

The BLAZER

CONNECTING ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF CMU
SPRING 2018



Research and Inquiry

CMU | CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

The BLAZER

Research and inquiry: building relationships and understandings

CMU is built on a mission to equip women and men for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society. From this comes a commitment to generate, transmit, share, and apply knowledge within the University, our communities, and to the world.

Education involves "building understandings" in ways that are as much about relationships, as they are knowledge. These understandings enable us to see, engage, and share in a complex world that calls for our best care and innovative capacities.

Current research at CMU is vitally related to the passion to engage with students and constituencies, and society. CMU is a community of scholars and scientists who pursue research that explores fundamental questions in each of their disciplines, through which CMU's academic rigour and excellence is rooted.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canada's federal funding agency for university-based research, has recognized the research and inquiry of CMU's faculty. Most recently, Brian Froese, Associate Professor of History, received a five-year grant worth \$93,000 for a research project addressing the intersection of conservative religion and politics in Western Canada from the 1880s to 1960s. A year ago, Jerry Buckland, Professor of International Development Studies, and Kirit Patel, Assistant Professor of International Development Studies—both of Menno Simons college—received respective SSHRC grants for the investigation of regulatory implications of financial products and policies for vulnerable Canadians and for researching the impacts of environmental tribunals on disadvantaged communities in India.

Along with countless journal articles, peer reviews, books, and field studies, these are just a few examples of the engaging activities conducted by CMU faculty across North America, Europe, and Asia.

I hope you enjoy this issue's feature on research and inquiry. Inside, you'll also find stories on the celebration of the class of 2018, the grand opening of the Centre for Resilience, and the exciting addition of a Bachelor Science to CMU's academic programming.

Wishing you health and happiness this summer.

Kevin Kilbrei

Director, Communications & Marketing

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CMU: Seeking resilience

Where are you coming from and where are you going? It's a good question, good in the sense that it calls out responses in more than one way. It attends to things hoped for as much as those already known. It attunes to convictions based in promises of old as much as to discoveries that never cease to surprise. It enables friendships and understandings and gives voice to experience and aspiration. It enables locatedness without insularity, and offers moorings that ever inspire and awaken a generative imagination. It is a question rooted in encounters with God. And it is the question through which we present a few glimpses into the research life of CMU.

Research is not an end in itself. Rather it continually feeds into and from the teaching and service of the university, nurturing the way-finding of students and indeed of peoples and societies through time. Still, we can focus in on the research dimension of our work, through which we come from the discipline of particular areas of study in order to face the questions, needs and opportunities of life today.

« I am heartened by the range of research happening at CMU—by those who pursue interviews, those who design and perform, and those who study ancient and recent texts. »

I am heartened by the range of research happening at CMU—by those who pursue interviews, those who design and perform, and those who study ancient and recent texts. Whether it involves exploring forests, engaging financial inclusion, or writing a volume in the Believers Bible Commentary Series, research is vital to the quality of learning through CMU and also to the understandings we are entrusted to build and carry forward.



I pray that all we do and share will remain open to the orienting question, where are you coming from and where are you going. This question gifts us with new eyes to see—through research at CMU and in all matters of faith and life surrounding us.

Take delight and take heart.

Cheryl Pauls
CMU President



Faces to names, stories to people

By Hannah Beatty (Guatemala 2017-18)

I was drawn to Outtatown with the knowledge that service projects make up a fairly significant portion of the program. I wanted to learn about the world around me in a raw and real way, while also aspiring to learn more about how I could make a difference.

At one point, we were invited to serve through Porch de Salomon, an organization in Panajachel, Guatemala, where we would be helping to build a house for a family in need. A fire was lit within me. I was excited to start—ready to challenge myself, hoping to make as big an impact on this house as possible. I have participated in a few short-term missions projects before and thought I knew what to expect. However, it turned out that this one was a little different.

Porch de Salomon is intentional about building personal relationships with the family, which is something I worked to do over the week. While getting to see where all eight children slept in their small, worn home on our first day, I

noticed one of them shyly but curiously looking up, eager to meet us, but understandably nervous at the same time. I remember squeezing next to her and asking her in my slow, broken Spanish, “Your name is Maria, right?” After a nod, a smile, and a proper introduction, we were fast friends. Soon she was frequently popping by my area of the build site in the afternoons, sometimes for a quick hello, other times to sit and chat (as best we could) while she watched our work come together.

The humble and gracious seven-year-old that she was, she never held back her eagerness not only for her new home, but also to see us again the next day. She is what kept me inspired and driven. I can’t count the number of hugs I received in those four short days, but I can tell you that the one that she gave me during our final goodbye was probably the longest I’ve ever had, and I’ll admit, also the hardest. I wish I could have expressed to her that she had helped me more than I ever helped her.

Creating relationships puts faces to names, stories to people. I encourage you to ask God to open your heart to look beyond someone’s “status” to find the human in them—it will instill a love and dedication even more lasting and valuable than could have been imagined. I believe that every person you meet will leave an impact. I know the impact made on me by Maria and her family will continue for a long time, and I can’t wait to see how that shapes my future with Outtatown and in life.

Read a new Outtatown story every month by visiting: outtatown.com/community/story.

MENNO SIMONS COLLEGE NEWS

Life lessons from community radio in Ghana

By Emmanuel Allieu

In August 2017, I left Winnipeg for Bolgatanga, in north-east Ghana, to work with a community radio station for my practicum.

Radio Gurune caters to the Gurune people, and broadcasts participatory programs on health and nutrition, political discussions, religion and local business, and more, in the local Frafra language.

My main focus with Radio Gurune was participatory research. We went out in teams to smaller communities to engage with community members and discuss issues and possible solutions for child welfare. I provided technical support, recording discussions, and taking photographs for documentation.

I loved every bit of my life in Bolgatanga. And I learned many lessons, but I’ll share with you just two.

First, regarding the stereotype of “African Time,” I learned that it is ok to be late, but once you have arrived, you should



be fully present. I observed this in the greeting ritual. People check in with the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health of the other. Second, the textbook image of the marginalized African woman is not always true. The women in Bolgatanga had strong voices in their community. My host mother, for example, is the director of Radio Gurune, and an outspoken member of her community who is often consulted for community matters.

My experience in Bolgatanga helped me to learn and grow in many ways.

To watch the video interview, please visit: bit.ly/2J7RC0V

Two faculty, one staff member retire from CMU

By Aaron Epp

CMU recently celebrated the retirements of three long-serving colleagues who have contributed greatly to the life of the university.

Dr. Dietrich Bartel

Ask Dietrich Bartel to talk about a highlight from the years he's spent teaching at CMU, and he has trouble picking just one.

That makes sense—he joined the faculty of Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC), a founding college of CMU, in 1985.

After retiring from his full-time role as Professor of Music, Dietrich has a lot to look back on.

“Being able to spend my time teaching, talking about music history, working with students, and doing music with them have been highlights,” he says.

An expert in the area of German Baroque music theory and a beloved teacher whose passion for music is palpable, Dietrich will continue to teach one-third time at CMU for the next few years.

He is also researching 18th-century composer and music theorist Johann Mattheson in preparation for his next book. Of particular interest to Dietrich is Mattheson's understanding of the intersection of music and theology.

Retirement means more free time, and Dietrich and his wife, Jocelyn, are looking forward to spending it with their children and grandchildren. They will also spend more time at their cottage in BC.

“I am also looking forward to practicing more organ,” Dietrich says, “and learning new repertoire.”



Ted Dyck

When students file into the dining hall in September, it will be the first time in more than 20 years that Ted Dyck won't be there to greet them. He retired as Director of Food Services this May, a role he began on September 1, 1996.



“It's been great, it's been chaotic, stressful, and relaxing—all those things that you find when you have a job with a lot

of deadlines,” Ted says of his time at CMU and CMBC. “It's been challenging because you try new things, and rewarding because you get to feed lots of people.”

Ted's retirement got off to a great start when his family surprised him with a special gift: a weekend in Montreal, QC, watching Formula 1 racing. Ted has long been a fan of the auto racing sport.

Spending more time with his grandchildren, experimenting with his new pizza oven, and volunteering are all part of the plan for Ted's retirement years.

He has thoroughly enjoyed his time at CMU, particularly getting to interact with students every day.

“It's been a wonderful experience,” he says. “I've been very grateful to have had the opportunity to do this for the last 20 years.”

Dr. Dan Epp-Tiessen

“I've often said I have the best job in the world,” Dan Epp-Tiessen says as he retires from his full-time role as Associate Professor of Bible.

Dan joined the faculty of CMBC in 1998. An Old Testament specialist, he is well-known as a passionate Christ-follower who loves studying the Bible and teaching students.

As he transitions to teaching one-third time, Dan is working on a Believers Church Bible Commentary volume about Joel, Obadiah, and Micah.

He plans to spend more time with his family, which includes two grandchildren. Reading novels, catching up with friends, exercising, and spending time in the garden are also on the agenda.

Dan also wants to do volunteer work related to ecological issues, and he will continue to preach and teach in his home congregation and beyond.

“The overwhelming feeling I get is just one of incredible gratitude,” he says of his time at CMU. “My colleagues are so fantastic to work with, and the students are great.”

“I'm thankful for the opportunity to visit congregations and to get to know the broader church through my work at CMU,” he adds. “The opportunity to work at CMU has just been a huge gift to me.”





Heather Stefanson, MLA for Tuxedo; Cheryl Pauls, president of CMU; Ian Wishart, Minister of Education and Training; Doug Eyolfson, MP for Charleswood-St. James-Assiniboia-Headingley; and James Magnus-Johnston, Director of the Centre for Resilience, cut the ribbon on the Centre of Resilience.

Centre for Resilience: meeting 21st century needs

By Aaron Epp

Canadian Mennonite University's Centre for Resilience is now open for business.

The Centre for Resilience (CFR) is a co-working lab on the fourth floor of CMU's historic building at 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. that will incubate and nurture social enterprises. Faculty, students and staff celebrated the grand opening of the \$1.7 million centre on April 13.

"We're thankful for the opportunity to create a space designed to meet the needs of the 21st century," says James Magnus-Johnston, director of the centre. "The CFR will maximize the impact of social entrepreneurs, and allow students to work on complex, real-world problems."

A handful of organizations have already signed on to join the CFR.

They include the Winnipeg chapter of A Rocha, a Christian organization that promotes conservation, education, and sustainable agriculture, and Being Pukka, an organization that uses positive psychology to train, coach, and consult individuals and businesses.

Blossoms Senior Care Inc., a non-medical, private care company for seniors, and Compost Winnipeg, a social enterprise that collects, composts, and tracks organic waste from residents, businesses, and events, have also moved into the fourth floor.

So has Low Environmental Impact Technology (LEIT), a company that makes products that improve the quality of life, and reduce the environmental impact of, Canadian consumers.

Being a part of the CFR is exciting, says Kelly Kuryk,

project manager for Compost Winnipeg.

"Sometimes in the environmental world you are in a little bit of a bubble," she says. "The Centre for Resilience is all about tying it in with the academic community, and tying it in with other enterprises and socially-minded operations."

"I can't wait to meet all the different people that will be at the centre, and start to learn about their different connections and how we can all help each other and push forward an agenda that we have mutually in common."

In addition to the fourth floor of 500 Shaftesbury, the CFR includes the land on the north-west parcel of CMU's property. Come fall, this piece of land will display a prototype





« The CFR will maximize the impact of social entrepreneurs, and allow students to work on complex, real-world problems. »

from Suitehom, a company that builds houses out of shipping containers.

Other developments at the CFR include a Social Innovation Lab, and a new practicum course for CMU students that will begin in earnest come September.

In addition CMU will be offering a new major in Social Entrepreneurship. The course brings together students from a variety of disciplines to work on a problem that has been defined by one of the organizations working out of the CFR.

“It’s a different way of thinking about practicum,” Magnus-Johnston says.

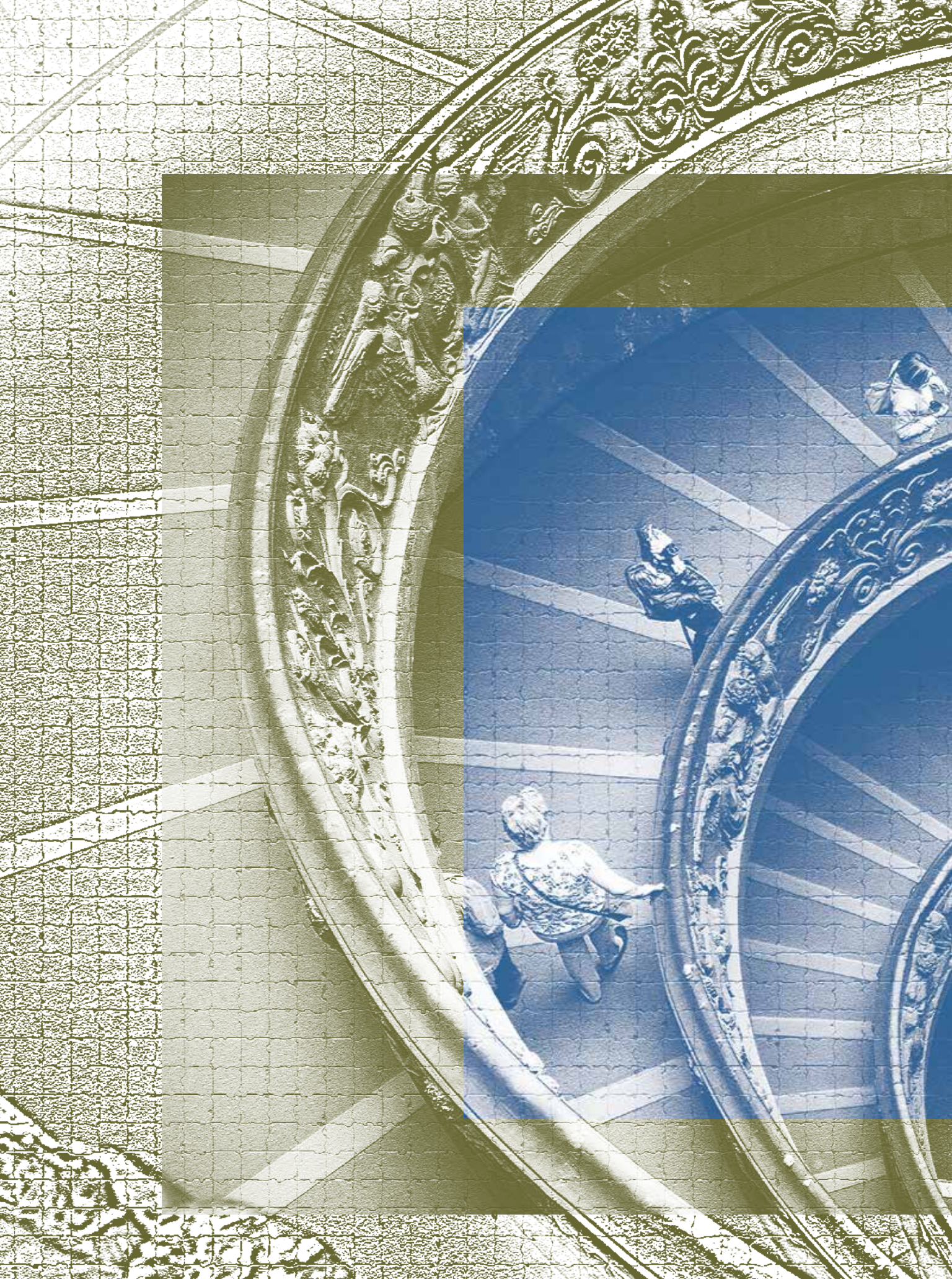
He adds that the CFR’s profile is rising in Winnipeg. He recently served as one of the judges at a social innovation challenge organized by the economic development agency North Forge Technology Exchange.

And, at the end of April, Manitoba Justice Minister and MLA for Tuxedo Heather Stefanson welcomed Magnus-Johnston and CMU Vice-President External Terry Schellenberg to be recognized in Manitoba’s Legislature.

It will be fascinating to see how the CFR develops in the future.

“I feel quite excited about it,” Magnus-Johnston says.







Research & Inquiry

Making new relationships possible

Jonathan Dueck | Vice President Academic and Academic Dean

In this issue, you'll read stories of CMU faculty doing significant research. CMU faculty win competitive grants, write influential books, and collaborate internationally with other scientists, social scientists, and humanists. CMU research helps us to mediate conflict, to improve health outcomes, to begin new businesses, to understand history. I am very proud of the quality of our faculty research here at CMU. But it is not only quality, utility, and prestige that makes CMU's research work important.

Making new relationships possible cont.

"Research" is part of every CMU professorial contract, along with "teaching" and "service." Teaching and service are easy to see as essential: without them, we would not have classes and we would not function as a university. But research is just as central to CMU's thriving; without research, CMU's deep relationships with our students, our constituencies, and our communities would be immeasurably diminished.

Research is often understood as work towards the making of new knowledge. Like other kinds of work, it involves working together with others. And like other kinds of work in church and school, it is both effortful and creative, both pragmatic and beautiful. When we work together towards understanding something new, we come into new relationship with each other. Research pushes this kind of work outside of campus, and brings us into relationship with a broader set of collaborators in Winnipeg, Canada, and beyond.

For students, engaging with the creation of new knowledge is the most distinctive piece of study at the University level, and it can be life-changing.

The CMU Farm and the Metanoia Farmers Workers Cooperative here on campus, for example, were co-created by CMU student research in Kenton Lobe's classroom exploring the social and environmental role of farming in urban life, aided and energized by students returning from practicum placements on farms. The farm now exists as an independent friend of CMU. I often meet people whose point of contact with CMU's campus begins with the farm; they tell me, typically, that they have a share in the farm and love the food. Or they have visited the farm and find urban farming thought-provoking.

For community members here and abroad, engaging with the University as a centre for research makes new relationships possible.

This year we have taken on a partnership role in the Mennonite Heritage Archives, along with Mennonite Church Canada and the Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies (CTMS). The Archives present one of CMU's most significant sites for historical and social research, drawing in a global set of discussion partners. Earlier this spring, I found David Regehr of Gretna, MB, sitting in the Archives with the unique sources it provides, finding the pieces of a history he is writing for the Ukrainian Christian communities and former Mennonite villages that work with the Mennonite Centre in Molochansk, Ukraine. Conrad Stoesz, the Archivist, receives more than a hundred inquiries per month, and facilitates many visits like David's. If we drew lines on a map representing those inquiries, we would see a starburst of global relationships emanating from

the work of the Archives.

These examples centre on the work of students and community members in connection with CMU faculty. The sampling of faculty research stories that follow also represent a story of relationship. Most significantly, CMU's engagement in research is engagement in the making of new relationships, through thinking critically and discovering and creating hopefully, together.

Most significantly, CMU's engagement in research is engagement in the making of new relationships...



Dr. Christine Longhurst

Dr. Christine Longhurst, Assistant Professor of Music and Worship, is researching the changes that have taken place in Mennonite Brethren (MB) worship over the last 40 years.



How did you come to research this topic?

I lived through the upheaval in worship that took place in the late '80s and early '90s. I saw the transition in MB churches from traditional worship to a more contemporary style, and I saw that that wasn't always done in a spirit of love. There were mistakes made on both sides, and as far as I know, we've never taken the time to sit down, pick that apart, find out how that transition took place, and look at what we did well and what we didn't do well.

To whom does it matter and why?

It matters to everyone who's a part of the church. If we can figure out what mistakes we made in the past, then I'm really hopeful it can help us in what we're facing now.

How is this research part of your teaching?

I work with a lot of young people who I think will be taking leadership roles in the church and in worship over the next decade or so, and so I hope some of what I'm doing here can better equip them for the decisions they will need to make.

If we can figure out what mistakes we made in the past, then I'm really hopeful it can help us in what we're facing now.



Dr. Gordon Zerbe

Dr. Gordon Zerbe, Professor of New Testament, is starting a new research project that will explore Paul's writings through the lens of migration studies.

How did you come to research this topic?

Jesus and Paul, the two big figures of the New Testament, both come out of migrant experiences. I'm interested in this partly because of my own personal story: I was born in Tokyo, and my first personal awareness was of being a foreigner in a strange land. When my family moved back to the United States, I didn't quite know if I fit in. As an adult, I moved to Canada, where I was a landed immigrant for about 22 years before I decided to become a Canadian citizen.

To whom does it matter and why?

This project can speak to people out there who might be interested in thinking more about Paul. Many people are simply not interested at all in Paul for various reasons. I hope that a book along these lines might be interesting to people who have decided they don't want to have anything to do with this figure, and inspire them to do explore further.



I'm interested in this partly because of my own personal story...



Dr. Dietrich Bartel

Dr. Dietrich Bartel, Professor of Music, is writing a book about the 18th-century German composer and music theorist, Johann Mattheson.

How did you come to research this topic?

It started with my dissertation work in Freiburg, which focused on the question of rhetoric and music in the German Baroque. Out of that came a number of projects which looked at very specific theorists and authors, so that led me then to deal with people like Andreas Werckmeister, Michael Praetorius, and now Mattheson.



You do the research so you can teach better.



To whom does it matter and why?

It matters first of all to anyone working with the Baroque and the period after. It also has a wider audience, because the story of Mattheson and how he works through his beliefs is fascinating for anybody that is interested in that watershed in western civilization where we moved from a theocentric to an anthropocentric worldview.

How is this research part of your teaching?

It's directly linked, especially in my Studies in Baroque Music course. In the forward to my recent book, *Andreas Werckmeister's Musicalische Paradoxal-Discourse: A Well-Tempered Universe*, I credit the students for being the inspiration for working on that translation. You do the research so you can teach better.

Research & Inquiry

Dr. Irma Fast Dueck

Dr. Irma Fast Dueck, Associate Professor of Practical Theology, is writing a book about baptismal trends.

How did you come to research this topic?

A few years ago I started noticing that many young people weren't getting baptized—even committed, practicing Christians who were heavily involved in their churches. I wanted to explore this, so it became the source of a research project.

To whom does it matter and why?

The question of why young people aren't getting baptized is one that everyone in the church needs to wrestle with. I think right now the church is struggling around issues that we haven't quite named as baptism, but that are related—issues of communion and issues of church membership. This exploration of baptism opens up the question, what does it mean to belong to each other?

How is this research part of your teaching?

I'm always testing things in class. I'm extroverted enough to say I actually depend on my students to be a significant part of processing what I'm writing. I write, I bring it to class, students read it, we discuss their critiques, and then I rework it



Dr. Paul Dyck

Dr. Paul Dyck, Professor of English, is writing a book about 17th-century priest and poet George Herbert.

How did you come to research this topic?

Herbert wrote a book of short, devotional poetry called *The Temple*. What Herbert gives us is a really rich depiction of body and soul together. While we tend to think of body and spirit dualistically, he doesn't. He talks in terms of body and soul, but they are always interwoven. He also often draws the reader's attention to the physicality of the Bible. This awareness of the physicality of the Bible is very striking, and so my book is exploring that.



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To whom does it matter and why?

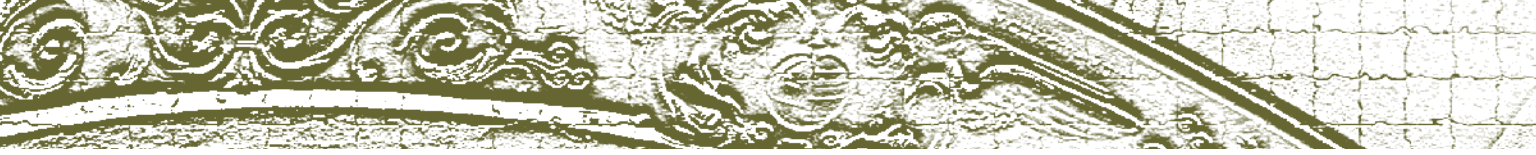
People who work on Herbert and 17th-century literature will read this book, but I'm hoping also to bring together theological concerns and book history concerns. There's this whole interest in the university these days in material texts, and what I'm hoping to do is show just how lively a connection there is between that material history and theological concerns. Then there's, I think, a broader church audience who are interested in how body and soul come together.

How is this research part of your teaching?

It's a case where doing more research, more reading, and developing an idea more thoroughly, has helped me open up literature more for students and kind of gotten me in touch with a more basic way that these texts work. That's exciting.

This exploration of baptism opens up the question, what does it mean to belong to each other?





Dr. Brian Froese

Dr. Brian Froese, Associate Professor of History, is working on two book projects. The first, *Northern Errand*, looks at the influence of American evangelicals in Western Canada. The second, tentatively titled *Supernatural British Columbia*, focuses on Mennonite mission activity in BC from the Second World War to the 1990s.



How did you come to research these topics?

I was reading letters and mission reports from BC in a Mennonite Brethren periodical from the '50s or '60s, and it was just interesting. So, I started making notes about what I was reading, about how they were describing their lives, their world. Then I started thinking about how they fit into a larger Canadian context. I thought this would be fun to explore more fully.

To whom does it matter and why?

I like to think it matters to anyone who is interested in things like religion and society. What is the role of the faithful religious person in a secular society? It's an issue that comes up with regularity in various contexts, so on the one hand, my projects are a way of looking at this intersection as it was a generation or two ago.

How is this research part of your teaching?

My research intersects in some cases directly with actual course material, like when I teach *The Canadian West in the 20th-century*. Another course, *History of North American Conservatism*, comes out of me researching what was happening in Alberta in the '50s and '60s.

What is the role of the faithful religious person in a secular society?



Conrad Stoesz

Conrad Stoesz, archivist at the Mennonite Heritage Archives, is researching a variety of topics, including conscientious objectors as well as midwives and their role in Mennonite communities.



How did you come to research these topics?

I realized there's not a lot of information out there about COs. So, for a number of years, I've been working at researching the conscientious objector experience. In 2004 we launched a new website, *alternativeservice.ca*, we have a chapter in a book, and we have a new documentary out on the topic called *The Last Objectors*. Another project I've been working on pertains to midwives. I found a record of births, and it lists who the midwife was, and so I've been researching midwives, their role in the Mennonite community, and what their practice was like. They didn't just help with babies. The really good midwives were the community healers.

To whom does it matter and why?

If we want to move our world to more peaceful existence, we need to have peace heroes. We have to have stories about peacemakers, because the stories that we tell ourselves are important, and the values in them, we will try to emulate.

...the stories that we tell ourselves are important, and the values in them, we will try to emulate.



Dr. Wendy Kroeker

Instructor in Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies, Co-Director of the Canadian School of Peacebuilding.



How did you come to research this topic?

In 1996 my family went to the Philippines with Mennonite Central Committee. That experience grew into a 25-year relationship with local peacebuilders. When I entered a PhD program five years ago, I decided to research local actors in the Philippines as a way to honour those relationships. Little has been written

Research & Inquiry

Wendy Kroeker cont.

about peacebuilding in the Philippines, so this is also a way to uniquely contribute to the literature.

To whom does it matter and why?

It matters to government, to non-governmental organization (NGO) leaders, and to grassroots community leaders. There are folks who are right now using this research to lobby the Philippines' senate about interfaith legislation. It also matters to Canadians, reminding us that the perspective of those in messy conflict zones matter, and can (and should) shape our perspectives.

...the perspective of those in messy conflict zones matter...



Dr. Kirit Patel

Assistant Professor of International Development Studies, Menno Simons College.

How did you come to research this topic?

In 2011, India established new environmental courts as part of their judiciary. They've been around a few years now, and as a development scholar, I was curious about the impact of these courts on the poor. It's a totally new area of research, so we got a SSHRC grant and it's been almost two years now.



To whom does it matter and why?

This project focuses on the poor, and cases related to water, like rivers, lakes, and wetlands. These are usually found in rural areas, and often the livelihoods of the poorest of the poor depend on these common property resources. Cases before the environmental courts are often dominated by the interests of governments, powerful industry, and the upper middle classes. The question is, whose environmentalism takes precedence?

How is this research part of your teaching?

Every summer for the last several years, I've employed a few of my students on my research projects. Last summer, I had three students working with me on this project in India. My students have direct engagement with my research as a colleague in the project. It's a most rewarding and fascinating experience.

The question is, whose environmentalism takes precedence?



Dr. Jerry Buckland

Professor of International Development Studies, Menno Simons College.

How did you come to research this topic?

The Canadian Financial Diaries project started five years ago. A number of colleagues in my network were interested in doing new research and this idea came up. Two years ago, we submitted a grant application to SSHRC and just over a year ago, we got it! Once that happened, it opened the doors for us to pursue this research.



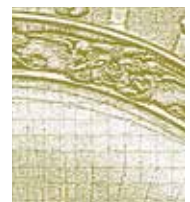
To whom does it matter and why?

We hope this research will enable practitioners and policymakers across Canada to develop better practices and policies. There is very little good data on the finances of poorer people. This project will give us in-depth, granular information about low-income peoples' finances with a long-term focus, which I think will be very helpful.

How is this research part of your teaching?

The courses I teach here at MSC, like Participatory Local Development and Action Research Methods, are filled with opportunities for me to bring in my research results, stories, and methods. I'm teaching a new course this summer at the Canadian School of Peacebuilding, looking at financial access and its connection with development and conflict resolution. This research and other research I've done really is very directly connected to that.

There is very little good data on the finances of poorer people.



Dr. John Brubacher

Assistant Professor of Biology
John Brubacher is currently working with collaborators from the United States and the Netherlands, to describe a new virus they've discovered in flatworms known as planarians.

How did you come to research this topic?

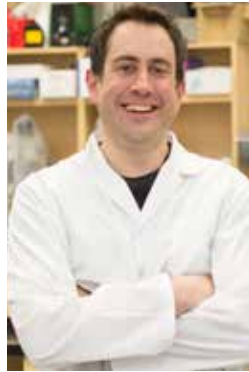
Planarians are best known for their unparalleled ability to regenerate any part of their bodies, but this project started serendipitously when Amir Saberi (Johns Hopkins University) and Phil Newmark (University of Wisconsin) found genetic evidence of an active virus—now known as the planarian secretory cell virus (PSCNV)—in their worm cultures. They invited me to help flesh out the emerging story as a kind of photographer: viruses can only be “seen” with electron microscopes, and I've previously had some success using those instruments with planarians.

To whom does it matter and why?

PSCNV only infects planarians, has no obviously harmful effect on them, and “planarian health” is not an urgent topic of concern. What makes this virus interesting is the record-breaking size of its RNA genome. PSCNV's genome size exceeds that of any known RNA virus, by a degree not seen in the past 30 years of virus discovery. As such, it alters common assumptions about the limits and capacities of RNA genomes, with implications for various fields from molecular biology to origin-of-life research.

How is this research part of your teaching?

Pragmatically speaking, planarians are emerging as useful “model organisms” for studying topics like regeneration, stem cells, and the development of organ systems. Unlike most other such models (e.g. mice, salamanders), they're also easy and cheap to maintain in large numbers, and amenable to being used in undergraduate labs. Pedagogically, keeping active as a researcher helps me to stay current, which is important for teaching in a fast-changing field of study. Finally, I just enjoy telling stories about how studies of obscure or seemingly esoteric things very often shed light on much broader issues and questions.



...keeping active as a researcher helps me to stay current...



Brian Froese awarded \$93,000 federal grant

Dr. Brian Froese, Associate Professor of History, is the recipient of a five-year grant worth \$93,000 through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

Froese will use the grant for a research project addressing the intersection of conservative religion and politics in Western Canada from the 1880s to 1960s.

"It's exciting," Froese says. "Getting the grant affirms for me that the research I am doing is important, and that it is of significance to people beyond scholars in my field."

Titled *Trekking North: Conservative American Religious and Political Migrations to Western Canada*, Froese's project examines transnational Canadian-American religious and political networks created by a broad range of evangelical Protestants.

In doing so, the project investigates two larger historical themes: the context for American migrations north to Western Canada, and the relationship between religion and "populist" conservative politics.

Froese will use the SSHRC grant to fund archival research trips to Indiana, Utah, Southern California, and throughout Western Canada. He has already begun his research, and will continue with it throughout an upcoming sabbatical during the 2018-19 school year.

The grant will allow Froese to train promising students in historical inquiry by involving them in archival research, writing, and conference presentations.

The results of Froese's research will be communicated in peer-reviewed journals, community-oriented publications, and a website.

The ultimate communication of this project will be a scholarly book.

"It's an honour someone is trusting me with this, so I look forward to doing well by that trust," Froese says.

Research & Inquiry

Jennifer Braun

(Menno Simons College IDS '08)
PhD candidate, University of Alberta

How did you come to research this topic?

I grew up on a farm in rural Manitoba and saw firsthand the effects of big agribusiness on small family farms. And I noticed how women seemed to work hard keeping the family farm together but were seldom acknowledged for their efforts. There is a conspicuous and unexamined lack of women in powerful leadership positions within agriculture. This, coupled with a deep concern for the future of the world's food production system, and the injustices embedded within, led me want to better understanding the problem, and imagine a way forward. The future of food involves innovative, collaborative, and socially just solutions. This requires the voices of women, and other marginalized, but equally affected, groups.

To whom does it matter and why?

My research is important to policymakers, small-hold farmers and Big Agra alike. It's an important and legitimizing voice in the growing movement of farmwomen who are speaking out against an outdated, patriarchal model of agriculture. In light of #MeToo and #TimesUp, this research incorporates and illuminates women's voices from a sector that is often overlooked.

Women are, and always have been, essential to agriculture's environmental sustainability, economic prosperity, and civic life. The quagmire that plagues our food systems needs innovation that comes from these diverse voices.



Dr. Christopher Lyon

(Menno Simons College IDS '08)
PhD, University of Dundee, '18

How did you come to research this topic?

My research focuses on human resilience in relation to complex environmental challenges. I first encountered these ideas in Rick McCutcheon's Conflict and Construction of the Other class at Menno Simons College (MSC). My undergraduate work at MSC led directly to an MSc at the University of Alberta, and then a PhD at the University of Dundee. Recently, I joined an exciting interdisciplinary team at the University of Leeds, researching the role of phosphorus in the resilience and adaptive capacity of Britain's food system. My research trajectory to this point is essentially based on the continued expansion of ideas from my time at MSC.

To whom does it matter and why?

My research is aimed at those addressing key sustainability problems, but hopefully it matters to us all. The scale and scope of human activity has created an environmental problem unlike any we've seen before. We all have a role to play in meeting this challenge, whether you're a student, a farmer, a fisher, a CEO, or a member of parliament.

What is the impact of your research?

My research draws from the social and natural sciences, and the humanities, so I bring that into the classroom, encouraging students to link their work to these different knowledge systems. With its small class sizes and friendly, knowledgeable, dedicated, and highly interactive teaching staff, MSC provided me with an outstanding example of how to engage students around complicated material.



The future of food involves innovative, collaborative, and socially just solutions.



My research trajectory to this point is essentially based on the continued expansion of ideas from my time at MSC.



Dr. Joe Wiebe

Assistant Professor of Religion and Ecology, University of Alberta, Augustana Faculty (CMU, Theology, 2004) PhD, McMaster University, '13



How did you come to research this topic?

I'm studying the Mennonite perceptions of Indigenous people. Right now my focus is on the 1874 Russian migration and the stories they circulated between 1878-1939. I started this research because Mennonites in North America have an increased interest in Indigenous rights and social justice and I wondered, Have Mennonites always been this concerned or is this a relatively recent development?

To whom does it matter and why?

While this research focuses on Mennonites, it should matter to all settlers. How non-Indigenous Canadians view and think about Indigenous peoples—the stereotypes and myths—has been socially constructed for political and economic purposes. Mennonites are a good case study of a missed opportunity; we had the religious practices and tradition that should have connected us more significantly to Indigenous neighbours, but economic pursuits and Dominion politics obstructed that potential.

What is the impact of your research?

My teaching is part of a liberal arts curriculum at a large research university, so while I don't get the opportunity to talk a lot about Mennonites specifically I do incorporate Indigenous-Settler relations in my religion and ecology courses. In general, I try to align my teaching with the efforts of others to decolonize the university and help students build capacity for reconciliation.

While this research focuses on Mennonites, it should matter to all settlers.



Jess Erb

University of Edinburgh
Psychotherapy and Counselling
(CMU, BTS and Psychology, '10)
PhD Candidate '18



How did you come to research this topic?

My research addresses something that is often viewed as 'taboo' in academic circles: that bodily appearance matters, and is paramount in our relations between self-and-other. With ubiquitous messages regarding female representation, it can feel that 'my body voices who I am before I even open my mouth' (Chelsea, research participant, 2017). Therefore, I use Participatory Action Research to unpack representations on the body and why, after decades of work on body dysmorphia and schematic theory, there is very little literature on how representations of the female body come to affect our relations between self-and-other.

To whom does it matter and why?

I welcomed eight psychotherapists to work together as co-researchers to address how their bodies—of varying ages, sizes, ethnicities, and cultures—have commonly been represented and how these representations affect their relations with others, especially in their work as counsellors. Through these stories, I highlight how the body is still seen as lower, base, vain and shallow when compared to the sophisticated workings of the mind, highlighting how the Cartesian mind/body dualism is still prevalent in how we relate to bodily appearance. Thus, it can be difficult to highlight the import of the body after centuries of its displacement.

What is the impact of your research?

Together, we worked towards a new conceptualisation on the body, creating the framework of 'Nomadic Embodiment' to show the intra-active nature of the body within its social landscape, and how becoming nomadic in our approach to bodily conceptions creates the potential to move beyond such dichotomous thinking towards new horizons of discourse.

I use Participatory Action Research to unpack representations on the body...



Our Donors

Longtime CMU alumnus donor invests in people

By Aaron Epp

For Hugo Peters, donating to CMU is a wise investment because it means contributing to the lives of students. “I’ve invested in all kinds of things in my life, some of which went south, some of which made money, but I’ve never regretted investing in people,” says Peters (CMBC ‘63).

“It’s the best investment because it’s long term, even beyond my life,” he adds. “These are people who are going to make the world move along in directions that are good.”

Peters is a longtime supporter of the university. In addition to contributing to the CMU Fund for annual operations, he and his late wife, Herta, established the Hugo & Herta Peters Returning Student Leader Scholarship.

Peters has also included a gift to CMU in his will plan.

In addition to investing in the future, Peters sees giving to CMU as a way to pay back the institution that shaped him.

In the early ‘60s, he earned his Bachelor of Christian Education from Canadian Mennonite Bible College, one of CMU’s predecessor institutions.

“I enjoyed the studies a great deal, as well as my instructors,” says Peters, who grew up on a farm near Austin, MB, 130 km west of Winnipeg. “Dorm life was awesome, and I made friends from across Canada that remain my friends to this day.”

Peters recalls that by the end of his first year, he was in crisis. The faith he had entered CMBC with was no longer holding water, thanks to the things he was learning in his classes.

« It’s the best investment because it’s long term, even beyond my life...These are people who are going to make the world move along in directions that are good. »

“It took me a good year after that to sort of start pulling things back together, but that really set the direction of not only my church and faith life, but also my vocational life,” he says.

After CMBC, Peters earned degrees in history and education at the University of Manitoba. He taught high school for 31 years before moving on to roles that involved supervising student teachers and developing curriculum.



Peters was thrilled to see one of his grandsons graduate from CMU in 2017, some 54 years after he himself graduated.

“That was amazing. It was deeply satisfying to see that,” Peters says. “I was hoping of course that he would have that same life-changing, redirecting experience I had that is about more than just education—it’s really (about) forming who you become.”

At its best, Peters says, CMU is a place that prepares young people for their lives and vocations from a faith-based starting point.

“That to me is very valuable,” he says, adding that there is one last reason why he donates to the university.

“The other reason why I support CMU is that if nothing else, it gives me a great excuse to come around (campus),” he says. “I live in a 55-plus residence, which has become a 75-plus residence, and you’ve got to get away from that every once in awhile.”

“So, I come to Christmas at CMU, Tuition Freedom Day, Face2Face, and other events. It’s a whole different environment. I think some of us really need that.”

Giving to CMU supports global peacebuilding efforts, creates hope for the future

By Alison Ralph

Ask Helen Rempel why she gives to CMU, and she'll tell you about CMU's Canadian School of Peacebuilding (CSOP).

"There are a lot of students coming to CMU from all around the world, and the impact that has when they go home and make peace is so important," says Rempel.

Rempel is a long-time supporter of CMU, a passionate donor and advocate for the CSOP, and a contributor to the CMU Fund for annual operations.

In addition, she and her late husband Art established the Art and Helen Rempel Bursary fund, creating opportunities for students that will continue into the future. Together, they agreed on generosity planning for CMU both during their lifetimes as well as in their wills.

« You don't give because you want other people to notice... You give because there are so many needs in the world. »

Like many, Rempel is hesitant to talk about her charitable giving activities.

"You don't give because you want other people to notice," she says. "You give because there are so many needs in the world, and when you hear about a need, you feel motivated to help, especially when you've been blessed so well."

She inherited this philosophy of generosity from her parents, growing up in the small community of Hershel, Saskatchewan.

After graduating from Rosthern Jr. College, she moved to Winnipeg to work as a teacher in the public-school system.

There weren't many options for women back then, she recalls, but her father and grandfather had been teachers, so she was happy to carry on the tradition.

She left the school system after eight years and started a family of her own. And she carried on teaching in her community.

"There was no kindergarten in Fort Garry, and there was a need for kids to have some place to go when they were five years old."

Rempel had 25 children in her kindergarten, including four of her own, and says it helped her get to know her neighbours.



As an educator, donating to CMU brings together Rempel's interest in Mennonite history, Anabaptist faith and peacebuilding, with her passion for learning.

"CMU integrates faith with so many world issues," says Rempel. "When you hear about students being here from 27 countries; well, I've been impressed how that can make a difference in the world and it gives me hope for the future."

GIVING TODAY, GIVING TOMORROW

There are many generosity heroes that sustain the mission of CMU to form lives for leadership, service, and reconciliation in the church and society. By giving today, they express a deep care for CMU as a faith-filled university. By giving tomorrow through gifts in wills, life insurance, etc., they declare their trust in God's activity in the generations to come. Thank you for contemplating how you will participate, today and tomorrow, in this mission with CMU! If you have questions or wish to have further conversation about your donation, you are welcome contact us at development@cmu.ca



Celebrating character and vocation in Class of 2018

By Aaron Epp

Canadian Mennonite University recognized the accomplishments of 83 graduates on April 21, 2018.

CMU President Dr. Cheryl Pauls conferred 67 undergraduate degrees, 10 graduate degrees, three undergraduate certificates, and three graduate certificates, at the graduation service held at Portage Avenue Church on Saturday, April 21.

“Today we honour 83 cherished graduands for work well done,” Pauls said during her opening remarks, before addressing the Class of 2018 directly: “All of us, your teachers, draw courage and hope from the quality of character and vocation that we witness in you. We are grateful to you for opening our eyes to new ways of seeing, hearing, reflecting, and doing. May the wonder of God’s love ever inspire all the work of your hearts, hands, and minds.”

The Class of 2018 included the first-ever graduates from CMU’s graduate program in **Peacebuilding and Collaborative Development**, with Pauls conferring a Master of Arts to Hyunhee Kim, Abdullah Al Mashud, and Michael Arok Yak.

Pauls awarded **President’s Medals** to Laura Carr-Pries (BA, Four-Year, Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies, and Biblical and Theological Studies) and April Klassen (BA, Four-Year, Interdisciplinary Studies – Community Development), in recognition of their qualities of scholarship, leadership, and service.

« All of us, your teachers, draw courage and hope from the quality of character and vocation that we witness in you. »



Earlier in the service, Jason Friesen (BA, Four-Year, Communications and Media) delivered the valedictory address, based on the graduation verse from 1 Corinthians 16:13-14: “Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”

Friesen said that at CMU, he and his peers were guided into uncomfortable spaces that challenged them to be vulnerable and grow.

“We came into CMU as vulnerable newcomers, and now as we leave, we are going to walk into many more experiences that need people who are willing to be vulnerable,” Friesen said. “Are you willing to be uncomfortable? Are you willing to grow? Because that’s exactly what courage, strength, love, and vulnerability call for. Embrace that.”

Jamie Howison, a priest of the Anglican Church of Canada

and the founding pastor of saint benedict’s table, delivered the graduation address. He first drew from Proverbs 27:17, which reads, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

“The gift of education is a gift you have to carry with you—a responsibility, in other words,” Howison said. “So carry that calling well.”

Howison then explored Psalm 127:1-2, which reminds people to trust in God, and balance the work they do with rest.

“That call to balance, to the kind of self-awareness that will allow you to grow where you should, flourish as you may, and trust the One who has gifted you with life in the first place—that’s my blessing for you,” Howison concluded.



Baccalaureate speaker Dan Epp-Tiessen





Earlier in the day, CMU held its annual Baccalaureate Service, where a handful of graduates reflected on their time at CMU.

Rebecca Penner (BA, Four-Year, Biblical and Theological Studies) spoke about how studying at CMU taught her how to think academically about the kingdom theology she first learned about as a student in the university’s Outatown Discipleship School.

“I’m incredibly grateful for my years in such a nurturing and formational environment,” Penner said. “It has taught me what it means to be a disciple, and to look for where I can participate in God’s kingdom work in the world around me... Even though I don’t fully know what the future holds, I know that CMU has empowered me to follow God wherever God leads.”

Anneli Loepp Thiessen (BMus, Concentration: Performance – Piano Music Ministry) told the audience that learning a challenging piano piece, “Allegro de Concierto” by Enrique Granados, led to obstacles she never even knew existed.

“The beautiful part about being at CMU is that I took on this piece with so many musicians observing and commenting and supporting me,” Loepp Thiessen said, adding that everyone from her professors to her piano teacher to her friends gave her advice and encouragement. “Being surrounded by a community who understands the journey has been a unique gift, and has made sharing music so much more meaningful.”

Jonathan Daman (BBA, Business Management) shared that his professors helped make course material come alive, and they showed him that no matter what challenges society faces, there is hope for the future.

“This is what CMU has taught me: The ability to take even the bleakest of course material like economics, or the bleakest of situations in our environment, and to find a way that we can make a difference through them,” he said.



President’s Medal recipients Laura Carr-Pries (left) and April Klassen (right)



Convocation speaker Jamie Howison

« The gift of education is a gift you have to carry with you—a responsibility, in other words. So carry that calling well.. »

Jamie Howison, graduating address



« We came into CMU as vulnerable newcomers, and now as we leave, we are going to walk into many more experiences that need people who are willing to be vulnerable. »

Jason Friesen, valedictory address



People and Events

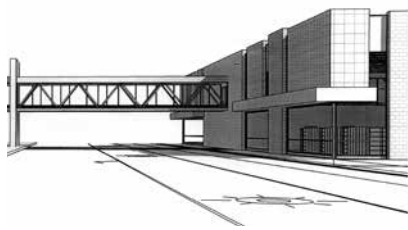


CONNECT Campaign reaches \$14.4 million goal

The fundraising campaign to build Marpeck Commons, the library, learning commons, and bridge at CMU, has reached its goal.

"It is our great pleasure and gratitude to announce that the CONNECT Campaign goal of \$14.4 million has been achieved in gifts and commitments," CMU President Dr. Cheryl Pauls said during a speech she gave on November 25 at the university's annual Christmas concert.

Plans for Marpeck Commons started taking shape in 2009, when leadership at CMU began envisioning a building that would get the university's library out of the basement, as well as create a learning commons with light and space.



Drawing: f13 Architecture

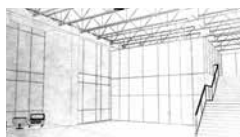
The building would include a pedestrian bridge linking the two sides of CMU's Shaftesbury campus and ensuring safe passageway across Grant Avenue. It would be a space drawing together the community within and surrounding CMU—the community of students, staff, and faculty, as well as the community of neighbours and constituents.

That dream became a reality when CMU opened the doors of Marpeck Commons on January 5, 2015.

Since then, Marpeck Commons has had a measurable and transformative impact for CMU students, faculty, and the broader community. The

CMU Library, for example, annually receives more than three times the number of visitors it received in its previous location.

The building includes the inviting folio café, along with Commonword, a bookstore and congregational resource centre with the most extensive selection of theological resources anywhere in the province.



Drawing: f13 Architecture

This has been the largest fundraising campaign in CMU's history. Nine hundred donors contributed, with 60 per cent of those contributions coming from Manitoba and 40 per cent coming from out of province. The donations included those of alumni and supporters who purchased 459 engraved bridge tiles.

"We are honoured by the generous investment of 900 families, individuals, foundations, and churches who collectively paid for the whole of Marpeck Commons," Pauls said. "Their vision has created a cherished gathering place, which we are delighted to share with thousands of people annually."

The volunteer leadership of the CONNECT Campaign Cabinet, a group characterized by deep generosity and vision, was critical to the success of this fundraising endeavour.

Led by campaign chair Elmer Hildebrand, CEO of Golden West Broadcasting, Ltd., the cabinet included Arthur DeFehr, Philipp R. Ens, Bill Fast, Janice Filmon, Albert Friesen, Charles Loewen, Jake Rempel, and Tamara Roehr.

"I am really pleased with the way all of the members of our campaign cabinet stepped up to meet the challenge," Hildebrand said. "It was a real pleasure to work with this group of visionary and generous individuals."

Lecture series explores Protestant Reformation, implications for today

CMU marked the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation with a special lecture series delivered by the world's foremost scholar on Swiss Anabaptism.



Dr. C. Arnold Snyder presented the three-part series, titled, "Faith and Toleration: A Reformation Debate Revisited," in the CMU Chapel Oct. 30-31, 2017.

Snyder, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, ON, asked the question: Should dissenting religious beliefs be tolerated on religious principle, and toleration established as civic policy?

The lectures explored some of the events and debates that ensued 500 years ago when Martin Luther composed 95 theses for debate in Wittenberg, drawing some conclusions for our day.

"The theme of faith and toleration is at the very centre of our global context," said Dr. Karl Koop, Professor of History and Theology, and coordinator of CMU's Biblical and Theological Studies program. "In the news every day, we're hearing about the clash of religions. . . It strikes me that this particular topic is really at the forefront of the issues that we're dealing with presently."

Snyder holds a PhD from McMaster University. His research focuses on 16th-century Anabaptism. He has written and edited several books on this topic, including *Anabaptist History and Theology: An Introduction* (Pandora Press, 1995), and *Later Writings of the Swiss Anabaptists, 1529-1592* (Pandora Press, 2017).

Snyder's lectures were co-presented by the J.J. Thiessen Lecture Series as well as the John and Margaret Friesen Lectures. Watch the lectures at cmu.ca/jjt.

Dr. Rick Lindroth, 2018 Scientist in Residence

In a world of "alternative facts," what does science have to offer?



That's one of the questions Dr. Rick Lindroth addressed when he visited CMU

January 29-30 as its 2018 Scientist in Residence.

Lindroth, a Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of Ecology and Associate Dean for Research at the University of Wisconsin (Madison, WI), shared his insights, observations, experience, and personal reflections during three speaking events open to the public: a student forum titled, "Two Degrees of Separation: Climate Change and the Christian Challenge," a chapel titled, "Life at the Intersection of Science and Faith: A Biologist's Story," and a lecture titled, "Science as a Way of Knowing: The Pursuit of Truth in a Post-Truth World."

Lindroth's research focuses on evolutionary ecology and global change ecology in forest ecosystems. He has been a Fulbright Fellow and is a Fellow of the Ecological Society of America, the Entomological Society of America, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Additionally, Lindroth has served in numerous roles at his church.

"The topics that Rick talks about are so relevant," said Dr. Tim Rogalsky, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Chair of the Science and Faith Advisory Committee. "Humanity seems bent on ecological self-destruction, and science can help—both to understand what happened, and what needs to change."

Watch Lindroth's presentations at cmu.ca/sir.



Pianist wins 2018 Verna Mae Janzen Music Competition

A third-year music student from Waldheim, SK was the winner of the 13th annual Verna Mae Janzen Music Competition, held on February 15 in CMU's Laudamus Auditorium.

Emma Heinrichs' performance on the piano earned her first place and the \$700 prize that comes with it.

Riley Dyck, a pianist, placed second and received \$500. Third place and its \$300 prize went to soprano Katy Unruh.

Maria Cesario (soprano), Madeleine Friesen (piano), Emily Rempel (piano), Julie Sidorchuk (piano), and Lisa Vuignier (soprano) also competed in the finals.

"Over the course of the last 12 years of the competition, students have consistently risen to a very high standard," said Rosemarie van der Hooft, Voice Instructor at CMU. "It has helped them prepare for performances beyond the university, whether it be auditions for master's programs or other areas of public performance that they may pursue after their studies at CMU."



The Honourable Murray Sinclair speaks at CMU

People interested in advancing the process of reconciliation

between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians ought to do whatever it is they can do, wherever they currently find themselves.

That was one of the messages the Honourable Senator Murray Sinclair shared during a public lecture at CMU on March 5.

"Whatever you can do will be an improvement on doing nothing, and will be an improvement on doing the wrong thing," Sinclair said. "The wrong thing is to continue doing things the way we always have."

During the lecture, titled, "The TRC, Calls to Action and the Mountain Before Us: Stories of Hope and Challenge," Sinclair shared stories and insights from his experience growing up as an Indigenous man, as well as his experience serving as chief commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC).

Familiarize yourself with the TRC's reports, its 94 calls to action, and the history of Canada's Indian residential school system, Sinclair advised the audience.

"You need to understand this story if you want to do something," he said.

"CMU (was) honoured to host Senator Sinclair for this special lecture," said Dr. Wendy Kroeker, Instructor in Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies, who organized the event. "Senator Sinclair has a strong, clear voice for truth-telling and for finding ways forward."

The event was presented to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Canadian School of Peacebuilding, which Kroeker co-directs.

Prior to his appointment to the senate in April 2016, Sinclair served the justice system in Manitoba for more than 25 years. He was the first Aboriginal judge appointed in Manitoba and Canada's second.

As head of the TRC, he participated in hundreds of hearings across Canada. He also oversaw a multi-million-dollar fundraising program to support various TRC events and activities, and to allow survivors to travel to attend TRC events.

"Kindness is the key to everything, it is the key to reconciliation," Sinclair said during his lecture, adding later, "Reconciliation turns on one simple concept: I want to be your friend and I want you to be mine."

Gallery curator, collaborator receives prestigious award

Ray Dirks, curator of the Mennonite Heritage Centre (MHC) Gallery, and local artist



and author Manju Lodha, were the recipients of the 2017 Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding.

Lt.-Gov. Janice Filmon presented Dirks and Lodha with the award during a ceremony at Government House this past January.

Dirks and Lodha have worked together for more than 10 years to promote understanding, respect, and acceptance for the many faiths and cultures that make up Manitoba.

They have worked in the community, in the classroom, and in places of worship, using art to bring faiths together and to help Manitobans learn about understanding, respect and acceptance in an increasingly multi-faith province.

"Manju Lodha and Ray Dirks truly embody the spirit of this award," Filmon said in a release. "Their tireless efforts and collaborative, creative approach inspires us all to broaden our circle of friendship and continue to seek a greater understanding of one another."

The MHC, including its archive and art gallery programs, became part of CMU's infrastructure and programming on June 1, 2017.

Alumni News



News



Gwen Wellington (CMBC '70), Cranbrook, BC, is a former psychotherapist and pastor. She is the author of *Glimpses of God's Heart: Life-Giving Notes for Every Day of the*

Year, which was published this past December. This daily devotional features excerpts from the conversations she has had with God throughout her adult life, and contains motivational advice and inspirational wisdom from her varied career undertakings and personal life struggles.

Di Brandt (CMBC '72), Winnipeg, MB, was named Winnipeg's first poet laureate by the Winnipeg Arts Council last November. The poet laureate serves as an ambassador and promoter of local poetry. Di holds a PhD in English Literature from the University of Manitoba. Her critically acclaimed, bestselling first collection of poetry, *questions i asked my mother*, was recently reissued in a 30th anniversary edition.



Donald Stoesz (CMBC '75), Bowden, AB, recently celebrated the publication of his second book, *Canadian Prairie Mennonite Ministers' Use of Scripture: 1874-1977*.

Donald holds a PhD in religious studies from McGill University and has spent the past 30 years working as a chaplain in the federal prison system. Visit donaldstoesz.com.

Bill Ginther (CMBC '82), Lethbridge, AB, was named executive director of the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen late last year.

Renate Dau Klaassen (CMBC '84), Virgil, ON, began working as associate pastor of German

worship at Niagara United Mennonite Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON this past October. Renate and her husband, Randy, served as pastors together at Bethany Mennonite Church in Virgil from 1998 to 2011. Since then, she has been working as a floral designer in a retail flower shop.

James Friesen (CMBC '88), Winnipeg, MB, has been appointed vice principal at Westgate Mennonite Collegiate. Prior to the appointment, James spent 25 years teaching Math, English Language Arts, and Christian Studies at Westgate.

Karl Martens (CMBC '00), Saskatoon, SK, began work as Director of Donor Development and Alumni Relations at Rosthern Junior College in Rosthern, SK earlier this year.

Stephen Redekop (CMU '03), Winnipeg, MB, is the controller at Mondo Foods, which distributes food and wine to restaurants, pizzerias, hotels, delicatessens, grocery stores, and retail stores. Prior to starting this role in November 2017, Stephen worked at CMU, first as admissions counsellor, then financial and student services advisor, then accounting assistant, and finally controller.

Courtney Rutherford (CMU 2003-04), Winnipeg, MB, is a news reporter at CityNews. From 2014-17, she worked for CBC Manitoba. Courtney holds degrees in journalism, communications, and political science from Red River College and the University of Winnipeg.

Greg Wiebe (CMU '06), Winnipeg, MB, is the Executive Coordinator for the Office of the Vice President Academic at CMU. Greg holds an MA (2009) and PhD (2015) from McMaster University, where he studied the work of St. Augustine.

Ashleigh Gee (CMU '07), Kitchener, ON, was appointed Director of Development at Bracelet of Hope this past May. Bracelet of Hope is a Guelph-based charity committed to ending the AIDS pandemic in the southern African country of Lesotho. Ashleigh has more than 10 years' experience in the non-profit sector, in Canada and abroad. She lived in Cairo, Egypt during the Arab Spring, while employed by a women's foundation. She has also lived in Delhi, India, where she worked on a child labour project.

Jonathan Dyck (CMU '08), Winnipeg, MB, recently illustrated two books. The first, titled *Where Do Sticky Buns Come From?*, is a children's book written by Jon McPhail, owner of Jonnies Sticky Buns. The second, titled *Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization*, was edited by Steve Heinrichs and published by Mennonite Church Canada. Contributors to the book include CMU professors **Dan Epp-Tiessen** (CMBC '76) and **Sheila Klassen-Wiebe** (CMBC '83), as well as CMU alumni **Susanne Guenther Loewen** (CMU '07) and **Deanna Zantingh** (CMU '13).

Norm Dyck (CMU '08), Listowel, ON, began working as the Mission Engagement Minister at Mennonite Church Eastern Canada this past February. He previously worked as the pastor of Listowel Mennonite Church. He and his wife, Rose, have four sons: Malachi, Jonah, Elijah, and Nehemiah.



Kim Penner (CMU '08), Waterloo, ON, graduated this past November with a PhD in Theology from the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto. Her dissertation is titled, *"Discipleship as Erotic Peacemaking: Toward a Feminist Mennonite Theo-ethics of Embodiment and Sexuality."*

Toward a Feminist Mennonite Theo-ethics of Embodiment and Sexuality."

Zach Peters (OT '06, CMU '10), Winnipeg, MB, transitioned into the role of Manager of Marketing for the NHL Jets and True North Sports and Entertainment this past January. He previously worked for True North as manager of marketing for the Manitoba Moose.

Kate Schellenberg (OT '07, CMU '10), Winnipeg, MB, has been making a name for herself as a comedian since performing at her first open mic in January 2017. This past April she appeared at the Winnipeg Comedy Festival for the second year in a row. She has also performed at Oddblock Comedy Festival and Rumor's Comedy Club.

Lee Hiebert (CMU '14), Steinbach, MB, graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in May 2017. He currently serves as the pastor at Steinbach Mennonite Church.

Rachel Dueck (CMU '16), Winnipeg, MB, is a student in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Manitoba. She will spend this summer interning at Surmodics, a biomedical engineering company located near Minneapolis, MN.



Cameron MacDonald (CMU '17), Winnipeg, MB, is executive assistant at Life's Vision, a pro-life resource centre in Winnipeg that is "dedicated to providing life-affirming education to Manitobans."

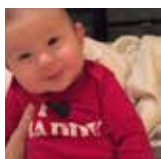
Marriages



Heidi Koop (CMU '07) and Ross Brownlee, Winnipeg, MB, December 31, 2017

Larissa Friesen (CMU '03) and Adam Bernardin, Winnipeg, MB, January 12, 2018

Births and Adoptions



Johanna Rempel Petkau (CMBC 1998-99) and Jimmy Bang, Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Aria Georgia Evelyn Bang, June 3, 2017

Aaron Thiessen (CMU '13) and Simone Thiessen, Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Zoe Abigail Thiessen, June 6, 2017

Paul Muns (CMU '10) and Hannah Muns, Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Coralynn Eloise Muns, June 18, 2017

Geoff Reimer (OT '05, CMU '10) and Brielle Reimer, Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Maielle Lucette Marie Reimer, July 13, 2017

Alrika Imasami Rojas (CMU 2012-13) and Alfred Chan, Winnipeg, MB, a son, Amaru Eirik Pui Lok Rojas-Chan, July 29, 2017

Brock Klassen (OT '07) and Gillian Klassen, Winnipeg, MB, a son, Kaiden Wilham Harlos Klassen, October 20, 2017

Christina Dyck (CMU '02) and **Russ Dyck** (CMU '03), Jubilee Partners in Comer, GA, a daughter, MuLa Grace Paw, adopted on November 18, 2017



Zach Peters (OT '06, CMU '10) and Julie Peters, Winnipeg, MB, a son, Otto Herbert Henry Peters, November 24, 2017

Bethany Matejka (Abrahamson, CMU '12) and **Vlad Matejka** (CMU '14), Birch River, MB, a son, Sevastjan Karel Matejka, December 1, 2017



Kari Enns (CMU '04) and **Brent Durksen** (CMU '04), Calgary, AB, a son, Zeke Cohen Enns Durksen, December 25, 2017

Susie Guenther Loewen (CMU '07) and **Kris Loewen** (CMU 2003-04), Saskatoon, SK, a daughter, Junia Eva Loewen, January 6, 2018

Breanne Fast (Martens, CMU 2005-06) and Nicholas Fast, Saskatoon, SK, a son, Bennett Rene Fast, January 7, 2018

Sarah Klassen Bartel (CMU '05) and **Adam Klassen Bartel** (CMU '09), Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Lydia Agnes Klassen Bartel, January 12, 2018

Nick Miller (CMU 2007-12) and **Dara Miller** (Friesen, CMU 2007-08, 09-10), Winnipeg, MB, a son, Oscar Donald Miller, February 5, 2018

Jaron Friesen (CMU '10) and **Abby Friesen** (CMU 2008-10), Winnipeg, MB, a son, Silas Roger Friesen, February 13, 2018

Luke Klassen (CMU '08) and Chaz Klassen, Winnipeg, MB, a son, Mathis Ikenna Klassen, February 8, 2018

Matthew Wiebe (CMU '07) and Andrea Wiebe, Winnipeg, MB, a son, Ren Lowell Wiebe, February 16, 2018

Jocelyn Friesen (Gordon, CMU '08) and **Tony Friesen** (CMU '10), Winnipeg, MB, a son, Dashiell Alexander Friesen, February 21, 2018

Tessa Nussbaum (Callan, CMU '04) and **Aaron Nussbaum**, Winnipeg, MB, a son, Henry James Nussbaum, February 28, 2018

Del Barber (CMU 2006-09) and Haylan Jackson, Inglis, MB, a daughter, Guthrie Isabel Barber, March 22, 2018

Jeff Friesen (CMU '03, '04) and **Jess Klassen** (CMU '04), Winnipeg, MB, a son, Miles Joseph Klassen Friesen, March 25, 2018

Nicholas Ewert (CMU '10) and Naomi Ewert, Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Winifred Ruth Ewert, April 4, 2018

Noelle Enns (Koop, CMU '09) and **Randy Enns** (2006-07), Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Anya Katharina Enns, April 8, 2018



Deaths

John Martens (CMBC 1948-49), Sanford, MB, June 12, 2017

Laura Sawatzky (MBBC '58), Kelowna, BC, June 18, 2017

Wilmer Kornelson (Willms, MBBC '52), Abbotsford, BC, September 24, 2017

John Stoesz (MBBC '66), Winnipeg, MB, December 15, 2017

Esther Patkau (CMBC '47), Saskatoon, SK, December 18, 2017

Daniel Durksen (MBBC 1976-81), Dundas, ON, February 7, 2018

Sam Dube (CMU 2004-05), Winnipeg, MB, November 14, 2017

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.

Outtatown: A well in the Desert

By Ezra Enns

In September, I probably would have scoffed at the idea of being as deeply connected as I am now.

“One year!” I would have said, “It takes me that long just to feel comfortable with someone, much less know that person”.

Outtatown dismissed that mindset, along with the feelings that accompany the frustration with how long it takes to get to know someone.

A striking thing about Outtatown is that it's not primarily academic, and it's not like a trip in which a group of established friends decide to spend more time together exploring the world. Outtatown is experiential first and foremost, and that is an important factor when understanding what our groups have gone through.

Our attachment to one another is based on love—unfair grace that these friends show, as modelled by Jesus.

Jesus has guided us—I have seen it happening in the way we have interacted with people and places outside of the group. We have been truly blessed to interact with and learn

from the diversity of Canada and Guatemala.

Testimonies that we shared with each other left me feeling that were we to continue with the Outtatown structure, we would know each other more and more, and despite that we would love each other more and more.

In the classic book *The Little Prince* it is said, “What makes the desert beautiful, is that somewhere it hides a well”. It is clear to me that Outtatown has been one of these wells.

Taken from the graduation speech given by Ezra Enns on April 15, 2018 at CMU.



MSC GRAD REFLECTION

MSC inspires transformation

by Jordan Ewart (IDS '18)

Four years ago, I was swept up by the Saskatchewan prairie winds and found myself in Manitoba to pursue International Development Studies (IDS) at Menno Simons College (MSC).

I came to MSC curious to learn about the world. I wanted a career that incorporated travel and figured this would be the right degree for me. Little did I know, my MSC experience would transform me as a person.

At MSC, more than ever before in my life, I discovered who I am and what type of footprint I want to leave behind in the world.

The amazing IDS faculty push boundaries in the field, and help students understand why the world is the way it is, while exploring solutions. They guided my learning, teaching me the fundamentals of “doing development” and challenged me to think outside the box.

MSC inspires transformational community. Students learn together, study together, and encourage each other, pushing us to challenge ourselves as we learn. Whether an MSC Student Association event like Common Unity, or a lunchtime guest speaker, MSC always has a way for students to get involved.



This place has pushed me to speak up, to advocate for what I believe is right, and to chase my dreams. And starting in May 2018, I will take my passion for development and put it to work in Tanzania for three-months. It is time to show the world what a Menno Simons College IDS degree can do.

Bachelor of Science degree at CMU: Fall 2018

By Kevin Kilbrei

Starting in Fall 2018, CMU will offer four new Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree options as part of its academic programming—General (three-year), Mathematics (three-year), Biology (four-year), and Mathematics (four-year). The BA Mathematics degrees will remain, with no change, serving students looking for more flexible elective space

The addition of a BSc to CMU's offerings is not only a response to growing demand, but is a natural fit, given the university's mission.

"CMU's teaching, research, and service equip women and men for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society'. These commitments also imply a role for the natural sciences and mathematics within the curriculum at CMU," stated Jonathan Dueck, CMU's Vice President Academic.

"Indeed, faculty have expressed that 'developing science is connected to the heart of the CMU project,' as described by our Mission Statement."

The CMU BSc unique will be unique in its inclusion of a broad interdisciplinary base, helping students to see the beauty and complexity of the world from various perspectives within science, biblical and theological studies, humanities, and social sciences. The goal is to create critical thinkers, trained in diverse ways of thinking and knowing.

Communication skills developed at CMU will enable them to bridge gaps to other fields, and be understood by scientists and non-scientists alike.

Guided by nurturing PhD professors who are active researchers in their own fields, students will gain hands-on experience in the process of scientific inquiry and, as a result, become creative, lateral thinkers who will be resilient



and adaptable as advances in theory and technology change how science is performed.

Candice Viddal, Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Physics, asserts Science is not distinct from the liberal arts, but a part of them.

"At its heart, science is an expression of curiosity, the objective of which is to explain how the natural world works, and the place of humanity in it. However, science is often discussed almost interchangeably with the technologies science has given birth to; and science education with direct training for careers that make use of these technologies: in engineering, health, agriculture, and informatics, among many others. Notwithstanding the importance of preparing students for the technical demands of their vocations, the underlying purpose of science is understanding, rather than control. If curiosity and a sense of wonder and humility are at the heart of science education, the technical and critical skills needed for careers in scientific fields will follow."

« If curiosity and a sense of wonder and humility are at the heart of science education, the technical and critical skills needed for careers in scientific fields will follow. »

A CMU BSc will provide the well-rounded foundation that will inspire and equip our future scientists to make a positive difference in the world.



First book by alumnus deepens understanding and friendship

By Aaron Epp

A CMU alumnus recently celebrated the publication of his first book.

Dustin Unrau (OT '05, CMU '09) is the author of *Nahayo: They Left Me for Dead*. The book tells the life story of Unrau's friend, Jackson Nahayo, who immigrated to Canada after surviving horrific violence, only to return to his home country years later to start a medical clinic.

"I've always wanted to write a book, but I didn't know that I would ever actually do it," says Unrau, who launched the book alongside Nahayo at a special event at River East Church in Winnipeg this past February. "It feels like a huge accomplishment."

Unrau, a Grade 5 teacher, met Nahayo eight years ago while the two were tree-planting in BC. They became fast friends, and Unrau soon came to learn about Nahayo's background.

Born in the central African country of Burundi, Nahayo was separated from his family as a child after war broke out. He fled to the Congo and then to Zambia, eventually immigrating to Canada as a teenager.

After high school, he was amazed to discover that his family was alive in Burundi. He returned, started an NGO and built a youth centre to help orphans.

Nahayo then earned a nursing degree in Winnipeg. In 2013, with the help of many Canadian friends, Nahayo shipped a 40-foot container full of medical equipment to Burundi, and he built the Ubuntu Medical Clinique.

The clinic includes a 32-bed hospital, a lab, a pharmacy, more than 20 medical staff and a variety of agriculture projects. It provides healthcare and food to thousands of people affected by civil war and serious violence.

One of the reasons for sharing Nahayo's story in the book, Unrau says, is to give Nahayo's supporters a better idea of what his life has been like, as well as the work he is currently doing.

Unrau also hopes the book gives readers a better understanding of the things that people in other parts of the world go through.



Dustin Unrau (left) and Jackson Nahayo developed a deep friendship while tree-planting in BC eight years ago.

"We want people who read the book to support Ubuntu Medical Clinique, but we also want them to get a better perspective of the world as it is," Unrau says.

"We want them to think about what we can all potentially do to be better neighbours to each other, and what our responsibility as privileged westerners might be as we hear about all these things in the news."

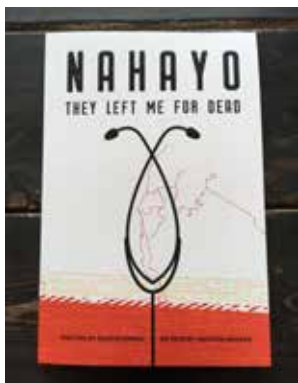
Unrau describes Nahayo as a hilarious, upbeat, brilliant, and humble person who sacrifices everything to help those around him.

He adds that working on the book deepened their friendship.

"I don't think there's anybody else besides my wife that I know on this deep of an emotional level," Unrau says. "It's pretty cool."

Nahayo: They Left Me for Dead is available for \$10, with 100 per cent of the money going to the Ubuntu Medical Clinique. It's available in Winnipeg at McNally Robinson, Sam's Place, and the Neighbourhood Bookstore and Cafe. You can also purchase the book by sending Unrau a message through his Facebook page: facebook.com/dustin.cole.31.

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



Nahayo tells the life story of Jackson Nahayo, who immigrated to Canada after surviving horrific violence, only to return to his home country to start a medical clinic.

CMU CALENDAR

- June 11–22:** Canadian School of Peacebuilding
- June 13:** Public Lecture | A Transformative Spirituality for Peacebuilding with Dr. Fernando Enns
- June 14:** Menno Simons College Graduation
- June 15:** Dinner with Ted 5: *One Last Dinner with Ted*
- June 19:** CMU Golf Classic
- June 22:** Jazz in Folio | 7 PM
- Sept 5:** First day of classes
- Sept 21–22:** Fall@CMU
- Sept 21:** Distinguished Alumni Awards
- Oct 2:** Public Lecture | Rehearsing Scripture: Discovering God's Word in Community with Dr. Anna Carter Florence
- Oct 19:** Open House
- Oct 16–17:** J.J. Thiessen Lectures with Dr. John D. Witvliet
- Nov 15:** Music Open House
- Nov 16:** Discover Outtatown Visit Day
- Nov 23:** Campus Visit Day
- Nov 24:** Christmas at CMU

For an updated and ongoing list of events happening at CMU, please visit cmu.ca/events.



Through this place

A monthly window inside, outside, and all about CMU

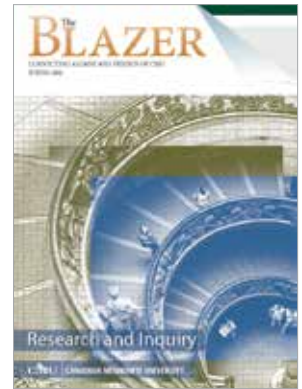
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