBC, he felt like everyone had a place to belong



"Modelling that everyone's voices matter, and as a leader connecting with the people we serve, listening to people in the community...that is my role."

where their talents were maximized; community was the motto and priority. In social work courses, he learned about the barriers that exclude some people from community. Business studies gave him the tools to implement his ideas. He took "the challenge of studying at CMU and being taught about the upside-down kingdom... to develop the skills through social work and business on how to actually do that."

Neufeld previously worked with youth in the foster care system for 11 years. At HOF, he has more of a bird's eye view of invitational community and plays an important role in guiding it, rather than working amidst the action on the ground.

He says it is vital that the organization's welcoming ethos starts right within the staff. He spends half a day with all new HOF team members every few months, getting to know their interests, goals, and visions. "Modelling that everyone's voices matter, and as a leader connecting with the people we serve, listening to people in the community...that is my role,"



Neufeld says. "I'm trying to, along with our leadership team, foster a culture where these kinds of communities can be built."

He says the work of showing people they belong is personal to him. He was born in Russia and emigrated to Canada when he was seven. Being bullied and rejected because of where he grew up and the language he spoke is something he felt keenly as a young child. Neufeld's faith community was the one place he felt he belonged, where he was invited in and given opportunities to lead. He knows the power of being embraced by a community.

His work is to discern how to cultivate this at a macro level, with the people HOF serves across the city. "Invitational community should not be limited to the lucky, the select few," he says. "Invitational community is what we all crave as humans...to belong."

Downtown Winnipeg Church Offers Community and Comfort at Drop-In Centre

One88, a church located at 188 Princess Avenue just north of Winnipeg's Exchange District, has one goal: to care for people. For Lead Pastor Dave Ens (Concord College '93, CMU '18), that does not just mean the emotional and spiritual side, but the physical and material side as well.

Ens says the church provides safe and clean amenities for the unhoused population and people dealing with unstable housing. For that reason, One88 operates as a unique community hub, offering a daily drop-in centre six days a week and church services on Sunday. The drop-in centre is a safe, welcoming place to shower, do laundry, gather, enjoy meals, and relax.

"This is about being present in the midst of people who do not have the means to necessarily reciprocate, but we are still compelled by Christ's love to be present in these places," says Ens.

Ens says the idea of modelling invitational community is the very foundation of One88. "It's the Christ-like hospitality that we're called to that sits at the core of [One88] that makes a difference."

When One88 started 10 years ago, Ens says he was hesitant to run church services, "I don't want to superimpose something on a community and tell them what they need. [I wanted to] find out who we are together and do something that reflects the community."

As programming started to evolve, Ens and the team at One88 saw how well received the weekly Bible study sessions were and the church eventually created a more structured Sunday service.

Dave's daughter Lauren Ens is a current CMU student who sees the link between the practical work of One88 and her studies at CMU. Earlier this year, Lauren appeared in the 2022 Spring at CMU program saying, "I've been thinking about discipleship and what it means to walk alongside someone well." She references a course called Discipleship in the New Testament, which explores the various perspectives on discipleship to understand their implications for followers of Jesus today. "[That course] has been really impactful for me as I live it out in my church."

Dave Ens says One88 approaches their work with a "relationship first" mindset. That means sharing in all the mess and beauty of the community. He says, "to work alongside the spirit of God in those spaces is remarkable to see."



With Gratitude for You

Thanks to the hundreds of gifts from alumni and other supporters of CMU, our students are thriving.

Your generosity has allowed CMU students to manage the ever-increasing costs of their education through overall tuition offset as well as access to financial aid through bursaries and scholarships. Your gifts provide critical support well beyond sustaining operations (although they do this too!). The contributions you make to CMU provide essential

resources for student advising and career development, opportunities for spiritual growth, student athletics, Indigenous programming, international student support, and much much more.

Thank you for all the many ways you contribute to the realization of the CMU mission. The role you play in our learning community is central to our vibrancy and sustainability as an institution.



CMU Report to the Community

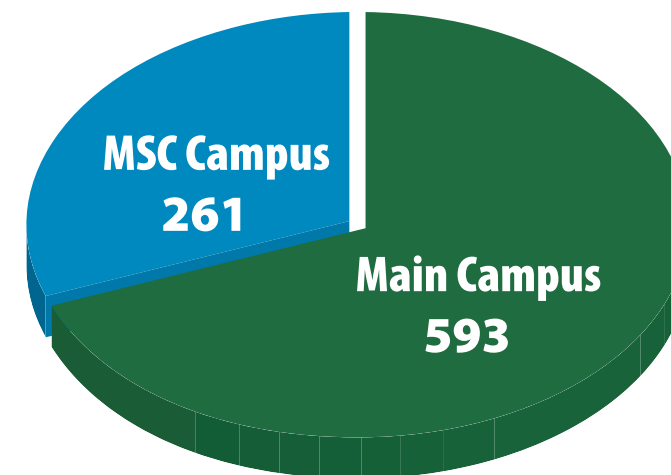
It is with gratitude to God that we acknowledge the support, engagement, and generosity of the individuals and communities that surround CMU—our alumni, our donors, and our churches—all who make it possible to sustain our mission. This report tells the story of the richness of these relationships

and provides you with a snapshot of our 2021/22 student enrolments, and an overview of CMU's financial and giving picture.

Thank you for your commitment to CMU and the many ways you contribute to its ongoing health and vibrancy.

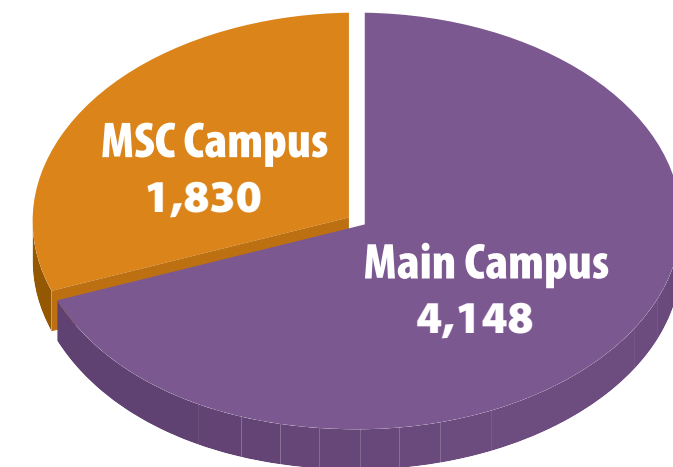
Enrolment numbers

**Full-Time Equivalent Students
Total CMU = 854**



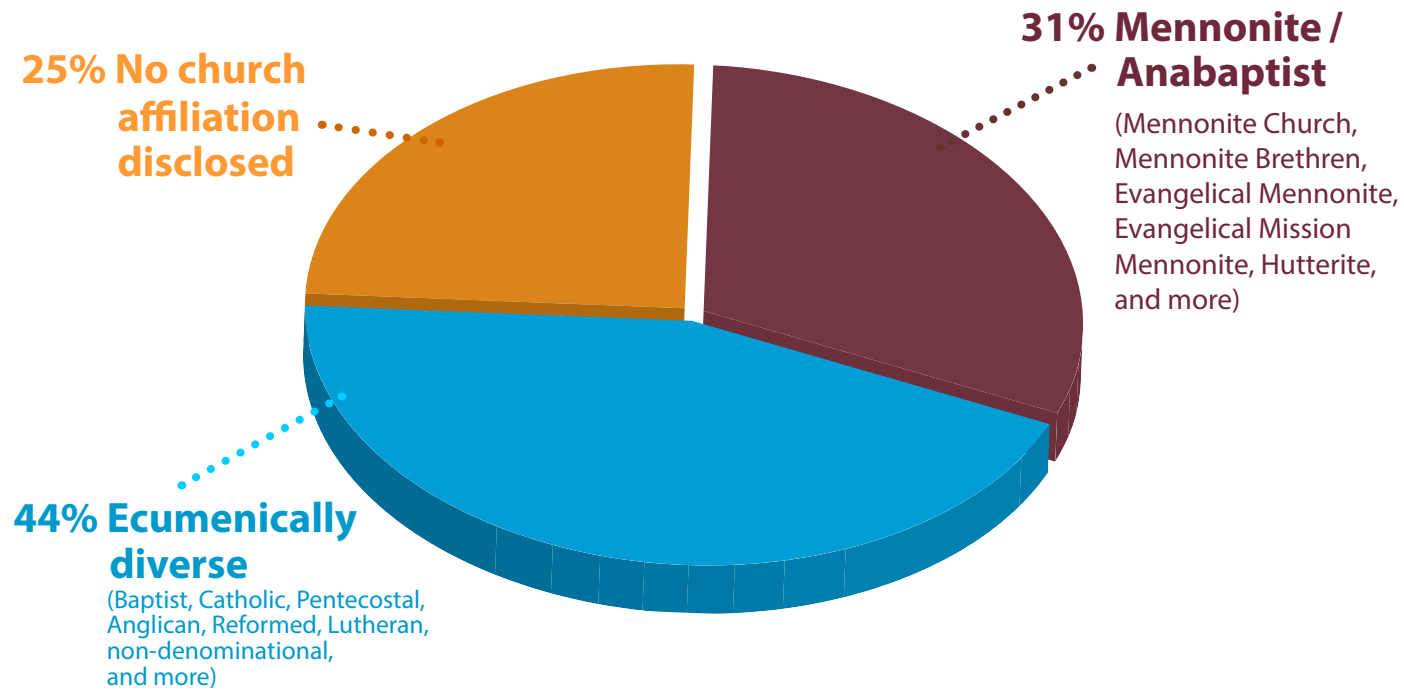
Over the past three years, CMU's rate of student retention has continued to increase even as the size of incoming classes has dipped, mostly due to a drop in the number of international students receiving visas and because of

**Course Enrolments
Total CMU = 5,978**



limited opportunities to build relationships with high school students within Canada. We expect the effect of the pandemic time will extend for several years.

Student Church Affiliation



Bursary and Scholarship Highlights for 2021/2022

Futures Forward Bursary provides full funding for one student who is or has been a youth in care under the Manitoba government’s Child and Family Services.

Indspire Bursary provides matched funds that are used for Indigenous students through the “CMU Indigenous Award” and the “CMU Redekop School of Business Indigenous Award.”

John R. and Edna K. Peters International Student Plan provides up to \$5,000 for a full-time international student (meeting additional criteria). This plan also provides up to \$5,000 in support for domestic students involved in an international practicum placement, or for an international student working at a practicum placement in Canada.

Riverton Fellowship Circle Indigenous Bursary provides \$1,500 to a full-time student identifying as First Nations, Indigenous, Metis, or Inuit.

Jacob and Hilda Koop Music Merit Scholarship provides \$1,500 for a student who meets the requirements of the Music Merit Award.

Red River Mutual Insurance Business Scholarship provides an annual scholarship of \$1,000 to a student in the business program.

Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative provided \$160,000 for bursaries and scholarships for domestic students in 2021/22.

CMU Finances 2021/22

The story of CMU 2021/22 tells of quality education, generous trust, and intensive forms of navigation amidst continuously changing conditions. CMU finances provide one window into that story. We are grateful to report that the year ended with revenues one percent higher than expenses. Specifically, revenues totalled just under \$13,000,000 (\$400,000 below budget), and expense savings totalled almost \$500,000. Given the volatility of the economic world we all face at this time, this is a remarkable account of institutional stability. Yet, we recognize that this level of expense savings is possible only on occasion —it is not wise to stretch out the time-period between re-shingling roofs or to cut back on essential travel and leave staff vacated positions open very often.

“... a remarkable account of institutional stability.”

Most importantly, this steady financial result tells the story of students who showed up and studied well (with minds and hearts focused on a whole lot

more than COVID-19), of staff and faculty who work together towards good stewardship and sound fiscal management, and of generous gifts from individuals, churches, and government. The budget dimension that grew most this year was the level of bequests, with over \$400,000 received. These funds are distributed over 10 years and are critical to keeping tuition rates affordable for students. For those with interest in the CMU audited financial statements, please see our website at:

cmu.ca/communityreport.

Thank you for your part in making quality education possible through CMU.



Bursaries and Scholarships by the Numbers

Total distributed to students through established bursaries and scholarships:
\$736,275

Total bursaries:
\$354,865
176 students received bursaries

Total scholarships:
\$381,410
210 students received scholarships

Total distributed through gifts to our CMU fund:
\$260,482

Total distributed through annual donor gifts and endowment earnings:
\$409,942

Total distributed through church matching gifts and external scholarships:
\$65,851

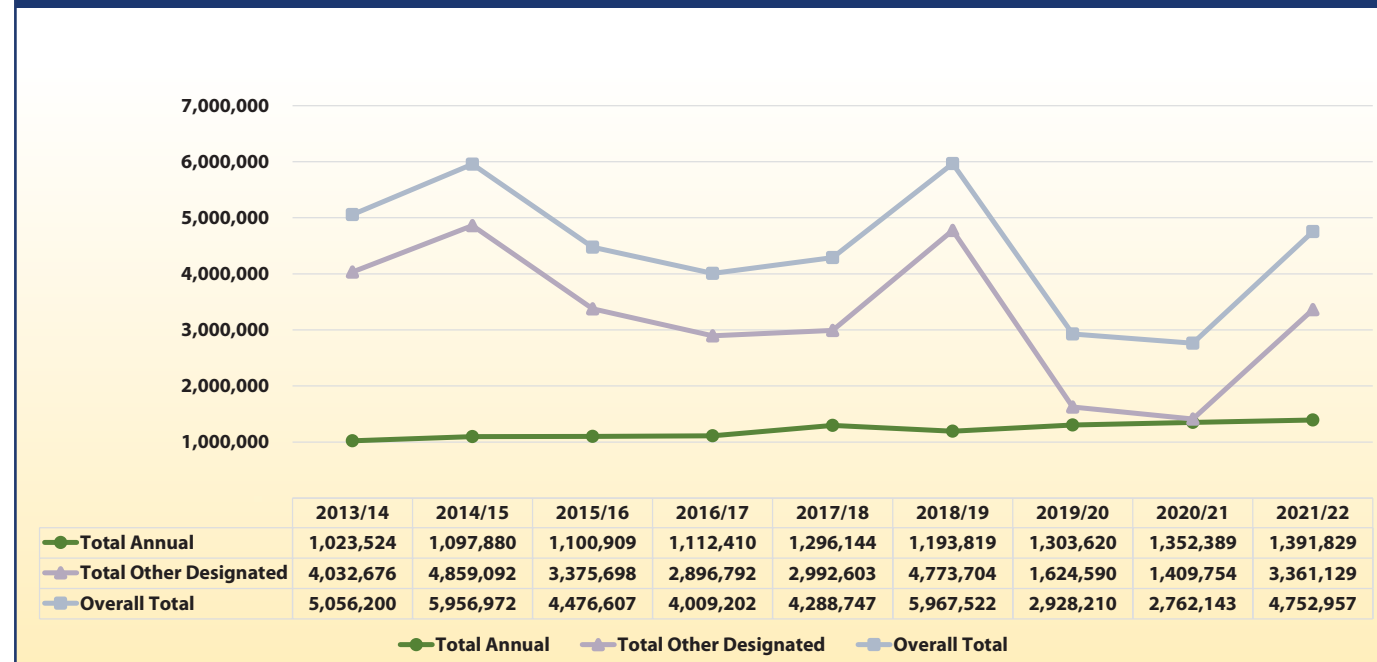
Giving to CMU

Thank you to all of our supporters who continue to give generously to the CMU Fund for annual operations. These gifts make the health and sustainability of CMU possible.

Giving to All Funds: Fiscal Years 2013/14 to 2021/22

The chart below reflects giving from individuals, corporations, and church bodies to the CMU Fund for annual operations, as well as to many other designated initiatives including scholarships and bursaries, capital projects (notably Marpeck Commons), various programs (notably the Redekop School of Business), endowments, bequests, and gifts-in-kind. Generous giving in support of constructing Marpeck Commons and support for the Redekop School of Business form a bulk of 'Other Designated' giving from 2013/22.

Nine-year giving history: all funds



721 donors/donor households supported the CMU Fund for annual program/operations



540 alumni (representing 384 households) gave to CMU Fund for annual programs/operations



\$1.39 million was gifted to the CMU Fund for annual program/operations

2021/22 Donors and Sponsors

CMU's mission is made possible by the gifts of an incredible network of generosity. Thank you to the 908 donors and sponsors below whose support sustains CMU's educational program, student bursaries and scholarships, capital projects (Marpeck Commons), and more.

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 * — President's Circle Donors, \$1,000+
 † — Deceased
Bold — Alumni, Staff/Faculty, or Emeriti

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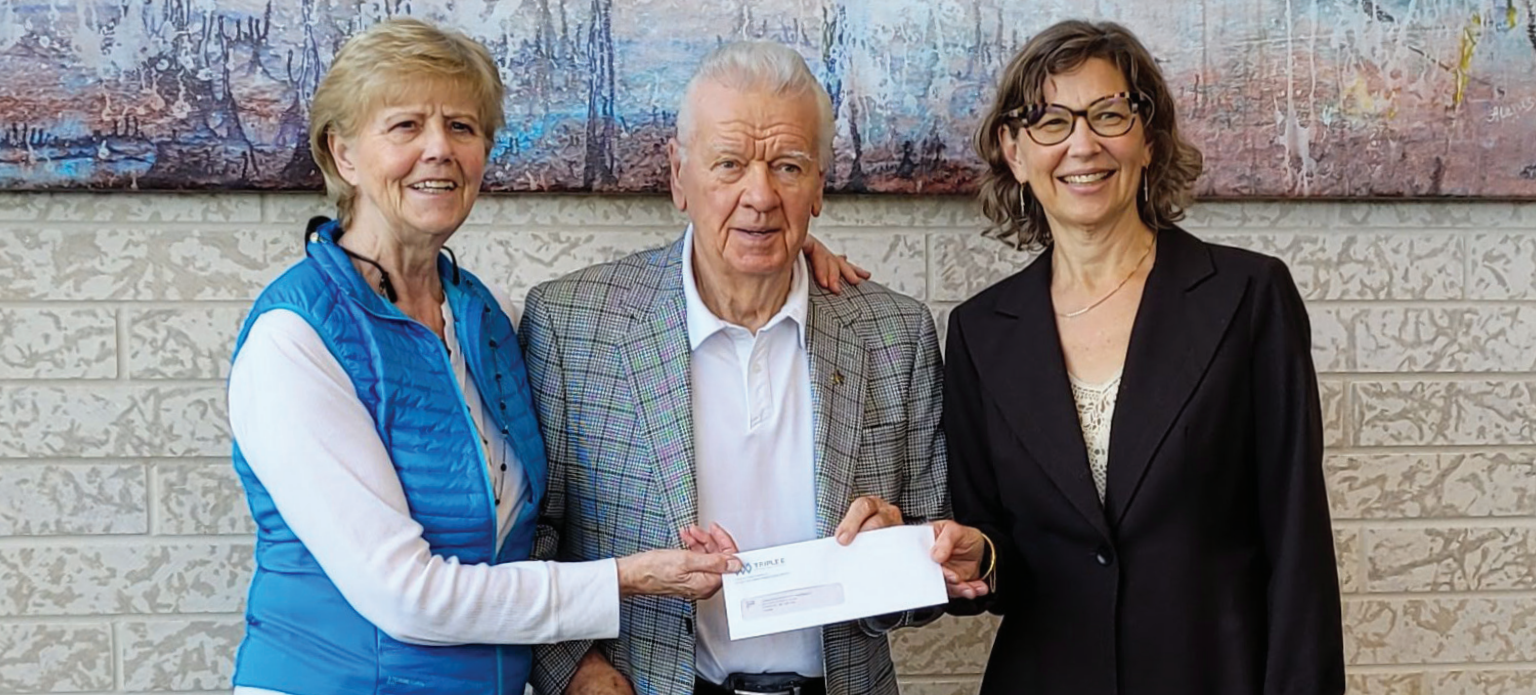
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In addition, 30 congregations, agencies, and organizations supported individual students or student related projects.

A total of 198 individuals and congregations supported the MHC Gallery or Mennonite Heritage Archives.

This report has been prepared to the best of our ability. If there are errors of any kind, please contact us with corrections at **development@cmu.ca** or call **204.487.3300.**



Philipp R. and Ilse K. Ens Fund sustains accessible Christian higher education

CMU joyfully and graciously acknowledges the generosity of Philipp R. and Ilse K. Ens

Myles Tiessen | CMU Staff Writer

Philipp R. and Ilse K. Ens have provided decades of generosity, gifts of love, and financial support for CMU. They embody vision and care as they seek to nurture and develop students' desire and capacity to be leaders throughout church and society.

The Ens's speak often of the need for people of good courage, character, and transparent honesty to build strong businesses in order to cultivate strong communities. "Philipp comes to life when he talks of the many people who have

« This is an incredible gift of trust for what's needed most. »

found good work and purpose through the businesses he's led, and who, as a result of having good work, strive collectively to build thriving communities," says CMU President Cheryl Pauls.

The businesses Philipp has led are Triple E. Canada Ltd. and Lode King Industries in Winkler. Not surprisingly, he took keen interest when CMU developed a business program. Even so, his interest in CMU predates that program and continues to extend to many fields of study. Philipp and Ilse are fine singers and they share an ongoing love for music, especially congregational singing, choirs, and opera. In CMU's Laudamus Auditorium—which hosts many music recitals and performances—hangs a plaque in honour of their sponsorship. And, they love to hear and tell stories; stories of people who come together from different walks of life, people

who long and learn together what it looks like in each new era for God's abundance to be shared amongst all.

Philipp was an active participant of the CONNECT capital campaign cabinet that worked collectively to build a library, learning centre, and pedestrian bridge for CMU. His generous contributions of time and financial support were foundational to the success of that project. Today Marpeck Commons flourishes as the hub of the CMU learning community, a meeting place for neighbouring communities, and a Winnipeg landmark.

CMU is honoured that Philipp and Ilse Ens have faithfully supported CMU throughout the years and most recently with the establishment of the Philipp R. and Ilse K. Ens Fund. The purpose of the visionary endowment is to ensure CMU will continue to be financially viable and able to provide high quality education for years to come. This significant legacy fund contributes to CMU education as a whole, and serves the Ens's desire to keep student tuition costs affordable.

"This is an incredible gift of trust for what's needed most," says Pauls.

Through Philip and Ilse Ens's longstanding commitment to CMU, the spirit of God's work has been witnessed and experienced in extraordinarily unique and profound ways by thousands of students, and will continue to impact future leaders for decades to come.

Gifts for now and tomorrow

Dori Zerbe Cornelsen | Director of Development

"It is an honour and a privilege to have deep conversations with individuals and families who want to discuss leaving a lasting impact on CMU students.

We are doing some estate planning and are thinking about how to include a gift to CMU in our wills. We also have some options for additional giving during our lifetime. What are the possibilities?

Because of a recent property sale, we'd like to talk about a gift to CMU that provides support over a number of years. Can we talk with you about that?"

Some of these people go on to name CMU in their wills – legacy gifts with no designation are powerfully multiplied as they are pooled together with other unspecified gifts and used to support many students. Others have established specific gift funds with CMU by giving a significant contribution in one year with instructions to use the funds over a specific number of years (typically five or ten years).

These gift funds are often established to reflect values and passions for programs that give the next generations reasons for hope. By supporting program areas, people setting up gift funds have a broad impact on students who would otherwise bear increasing costs through tuition increases that exceed inflation. Funds have been set up to support many CMU learning activities, including Communications and Media Studies, Environmental Studies, Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies, Graduate Studies in Theology and Ministry, faith/spiritual formation, musical instrument maintenance, and more.

For example, long-term support from gifts like the H. Wiehler and Family Fund for Environmental Studies impacts many students.

Helen Rempel, together with her daughters, recently initiated the Arthur and Helen (Wiens) Rempel and Family Fund to sustain CMU's commitment

to Educating for Peace–Justice. Helen's granddaughter, Hannah Burkholder-Wenger (CMU '13) reflects on the impact of her grandparents' generosity, saying:

I was (and still am) deeply grateful for the opportunity to attend CMU, and I know my story, and that of many others, wouldn't have been possible without generous donors, including my grandparents. My grandparents have always valued education as one of the strongest tools to enact change in the world. I admire the ways my grandparents have supported and continue to support people and institutions in achieving this value. Their generous giving towards CMU has opened doors for so many students, including myself, inspiring me to live generously and to contribute toward life-changing/world-changing education.

Acts of generosity like these express the hope and desire that CMU will continue to be a place where students grow and thrive for generations to come.

Inspired? Plan your own gift.

Call us for a conversation at **204.487.3300 ext. 610** or visit cmu.ca/give/now-and-tomorrow.

« Long-term support from gifts like the H. Wiehler and Family Fund for Environmental Studies impacts many students. »





Fall at CMU returns

Myles Tiessen | CMU Staff Writer

Neither rain nor wind could prevent an outpouring of crowds from congregating on CMU's campus for this year's Fall at CMU. After a two-year hiatus, it was the first time the friends, supporters, and alumni of CMU could gather on campus in celebration of community.

This year provided endless activities for all those gathered to enjoy while spending the day on campus.

Farmers' and Makers' Market

The market acted as the hub for Fall at CMU with Manitoba-grown and produced food, art, and music. Metanoia farmer Kayla Drudge said, "It brings together a diverse group of folks. People from a lot of different generations and backgrounds seem to be represented, and they are all coming together around local makers, so that is really exciting."

MennoCross

This year's MennoCross bicycle race was one for the books. Roughly 180 adrenaline-addled participants of all ages cycled in the fast-paced event that weaved throughout the entirety of the north side of the campus. Participant Jonathan Wiebe (CMU '04) said the unique race is "part of a larger thing here, Fall at CMU, so you are not just in a park somewhere. Here there are a lot of other things going on, and it makes it more exciting."



Teachings in the Tipi

In the afternoon, Allen Sutherland, Anishinaabek member of Skownan First Nation and Manitoba Treaty Commission representative, led a group of participants into the tipi located on CMU's north side lawn. Sutherland fielded questions about Indigenous history, culture, and the importance of Indigenous sovereignty. He spoke on the complicated history of broken treaties and future reconciliation. "[Reconciliation] is about telling the truths of history," said Sutherland. "The only way we can accomplish a resolution to this is to be allies."

Naawi-Oodena: A Town Hall Conversation

The day ended in Marpeck Commons with a town hall conversation about the new and exciting Naawi-Oodena, the largest, strategically located urban Indigenous economic zone in Canada, just east of CMU. The presentation gave a brief history of the project and featured a 3D model of the future design. One of the five panelists, Whelan Sutherland, Chief Executive Officer of Treaty One Nation, said this project is about building open relationships, "Right here, right now, we're doing it at CMU." Chief Development Officer Tim Daniels reiterated, saying, "You can't build a community without working with your neighbours."



Indigenous Knowledge Keeper leads tipi raising on CMU campus

Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe | CMU Staff Writer

The CMU community, guided and taught by Indigenous knowledge keepers, raised a tipi together on the Shaftesbury campus on September 9. More than 100 students, faculty, and staff gathered on the lawn north of Marpeck Commons to participate in raising the tipi and receiving its teachings from Cree Knowledge Keeper Mervin McKay of Thompson, Manitoba and his helper, Lionel Mason of Morris, Manitoba.

"It's always great to go and do this kind of work. Hopefully good things will come about and more things will come about," McKay said, mentioning he has discussed with CMU the possibility of creating a medicine wheel on campus.

McKay has been an instructor at University College of the North in Thompson and has spoken about Indigenous perspectives of Canada's education systems. He's done many tipi raisings and teachings for various groups.

As students, faculty, and staff lifted tall poles made from black spruce trees and wound rope in place, McKay explained the meaning of each tipi pole, asking those gathered to share what those values meant to them. The poles represent obedience, respect, cleanliness, kinship, faith, love, humility, happiness, thankfulness, sharing, strength, good child raising, and hope.

The idea of having a tipi on campus was first proposed years ago by Clairissa Kelly, Coordinator and Student Counsellor of the Peguis Post-Secondary Transition Program that partnered with CMU.

« It's an important symbol of reconciliation, but only a small step in living it out... »

Her vision was implemented by members of the Indigenous Students Group at CMU, who purchased a tipi on CMU's behalf in spring 2021. It was financially supported by student council and the institution itself. As students involved in the initiative

graduated or moved on, faculty and staff on CMU's Indigenous Initiatives and Action Committee picked up the momentum created by students to complete the project. After much anticipation, the Cree tipi arrived in spring 2022.

This student-led initiative aims to honour the Treaty 1 land on which CMU rests and acknowledges the presence of Indigenous peoples on it since time immemorial and now as Indigenous students at CMU. It is an important symbol of reconciliation, but only a small step in living it out; it is also a call from students for CMU to keep growing and taking action.

McKay said several times during his teaching: this tipi now belongs to CMU and is the learning community's responsibility to care for and use. The tipi will be used as a gathering space for classes, meetings, and simply spending time together, to name a few ways.

"Somebody asked me how we should be around [the tipi]," Mason said. "Consider that these were our dwellings, our houses...so treat it like your own house."

The tipi has been disassembled for winter to prevent mold and frost damage and will be reconstructed in spring.



People and Events



Alumnus explores the relationship between art and commerce in daring new novel

In 2017, André Forget was asked by friend and collaborator Joel Peters (CMU '11) to write a short story about a fictitious underwater organ. The only rule was to keep the story around 2,000 words. Forget ended up writing a 10,000-word academic dissertation about the mythical instrument. This narrative served as the impetus for writing his debut novel *In the City of Pigs*, published by Dundurn Press in the summer of 2022.

Forget (CMU '10) is well-travelled and is currently living in England. His experiences moving across the globe reflect his thoughtful, multilayered writing. Much of this is explored in *In the City of Pigs*.

The novel follows Alexander Otkazov who comes across a story of an experimental music collective that launches his career as a journalist and takes him through the world of shadowy real estate deals, and finance capitalism, where art is a subterfuge for private enterprise.

"The notion that art is a pure arena for free expression and playing with ideas is nice; but the money has to come from somewhere," says Forget. "The arts are enlisted in that process of [real estate] development."

"[Developers] make obscene amounts of money doing quite dodgy things, and then they turn around and give some of that money to Roy Thomson Hall—it's a strange interconnection," says Forget.



These ideas of modernization and advancement ultimately led Forget to the significant concepts within *In the City of Pigs*. "Progress and artistic styles are a big part of the novel," says Forget.

Before writing *In the City of Pigs*, Forget worked as editor-in-chief of the Puritan, a literary journal that publishes fiction, essays, and interviews. His writing has also appeared in *The Walrus*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *Canadian Notes & Queries*, among other well known publications. But before those lofty accomplishments, Forget's time at CMU allowed him to explore his creative aspirations. "I've always been interested in literature, but I was also interested in philosophy and theory. So, part of the appeal of CMU was that it was a place that encouraged that raw [curiosity]," says Forget.

One of those courses, which Forget says was particularly helpful, was a course called *Revenge*, taught by Professor of English Paul Dyck. The curriculum explored the cultural and theological meanings of revenge through various literary forms, including drama, narrative, poetry, and film.

"The [Revenge] course did exactly what CMU does well," says Forget. "It takes all of these different books with a central theme and has fun with it."



CMU student receives prestigious Terry Fox Humanitarian Award

CMU student Katrina Lengsavath is one of only 17 Canadians to receive the 2022 Terry Fox Humanitarian Award. She was chosen from 503

applicants across the country for the prestigious scholarship, which honours Terry Fox's legacy by encouraging students who are passionate about helping others and who demonstrate perseverance in the face of adversity.

"It was exciting and emotional for me to realize I had stood out among hundreds of applications across Canada, to be one of two representatives from Manitoba and... to represent CMU in this way," says Lengsavath. The third-year student is earning a BA in Arts and Science, focusing on biochemistry and music.

Award recipients are recognized for volunteering, supporting their communities, providing humanitarian service to those in need, and emulating Fox's courage and determination in overcoming obstacles—in addition to excelling in post-secondary education and participating in fitness. They are chosen, and awarded the \$28,000 scholarship, after writing an essay on their humanitarian values and ambitions, submitting resumes and references, and being interviewed.

Lengsavath has been dedicated to community throughout her whole life. She has volunteered as production assistant, and is currently administrative assistant, for Meraki Theatre Productions, an independent theatre company creating meaningful experiences that make change and nurture compassion. She also serves on volunteer committees for the Manitoba Choral Association.

At Project Pulse Winnipeg, a student-led initiative that hosts conferences to engage students in health sciences, Lengsavath now acts as its principal advisor. She is Vice-President Communications on CMU Student Council and co-leads the Science Students' Association, a group excited about inviting the community into a celebration of science.

This impressive list of accomplishments came with challenges. As the eldest child of parents who emigrated from Thailand and Laos, Lengsavath played an important role in cultural navigation for her family and had to shoulder a lot of responsibility from a young age. Students who come from minority backgrounds "face special challenges due to being at the intersection of different kinds of disparities," she says. They're often juggling academics with navigating their identity and caring for their families, all while advocating for themselves and often their cultural community, too.

"My personal challenges gave me a lot of perspective, resilience, and compassion, qualities which make what I do possible," Lengsavath says. "I want to express my gratitude for this award but also for my community and the ways they have contributed to my story." This award celebrates them too, she says.



New MSC research project studies historic letters written by Inuit Elders

A new research project at Menno Simons College, funded by a grant from the Government of Nunavut's Department of Culture and Heritage, will translate and analyze over three dozen letters that were handwritten in Inuktitut syllabics by Nunavut Elders in the 1960s and 1970s.



Led by MSC Teaching Assistant Professor Lydia Schoeppner, the project entitled *Uppinaq—Letters from Nunavut: Inuit Culture Loss and Survival in the 1960s and 1970s* will review the letters

with hopes of making the content available and accessible for future generations.

"These are incredibly important documents of Inuit history in Canada," says Schoeppner. "It is important to make these voices and stories available to the larger public because we are helping re-tell Canadian history from an Indigenous and Inuit perspective."

Schoeppner will collaborate with Tagak Curley, an Inuk politician and advocate of Inuit rights.

Curley received some of these letters, and thus plays a central role in this history. "As a young man, I felt obligated to try and restore our tradition," he says.



Curley says that in the late 60s and early 70s, letters were the primary mode of communication for the vastly scattered territory of northern Canada. Altogether, over 30 letters were sent to him, outlining the loss of values and customs that needed preservation and should be passed down to future generations.

Curley says he gave the project its title. Uppinaq means to honor and respect. "I was born to honour my tradition and not let it be destroyed," he says.

Faculty-alumni collaboration explores decolonizing music education in the classroom

Studying music education means learning scales and chord progressions, or practicing how to move your hands while conducting. Sometimes it also involves examining and re-evaluating the entire education system at its core.

This is what students did every week last semester when they gathered for one of CMU's newest courses: *Decolonizing Music Education*, guided by Associate Professor of Music Janet Brenneman. Through listening, reading, discussing, and creating, students learned about the history and current forms of colonialism present in Canadian music education and explored how to put the concepts of decolonization and Indigenization into action.

The new course is the product of a faculty-alumni collaboration between Brenneman and Madeleine Friesen (CMU '20), who is working towards a Master of Arts in Music Education with Collaborative Studies in Sexual Diversity at the University of Toronto.

The idea to write a syllabus came from one of Friesen's courses, Music Education and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada.

"We were engaging with the calls to action and what implications they have for music educators, who often don't see themselves as stakeholders in those Calls to Action as part of their profession," Friesen said.

Friesen was aware that Brenneman was teaching the upcoming course, but had not yet drafted a syllabus, so they partnered with Brenneman to develop the course and later facilitate it together.

As two white settler people, Brenneman and Friesen approached the class with openness about their limitations and taking seriously a quote by

Margaret Kovach, an Indigenous professor and author of *Néhiyaw and Sauleaux* ancestry: "We know what we know from where we stand. We need to be honest about that."



Brenneman and Friesen were careful to clarify that they were facilitating, not teaching, the course. "I'm learning just as much, if not more, alongside the students," Brenneman said. "We are not experts in that area. We are humbled by what we ourselves continue to learn and it is really with that openness that we come to these discussions with the students."

They engaged mainly with Indigenous-created resources. They studied research by a Stó:lō scholar, met with a guest speaker of the Cayuga Nation, watched a musical written by a Métis poet, listened to Inuit musicians, and read articles about current Indigenous news.

Friesen stated, "It is resisting colonial approaches to knowledge and rethinking the idea of who speaks in the classroom, who has the knowledge, and what kind of knowledges are valued and assessed."

The small class sat in a circle every week, reading and discussing together and in small groups. Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in the class brought a diversity of perspectives about engaging the TRC's 94 Calls to Action and challenged Brenneman and Friesen to shape the course for a variety of experiences.

"It's made me think critically about everything I'm doing in my life, especially the music I'm making and the composers I'm playing," student Georg Neuhofer said. "It's uncomfortable sometimes too, which is something we've stressed throughout the class is good."

And these practices shouldn't be limited to music. "We have this decolonizing education [course], but what about decolonizing any other field?" Neuhofer asked. "It's easy to talk and talk, but I hope CMU does more in the future—we can all do more, and we should do more."



Darrel Heidebrecht (CMBC '81), Calgary, AB, published a book of stories and memories reflecting on his career in restorative justice. It is titled, *A Little More Peace in the World: Reflections on my Experience with Restorative Justice* and was published in 2021. He wrote the book because he has learned that institutional memory is short and he wanted to preserve a record of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Alberta's commitment to restorative justice and the partnerships it developed. He is the former director of MCC Alberta's prison visitation ministry and is recently retired.



Joanne Epp (CMBC '86), Winnipeg, MB, published her second collection of poetry, *Cattail Skyline*, with Turnstone Press in 2021. This book is an intimate look at landscapes where she has lived and travelled, full of light and colour, revealing new discoveries along the most well-trodden of paths. *Cattail Skyline* was shortlisted for the Lansdowne Prize for Poetry at the 2022 Manitoba Book Awards.



Gerald Neufeld (CMBC '88), Tokyo, Japan, and his wife Rie Neufeld are serving with Mennonite Church Canada as "relationship catalysts" fostering connections between Mennonite churches in Japan and the nationwide church. The couple served as MC Canada Witness workers with the Tokyo Area Fellowship of Mennonite Churches in the early 2000s, and they moved back to Japan in November 2021 to be closer to family and connect again with the church network. They have been leaders at Mennonite Japanese Fellowship in Surrey, BC since 2008, now connecting and preaching online from Tokyo.



Joanne Thiessen Martens (CMBC '96), Winnipeg, MB, completed a PhD in Soil Science at the University of Manitoba this summer. Shortly after, in August, she started as assistant professor of soil chemistry and fertility in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Manitoba.



Jennifer Thiessen (CMBC '99), Winnipeg, MB, is the artistic director of Virtuosi

Concerts, a high-calibre chamber music series in Winnipeg. She is a Juno-nominated experimental musician, songwriter, violist, and writer for a variety of arts publications. She has worked in Montréal and around the world as an independent artist for the past 20 years. Along with her new directorial position, she'll continue performing with her numerous musical collaborations, such as Park Sounds and S[ILK]S, and with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and other local ensembles.

Jeremy Siemens (CMU '08) and **Katelin Neufeld** (CMU 2007-09), Winnipeg, MB, recently published a research paper in the Canadian Journal of Education, exploring the role of formal education in the work of reconciliation. They examined the effects of the University of Winnipeg's Indigenous course requirement on non-Indigenous students' attitudes. Jeremy is a teacher at Westgate Mennonite Collegiate and Katelin is a behavioural research scientist at the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.



Robert Walker (CMU '09), Toronto, ON, is a PhD candidate at Trinity College, part of the Toronto School of Theology. His dissertation focuses on how Pentecostal and queer Christians can be in equitable conversation together. He recently

published a revised version of his book, *O Beautiful Dust: Walking the Wilderness Toward Common Prayer*, a series of Lenten prayers and reflections. The collection was also made into an audiobook.

Michael Bueckert (CMU '10), Montréal, QC, is the Vice-President of Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East, a national advocacy organization whose mission is to enable



Canadians to promote justice, development, and peace in the Middle East and Canada. He is co-editor of the book, *Advocating for Palestine in Canada: Histories, Movements, Action*, published in 2022. He has written for numerous publications and his research has been cited by the Washington Post, CBC Ottawa, Mondoweiss, and more. Michael graduated from Carleton University in 2020 with a PhD in sociology with a specialization in political economy. His dissertation explored the Canadian opposition to boycott movements, which included travelling to Palestine and South Africa to conduct research.

David Thiessen (CMU '13), Winnipeg, MB, is an Associate in the litigation practice of Fillmore Riley. He graduated from the University of Manitoba's law school in 2020 and became a member of the Manitoba Bar Association in 2021. While studying, he worked with Pro Bono Students Canada, co-chaired the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers' Robson Hall Chapter, and volunteered at Fillmore Riley, assisting refugee claimants.

Esther Derksen (CMU '16), Clarendville, NL, moved to Canada's east coast in March to be a veterinarian for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. She works with large animals like horses, dairy cows, sheep, and goats. Esther graduated in May 2020 from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, SK and spent one and a half years working as a veterinarian in Bonnyville, AB before starting her current position.



Helen Kennedy (CMU '20), Regina, SK, was ordained the Right Reverend Helen Kennedy, thirteenth bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle, on January 22, 2022 at St. Paul's Cathedral in Regina. She is the first female bishop in the Qu'Appelle Diocese and

the first female Anglican bishop in Saskatchewan. The Qu'Appelle Diocese covers the southern quarter of Saskatchewan and 52 parishes. She was previously the Rector at St. George's Anglican Parish in Winnipeg's Transcona neighbourhood. She recently graduated with an MA in Theological Studies but has studied at CMU since 2006, getting her Bachelor of Theology from the Winnipeg Theological Consortium.

Marriages

Bethany Brinkman (CMU '18) and Ethan Evans, Hamilton, ON, May 22, 2022

Markus Stahl (OT '15, CMU '20) and Tia Friesen, Winnipeg, MB, June 17, 2022

Anneli Loepp Thiessen (CMU '18) and Josh Zentner-Barrett, Ottawa, ON, June 18, 2022

Cecely Doerksen (OT '12, CMU '18) and Justin Braun-Janzen, Winnipeg, MB, July 9, 2022

Travis Dyck (OT '14, CMU '16) and Jessika Toews, Winnipeg, MB, July 9, 2022

James DeGurse (CMU '19) and Jenny DeGurse (Sullivan), Ottawa, ON, July 16, 2022

Micah Enns (Enns-Dyck, CMU '22) and **Elaina Enns** (Wagenman, OT '18), Hamilton, ON, July 23, 2022

River Woods (Epp-Fransen, CMU '03) and Beth Woods (Hamilton), Winnipeg, MB, July 23, 2022

Joshua Neustaedter Barg (CMU '20) and Alexandra Dénommée, Winnipeg, MB, July 29, 2022

Ayla Berry (Manning, CMU '17) and **Liam Berry** (current CMU student), Winnipeg, MB, August 7, 2022

Amelia Pahl-Reymond (Pahl, CMU '22) and Séverine Pahl-Reymond (Reymond), Mirabel, QC, August 13, 2022

Anna Goertzen Thomas (Goertzen Loeppky, OT '14, CMU '18) and David Goertzen Thomas (Thomas), Winnipeg, MB, August 13, 2022

Jessica Anger (Lupson, OT '14, CMU 2014-15) and Gavin Anger, London, ON, August 13, 2022

Olivia Neufeldt (CMU '21) and **Jesse Neufeldt** (Neufeld, OT '17, CMU '21), Edmonton, AB, August 13, 2022

Isaac Kuhl-Schlegel (Schlegel, CMU '21) and **Courtney Kuhl-Schlegel** (Kuhl, CMU '22), Toronto, ON, August 21, 2022

Births and Adoptions



Alrika Rojas (CMU 2017-18) and Alfred Chan, Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Aelechteria Anya Wai See Rojas-Chan, November 18, 2021

Russell Willms (former CMU staff) and Jira Willms, Kelowna, BC, a daughter, Annabelle Morningstar Willms, June 2, 2022



Moses Falco (CMU '16) and Jessica Falco, Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Heidi Paz Elaine Falco, June 8, 2022

Raven Nickel (CMU '15) and **Jonah Langelotz** (CMU '15), Rosenfeld, MB, a daughter, Asha Rain Langelotz Nickel, July 19, 2022



Selenna Wolfe (Hildebrand, OT '14, CMU '18) and **Jesse Wolfe** (Thiessen, CMU 2010-11), Winnipeg, MB, a son, Jack Gail Wolfe, July 22, 2022

Tiffany Carther-Krone (Lazar, OT '04, CMU '08) and Chris Carther-Krone, Winnipeg, MB, a son, Finley Harvey Carther-Krone, August 3, 2022



Joshua Paetkau (OT '11, CMU '16) and **Laura Paetkau** (Bernier, OT '11, CMU '16), Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Violet Elyse Paetkau, August 4, 2022



Christine Kampen Robinson (CMU staff) and David Kampen Robinson, Winnipeg, MB, a son, Yannick Walter Kampen, August 17, 2022

Passages

Katherine Funk (CMBC '48), Drake, SK, January 28, 2022

Annie Falk (CMBC '48), St. Catharines, ON, April 24, 2022

Lawrence Klippenstein (CMBC '51), Winnipeg, MB, March 18, 2022

Margaret Wiens (MBBC 1952-55), Winnipeg, MB, June 28, 2022

John B. Epp (MBBC '53), Winnipeg, MB, July 10, 2022

Waldo Schulz (CMBC '56), Altona, MB, April 26, 2022

Arthur Bartsch (MBBC '57), Nelson, BC, February 5, 2022

Ronald Brown (CMBC '66), Waterloo, ON, January 14, 2022

Elizabeth Peters (CMBC '67), Mattawa, ON, January 19, 2022

Eleanor Harder (CMBC '68), Kitchener, ON, January 31, 2022

Allan Labun (MBBC 1971-72), Winnipeg, MB, May 17, 2022

Clifford Derksen (MBBC '72), Winnipeg, MB, May 22, 2022

John E. Klassen (CMBC '76), Grunthal, MB, May 22, 2022

Albert Siemens (CMBC '78), Winnipeg, MB, September 17, 2022

James Froese (CMBC '79), St. Catharines, ON, March 28, 2022

Rodney Wiens (CMBC '80), Herschel, SK, March 26, 2022

Leona J. Loewen (MBBC '83), Winnipeg, MB, June 21, 2022

Keith E. Brenneman (CMBC '87), Winnipeg, MB, April 1, 2022

Miriam Ingrid R. Bergen (CMBC '88), Winnipeg, MB, January 30, 2022

Tim Epp (CC 1990-93), Winnipeg, MB, July 17, 2022

Jessica S. Dyck (CMU '03), Winkler, MB, April 21, 2022

Maryanne N. Rumancik (CMU '13), Lorette, MB, March 22, 2022

Alumni are invited to submit recent news—marriage, job change, addition of a child, award, promotion, graduate school, retirement, and so on—to the **Alumni Relations Office. Mail to 500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2, email to alumni@cmu.ca.** Please model your information after the current listings above, beginning with name, graduation year, city, and province or state.

Recent grads break into the working world

A central tenet of CMU's mission is to equip students with resources to pursue lives of leadership and service in society. These recent grads showcase a variety of career pathways made possible by their CMU studies.



Levi Klassen (CMU' 22), Winnipeg, MB, is a Laboratory Technician at the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML). Klassen says, "The wide variety of laboratory and analytical skills that I was trained in by my CMU professors have been critical in my ability to contribute to this kind of work."



Chloe Friesen (CMU' 22), Winnipeg, MB, works full-time as an Associate Producer/Technician at CBC Manitoba. Friesen says Associate Professor of Communications and Media David Balzer "is and forever will be the reason I decided to pursue radio as a career. I silently thank him for it whenever I'm cutting tape, pitching stories, or working with sound."



Kayla Hanlon (CMU' 18), Victoria, BC, is following her dreams as an Audit Manager at KPMG Canada. She received a full-time position following graduation through the Redekop School of Business Bachelor of Business Administration Co-op Program, which she completed with KPMG Winnipeg. "My co-op experience, concurrent with academic learning, provided me with the ability to conceptualize concepts learned in school and directly improved my grades."



Jadyne Lennea (CMU' 21), Winnipeg, MB, works as an Engineering and Scientific support in the Department of Special Pathogens at the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML). Lennea says the course Global Health piqued her interest in studying infectious diseases. A class presentation by Dr. James Strong, who works in Special Pathogens at the NML, had her hooked. "When graduation was approaching in the fourth year, I reached out to him by email and ended up being invited to join his laboratory."

Alumna strives to build healthy communities in prominent leadership position



After working in government for more than a decade, Cordella Friesen (CMU '09) has entered the world of non-profit leadership. In August, she was appointed president and CEO of the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg.

"I want to be in a position to advocate for the things I care about when it comes to community, to be able to offer options and solutions to some of our most serious problems...I

want to be at the table," Friesen says.

Her work is all about building healthy communities, helping empower individuals so they can thrive as a collective. "That word 'community,' it makes me laugh every time I write it, because it does make me think about CMU." Like many, she jokes about CMU's frequent use of the word. But more seriously, she explains how CMU's emphasis on community is an important influence on her work now.

The YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg operates four health, fitness, and aquatics centres and is the largest childcare provider in the province. It also runs employment programs, English classes, and mental health initiatives. Friesen oversees all staff, capital, and programming and develops strategic planning with the board of directors.

Friesen earned a bachelor's degree in Political Studies from CMU and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Manitoba. She then worked for the Government of Manitoba, first as Director of Post-Secondary Education Programs and then as Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of Environmental Stewardship.

She's well-versed in problem solving and thinking creatively. Last year she led the Provincial COVID-19 vaccine rollout as the ADM of the Vaccine Implementation Task Force's planning and training stream. It was a dizzying year that saw Friesen and her team hiring, training, and scheduling 4,000 people to work at all the vaccine sites across Manitoba.

Partnerships are essential to fostering invitational, accessible communities, Friesen says. Listening to those who have contextual expertise and collaborating with them must be the way forward. She has enjoyed meeting community leaders across Winnipeg in her new position and looks forward to what is ahead.

For more alumni stories, visit CMU's Community & Alumni Blog at cmu.ca/alumniblog.

CMU CALENDAR

- November 25** Campus Visit Day
- November 26** Christmas with CMU at Bethel Mennonite Church—Check cmu.ca/christmas for free tickets and livestream details. Tickets available November 1
- November 30** Virtual Open House
- December 9-10** CMU Festival Chorus and Orchestra presents Weihnachtsoratorium / Christmas Oratorio by J. S. Bach
- January 25** Virtual Open House
- February 2-3** Scientist in Residence Lectures with Dr. Francis Su
- February 3** Campus Visit Day
- February 13** Face2Face: In Conversation
- February 14-15** ReNew Pastors and Ministry Leaders Conference
- February 22** Virtual Open House
- February 28** Xplore Spring Session Starts
- March 10** Campus Visit Day
- March 23** Verna Mae Janzen Music Competition Finals
- March 29-30** Jazz Band Concert

For more information on upcoming CMU events please visit: cmu.ca/events



If you or your organization are interested in joining CMU's e-newsletter distribution list, **Through this place**, please visit cmu.ca/newsletter to sign up. We will email you a monthly newsletter telling the stories of CMU's faculty, students, and alumni as well as the latest CMU news and event information.

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- cmu.ca/newsletter

CMU Winter course sample

Gender, Class and Ethnicity in the Pauline Letters
John Boopalan, Assistant Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies

Digital Video Storytelling
Heidi Phillips, Filmmaker

Environment, Society, and Resilience
Kenton Lobe, Teaching Assistant Professor, International Development and Environmental Studies

Russia and the Soviet Union
Youngok Kang-Bohr, History Instructor

CMU Spring course sample

Cancer Biology
Nicolas Malagon, Assistant Professor of Biology

Old Testament Theology
Pierre Gilbert, Associate Professor of Bible and Theology

Disability and Difference: Philosophical and Theological Perspectives
Justin Neufeld, Teaching Assistant Professor of Philosophy



A PODCAST | CMU

A monthly CMU podcast that highlights key ideas from public events at Canadian Mennonite University. Host Jonas Cornelsen (CMU '16) guides you through these discussions by asking, 'So What?'

Available everywhere you listen to podcasts.

GIVING TUESDAY

Nov
29

Giving Tuesday is coming on November 29. Join this international day of philanthropy with a gift to CMU. We are working with some generous donors to match your gifts, meaning your gift doubles. Watch your inbox and social media to hear more about this year's giving challenge.

cmu.ca/give



J.S. Bach

Weihnachtsoratorium
Christmas Oratorio

For tickets visit:
cmu.ca/festivalchorus

CMU Festival Chorus: A choir of CMU students, alumni, and friends presents

**Weihnachtsoratorium BWV 248/
Christmas Oratorio
by J. S. Bach**

Katharina Unruh, soprano; Kirsten Schellenberg, alto;
Nolan Kehler, Evangelist/tenor; Matthew Pauls, bass
Janet Brenneman, conductor

**December 9 | 7:30 PM First Mennonite Church
December 10 | 7:30 PM Buhler Hall, Gretna, MB**

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