

# BLAZER

# Building character, one class at a time

sifting through many articles and reports on the state of post-secondary education and its relevance in today's context, a theme emerges. In the face of climate change, food security, forced migrations, economics, and much more business, community, and church leaders and groups consistently call for graduates who:

- reflect critically on themselves, on culture, and on context in creative, and constructive ways.
- engage deeply with the spiritual and cultural diversity of our world.
- communicate with impact, even as they pursue diverse career paths.
- analyze data in ways to help us, as individuals and communities, see ourselves and our world more clearly.
- lead collaboratively, with empathy and compassion.

People in our culture yearn for spiritual roots and a moral imagination to guide and shape their living—in ways that embolden both hope and action.

Rooted in the Christian faith, a CMU education enables students, regardless of discipline, to understand their area of study and themselves, as contextualized within the wider world. Graduates are positioned to achieve, to make change for good, and to flourish in a rapidly transforming world.

The CMU faculty's vocational passion to nurture character-driven, empathetic leaders, and the hope they see through these difference-makers, rings through in this issue's feature: Teaching to form character. I trust that you'll find the faculty reflections and conversation inspired and encouraging in light of our world's present complexity.

To gain a personal insight into what happens on CMU campus, I encourage you to engage in the variety of offerings at CMU. From inclass opportunities to livestreamed lectures on the web, there's an opportunity for all to experience what makes CMU unique, and to join us in being part of the difference.

Kevin Kilbrei Director, Communications & Marketing

# **Table of Contents**

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Outtatown Discipleship School
- 2 Centre for Resilience
- 3 Menno Simons College News
- 4 Teaching to Form Character
- 12 Portable CMU
- 12 Faculty in Their Own Words
- 13 Report to the Community
- 17 2018-19 CMU Donors
- 21 Fall at CMU
- 22 Distinguished Alumni Awards
- 24 People and Events
- 26 Alumni News
- 28 Alumni Profile



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# To see far

Reading the weather" has become a multi-layered phrase. In Manitoba, hauntingly warm September days, fall flooding, and an early October "apocalyptic tree snowstorm," have heightened attentiveness to the call for climate change action. "Reading the weather" with thermometers and barometers now is matched with reading how factors of church and society, culture, and nature might alter the life conditions of all creatures.

The legal definition of an "Act of God" may well undergo change in the next while, a time characterized by a crisis of hope. Through the urgency of such a time as this, CMU continues to be called to the heart of its mission: teaching—teaching to form character, teaching to inspire and equip hearts and minds to "see far." I spoke of this at CMU Opening Convocation and offer an excerpt from that day:

You may have noticed my clothing. It's called convocation regalia. I merely dressed for the occasion. Convocation regalia is good for many things. It fits almost as well when you're nine months pregnant as when you put on a few pounds or take a few off. It's been fashionable for centuries, cutting down on the money, carbon, and time costs of buying too many clothes. Why else does regalia matter for CMU?

« Through the urgency of such a time as this, CMU continues to be called to the heart of its mission: teaching... »

Convocation dress reminds us that universities have been around for a long time. Our learnings build on the best understandings and wisdom of the ages. They also draw on the failings and raw wounds of the past and call for healing and for transformed ways of thinking and being. Regalia reminds us to keep discerning which long-term understandings to preserve further, and which ones to use as compost for whole new grains of thought. Regalia reminds us that a university learning community exists to exercise muscles of seeing far, as far back as far forward... as every other direction we can imagine.



Convocation regalia also reminds us that universities have been called out through time mostly from within spiritually-rooted communities. For CMU that community is the church. The church also is called to see far. The church dares speak in phrases like "in the beginning"; "long before the world began"; and "forever and ever" that Christ is reconciling all things. These phrases demand good attention. They need to be uttered in ways that are trustworthy to God's ongoing gifts of revelation.

To see far is a timely message. We need to see far to sustain our capacity to breathe deeply, live with plenty of play and rest, and be patient and gracious with ourselves and one another in the face of urgent climatic, political, and cultural conditions. We need to see far to keep us from extremes of despair, or of thinking we're saviours. When we remember that we are called to see far, we also remember to drink deeply from God's wells of hope.

May blessings of seeing far flow through you. May this *Blazer's* glimpse into CMU classes inspire how you see, too.

Peace and joy, Cheryl Pauls CMU President

Fall 2019

# CMU celebrates significant Indigenous partnerships

By Beth Downey

n September 27, while students and faculty gathered at the Manitoba Legislature to join the global strike for climate action, Jonathan Dueck and Karl Koop from CMU travelled to Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre (SSSC) in Beausejour, MB for a ceremonial bundle exchange, formalizing a new memorandum of understanding between the two institutions.

The agreement comes after several years of cooperation between CMU and SSSC, an Aboriginal Theological and Ministry Training Program of the United Church of Canada.



Adrian Jacobs, Keeper of the Circle at SSSC, currently teaches Indigenous studies at CMU, and serves on CMU's Indigenous Initiatives Adviosry Committee. For many Canadian Indigenous

groups, a bundle exchange is a traditional way of formalizing treaties. Parties wishing to make a pact bring gifts to emblematize "what they bring to the table," and honour those with whom they will hereafter live in partnership.

The new Memo of Understanding paves the way for a more detailed contract (forthcoming), which will allow CMU and SSSC to work together, facilitating credit transfer between

schools, and opening exciting possibilities for course collaboration and cross-cultural learning, for the benefit of students on both sides.



The same weekend, CMU's Outtatown community—including current students and site leaders, alumni, and university leaders—came together with long-time teaching partners from Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation to celebrate 11 fruitful years of friendship and collaboration.

Community elder Peter Atkinson, together with his daughter Colleen, hosted the celebration at their home on-reserve, following a four-day intensive course delivered to this year's Outtatown students. Peter and Colleen have been featured instructors since the program's inception.

Following a site visit in 2018, Outtatown student Kyla Willms stated, "the Anishinaabe have beautiful ways of thinking about the world, respecting the environment, prayer for every situation, and equality in governance. There's no way to change the past, but it definitely inspires me to be part of [present-day] reconciliation." Willms returned to speak at the reunion, describing how her time at Roseau River continues to impact her a year later.

### **CENTRE FOR RESILIENCE NEWS**

# A Rocha Manitoba at CMU

By Jess Klassen

MU's Centre for Resilience (CFR) is a co-working space for social entrepreneurs. Today, CFR's co-working community includes 15 small businesses and non-profit organizations, all with a focus of addressing social and ecological challenges.

Jess Klassen, CFR Coordinator, recently spoke with CFR resident Scott Gerbrandt, Director of A Rocha Manitoba.

### What is A Rocha Manitoba?

A Rocha is a community that loves place and people. Our vision is to show God's love to all of Creation; we invite people to care for the Earth and understand that this is part of the Christian message and work.

### What is the exciting new project you're working on?

A Rocha Manitoba is launching the Boreal Ecology Centre in East Braintree on the cusp of the boreal forest. It is going to be a place where people can join the warmth and wildness of God by participating in conservation science and environmental education. The property is a space with 220 acres of forest, meadows, and river. The project includes an environmental centre with a small conservation lab, a

learning centre, a dining room, accommodations, and a site manager's residence.

### How has A Rocha's residence in CFR impacted your work?

Having A Rocha's office in the Centre is a great fit because it's an affordable and beautiful space. It has been delightful to experience the community CFR attracts. With architects, small business owners, marketers, and graphic designers in the room, there's always a resource that can help.

Whether one's in Folio Café, Marpeck Commons, or in the hallways, there is collaboration and community found on the CMU campus. Rachel Krause, CMU faculty, and her class visited East Braintree last fall and participated in a baseline biological survey of the boggy river. We've also connected with two students through CMU's practicum program. One student helped develop a list that visitors use to identify species in the area. Another student spent time geo-tracking and assessing our trails. We have also hired CMU students as summer staff—one ran a children's day camp, and another re-vamped our website.

Visit arocha.ca/where-we-work/manitoba to learn more about A Rocha Manitoba and cmu.ca/resilience for information about CMU's Centre for Resilience.

# Portable CMU: how a university of the church takes care of its roots

By Beth Downey

ur faith teaches that we belong to those who have made us: to Christ, our families, and communities. Accordingly, CMU belongs to the many-membered church body that first raised it up and nurtures it to this day. Enter Portable CMU. Former president/professor emeritus Dr. Gerald Gerbrandt, the program's first director, says "one of the great things about the offering is that from the beginning, it was congregation-instigated."

Faculty portables began in 1982 at Canadian Mennonite Bible College. Professors constantly received church invitations to come and speak on specific issues—a wonderful problem to have, but a problem, nonetheless. To solve it, Gerbrandt conceived a program that fulfills this hunger for enrichment teaching in the church and personal connection with the university, while easing the burden on faculty.

"The beauty of the program was and is its equalizing power. First, it empowered smaller congregations that might not otherwise have the confidence to invite a professor to their church. Now they were receiving our brochure. Second, it's a flat rate for service anywhere in the country—Winnipeg, for example, is subsidizing northern Alberta. But that's good! It's cooperative that way," says Gerbrandt.

Today, Portable CMU is as robust as ever. With over 40 topics offered by over a dozen faculty, congregations can

choose from options such as Refugees and Migrants in the Biblical Period; The Mennonite Brethren Story; Death, Dying, and the God of Life; Science, Faith, and a Christian Response to Climate Change; and more.

For more about Portable CMU, visit cmu.ca/portable.



# PORTABLE CMU

# **FACULTY: IN THEIR OWN WORDS**

Neil Weisensel has taught sessionally at CMU since 2015. In 2018 he joined the faculty full-time, teaching Music Theory and Composition.



# What are you teaching right now that you're most excited about?

My seminar course on orchestration. The final project is an original composition that students can write for any of several groups: our resident Mennonite Community Orchestra (MCO), concert or jazz band, or any CMU choir. It's a third-year course, so students are really synthesizing their knowledge. The results and how students share in them is something I really enjoy.

### What are you researching and writing?

Currently, I'm working on a new opera based on the life of Louis Riel, which has been a fascinating journey. It's written in a combination of English, French, Cree-Michif, French-Michif, and Saulteaux. The project received a Canada Council New Chapters Grant and that has really transformed what we're able to do.

# Do you have any interesting projects underway in the broader community or church?

SummerCör, the newest of two great community choirs I lead, is a place to sing when other choirs are off season. We always sing with orchestra—we use a lot of MCO and other university students to do that, and I hire a CMU student as assistant conductor, too. It's good help for me and great experience for them.

## What do you most long for in your work?

Truth and beauty. Beauty can be a face of truth, but the truth isn't always beautiful. Music makes room for that whole paradox.

# Teach to form Character Character

# "Why does your work matter?"

We asked faculty how their course teaching or academic research connects to and extends CMU's mission 'to inspire and equip women and men for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society'. How does it nurture hope, resilience, and courage in students as they live into the needs of society and the world?

Their reflections follow...









# Communications: Theories of Communication in Everyday Life

**By David Balzer,** Assistant Professor of Communications and Media

A great act of Christian service is to help students communicate well in the world according to Dr. Em Griffin, author of *A First Look at Communication Theory*. This course, "Theories of Communication in Everyday Life", follows this textbook and dives into a collection of 20-some communication theories exploring interpersonal, public, mass, and cultural communication experiences.

# Here's a sampling of some questions we engage in:

Should relationships be understood as a series of cost and reward exchanges, much like we gain or lose money in a banking process? Or does that diminish the other person? Social Exchange Theory begs this question.

Or how about those committee meetings? The Functional Theory of Decision-Making assesses what would be necessary to achieve a high-quality decision and describes four communication functions that need to be in play.

In *The Rhetoric* Aristotle posited that the available means of persuasion are ethos (credibility of the speaker); pathos (emotion); and logos (the logical structure of the argument). What does it mean to the life of the church when our communication is infused with character (ethos), joy (pathos), and strength of reasoning (logos)?

Paul Watzlawick's Interactional View argues that family systems are disposed to homeostasis, keeping the peace at whatever price. Does that help explain why, at times, family members use communication to sustain dysfunctional behaviours? It's empowering when Watzlawick goes on to discuss how to address these cycles of "strange loops" in our communication.

I recall the gleam in an international student's face when we tackled Face-Negotiation Theory. Being able to put into words the visceral clash of collectivist versus individualist views of the world in her move from East to West was transformative. The theory illuminates the function of shame and face-saving behaviours in communication approaches and it helped her make sense of the disconnect she had been feeling in a Western culture. The theory gave her a

# "I believe that communication competence is a taste of the reign of God."

vocabulary and a voice. The relief was palpable.

Judee Burgoon from the University of Arizona suggests that a theory is nothing more than "a set of systematic hunches about the way things operate." A good theory is not an abstraction from reality, rather it is a coherent and tangible expression of reality. Developing the best picture possible of the human condition allows us to serve and lead with poignancy and wisdom.

I believe that communication competence is a taste of the reign of God. God brought the world into existence through the spoken word and ultimately reconciles us through the Word made flesh. When we carefully investigate how our words shape the world and invite God's Spirit to infuse our understanding, we are engaged in holy service to church and society.

# **Exploring Christian Spirituality**

**By Andrew Dyck,** Assistant Professor of Christian Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry

Every second year I teach the undergraduate course "Exploring Christian Spirituality." I inherited this course from Dr. Gerry Ediger, a CMU Professor Emeritus of Christian History. Each time I teach it, I've seen students growing in courage, resilience, and hope.

I have seen students develop the courage to talk about life with the Holy Spirit. Many people are unaccustomed to talking about their own experiences (or lack of experience) with the Spirit of God. In this course, students meet eight times in small groups to discuss the many Christian spiritual practices presented in Marjorie Thompson's Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life. As a result, students courageously talk about their lives from a spiritual standpoint.

I've seen this course nurture resilience in two ways. First, students explore Christian practices of faith. Some practices such as fasting and confession—are foreign to most students. By not rejecting these practices out of hand, students learn not only how to receive new insights from unexpected sources, but also how to develop a more robust faith. Second, students are introduced to the faith claims of their peers in ways that can be challenging. Participants develop resilient love when they welcome peers as diverse as a Catholic who is an enthusiastic evangelist, a Mennonite who dumpster dives as an act of stewardship, a 'third culture kid' who writes imaginatively to encounter God, a classmate who does not profess faith in Jesus, and an evangelical who is inspired by 'praiseand-worship' concerts.

Because this course focuses specifically on *Christian* spirituality, I also want students to grow in Christian hope. CMU's students face many hurdles and

threats—ranging from the personal difficulty of having a mental illness, to the global menace of climate change. Amidst these challenges, one student learned to pray for the first time. Another student told me enthusiastically of discovering connections between his life with God and his pursuit of mathematics. Other students were relieved to discover that they could live faithfully in ways that were in sync with their own temperaments. One student, about to graduate, left this course and CMU with a renewed faith in Jesus Christ. These students discovered that they are not alone with their challenges. Rather, they encountered the hope that comes through the companionship of Christ and his people.

I look forward to seeing how the students in this winter's *Exploring Christian Spirituality* class will express courage, resilience, and hope.

# Supporting Lives One Note at a Time

**By Michelle Yaciuk**, Assistant Professor of Music Therapy

The call to become a music therapist is often so powerful that one cannot deny it, no matter how hard one tries. Our students often tell a similar story at their audition:

"I love music, but didn't want a career as a performer or an educator; I want to help people...maybe become a doctor or social worker and keep music as a hobby for myself. But then I found out that something called *music therapy* exists and there is no turning back! This is what I am *meant* to do!"

One of the great joys of working at CMU as a music therapy professor is watching the journey our students take along the

way. They start off initially by increasing their musicianship, then broaden out their scope of music, from theoretical as well as practical standpoints. The magic, however, happens as the students begin to immerse themselves in field work, working with clients across a wide rage of settings—from the very young to the very old; from clients with relatively minor challenges to people with profound and pervasive disabilities. Watching students grow as they become helpers, advocates, and develop what they believe in, is truly our blessing.

While most students in the cohorts past and present have a similar entry point into the music therapy program, their journeys become as unique and diverse as they are once they have completed their degree. Since most music therapists also develop entrepreneurial skills while completing their degree, individuals can build on their calling to music therapy and combine it with other passions, be it professional and/or personal.

Recent music therapy grads have been successful in developing new positions or programs in their communities— working with children with disabilities, older adults, choirs for people with dementia and Parkinson's, among others—bringing the gift of music into the lives of those who might not otherwise have the chance to experience the joy of a shared music experience.

Although our music therapy students come from different backgrounds and are at different stages in their lives, they leave CMU united by a passion for serving the community and changing lives through their music therapy practice.

# The Fifties and Sixties: North American Cold, Cool, and Radical

**By Brian Froese**, Associate Professor of History

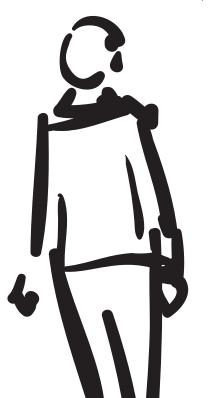
In my course we explore the years immediately following World War Two, when much of North American life was significantly changed. The three keywords in the title denote themes of the course. It is a "cold" course in that the origins, trajectories, strategies, and tense moments of the Cold War are unpacked. We study the creation of institutions like

"This course matters because it opens a way to understand our world today."

the UN and NATO, and the Cold War's impact on the political and social climates in Canada and the United States. It is a "cool" course in that we explore artistic and cultural movements. We read beat poetry, and examine developments in painting, literature, film, and music including the emergence of rock and roll and the Bakersfield sound in country. It is a "radical" course in that many social

movements break into public consciousness. We explore movements in civil rights, free speech, the environment, anti-war protest, the expansion of rights for marginalized groups, groups within the new left, and the rise of a conservative coalition.

Canada's place in these developments as the tiny neighbour to the increasingly powerful United States is important. In Canada, many of these same themes arise, though with some significant differences—a different "counter-culture,"



no draft, and its politics took a different turn. Nonetheless, Canadians remained enormous consumers of American culture while the country navigated its own identity transformation.

This course matters because it opens a way to understand our world today. We see how most everything is connected, how hard geopolitical realities influences art and popular culture; we also see how culture flows into politics and how there is diversity and conflict in even the most peaceful oriented organizations and ambitions. The course challenges stereotypes of the past, seeing how there was a mix of conformity and social challenge regardless of the decade. Together we reflect upon the significance of all human activities in the formation of community and society, while considering how difficult decisions were made by those with and without power.

Finally, it does us good to remember—without overstating it—that we are not alone. Whatever we are experiencing today, are worried about today, or are confident about today, people in the past have similarly experienced. We explore a time where anxiety and confidence comingled, much like now. It is a fun and serious course about fun and serious things.

# Indigenous People of Canada

**by Adrian Jacobs**, CMU Sessional Instructor; Keeper of the Circle at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

Indigenous spirituality is "dirt under the fingernails" reality in looking after others. This Indigenous perspective sounds like the original Anabaptist emphasis on practical, lived-out belief as opposed to ivory tower contemplation. Indigenous people and Mennonite folk are people of the land, and this is one fundamental reason for "fellow feeling" between our communities. There is nothing more Mennonite or Indigenous as the idea of an egalitarian leadership, as well. I begin with these areas of similarities so that we can go on to speak about some very differing perspectives.

This course provides an overview of Indigenous peoples in Manitoba and Canada, with a summary of current contemporary Indigenous life issues. Throughout the class students hear from Indigenous folk and do readings that deal with: colonization, Indigenous worldviews, the treaties, the Indian Act, residential schools, Aboriginal rights, current socio-economic issues, and so much more.

Most people hold strong feelings about Indigenous matters, most of whom have very little information about those same matters. This is a recipe for disaster. My job is to accept peoples' current feelings, and then do my best to vastly increase their knowledge about Indigenous issues. It is when people have well-informed feelings that we can then engage in productive dialogue.

My being Indigenous helps students understand and experience Indigenous matters they see in the media. Reading about the Indian Act is very different than listening to an Indigenous person who is impacted by this legislation. The course is designed to give students an opportunity to develop critical and analytical skills in understanding some of the more important issues affecting contemporary Indigenous people. By the end of the course, my hope is that students acquire the knowledge and ability to analyze their significance in relation to assimilation, resistance, and reconciliation in the Indigenous community.

I do my best to share this impacting information in a way that is hopeful and seasoned with humour. Sometimes the historic reality that Indigenous folk have

# "Laughter is a survival strategy! "

experienced is a shock to learn about and people struggle to know how to feel and respond to this information—some even despair. My 20-plus years of pastoral experience helps me engage with students in a way that aids in their processing of this difficult information. Laughter is a survival strategy! I heard one faculty member, whose office is next to my classroom, comment, "I have never heard such loud laughter as comes from your class!"

# **Hearts of Freedom**

**By Stephanie Stobbe**, Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies

The "Canadian Southeast Asia Refugee Historical Research Project: Hearts of Freedom," funded by Heritage Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and DeFehr Foundation, is an important project that will preserve the oral histories of former Southeast Asian refugees, sponsors, government personnel, NGOs, and others who were instrumental in resettling refugees in Canada. This research directly connects with CMU's mission that encourages service, leadership, and reconciliation.

Mennonite Central Committee signed the first umbrella agreement with the Canadian government in 1979 to expedite the refugee resettlement process that helped Mennonites and other communities respond to the humanitarian crisis in Southeast Asia. Between 1979 "This research directly connects with CMU's mission that encourages service, leadership, and reconciliation."

and 1980, Canada resettled over 60,000 refugees from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia—a historic endeavour. During the 1980s many more refugees came to Canada through refugee resettlement and family reunification programs. By 1991, there were 94,255 people of Vietnamese origin, 18,620 Cambodians, and 14.840 Laotians.

In addition to myself, the Senior Research Team is comprised of four researchers from Carleton University, the University of Ottawa, and the Canadian Immigration Historical Society. We all have personal connections to the project. In my case, I was one of the 60,000 who came to Canada as a young child with my family from Laos.

The project's goals include: preserving the historical memory and experience of Southeast Asian refugees; documenting the experiences of those involved in the resettlement process to inform future generations of government and private decision makers; gathering cultural and historical materials to document the events; and fostering a network between Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian communities, Carleton University, CMU's Menno Simons College, Canadian Immigration Historical Society, Pier 21 Immigration Museum, and Canadian History Museum to assist in the preservation of these memories.

Research results will be shared with edu-

cational institutions and their students through the development of a curriculum and made available to the general public through research papers, a book, a documentary film, and the Hearts of Freedom website (to be hosted by CMU for educational and research purposes). Additional funding will facilitate community gatherings and curated shows across Canada.

The research team has conducted video interviews of 110 participants in Ontario and Quebec, and will move to Winnipeg next for more interviews. Additional

research will take place in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, and Halifax. The stories we have heard so far have been fascinating.

It was a historic initiative to resettle over 125,000 refugees through the tremendous collaboration of multi-jurisdictional levels of government, NGOs, businesses, and private citizens. We aim to preserve these stories and make them become a part of the Canadian narrative.

# The Evolutionary and Ecological Revolution

**By Rachel Krause,** Assistant Professor of Biology

In the biology course The Evolutionary and Ecological Revolution, we follow evolutionary ecologist E.O. Wilson's popular nonfiction book Diversity of Life in charting the change in diversity of life on Earth. Starting with evolution, the process by which species diversify, and ending with ecology and conservation biology, we come to understand the current crisis of species loss and what we might do about it. At the same time, we also examine the historical progression of scientific thought, including Darwin's theory of evolution, and more contemporary examples, such as island biogeography and the debate over "single large or several small" wildlife conservation areas. As we learn about the scientific theories underpinning our understanding of the natural world, we also explore how interactions between individuals and ideas can lead to revolutions in that understanding.

In the tradition of many CMU courses, this course takes us to the heart of what it means to be human—it tells us something about where we come from, what our connections are to the rest of life on Earth, and where we might be going as a species that shares this biosphere with many others. It pushes students to connect the "big, out-there" world with individual experiences in their own

small corner of it.

The term project for the course is a field journal of the Assiniboine Forest, located 100 metres from our classroom. Students take part in the centuries-old tradition of keeping a journal of their observations of nature, following in the footsteps of notable naturalists such as Darwin, Wilson, and countless others. To begin, the students are given a crash-course in plant identification in the forest by the City of Winnipeg naturalists who manage it—after that, how stu-

thirteen-lined ground squirrel, or following a white-tailed deer down one of its many secret paths.

Many students comment at the end of the course that the task of observing in the forest every week for a semester has provided a new appreciation and affection for it. They leave the course with a greater sense of connection to all of creation, inspired to do the hard and important work of stewarding it.

"In the tradition of many CMU courses, this course takes us to the heart of what it means to be human."

dents use their journals is up to them.

This course attracts students in all years and disciplines, and the variety of directions their journals take reflects this. Some students take a theological or philosophical perspective, pondering the meaning of life, nature, and God, while some find expression through drawing and photography. One music student notated various bird calls in her journal, while identifying the birds to which they belong. Still others follow the naturalist tradition more directly, making in-depth observations of the shape and colour of a trembling aspen leaf, or observing the behaviour of a



# The Heart of the Matter

Five CMU Faculty discuss how their courses equip students to face uncertain futures with courage and self-efficacy

### **By Beth Downey**

War-zone reporter and novelist turned climate researcher J. M. Ledgard recently told the *New Yorker* that, faced with a mess like the one humanity has made, "the only possible thing to do, is to go in an imaginative direction. Imagination at scale is our only recourse."

I recently sat down with five CMU faculty, and the same conviction stood out. It began with **Neil Weisensel**, **Instructor of Music Theory and Composition**.

BD: How do the courses you teach equip students to engage the conditions they encounter in the world, church, and society?

**NW:** I think in most music courses, perhaps especially in composition, the real work is about uncovering truth and beauty. It's about mining those things out amidst work, strife, chaos even. I always

1 Ben Taub, "Jonathan Ledgard Believes Imagination Could Save the World," *The New Yorker* online, 19 September 2019. tell my students, "Your job is to learn the rules so that you can break them. We put you in a box in these courses, but we put you there so you can break out of it."

Weisensel's words hit me. They were bold and pliable, outlining a powerful connection. He conceived the work of imagination and co-creation through music as an act, even a lifestyle, of sacred resistance. I asked four more professors the same question. Throughout, the same undercurrent persisted.

Sue Sorensen, Associate Professor of English: It's about creativity. Creativity is not something nice to do at the end of a forty-hour work week, it is essential: to relationships, to faith, how we understand ourselves, how we survive. I think of my first-year Poetry course; many students come in thinking of poetry as this secret language. They think they know what poetry is and I go, "No, not at all!," and then we just spend our time really breaking open and dismantling

### Paul Dyck, Associate Professor of English, Associate Dean of Faculty:

that box. The students simply aren't

prepared for what happens.

I would add that creativity is also essential to work, and critical thinking. People sometimes think we have practical tools and then we have 'recreations' (like poetry), but those two things are actually inextricable.

"By the time they graduate, students have made real engagement a habit. They are already people of action."

### Anna Nekola, Assistant Professor of

Music: One of the things I tell my first-year Art of Music students is "I don't know what you need to know, because you need to come up with things I've never thought of before." In that course, I try to open them up to music not as a text or an object but as something humans do. It's about getting it off the page and into the hands and mouths of musicians; by extension, it becomes about allowing more music to come to the table.

# Sheila Klassen-Wiebe, Associate Professor of New Testament: In

my courses, imagination is about our rootedness in the past. In Biblical Literature and Themes, for example, students often come in thinking of the Bible as an instruction manual or self-help book, but it's not. I try to get them to think bigger, beyond the confines of their limited experience and ask themselves, "how does this material apply to larger collectives and communities over time?" Because the fact is that no matter what questions and crises these students are grappling with at a given time, those questions have been asked before. They have a past and a history that merits exploration.

**PD:** Sheila reminds me of my course on Homer's epics. Those stories deal with big stuff—take the Trojan War. It's a good reminder that we're not the first people to have an acute sense of, well, the apocalyptic.

# BD: How do the courses you teach help students flourish?

AN: First, flourishing is about care for others. It depends upon our asking how all of us—human and non-human—can flourish. In my Art of Music course, everybody writes eventually about how they have new ears for the music in their lives. They become more inclusive, attentive, observant listeners. The bigger-picture result of that is this: understanding and appreciating diversity in music leads to greater understanding, appreciation, and inclusion of diversity among human beings.



# "... the church (and a university of the church) needs to ask "how can I offer myself to look out for and serve the needs of others?"

**SS:** We get students outside of themselves. The world says "it's all about me, I'm most important," but the church (and a university of the church) needs to ask "how can I offer myself to look out for and serve the needs of others?" Our task is to overcome the obsession with self that is literally destroying the world. And every single discipline at CMU can contribute to that radical vision of community that's needed to, somehow, help God save the world.

**PD:** I would go back to your very first question about engagement and say that we're already practicing that in the classroom. Sometimes it's more obvious than others, but it's already going on. By the time they graduate, students have made real engagement a habit. They are already people of action.

# BD: What questions lie at the heart of the course(s) you teach and why are those questions important?

**SS:** "What kind of people do we want to be?" Or even, "what were we put here for?" Literature explores these questions at every turn.

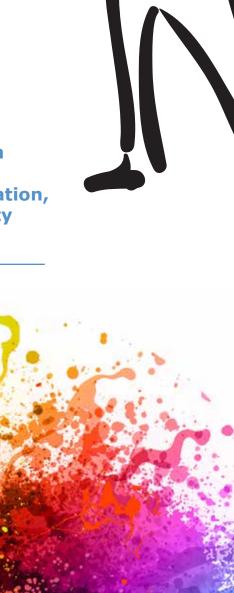
**SK-W:** "How do our stories fit into the larger story of what God is doing in the world, has done, and will do? How do we live into that future with hope, trust, and love?" And depending on how we answer those first questions, "who do our choices make us? Who are we, as (a) people?"

AN: "How do we know what we know?"
As we gain perspective on the processes of history-making that have gone into all the subjects we study, we can begin to ask: "Whose stories are we telling?" It's about the ability to see others' humanity more readily. In Art of Music we're asking "Is there more than one way to be human? How can music acknowledge and minister to all those different versions of the human experience?"

**PD:** In my George Herbert course we're investigating the body-language of Herbert's poetry. He is known for his shaped poems, their dynamic relationship between form and content. So my big questions this year have been "How does theology feel? How does doctrine feel when we get it into our bodies, live it out in the world among other people? What can attending to this teach us?"

They don't use the words I'm thinking, words like "incarnation," "discipleship," and "witness," but the ideas and commitments are there. Together, these touchstones at the heart of the matter form a strong, sacred resistance. They make me confident that, whatever tomorrow brings, this community will have the tools and the creative imagination needed to face it head-on.

"...understanding and appreciating diversity in music leads to greater understanding, appreciation, and inclusion of diversity among human beings."



# The Art of Mathematical Thinking

**By Tim Rogalsky**, Associate Professor of Mathematics

The Art of Mathematical Thinking is a joyful romp through some of the most "fun"damental ideas in the history of mathematics. Why does this matter? The best way to explain is through one of the stories we encounter in the course.

Many years ago, math was geometry and geometry was math. As an act of earthmeasuring (geo means earth in Greek and metron means measure), geometry was also the science of nature. Scientists believed that the universe could be described by a simple mathematical system, built upon the five simple rules of Euclid.¹ The simplest rule, for example, is this: given any two points, you can draw a straight line between them. The most complicated rule is the fifth: given a line and a point, you can draw exactly one parallel line through that point.

1Euclid of Alexandria, c. 300 BCE

From these five simple rules came such powerful explanations of nature that mathematics became known as the language in which God has written the universe.

One day Carl, an unorthodox young mathematician,<sup>2</sup> asked himself a question—what if geometry ignored its fifth rule? What if there were many parallel lines through a point? What if there were none? As these questions were more than a little heretical, he kept them mostly to himself. It was not long, however, before a small band of mathematicians developed a robust theory of "non-Euclidean" geometries. In its elegance, order, simplicity, and grace, they found four-rule geometry to be profoundly beautiful. Because it was unable to describe the real world, the mainstream scientific community found it to be a profoundly useless waste of time.

Many years later Albert, an unorthodox young physicist,<sup>3</sup> asked equally heretical

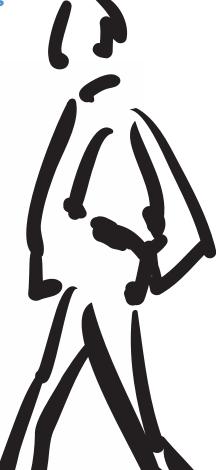
2 Carl Friedrich Gauss, 1777-1855 CE 3 Albert Einstein, 1879-1955 CE questions about the nature of gravity—is it really just some mysterious force, or could it possibly be related to the geometry of the universe? Lacking the mathematical skills to answer his own question, he turned to non-Euclidean geometry.

After three years of intense study, Albert proclaimed that Carl's "useless" mathematics in fact describes the universe—gravity is the non-Euclidean warping of space-time! As Albert would later say, the eternal mystery of the world is that mathematics makes it comprehensible.

The story of Einstein's theory of general relativity contains some of the themes we repeatedly encounter in the course—mathematical teachings that I hope will return to students throughout their life. Be curious. Keep an open mind. Understand simple things deeply. Beauty matters. Don't close your mind to ideas that first appear counterintuitive. New perspectives often reveal new insights. And last, but definitely not least—there is no such thing as "useless" math!

"Be curious. Keep an open mind. Understand simple things deeply. Beauty matters. Don't close your mind to ideas that first appear counterintuitive."



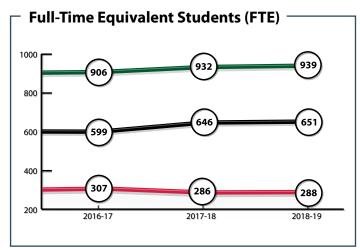


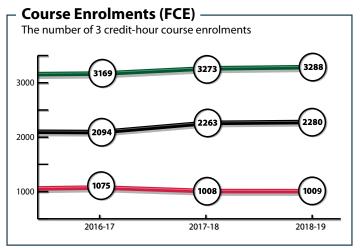
# **CMU Report to the Community**

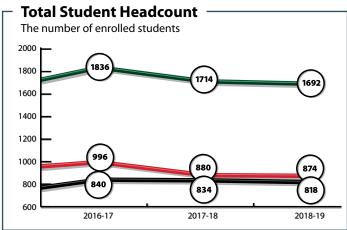
**Vision and generosity** are threaded through this Report to the Community—a window into enrolment, academic programing, church and community engagement, faculty research, and financial data for the 2018-2019 year. CMU is grateful for the vision and generosity of many friends,

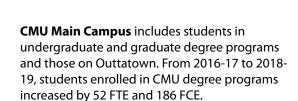
alumni, donors, and church communities that undergird and entrust CMU with its mission and vision. Your vision shapes the experience of students who are being equipped for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society. Thank you!

# **Enrolment**









Total CMU

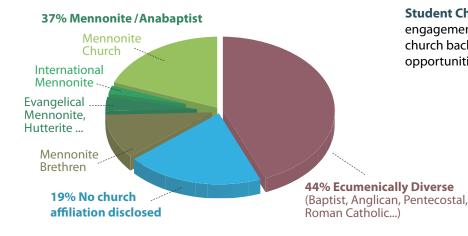
Main Campus

MSC Campus

MSC Campus includes UWinnipeg students studying at CMU's program centre, Menno Simons College. Many students at MSC take 1 or 2 courses (ie. 18-19 Headcount of 874 equates to 288 FTE).

**Student Church Affiliation** reflects broad engagement of students from a wide diversity of church backgrounds. CMU is deeply grateful for opportunities to learn together.

# **Student Church Affiliation**



# Service and Work-integrated Learning

**CMU is unique among Canadian universities** in that every degree student, regardless of program, completes a practicum, a supervised off-campus work experience. In 2018-2019, 74 students completed a practicum (73% completed an intensive four-month practicum while 27% completed their practicum through the academic year).

Students chose placements in a diverse range of congregations, church-connected, and other agencies and with the Autism Learning Centre, Bear Clan Patrol, Camps, Health Sciences Centre, Buhler Industries, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, CancerCare Manitoba, Schools, CJOB and CTV, Deer Lodge Centre Spiritual Care, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Friedenshaus (Germany), Greentech Environmental Canada, Immigrant & Refugee Center, North Forge Technology Exchange, Siloam Mission, Corymeela Reconciliation Center in N. Ireland...



# The CMU Fund is critical to the Academic experience of students and the degrees they earn.

## 198 Degrees and Certificates

77 CMU Undergraduate BA, BMus, BBA

**34** 4-vear

**26** 3-year

3 Certificate in General Studies

20 CMU Graduate

**2** MA Theological Studies or Christian Ministry

**9** MA Peace and Collaborative Development

**9** Masters of Business Administration

**41** Outtatown Certificates

**60** Menno Simons College (Majors in CRS, IDS)

# - A Diverse Student Body

73% Manitoba

Other Provinces and International

98 Undergraduate and Graduate International Students

28 Countries

Albania 20; Nigeria 19; Kenya 7; Brazil 6; Ethiopia 5; India 4; South Korea 4; Jamaica 3 2 each from Philippines, Ukraine, USA, Cameroon, Hong Kong, Ethiopia 1 each from Bangladesh, Germany, Honduras, Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast, Kosovo, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tanzania

# **Engaging Community and Church**

**The 2019 CMU PAX Award** was given to Rudy Wiebe for a lifetime of stories exploring complex dimensions of love, peace and forgiveness, demonstrating a gift of imagination rooted in communities of faith.

**The Redekop family from British Columbia** was recognized for the significance of their support of CMU's Redekop School of Business.

**CMU's Face2Face** series included three important community conversations:

Whose Neighbour Am I? Treaty One and Mennonite Privilegium

Whose Neighbour Am I? Newcomers in Canada A Matter of Life and Death: Exploring Death in our Culture

Leonard Ratzlaff (MBBC '70), Brian Dyck (CMBC '96), Christine Ens (CMBC '96), and Heather Unger (Concord '02) were recognized with **Distinguished Alumni Awards.** 

Faculty offered **CMU Portables in 23 congregations**, from British Columbia to Ontario.

**115 Pastors** from across the prairies attended the **ReNew: Resourcing Pastors for Ministry Conference**, focused on Death, Funerals, and the Christian Hope with keynote speaker Dr. Thomas Long.

**195 people** participated in Xplore +55 classes in Winnipeg and in Winkler.

**100 people** attended #ChurchTooManitoba, responding to sexual misconduct in the life of the church.



MCAC League Champions in: Women's Soccer, Men's Soccer, and Women's Basketball



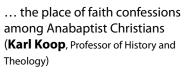
# **Faculty Writing and Research**

In addition to their teaching, faculty are all involved in a variety of research and writing projects. Below a small sample of the diverse areas that faculty are exploring. Their research is focused on ...



... the convergence of Christian theology and communication practice, particularly the reality of religiously-informed language in everyday talk (**David Balzer**, Assistant Professor of Communications and Media)







... the realities of financial exclusion and ways to build financial resilience among vulnerable communities in Canada and internationally (**Jerry Buckland**, Professor of International Development Studies)



... older adult care continuums, focusing on persons with dementia in rural and remote communities who transition from hospital to community based settings (**Heather Campbell-Enns**, Assistant Professor of Psychology)

... collegiate basketball seen through the lens of music and dance, exploring how sound and movement connect people across differences

(**Jonathan Dueck,** Vice President Academic and Academic Dean)

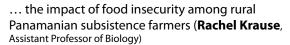


... the history and impact of American evangelicalism in Western Canada (**Brian Froese**, Associate Professor of History)

... issues of Indigenous reconciliation, including the history of relations between Canadian Mennonites and Indigenous peoples (**Neil Funk-Unrau**, Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies)



... a commentary on James for the Believers Church Bible Commentary series (**Sheila Klassen-Wiebe**, Associate Professor of New Testament)



... peace education skills for the creation of social change in communities in the Philippines and Southeast Asia (**Wendy Kroeker,** Assistant Professor, Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies)



... cancer, involving undergraduate students, by analyzing how tissues grow and develop in fruit flies (Nicolas Malagon, Assistant Professor of Biology)

... regional and demographic factors that influence the economy, from the consumption of individual goods and services to the GDP as a whole

(Craig Martin, Assistant Professor of Business)



... Mennonite Brethren spirituality as a means to reflect on healthy appropriation of spiritual practices between Christian denominations and traditions (**Andrew Dyck**, Assistant Professor of Christian Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry)

... conflict resolution practices in Southeast Asia—Laos, Thailand, Vietnam—along with the resettlement experiences of refugees in Canada (**Stephanie Stobbe**, Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies)



... composing music for 'Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North', an opera commissioned by the Canada Council, premiering with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in 2020 (**Neil Weisensel**, Adjunct Professor of Music)

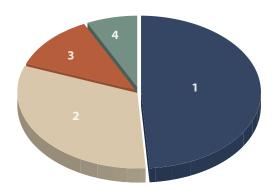
... the distinctive practices of faith-based NGOs working in Haiti and how they differ (**Ray Vander Zaag**, Associate Professor of International Development Studies)

... the plays of the 10<sup>th</sup> Century German dramatist Hrotsvit of Gandersheim, exploring virtues of faith, hope, and love, and our own questions of knowledge (**Chris Huebner**, Associate Professor of Theology and Philosophy)



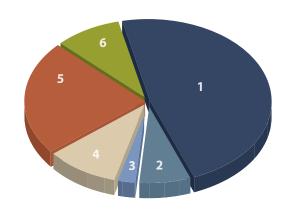
# **Finances and Giving**

The 2018–19 financial year ended with a small surplus—the 19th consecutive year of stable fiscal management—and another modest increase in the total number of donors who contributed to CMU, including the number of donors who gave \$1,000 or more. In addition to support of the CMU Fund, donors made substantive contributions to capital projects, endowments, and other funds. CMU is deeply grateful.



# **Total Revenues**

| 1. Tuition, Fees, Residence, Meal Plans                              | \$7,063,202 | (49%) |
|--|-------------|-------|
| 2. Government Grants   | \$4,603,267 | (32%) |
| 3. Individual Donations, Church Support,<br>Bequests, and Endowments | \$1,741,371 | (12%) |
| 4. Facility Rental and Other Income                                  | \$1,045,329 | (7%)  |



# **Total Expenditures**

\$14,324,717

### Students and Programming \$8,249,754 (58%)

| Net Surplus  | \$128,451         |
|--|-------------------|
| 6. Administration and General                            | \$1,302,307 (9%)  |
| 5. Facilities, Maintenance, Food Services,<br>CommonWord | \$3,358,136 (23%) |
| 4. Church Relations, Alumni,<br>Development, Recruitment | \$1,414,519 (10%) |
| 3. Scholarships and Bursaries                            | \$385,203 (3%)    |
| 2. Student Services, Housing, Athletics                  | \$975,864 (7%)    |
| 1. Academic Programming                                  | \$6,888,687 (48%) |
|  |                   |

**Donations to the CMU Fund** which supports all annual operations, including academic, co-curricular and extended education programming, salaries, and facilities:

\$14,453,169

**Patrons** (\$5,000+) \$442,351 **38** Donors

**President's Circle** (\$1,000 – \$4,999) \$325,600 **212** Donors

**Partners** (\$1 – \$999) \$165,486 **692** Donors Giving to the CMU Fund Alumni gave \$363,749 250 Donors gave \$1,000 or more

**Total:** \$933,438 from **942 Donors** 

# **Supporting Students Financially**

\$657,621 given in Scholarships and Bursaries

| \$342,748     | \$314,873            |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Bursaries     | Scholarships         |
| (awarded to   | (awarded to          |
| 216 students) | <b>177</b> students) |

| \$417,231              | \$240,391     |  |
|------------------------|---------------|--|
| <b>63%</b> from        | 37% allocated |  |
| annual donor gifts and | from the      |  |
| endowment earnings     | CMU Fund      |  |

**324** students received a Bursary or Scholarship (over **50%** of CMU students received some form of financial aid)

**7 international students** fully supported (from Ukraine, Albania, Palestine, Philippines, Iraq, and Zimbabwe)

# New Scholarships & Bursaries for 2018-19

# **Encompass Benefits and HR Solutions**

(\$1,000 Business-Faith Scholarship)

**John and Katie Friesen** (\$1,000-\$2,000 Ministry Preparation Bursary)

**Otto Klassen** (\$2,000 Media and Communications Scholarship)

**Timothy Chiu Chen** (\$500 Ministry-Missions Preparation Scholarship)

**Grunthal-CMU** (\$750 Entrance Bursary for graduate from Green Valley High School)

**A&M Hildebrand Family** (\$1,000 Bursary for First Nations, Indigenous, or Métis student)

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educational programs and mission, Student Bursaries and Scholarships, Capital projects (Marpeck Commons)... - Patron Donors, \$5,000+ - President's Circle Donors, \$1,000-\$4,999

**Bold** — Alumni, Staff, or Emeriti

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in addition, 67 congregations, agencies and organizations supported individual students or student related projects.

A total of 152 donors 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, we would welcome the opportunity to correct them.

Contact development@cmu.ca or call: 204.487.3300.



# Community gathers to celebrate Fall@CMU

By Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe

he CMU campus filled with laughter and conversation, good food, cyclists, children, and singing on September 27-28, as hundreds of people gathered for Fall@CMU, the university's annual autumnal gathering.

Celebrated at the end of each September, the weekend event features opportunities for students, alumni, friends, donors, and community members to connect, learn, play, and celebrate the CMU community.

This year's event kicked off on Friday, September 27 with a gathering of alumni from CMBC and MBBC celebrating their 50- and 60-year class reunions. The day included time to reconnect, a campus tour, and dinner with CMU faculty and the recipients of this year's Distinguished Alumni Awards.

That evening, the community gathered in the Laudamus Auditorium for the Opening Celebration, which included worship, music by the CMU Singers, and reflections by the recipients of the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards. A prayer of blessing for the year was shared by Nadya Langelotz, fifth-year English student.

President Cheryl Pauls presented the awards to Randy Klassen, a former teacher who has dedicated over a decade to building relationships between settler and Indigenous peoples; Eileen Klassen Hamm, Executive Director of Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan who has pursued justice with the organization for over 25 years; Donna Kampen Entz, a former Mennonite Church Alberta witness worker in Burkina Faso who is invested in interfaith and cross-cultural relationships in North Edmonton; and Jeffrey Metcalfe, the Canon Theologian for the Anglican Diocese of Quebec who is doing his doctoral research in how the church can push back against racism. The awards presentation was followed by a reception in the Great Hall.

Fall@CMU continued on Saturday, September 28 with a variety of events, including the MennoCross bicycle races, sausage-on-a-bun lunch, and more class reunions. It also included the annual Farmers Market, which featured numerous vendors selling everything from squash to honey to handcrafted products. The day concluded with the MPK Folkfest, a music festival organized by students.











# CMU recognizes distinguished alumni with 2019 awards

By Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe

former teacher dedicated to building relationships with Indigenous peoples, a former MC Alberta witness worker invested in intercultural relationships, a long-time pursuer of justice with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), and a priest and canon theologian in the Anglican church are the recipients of CMU's 2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

CMU President Cheryl Pauls presented the awards to Randy Klassen, Donna Kampen Entz, Eileen Klassen Hamm, and Jeffrey Metcalfe during CMU's Opening Celebration on Friday, September 27.

"For all the right reasons, the good of a university tends to be seen in the qualities of life and faith of its current students and recent graduates," says CMU President Cheryl Pauls. "At the same time, it's in the longer-term paths of vocation and commitment that alumni bear truest witness to the nurturing of their education."

The Distinguished Alumni Awards celebrate alumni who, through their lives, embody CMU's values and mission of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society. The awards are presented to alumni from CMU and its predecessor colleges: Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC) and Mennonite Brethren Bible College (MBBC)/ Concord College.



Randy Klassen (MBBC '84) of Saskatoon, SK taught at Bethany College from 2002–2015 before becoming the National Restorative Justice Coordinator for MCC Canada for over three years, until the office was closed this spring. He has dedicated over 10 years to building relationships with Indigenous communities.

First through Bethany College and then Lakeview Church, he has taken young adults to Beardy's and Okemasis Cree Nation, where they connect with youth, get involved in the community, and learn from Indigenous elders. "It's been a remarkable and beautiful journey," he says. He also spent this summer with MCC Saskatchewan as the Event Coordinator for the Spruce River Folk Festival, a one-day event that raises awareness for landless Indigenous bands. Klassen says receiving this award from CMU was an unexpected honour, especially during a time when his career was changing

» It is a huge encouragement to think that the different chapters of my life thus far have made a positive contribution somewhere. «

in ways that he did not anticipate or ask for. "It is a huge encouragement to think that the different chapters of my life thus far have made a positive contribution somewhere," he says. "I'm grateful to be part of this huge legacy." Klassen and his wife Darlene have four children and five grandchildren. They attend Lakeview Church in Saskatoon.



Donna Kampen Entz (CMBC '86) of Edmonton, AB has worked with Mennonite Church Alberta since 2010, building interfaith and cross-cultural relationships with Muslims, many who are immigrants and refugees, in North Edmonton. The ministry strives to connect people with services, build community, and be a witness of Christian faith.

She and her husband Loren were witness workers in Burkina Faso from 1978–2008, an experience that shaped her passion for fostering interfaith dialogue and relationships "so that diverse peoples live together peacefully. Transformation happens to us as individuals and communities when we connect deeply with those who are different than us

» In granting me this award, I see CMU celebrating these 'cutting edge' experiences and initiatives. »

religiously and culturally." Kampen Entz has been supported by the Mennonite church her whole life, even when her work was not necessarily considered successful by societal standards. "In granting me this award, I see CMU celebrating these 'cutting edge' experiences and initiatives," she says. She and her husband have three children and four grandchildren. They attend several Mennonite churches in the Edmonton area.



Eileen Klassen
Hamm (CMBC '86)
of Saskatoon, SK is the
Executive Director of
MCC Saskatchewan. She
began working for MCC
in 1992, taking on various
program coordinator
roles and becoming
Program Director in 2007,
before being appointed
as Executive Director

in 2016. "I continue to be passionate about the ministry of MCC because this organization weaves together a diverse constituency of generous donors and volunteers and church

# » My learning journey as a young adult was shaped deeply by the CMBC community... »

communities with the beauty and brokenness of the world," says Klassen Hamm. "Through MCC, we are invited to step into local and global realities and offer our resources and our love, and in turn, we are formed and transformed by the courage and teachings from many places around the globe." Klassen Hamm and her husband, Les, have two adult children. They attend Wildwood Mennonite Church in Saskatoon, where she participates in leading worship and preaching. "Receiving this award is humbling," she says. "My learning journey as a young adult was shaped deeply by the CMBC community, and I have continued to be shaped by relationships and institutional activities that began then."





Jeffrey Metcalfe (CMU '09) of Quebec City, QC was recently installed as the Canon Theologian for the Anglican Diocese of Quebec. He facilitates theological reflection in decision making processes, helps congregations engage in vocational discernment, and creates programs to further clergy education. Metcalfe was ordained in 2013 and began his

PhD in Theological Studies at the University of Toronto's Trinity College in 2015. His research focuses on developing an ethnographic theological methodology to explore how the Anglican church in Quebec City can resist and push back against the racism in their context. "I am passionate about welcoming many kinds of migrants, including refugees, because I believe that God passionately loves the different peoples and places that God has created," he says. "As

» (an) opportunity... to thank CMU for the way it has shaped and empowered him to do the work he is doing today. »

disciples of Jesus, the Spirit calls and empowers us to join together with those who come to dwell with us from other lands – not as a duty, but as a joy." Metcalfe says he is grateful for this award and the opportunity it gives him to thank CMU for the way it has shaped and empowered him to do the work he is doing today.

He and his wife Julie have two children.

Jeffrey Metcalfe, Eileen Klassen Hamm, Randy Klassen, and Donna Kampen Entz after receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award on September 27, 2019

# People and Events



# Peacebuilding school celebrates 11 years of impact

In the political climate of our world today, a commitment to peacebuilding is more critical than ever. This summer, CMU welcomed 108 students and nine faculty from around the world to the Canadian School of Peacebuilding (CSOP) held from June 10-21.

CSOP is CMU's annual summer peace and justice institute, offering two weeks of five-day intensive courses related to peace, justice, and conflict resolution taught by renowned international and local instructors.

Peacebuilders of all faiths and identity groups from across Canada, the United States, Congo, Egypt, Liberia, Pakistan, Philippines, and elsewhere travelled to Winnipeg to network and engage in inspiring learning.

"CSOP creates a richly diverse environment for learning," said Wendy Kroeker, Academic Director of CSOP. "Participants build great networks as they meet others from all over the world who experience similar contexts and challenges."

The 2019 session offered seven courses representing academic areas, including Business, Psychology, Music, Biblical and Theological Studies, and more. Courses explored trauma and resilience, the theology of struggle, non-violent activism and resilience, human-centred design, making peace through music, Indigenous perspectives on

salvation and justice, and putting peace skills into practice.

Instructors included Dr. Emily Welty, member of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize-winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and director of Peace and Justice Studies at Pace University in New York City, and Dr. Svanibor Pettan, an internationally renowned lecturer, researcher, and chair of the ethnomusicology program at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Welty also gave a public lecture, titled,
"Imagination, Courage, and Resilience," on June
19. Drawing on her experiences working in the
peace and justice field, Welty explored how we
can create communities of imagination, joy, and
resistance in the face of injustice and hopelessness.

"Sometimes we spend so much time naming and describing the violence and oppression that exists in the world that we forget to also concentrate on



the roots of how to sustain dissent, to be generous and creative with one another," Welty said. "I don't want to minimize the very real suffering all around us, but I think we need to be as rigorous in our exploration of celebration, activism rooted in radical love for the Other, and imagination, as we are in our analysis of violence."

With another successful year behind them, the CSOP team has now turned its energy to preparing for the school's 12th year, which will run from June 8-12 and 15-19, 2020.

# Practicum student captures camp experience through poetry

When Nadya Langelotz decided to direct a summer camp, she thought it would require putting on hold one of her biggest passions: writing.

When the fifth-year English major was lamenting this at the end of last spring, her friend suggested doing it as a practicum at camp. Langelotz doubted it would work; how could writing and camp go together?

To her surprise, CMU helped her make it happen. "It's another way that CMU shows its adaptability and flexibility," she says. Even though the university doesn't offer a major in creative writing, instead of telling her "we can't help you" or "you can study that after your undergrad," she says they wanted to make it work within their existing structure because she was excited about it.



Langelotz's practicum emerged as a project writing poetry and nonfiction both individually and collaboratively while being a Summer Program Director at Camp Assiniboia, near Headingley, Manitoba.

One example of her work was creating inverse haikus (seven syllables, five syllables, seven syllables instead of the traditional five-seven-five) that documented life at camp, sometimes sourcing her words from campers and staff. She shared the poems, along with a picture from camp, through her Instagram account, @themarmot\_writes.

Oftentimes camp staff share memories in hindsight, long after camp is over, whereas Langelotz's writing happened while they were still deeply immersed in it all. "It feels more like a real-time representation of how we feel when we're here and the things we observe about campers, the ways we see God dance in between the structures of the day."

She also shared her writing with her practicum supervisor Sue Sorensen, Associate Professor of English, to which Sorensen responded with

feedback and her own writing as a way of reciprocating the vulnerability that comes with sharing writing.

Langelotz values the relationships CMU fosters between students and faculty. "I think the most exciting thing is just being supported," she says. "I know I feel supported by my professors at CMU when I'm in my classes, but this is a way I still feel connected to school throughout summer."

This fall she is doing the slow work of rereading all her writing and compiling it in a book, which she will create and bind by hand at CMU's printing press. "To be able to engage intellect and education with faith and my dreams and passions and weave those all together in a really interesting way, I guess I feel really lucky."

# CMU student wins international oratorical contest

Recent CMU graduate Amelia Warkentin (class of '19) was the winner of this year's C. Henry Smith Oratorical Contest. Her first-place speech, titled, "Finding Health and Peace Through Self-Care", earned her \$400 USD in prize money, forthcoming publication in *Mennonite Weekly Review*, and a scholarship for participation in a peace-related conference of her choice.

Judges called her speech "a timely and thoughtful application of [the Christian peace position]," remarking that "self-care is a commonly used term, but little Christian reflection has been done on its faithful practice."



Warkentin completed her BA, with a primary focus on English and Communications and Media, at CMU this past spring, shortly after delivering her speech.

The C. Henry Smith Oratorical contest

is open to undergraduate students from any Mennonite or Brethren in Christ college/university across Canada and the United States. Funded by the trust of C. Henry Smith, a 20th-century Mennonite historian and professor, it invites participants to hone their rhetorical skills while engaging creatively with Christian peace theology as it may apply to a wide variety of contemporary

concerns. Not to exceed 10 minutes (or 1,200 words) in length, speeches are judged on originality, quality integration of subject matter, and finesse.

A Winnipeg native, Warkentin's face and voice have long been familiar in local peace and social justice circles: in 2015 she facilitated the summer reading program for children at Sam's Place, a social enterprise of Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba. Her writing has featured regularly in Canadian Mennonite's former "Young Voices" column, and she was a feature performer in Sarasvati Productions' spoken word slam Here I Am, presented in March 2019 to celebrate International Women's Week. An aspiring teacher with a heart for early years, Warkentin began a BEd afterdegree at the University of Manitoba this fall.



# CMU students, faculty, and staff rally for climate justice

A multitude of CMU students, faculty, and staff took to the streets with over 12,000 people to strike for the climate on Friday, September 27.

The rally was one of thousands happening around the world as part of the Global Climate Strike, a youth-led movement protesting the climate crisis and advocating for environmental justice.

CMU students and alumni led bike jams and bus groups to the Manitoba Legislature, where motivational speakers and musicians addressed the masses before they marched on the streets of downtown Winnipeg.

Some professors cancelled their classes, while some did not, but made allowances for student absences. Others, like Wendy Kroeker, Assistant Professor of Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies (PACTS), made participation in the strike a mandatory assignment. Students in Kroeker's *Models of Peace and Conflict Transformation* class read about climate change and made posters, which they presented in class and then took to the strike.



Matt Parkinson, a third-year PACTS student, was one of the students in Kroeker's class. His sign declared, "Together we can be the difference," and was so large that it rose above the crowd and could easily be seen amongst the masses of signs. He and his friends walked through the crowds asking everyone to sign it, and he is hoping to send it to Ottawa.

"Together we can be the difference' is the idea that there's enough division already, it's time to start bringing us back together," he says. "I chose the colours based on our four political parties, so you see there's blue, there's orange, red, green signatures all over, which means whoever gets in [to government], you guys have to work together. I think it's time for something to change, it's time to see some difference start to happen in the world."

CMU also cancelled Friday chapel and encouraged students to attend several inter-faith prayer services taking place beforehand. Hundreds of people of all religions, including many CMUers, gathered close to the rally grounds to unite in prayers of lament and hope for the earth.



"It's an issue of faith because it's one of our core beliefs that creation was made by God and God gave it to us as a gift," said third-year student Natasha Neustaedter Barg at the strike. "To be here and to be destroying God's gift is not cool! So, we're here to make a difference for good."

# Alumni News



Peter Penner (MBBC '53), Calgary, AB, and his wife Justina Penner celebrated their 70th wedding



anniversary on July 9, 2019. Justina also worked as secretary to the president of MBBC from 1951-53.



The CMBC class of 1959 had their 60-year reunion at this year's Fall@ CMU celebrations. Five alumni

enjoyed reconnecting with each other over the weekend. Pictured left to right: Henry Dueck, Jake Friesen, George Dyck, and Edna Dyck. Not pictured: Valentine Zacharias.



The CMBC class of 1969 had their 50-year reunion at this year's Fall@CMU celebrations. Thirteen CMBC alumni enjoyed reconnecting over the weekend. Pictured left to right: Don Thiessen, Dori Pinkoski, Rob Wedel, Karen Buller, Peter Guenther, Elizabeth Peters, Marvin Baergen, Marianne Irvin, Len Enns, Val Kliewer, Abe Penner, Ron Brown, and Murray Hiebert. David Hamm, the only MBBC class of 1969 alumnus present, also participated.

**Ray Friesen** (MBBC '75), Swift Current, SK, published his first book, *Jump into the Story: The Art of Creative Preaching*. The book was released by Wipf & Stock in February 2019 and explores how to engage the imaginations of the people listening to your sermons. Ray is a retired pastor with 40 years of preaching experience. He continues to work as a mediator and a writer.

**Wayne Plenert** (CMBC '73), Dawson Creek, BC, received the 2019 Susanna Jani Excellence in Mediation Award from Mediate BC for his contributions to the peacebuilding field in the province. He holds undergraduate degrees in history and law and a master's degree in law, specializing in dispute resolution.

Don Neufeld (CMBC '86), Virgil, ON, is the visionary and co-editor of *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity* (Institute for Mennonite Studies/ Wipf and Stock, 2019). The book brings together clinical, pastoral, and theological commentaries on men and masculinity by 16 men and three women, pointing to possibilities of Anabaptist informed, peaceful opportunities for men to live well with themselves, their partners and families, their communities, creation, and with God.

Jarem Sawatsky (CMBC '96), Winnipeg, MB, won a 2018 Nautilus Book Award for his latest book, Healing Justice: Stories of Wisdom and Love. He won the gold medal in his category, placing ahead of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's book, A Call for Revolution, which won the silver medal. Sawatsky's previous book, Dancing with Elephants, has also won a Nautilus Book Award.

**Guido Falk** (OT '99), Calgary, AB, and his wife **Kimberly Falk** (OT '99, CC 1999-2000) were part of the very first Outtatown site, then called the School of Discipleship, which travelled to Guatemala. Guido also developed the original Outtatown website with Wally Schmidt. He is now Assistant Deputy Chief for the Calgary Fire Department. He and Kimberly have six children; their oldest son just graduated from high school and is considering going on Outtatown.

**Erika Krahn Dueck** (OT '03), St. Pierre-Jolys, MB, had a solo art exhibit showing at the C2 Centre for Craft in Winnipeg during September and October. Her show, *Things Fall Apart*, is a collection of structures that initially look unfinished, but reveal meticulously created miniature rooms and scenes

inside. She also participated in The Salt Spring National Art Prize competition on Salt Spring Island, BC at the end of September, where she won the Youth Vote People's Choice Award. Dueck holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Honours (2013) and a Master of Fine Arts (2016). She has won numerous awards for her work, including being the national winner of the BMO 1st Art! Invitational Student Art Competition and one of eleven winners in the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights Global Art Competition. She is married to Gordon Dueck.

Amy Peters (CMU '04), Hanley, SK, began a permanent position instructing for the Recreation & Community Development Diploma program at the Saskatoon campus of Saskatchewan Polytechnic this fall. She began filling in as a casual instructor in January 2019, and she looks forward to continuing to share her years of experience working in the fitness and outdoor recreation and education industries, teaching leadership and bringing people together to support each other.

**Scott Michael Litwiller** (CMU '10), Wichita, KS, graduated in August from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary with a Master of Divinity, majoring in Christian Faith Formation. During commencement activities, he received the Heart of the Community Award. He began the position of co-pastor of Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church in Wichita in September.



Christy Anderson (CMU '11), Saskatoon, SK, began her doctoral studies program in Indigenous Studies at the University of Saskatchewan this September. She currently holds the Aboriginal

Graduate Scholarship through the College of Arts and Science at the U of S and is a teaching assistant for Indigenous Studies. She is also a teaching assistant for Indigenous Studies courses at Athabasca University.

**Maria Dueck** (CMU '16), Hamilton, ON, began the Midwifery Program in McMaster University's Faculty of Health Sciences this fall. She was working at The Birth Centre in Winnipeg, MB and working as a doula prior to being accepted into the program.

Anika Reynar (CMU '17), Toronto, ON, began an internship this summer with Romero House, a social agency in Toronto welcoming refugees to Canada and supporting them. Romero House has been shaped significantly by Mary Jo Leddy,

whose long-term commitment has formed the foundation of the community.



Sarah Driediger (CMU '17), Winnipeg, MB, is a Registered Massage Therapist and Certified Lymphedema Therapist. Since graduating from The Massage

Therapy College of Manitoba, she has been working at Corydon Physiotherapy Clinic. She is also now the owner of her own business, Achieve Massage Therapy, which she opened in March 2019.

Anneli Loepp Thiessen (CMU '18), Ottawa, ON, was awarded the SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master's Award, worth \$17,500. The scholarship is in support of her project titled, "Gender Representation in Canada's Piano Curricula." Anneli is pursuing a Master of Music in Piano Performance at the University of Ottawa. This summer she directed the Ontario Mennonite Music Camp, and also led worship at Mennonite Church Canada's national gathering. She is a member of the committee creating the new Mennonite hymnal, Voices Together.

Braden Siemens (CMU '18), Winnipeg, MB, and Mackenzie Hildebrand (CMU '19), Winnipeg, MB, recently began working as Admissions Counsellors at CMU.

James DeGurse (CMU '19), Toronto, ON, is pursuing a Master of Arts in Theological Studies at Regis College, University of Toronto. He also complements his theological studies by serving as a Student Campus Minister at the University of Toronto's Newman Centre Catholic Chaplaincy.

# Marriages

Ben Willms (OT '14) and Alesha Willms, Abbotsford, BC, April 27, 2019

Becca Hamstra (Krahn, OT '14, CMU '17) and Andrew Hamstra (OT '14, CMU '18), Winnipeg, MB, June 9, 2019

Jane Omoto (Fast, CMU '17) and Jesse Omoto, St. Adolphe, MB, June 15, 2019

Julia Neufeldt (Epp, CMU '15) and Brett Neufeldt, Saskatoon, SK, July 5, 2019

Katrina Woelk Balzer (Woelk, OT '14, CMU '16) and Evan Woelk Balzer (Balzer, OT '14), Kitchener, ON, July 6, 2019

Lacey Friesen (Siemens, CMU '19) and Jason Friesen (CMU '18), Winnipeg, MB, July 7, 2019 **Jordon Zimmerly** (CMU '16) and Meagan Rempel, Winnipeg, MB, July 12, 2019

Jonas Cornelsen (CMU '16) and Lauren Harms (OT '12, CMU '15), Calgary, AB, July 20, 2019

Sara Wolowich Brown (Wolowich, CMU '19) and Matthew Brown, Winnipeg, MB, July 20, 2019

Danielle Morton (OT '13, CMU '15) and Chris Whitmore, Winnipeg, MB, July 27, 2019

Eli Pauls (OT '14) and Tolu Pauls, Gibsons, BC, August 3, 2019

Matthias Warkentin (CMU '18) and Kirsten Warkentin (Friesen, CMU current student), Winkler, MB, August 4, 2019

Rachel Nikkel (Robertson, CMU '18) and James Nikkel (OT '14, CMU '18), Landmark, MB, August 9, 2019

Bethany Daman (CMU '16) and Sasha Schellenberg (CMU '13-16), Calgary, AB, August

Rebekah Hare (Krahn, CMU '15) and Travis Hare, Sheffield Mills, NS, August 17, 2019

Tara Epp (Schmidt, OT '15, CMU '19) and Eric Epp (OT '14, CMU '18), Winnipeg, MB, September 21, 2019

Lisa Knockaert (Vuignier, CMU '19) and Colin Knockaert, Winnipeg, MB, October 5, 2019

# **Births and Adoptions**



**Christa Brubacher** (Jongsma, CMU '14) and Josiah Brubacher (CMU '14), Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Elisabeth Viva (Liesl) Brubacher, February 8, 2019

Janelle Braun (Hume, CMU '09) and Andrew Braun, Winnipeg, MB, a son, Leland James Braun, March 16, 2019



CMU '04) and Stefan Kendel, Calgary, AB, a daughter, Teagan Sofia Kendel, May 22, 2019



Virginia G. Richert (Gerbrandt, CMU '02) and Andrew Richert (CMU '07), Altona, MB, a daughter, Cora Gerbrandt Richert, June 3, 2019

Ellen Stothers (Wiens, CMU '13) and Joseph Stothers (CMU '13), Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Yara Amani Stothers, July 11, 2019





**Tiffany Carther-**Krone (Lazar, OT '04, CMU '08) and Chris Carther-Krone, Winnipeg, MB, a son, Theodore Robert Carther-Krone, July 30, 2019

Clare Schellenberg (CMU '15) and Kathleen Vitt (CMU '12), Winnipeg, MB, a son, Felix James Vitt Schellenberg, August 23, 2019





Braden Siemens (CMU '18) and Cassidy-Anne Siemens, Winnipeg, MB, a son, Finnley Caleb Lucca Siemens, September 25, 2019

# **Deaths**

Abe Neufeld (MBBC 1946-47), Winnipeg, MB, July 23, 2019

Lorne Dick (CMBC '50), Abbotsford, BC, September 14, 2019

**Abe Neufeld** (CMBC '51), Altona, MB, September 21, 2019

Linda Schulz Neufeld (CMBC '57), Winnipeg, MB, May 20, 2019

Rudolf Baerg (MBBC '58), Abbotsford, BC, September 17, 2019

Orville Andres (CMBC '72), Rosthern, SK, April 11, 2019

Taylor Pryor (OT '17), Winnipeg, MB, October 19, 2019

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.

# In honour of Tim Wiebe

By Peter Epp

From somewhere deep inside himself, deeper even than his voice, from a place so brilliant and brave that it could only be fueled by the Holy Spirit, Tim was a True Teacher, with two capital T's. The best teacher to so many of us, in a way that no other teacher could ever replicate. And believe me, if anyone has ever tried to replicate Tim Wiebe's...well... Tim-ness as a teacher, it's me.

If you stared long enough at Tim's teaching binder, you could probably piece together some semblance of his lesson plan – but to actually teach it like Tim would've taught it? How would you know which mugs to pick at the MCC? Which ones were ridiculous but would inspire deep personal growth, and which ones were just ridiculous? How could you even begin to use Clip Art like that – in ways the actual designers of Clip Art never intended it be used... except that when Tim did it, whole crowds of teenagers reached enlightenment?

How can anyone but Tim teach like this? We can't, of course. And so, thankfully, Tim never wanted me to be his Tiny Tim. He preferred me to be his teaching partner and eventually, praise God, his friend. Or as he said it: "His partner in nonviolent

Anabaptist crime."

Granted, he once left an old ruler on my desk, on which he'd written, "Peter does your faith measure up?" But with Tim, you knew the answer to such questions was always an emphatic, "Yes!"

For so many of us, with Tim, Jesus felt like someone we

could fully love and appreciate because it started to dawn on us that if Tim was like Jesus, then Jesus must be a little like Tim, too. And so then Jesus, as Tim might've put it, must, like, actually really love us and stuff.

But to me, Tim was most like Jesus in that he gave himself to us in order to bring us together as a community. We all know that Tim had a very limited amount of social energy. It was just the way he was wired. We also know that he stockpiled so much of that social energy for us, his [Mennonite Collegiate Institute] community. Every day, Tim gathered up his energy; and the incredible brilliance, insight, and wisdom that he lived and breathed; and his absolutely endearing uniqueness, and he handed it out to us like it was his job. Which, to be clear, it needn't have been.

But Tim wasn't doing a job, he was living into his Godgiven vocation. His absolute, 100%, thank-God-he-knew-it calling. And so the things he gave to us were vulnerable and



risky, but he gave himself to us so that we would be drawn together.

Because here's the thing: While I've wept many tears over Tim in Oregon, it is this room I have longed to get to.

Because this room is filled with all of you, who are with me in saying, "This beautiful man was ours."

Tim, I will see you again at the Altona MCC store in the sky. And you will buy me the weirdest things there, like maybe a CFAM windbreaker with only one stain on it and a ruler on which you'll write,

a ruler on wh "Peter, did your faith measure up?"
Only then will I know that I'm in heaven.

« Tim was most like Jesus

in that he gave himself

to us in order to bring us

together as a community. »

Peter Epp gave this eulogy at Tim Wiebe's funeral on March 17, 2019. It has been edited and shortened for length. Epp is a former teacher at MCI, former Church Relations Coordinator at CMU, and is currently pastor at Albany Mennonite Church in Oregon.

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

# **CMU CALENDAR**

**Nov 20:** Tuition Freedom Day **Nov 22:** Campus Visit Day

**Nov 28:** CommonWord Book Launch **Nov 29–30:** Out of Province Campus Preview

for Prospective Students

**Nov 30:** Christmas at CMU

**Dec 7:** CMU Festival Chorus with the WSO

Handel's Messiah

Dec 15: CMU Vespers Jan 19: CMU Vespers

Jan 31-Feb 1: Opera and Musical Theatre

Workshop

**Jan 31:** Campus Visit Day

**Feb 5:** Public Lecture with Dr. Deborah

Haarsma, Scientist in Residence

Feb 11–12: ReNew Pastors and Ministry

Leaders Conference

**Feb 16:** CMU Vespers

Feb 22: Discover Outtatown | Visit Day Mar 6: Music Therapy Coffee House

Mar 7: CMU Festival Chorus with the WSO |

**Beethoven Choral Fantasy** 

Mar 15: Mennonite Community Orchestra

Mar 15: CMU Vespers

Mar 17: Verna Mae Janzen Music

Competition (finals)

Mar 28: Jazz at CMU



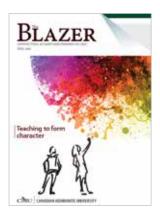
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# JUNE 8-12 & 15-19, 2020

















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# **SESSION I** • June 18–12, 2020

# **Indigenous Politics, Land, and Globalization**

Rauna Kuokkanen University of Lapland, Finland

# **Leading in an Age of Polarization**

David Brubaker
Center for Justice and Peacebuilding,
Eastern Mennonite University

# **Active Bystander Training**

Joy Meeker Transformative Social Change Program, Saybrook University

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# **SESSION II •** JUNE 15-19, 2020

# **Does Religion Cause Violence?**

William Cavanaugh Center for World Catholicism & Intercultural Theology; DePaul University

# **Dreaming of Kanata and Canada:**Indigenous Graphic Novels and Reconciliation

Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair Department of Native Studies, University of Manitoba

# Trauma, Healing, and Reconciliation

Kelly Bernardin-Dvorak Jonah Counselling & Wellbeing, Winnipeg

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FAX: 204.837.7415 500 Shaftesbury Blvd, Winnipeg, MB