

The BLAZER

CONNECTING ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF CMU

SPRING 2019



What's in a name?

The BLAZER

Essence – what is the CMU difference?

CMU staff and faculty recently came together for an all-day retreat in which we were challenged to think about CMU's identity, and what it means to us. A series of reflections by a member of the constituency, an alumnus and a present student opened ways for us to articulate what lies at the heart of the university.

Our conversation explored “what’s in a name” by touching on nuances and intangibles that are often difficult to articulate. It became clear that not all words have equal value in that they fail to communicate something that is better felt or experienced.

CMU's four missional commitments—(1) Educating for Peace–Justice; (2) Learning through Thinking and Doing; (3) Welcoming Generous Hospitality...Radical Dialogue; and (4) Modelling Invitational Community—are words that have meaning on paper. However their true ‘essence’ emerges only in experience through lived practice.

All universities claim in one way or another that they create well-rounded individuals who are equipped for life and work in the real world. So, what makes CMU different?

A recent alumna reflected her sense of CMU's essence by saying, “People who come out of CMU, and the people who work at CMU, are good at being human. CMU cultivates people who go out into the world as hopeful individuals, and who affect those with whom they come into contact.”

CMU is different, but words don't quite capture its essence which is best known through experience shaped in and through by its Anabaptist-Christian commitments.

With this issue of the Blazer we dig into what this university's name means and with that open a glimpse into its unique qualities.

I invite you to come experience CMU where you can, be it through a public lecture, a Face-2-Face conversation (both live-streamed for easy access across the country), a Vespers worship service, or simply a campus visit.

Wishing you a pleasant and memorable summer.

Kevin Kilbrei

Director, Communications & Marketing

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What's in a name?

Most people say CMU. I say Canadian Mennonite University. I've learned by example that it's my job to do so. I've noticed that while most people refer to universities through acronyms, presidents say the full name. That's not so easy for me. Try saying the full name out loud. You need a clear break in your sound to enunciate the "n" at the end of one word before the "m" followed by another "n" at the start of the next one. You need to take your time with the name. Names matter.

This issue of *The Blazer* invites you to join us in considering what's in the name Canadian Mennonite University. Here's some brief history: when the name was revealed on a cold blustery day in April 2000 there was much excitement that the institution formerly known as Mennonite College Federation was called a university. From there a question emerged, "Will people think they have to self-identify as Mennonite to go there?"

That question has never gone away. Funny thing, though, I've never heard anybody ask, "Do you have to be Canadian to go there?" And I wonder: Does addressing this second question shed some light on the first? After all, citizenship is a required field on our application form while church affiliation isn't.

« ...when the name was revealed on a cold blustery day in April 2000 there was much excitement that the institution formerly known as Mennonite College Federation was called a university. »

Here are some 2019 stats. Approximately 85% of CMU students are Canadian; the other 15% are citizens of 32 other countries on most continents. The Canadian students span most provinces even if few from east of Ontario. Just under 40% of CMU students disclose a connection with a Mennonite church body, and 44% identify with a diverse range of churches ecumenically: Baptist, Anglican, Pentecostal, Orthodox, and on. Others students do not disclose a church connection; some practice another faith, others do not see themselves as persons of faith, and still others simply aren't in the habit of filling out non-required fields.

We're likely to deduce from these stats that the university's name has significance for who attends here—given the



density of both Canadian and Mennonite identification—but not in a bounded or exclusive way. We might also say that the range of people who attend CMU are evidence that this Canadian Mennonite University is living out the vision spelled out by Frank H. Epp in a 1982 vision paper, which laid the groundwork for what CMU would eventually become. He spoke of a school that would “avoid being parochial in every way, yet be rooted in a community of faith of diverse strands, capable of bringing them together in ways that extend beyond their own definition.”

It is through relationships with all of you that Canadian Mennonite University seeks to be rooted in the Anabaptist faith tradition, and also moved and transformed by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. These commitments extend and expand the places from which we start. In this I trust we all draw courage and take heart.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl Pauls".

Peace and joy,
Cheryl Pauls
CMU President



Outtatown looks to the future while celebrating 17 years in South Africa

Revamp to program brings excitement for future program addition

By Kevin Kilbrei

From its start in 1998/99, the Outtatown Discipleship School program (Outtatown) has been shaped by a deep commitment to a cross-cultural, faith forming education through which students would come to 'know themselves, know the world, and know God'. Over the past 21 years, many of the 1,457 students who participated in the Outtatown program speak of it as "a life-changing experience."

While the Outtatown program has adapted and matured over the years, its overall vision and form have proven remarkably stable and CMU remains deeply committed to a vibrant future for Outtatown. However, to strengthen and focus future programming, CMU has discontinued the South Africa program for the foreseeable future. This measure has been taken to better position Outtatown's capacity for new forms of transformative discipleship and cross-cultural learning.

Since its introduction in 2002/03, the South Africa program grew beyond expectations as many local partners provided students with lessons in conflict resolution and reconciliation, against the backdrop of the country's history of apartheid. The success and impact of Outtatown's South Africa program is due in no small part to the genuine, often personal, energy, and investment that these partners made in the program, and in the students themselves.

"Saying goodbye to the people we have gotten to know in

South Africa is extremely difficult. These are trusted partners who have become such good friends," says Cameron Priebe, the Director of Outtatown, who left this role on May 1, 2019. "Each year there are well over 100 people if we add up the number of host families, teachers, and guides that are involved at some point as program partners in South Africa. It has truly been an amazing relationship building experience."

Outtatown will continue in Guatemala through the 2019/20 academic year. This coming September, more than 35 students will set off on a learning journey across western Canada as they explore their faith and encounter life's beauty and brokenness in urban and rural settings, before moving to Guatemala where an extraordinary opportunity of cultural immersion, travel, and service awaits them.

In Guatemala students will live fully immersed in local culture and language with local families who will become like their own. As they adventure across the country, students will serve alongside their Outtatown community and continue to discover a life of discipleship.

A second Outtatown program is being imagined for 2020/21 to augment the Guatemala site—possibly as a short-term, international learning opportunity for upper-level CMU students.

CMU President Dr. Cheryl Pauls says, "CMU's educational vision is inspired by how Outtatown goes about experientially-rooted, cohort and service-based, cross-cultural, faith forming education. We look forward to how Outtatown will continue to nurture the faith and life of students in ways that extend their witness to God's grace in Canada and globally."

Coinciding with the 2019/20 academic year, the Outtatown office will see staffing changes with the departure of Cameron Priebe as the program's Director. After eight years with Outtatown, Priebe will transition in June 2019 to serve as the Director of Mennonite Brethren Conference of Manitoba.

Tim Cruickshank and Renee Willms, both of whom have worked as Outtatown Site Leaders and currently serve as Program Managers for the South Africa and Guatemala programs respectively, will become Co-Directors of Outtatown. Together, they will play key roles in shaping Outtatown's ongoing and future programming. Cruickshank and Willms bring hands-on knowledge of site operations and office administration, along with a passion for faith-infused, life-changing experiences.

"Outtatown's mission is to inspire and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ, and this will continue to be the focus of this amazing experience," states Priebe. "We have fantastic leaders in Tim and Renee. They really understand the program, and are well-equipped to provide the leadership needed for this unique faith formation program."

Doing life and discipleship together

Cam Priebe interviewed by Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe



Cam Priebe has been Director of Outtatown, CMU's discipleship school, for the past eight years. June 1 marks a big transition for him and the program, as he leaves his position and becomes the Provincial Director for the Manitoba Brethren Church of Manitoba. Cam recently reflected on his journey with Outtatown:

What impact has Outtatown had on your life?

The first thing that comes to mind is relationships. I've worked with almost 60 site leaders over the course of my time and I've been inspired by being around these people who are committed to their faith, to loving those they're leading, but also loving those they're working together with. Sometimes you couldn't find a group of leaders more different than one another, and to watch them work together in a spirit of unity has been inspirational. The other thing I think of involves the many partners I've gotten to know. I think of Luis Carlos in Guatemala, who's involved in after school youth ministry, recently started a church, and has a big love for his neighbours. Another is Stefans, who has been the bus driver for our South Africa site for over eight years and is with each group for three months. The way he serves and genuinely cares for our students is amazing. He refers to them as his kids.



What will you take with you from this experience to your next position?

The importance of doing life and discipleship together. We never designed this discipleship journey to be an isolated thing. When I'm thinking of the churches I'll be working with, I'm thinking of the remarkable example of these student communities doing life together as they journey. Forgiveness is essential to community, and I've seen it played out time and again on as students seek out reconciliation with one another. I hope that this picture of what it is to share in forgiveness together will stay with me.



Where have you witnessed Outtatown changing lives?

Watching the faith formation experience of leaders has been profound. To watch leaders grow in the knowledge of what it means to walk in faith, and know that doesn't mean that everything's going to turn out right. It means rather to recognize that God will be faithful and be with us. This is one of the transformational experiences I witness and am part of. Another way I see this is in students having the profound experience of learning to understand people who are different than themselves. To watch students embrace that and sit down with people and listen, whether it be a person living on the streets in Vancouver or our friend Peter from Roseau River First Nation or a Guatemalan host family, is pretty exciting.

What are your thoughts about the transitions coming up for Outtatown?

When I think about Outtatown and what we've been trying to live out, I think of our mission statement: to inspire and nurture students in their life of discipleship with Jesus Christ. There are going to be some changes, but that commitment isn't changing and that has me filled with hope, because that's the key to who we are and where we're headed.





What's in a Name?

Welcomed into community

Albesa Aliu
MA Peace and Collaborative
Development, from Kosovo

There are many implied differences that come with being an international student.

I come from Kosovo, and together with CMU students from 30 other countries, I have needed to confront a new language, new culture, and big academic expectations. Yet, my choice to come to CMU for graduate studies is one that I appreciate more each day. CMU has been a place of personal growth, connections and community. During my studies I have purposefully chosen to live and work on campus and this has only deepened my understanding of what this community is about. It's out of that context that I reflect on CMU's name in three ways.

Canadian

Coming from a transitioning state like Kosovo, I have experienced Canada as a safe place for me to be a student. This is a country where systems flow, where norms and rules are somewhat internalized by people – and because I come from a place that is learning how to do these things, I am given much comfort and safety here. I have experienced Canada as a multicultural state, affording me enough space to express my identity. This sense of diversity and





Welcomed into community cont.

understanding is also reflected in my CMU classes and in the events hosted on campus. In addition, Canada and CMU allow me to work enough so that I can afford to pay for school. This financial reality matters incredibly for international students who don't want to end up paying student debt for much of their lives. In sum, the social and cultural structures in place for me in Canada and at CMU have opened a way for me to belong.

Mennonite

Being immersed in a Mennonite story that is reflected in the CMU community has been very inspiring to me. I am inspired by what I have learned of this history and how a people who experienced many transitions and movements has managed to retain its faith and its story. What I appreciate most at CMU is how Mennonites seek to reflect their faith in practice by showing up when it matters, by funding this university and by staying connected to the community. In the midst of this I really appreciate the way that CMU creates space to welcome and include all students regardless of their story. I'm learning a lot from these practices, which I know will be reflected in my future engagement in my own community.

« Being immersed in a Mennonite story that is reflected in the CMU community has been very inspiring to me. »

University

CMU is a place of knowledge intertwined with a deep sense of community. In contrast to other university experiences I have had, I don't feel like I'm being 'taught' but rather I'm being invited into and exposed to different ways of thinking and understanding. CMU's commitment to academic rigour and genuine feedback from professors only strengthens the curiosity of students to know more. My classes end with more books I want to read. I came to CMU to answer my questions and am ending up with even more—and in that sense I trust my learning will never end.

Reverberations in both directions

Karl Koop

Professor of History and Theology

In the late 1990s, various stakeholders came together to decide on a name for an emerging Christian university on the prairies. What were they thinking when they came up with "Canadian Mennonite University"?

Today we may question whether the word

« What were they thinking when they came up with "Canadian Mennonite University"? »

“Mennonite” communicates effectively, and may worry that the name will be a barrier to potential students or donors. Undeniably, at one time, the name was a barrier to many. “Mennonite” referred to a culture and faith tradition with a distinct set of core values and commitments. There was a cultural and theological essence to be preserved and defended. It was crystal clear when Mennonite values and commitments were being transgressed. And outsiders and eccentrics—that is, those outside of the centre—were not always welcome.

« Many of these reverberations continue to inform CMU’s mission. »

At the present time, there may be good reason to think that the Mennonite name signals something more inclusive. Historians increasingly describe the 500-year tradition as fluid and evolving. Static definitions of Mennonite identity are seen more as myth than reality. And unmistakably, current portrayals suggest a tradition that is dynamic and in flux. The vast majority of the roughly 2.2 million Mennonites currently living around the globe express their religious sentiments in manifold ways. Diversity abounds.

Still, I believe that Mennonite expression is locatable somewhere on the religious landscape. In the midst of the ubiquitous multiplicities, there are common threads and habits of discourse and practice that are associated with the Mennonite tradition. I think of these threads and habits as family semblances that have endured over time and continue to reverberate among the wide-ranging contemporary, theological, liturgical, and spiritual expressions that emanate from Mennonite communities.

Many of these reverberations continue to inform CMU’s mission. Students are not required to embrace them, but they can expect to encounter them in their CMU experience: the importance of following Jesus in word and deed; nurturing an understanding and love for the biblical story; appropriating the best from the ongoing Christian story; forming character and faith in voluntary church communities; connecting faith with life in all its dimensions; respecting the dignity of all persons as expressions of God’s love; and practicing peace-justice and reconciling love in the beauty and complexity of the world.

Of course these reverberations are not owned by Mennonites—they are visible in other communities as well. No Christian community has possession of them just as no Christian expression has a corner on the truth. That is why it is imperative that CMU continues to converse and engage with people of diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. CMU, with its Mennonite ethos, may have something to contribute, but it also has much to learn.

May the reverberations travel in both directions.



Leadership and a moral compass

Tomisin Bolorunduro
Masters of Business Administration,
from Nigeria

My interest in business was sparked by reading Robert Kiyosaki's book *Rich Dad Poor Dad*. I was 18 at that time and preparing to leave my family in Nigeria to begin my legal studies at the University of Sheffield, England. While in law school, I found a few mentors with whom I shared my curiosity about business. They told me I didn't have to choose but that I could study both.

After completing my law degree I decided to move to the financial capital of the world to do my Masters in Banking, Finance and Corporate Law at Fordham University School of Law, New York. I wanted to know more about how I could bring law and business together. Upon graduation, I had an opportunity to work for Citigroup on Wall Street and this exposure inspired me to apply for my MBA program, which I decided to do in Canada.

I am currently half way through my MBA studies through CMU and I often reflect on my decision to come here to study. My learnings at CMU inside and outside of the lecture space are what have impacted me the most.

« The class structure in the MBA program provides an opportunity for every professor to build a relationship with every student ... »

My choice to study here was based significantly on relationships with faculty. The class structure in the MBA program provides an opportunity for every professor to build a relationship with every student and to respond effectively to questions and concerns that arise. In addition, leadership principles grounded in high moral standards were important to me. During my MBA studies I have been exposed to a coherent set of leadership values. In particular I have learned the importance of accountability to all stakeholders, shareholders, employees, customers, society, and the environment. In today's capitalistic world where moral bankruptcy is a reality, it is essential for business leaders to have a strong moral compass and to lead with empathy, honour, and probity.

Finally, the cost of tuition and the generosity and support of CMU has been significant in helping to make students' dreams of becoming world-class leaders a reality. My academic experience at CMU has vindicated my choice to study here. This is truly an institution that I am very proud to be associated with.



A work in progress

Jonathan M. Sears

Assistant Professor of International
Development Studies

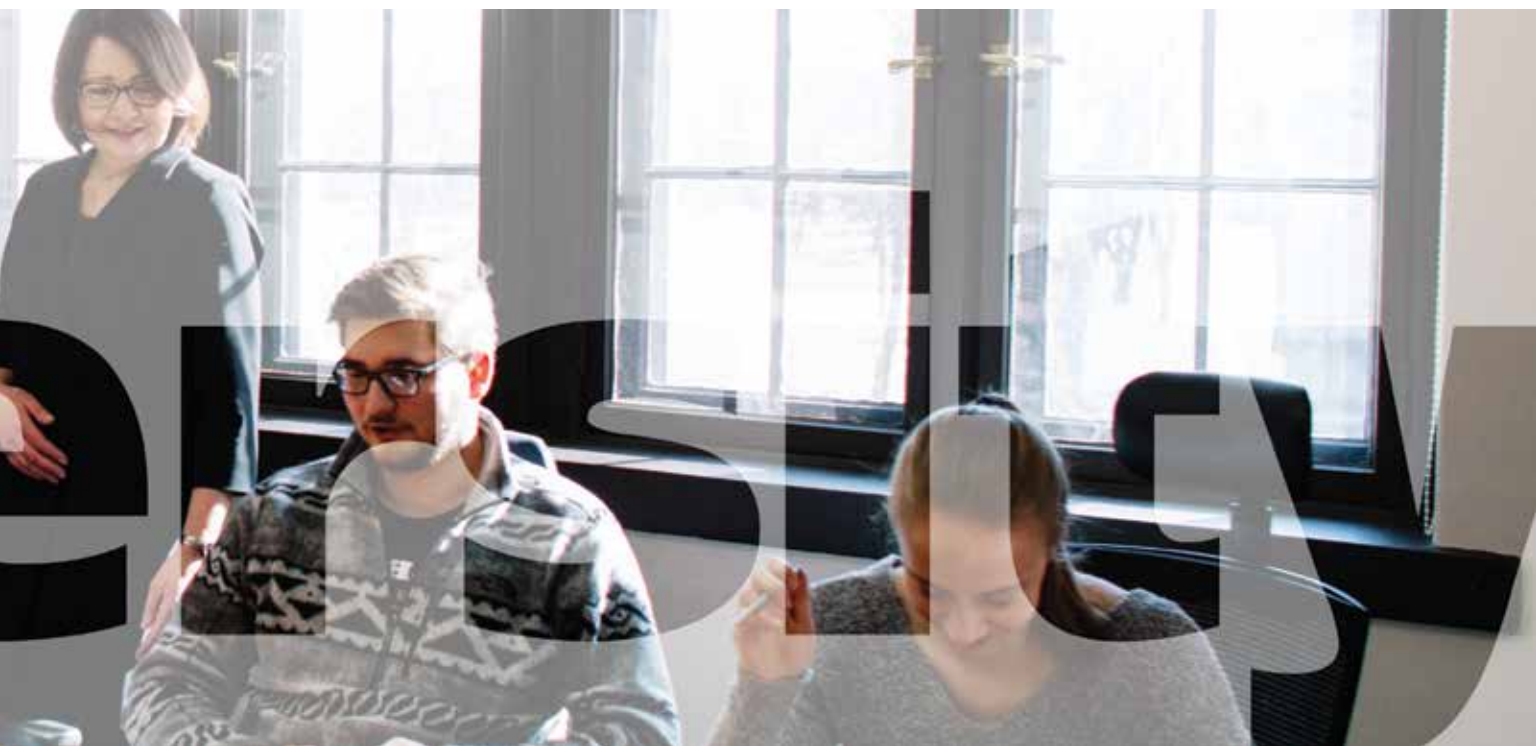
My reflection on the word 'Canadian' means comes at a time when people in the local, provincial, and national communities are rallying in support of Bill C-262; an act to ensure that Canada's laws are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. I was born in the river valley of the Saint John River,

« *Canadian*, encompasses a living legacy that is indeed mixed, fraught, rich, troubled, and ripe with possibilities. »

called by the Mi'kmaq First Peoples 'Woolastook', meaning great and awesome river. I'm descended from many generations of settlers. In the 17th century, we came from England to the east of what is now the United States of America, then in the 18th century, we travelled to what was named New Brunswick, a province in what is today called Canada.

Canadian identity, either for a person or an institution, bears the rich and sometimes difficult burden of history. In my case it is the history of my ancestors being made welcome by the First Peoples. It is also the history of settlement, of British colonization overtaking French colonization, later to become the Dominion of Canada. To me, as the national anthem says, Canada is the "land of our ancestors" (1880 French lyric by Adolphe-Basile Routhier "terre de nos aieux"). Among my ancestors was the cousin of a great grandmother, a poet who wrote "The Onandaga Madonna," and helped frame the Indian Residential School policy: Duncan Campbell Scott.

For me, the word '*Canadian*' encompasses a living legacy that is indeed mixed, fraught, rich, troubled, and ripe with possibilities. Canadian is a work in progress on a daily, yearly, and generational basis. To say with pride that I am Canadian, means also to say it with humility, the desire for forgiveness, the longing for a livable future for my son, as well as being and in reconciliation among the peoples, nations, and the whole of creation.





The idea of a university

Sue Sorensen

Associate Professor of English

A university is a place or space where a community works together to acquire and question knowledge. It is also a state of mind; a site of experiment, exploration, and even potential eruption; a place (brazenly, without shame) to declare loyalty to beauty and hope.

Because students and faculty contemplate and debate ideas (in addition to acquiring facts and skills), the university is a place difficult to explain in a few words. Its possibilities and contributions are as endless as the ideas at hand and the highly diverse humans who are taking these ideas out for a walk.

Some people say that university is about the fullest development of character, or about liberating intellect for its own amazing sake. And those liberated intellects have unearthed wisdom, and created inventions to save lives. In John Henry Newman's powerful 1852 essay *The Idea of a University*, he says that at university we desire to "map out the Universe." (It is not an accident that the words "universe" and "university" are related. This relation is part of the reason why universities are impossible to limit or define.)

University is also a place to scrutinize uses of power: society desperately needs the university's stance of independent inquiry.

But here is one concept that might be enough to explain a university's role: attentiveness. A university is a place where we can examine—really examine—what might be taken for granted in an everyday world where people are rushed for time and pushed for profit. In a university, we can afford to be attentive. What do we attend to? Psychological forces that nudge us toward either self-protection or neighbourliness.

« CMU is genuinely a closely-bound community where the stated values of service, leadership, and reconciliation are more than a motto. »

Social practices that grow resilience within refugees. Metaphors at work in messages from despots or peace activists. Electricity. Democracy. Rhythm, pitch, harmony. Visible mathematical patterns in nature and in deep space.

Our particular university, in its commitment to both preservation of old knowledge and incitement of new, is no different than most. The compact size of CMU, however, means that the notion of community that most universities strive to value is here an actuality. CMU is genuinely a closely-bound community where the stated values of service, leadership, and reconciliation are more than a motto. These articles of faith are alive, sparking transformation across our campuses.

Most important, of course, is the foundation we lean on, our generous God who gives us everything good and whose creation we are here to tend. The radically selfless example of Christ and igniting energy of the Holy Spirit are the inspiration and heart of CMU.

Universities have these audacious but wonderfully necessary aims: to lead us in profound attention to each other and creation, and to dare to contemplate an entire universe of knowledge.

Surviving and thriving with cancer

By Dan Epp-Tiessen | Associate Professor of Bible; Shaftesbury Campus Chair

Brief excerpts from a faith story that Dan shared in CMU chapel, Sept. 15, 2018.

My family does cancer. In my immediate family of five members there have been eight times when a doctor has said to one of us, “You have cancer,” or “You still have cancer.” My wife Esther is a double cancer survivor. In the last four years I have had three major surgeries, radiation treatments, and hormone therapy to deal with thyroid cancer and prostate cancer. Tests show that I still have residual amounts of cancer, but hopefully they will not become life-threatening. These experiences pale in comparison to hearing the pediatric neurosurgeon tell us that our three-year old son Tim had a brain tumour the size of a grapefruit. Tim required surgery and then a nasty round of radiation treatments and chemotherapy that permanently devastated his body and brain. Five years later Tim’s cancer returned, and we kept vigil by his bed until he passed into God’s everlasting care.

In the face of cancer, the resulting fear, grief, anger, and frustration can be so overwhelming that thriving is out of the question, and all one can do is shift into survival mode. Sometimes one has to accept that life will be extremely difficult, perhaps for a very long time. I have found it helpful to honour the cancer by letting go of expectations that life will be pleasant, and by giving myself permission to feel the pain, the anger, the anxiety, and whatever else. Deliberately shifting into survival mode has also allowed me to carry on with daily life and responsibilities despite the cancer. Just because the urologist tells me on Tuesday afternoon that I have prostate cancer, doesn’t mean that I don’t need to teach my class on Wednesday morning. Shifting into survival mode can provide activities and structure for daily life that prevent the cancer from taking up too much space in my life. Yes, I have cancer and I must honour that cancer, but my life will not be defined by the cancer.

Despite the fact that my family does cancer with considerable regularity, I find myself overwhelmed by gratitude—gratitude to God for food and shelter, for meaningful work, for family, friends, faith community, and for so much more. I realize that on most days of the week I am not just surviving, but by the grace of God I am actually thriving. Among others, there are three particular practices that I believe have been channels of God’s grace and healing power in my life and have enabled me to thrive.

I have tried to claim the Bible’s frequent promises of God’s abiding presence, even during life’s hardships. “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our

Lord” (Romans 8:38, NRSV).

At Tim’s funeral the preacher paraphrased the verse. “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor cancer, nor physical or mental disabilities, nor surgery, nor painful medical procedures, nor radiation treatments, nor chemotherapy, nor anything else in all of creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

I have stayed connected to the church. Tim loved to hear me sing the “Servant Song.” Two stanzas stand out. “I will hold the Christ light for you, in the nighttime of your fear. I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear. I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow, till we see this journey through.” My brothers and sisters in Christ have visited, hugged me, sent cards and emails, cooked casseroles, wept with me, and in countless other ways held the Christ light for me in the nighttime of my fear.

I have attempted to practice gratitude. In dealing with cancer I had to learn two somewhat contradictory skills. I had to learn to grieve and lament, and thereby honour the place of the cancer in my life and the life of our family. I also had to learn how to count my blessings. Some of the literature written to help people cope with a cancer diagnosis advises enjoying the simple pleasures of life—tasty food, beautiful music, friends and family, the beauty of creation. From a Christian perspective, this involves attentiveness to daily blessings that come from the hand of God. The Christian faith gives us practices to nurture such attentiveness and gratitude. Table grace is an opportunity to be grateful for nutritious food, as well as the sun, soil, and farmers who have helped bring it to our table. Morning prayer is a chance to thank God for the opportunities that come with a new day. Bedtime prayer is a time to express gratitude for the gifts that have come during the day that is ending.

I highly commend these three practices: embracing the Bible’s promises of God’s abiding presence, remaining connected to the church, and nurturing gratitude. These practices can help all of us survive and thrive, whether we have cancer or not.



Master of Divinity degree at CMU: Fall 2019

New program offers in-depth and hands-on experience

By Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe



Beginning in September 2019, Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) will offer the Master of Divinity (MDiv), a new program of its Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (GSTM).

The MDiv is considered a gold standard by many denominations. The three-year program provides an extensive and thorough preparation for Christian ministry, including strong emphasis on discerning vocational calling and a field-based independent study tailored to each student's specific context. The program is suited for those considering Christian ministry or currently working in the field and wanting to grow in their knowledge and skills for faithful ministry.

The MDiv also emphasizes practical experience, a critical piece in ministry training. "This program very deliberately invites the church to participate in it," says Karl Koop, GSTM Director. All students participate in supervised ministry placements and their congregations are involved in every year of the program.

Intended not just for Mennonites, the MDiv provides the flexibility for students from many denominations to create their own stream within the program. This includes studying specific denominational core requirements, which may be taken at other universities.

"Theological education in an ecumenical context is absolutely essential in our time," says Koop. "There is so much to learn from others because no Christian tradition... has a corner on the truth. Moreover, when we are in

dialogue with other traditions, we have an opportunity to better come to understand our own tradition."

The gifted and welcoming faculty members provide strong mentorship to students in the MDiv program. They are not only well-versed in theological and biblical study, but also have direct experience in both local and international ministry fields. "CMU, through its predecessor colleges, has been involved in theological education and ministry formation in the service of Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren churches since the 1940s."

The graduate school's location within CMU gives students the unique advantage of a vast network of resources.

Students are required to take interdisciplinary courses, such as counselling, communications, and peace studies, to prepare for ministry in the 21st century.

"The ability to have conversations together is rich because of small class size," says Andrew Dyck, Assistant Professor of Christian Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry. "Students come from all different directions, across denominations, cultures, and occupations."

The MDiv program's courses are offered in full semesters, intensive sessions, and live-streamed format. Tuition is approximately 40 percent less than the average seminary tuition cost in Canada and is further accessible through generous bursaries and scholarships.

« Theological education in an ecumenical context is absolutely essential in our time. »

Karl Koop, GSTM Director



Faculty: In Their Own Words

Dr. Ray Vander Zaag, Associate Professor of International Development Studies, has taught at CMU since 2000.

What do you love about your work here?

I love learning and researching about topics that are interesting to me. Being a professor means learning about thought-provoking topics and then teaching others about them. To me it's crucial to have an idea of what's important and engage students with that idea. I find it exciting when my students and I find interest in the same things. A part of me likes to think I helped them discover a passion for that particular subject matter.

What are you researching and writing?

My research has been focused on faith-based Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). I've done about 20 interviews with staff of faith-based NGOs in Haiti and I'm in the process of analyzing and writing about what I've learned through those interviews. The research I'm doing has a lot to do with what the organization's role is, what they do that's distinctive, and what they contribute, from the perspective of the people actually working in those organizations. I first started to learn about development when we lived in Haiti for nine years.

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

I'm teaching a second year International Development Studies (IDS) course called Rural Development. My background is in farming, I have a master's degree in crop science, and the first work I did in Haiti was in a rural development project. Most students don't have a sense of rural farm life anymore, so it's exciting to share and explore those ideas. Most of the poorest people in the world are rural people, so it's important that students understand rural life in order to more fully understand international development work.

Where or how do students give you hope?

The fact that my students are different from me, but still think about the same things I thought about at their age and continue to wrestle with them is what really gives me hope. When you work with students and let them express their agenda, you always have good conversations—even if sometimes you disagree.

What are you reading for enjoyment?

I'm reading a book called *Haiti Will Not Perish* by Michael Deibert. It describes the last 20 years of political history in Haiti. The country gets a lot of attention in the news, so it's nice to step back and get an analysis of the country's history and try to understand why life is still a challenge for many people there.

What do you most long for in your work?

I long for discipline. I want to be more disciplined in my reading and teaching. I also want students to live by the foundations of Christ through CMU, despite all the "distractions" that are in the outside world. I want them to see, feel, and experience those core perspectives of mercy and love and find ways to bring these into their everyday lives.

What saying or motto inspires you?

"You can't help people you're not in relationship with." The thing that struck me most about working in Haiti is that if there's no trust or connection, then it's really hard to help someone. Then you're helping someone out of guilt or a position of power, but once you get into relationships and ask questions and listen and have dialogue, it becomes meaningful and genuine.



Members of the Redekop family, along with CMU donors, students, faculty, and administration

A legacy of generosity and vision

On April 4, 2019, CMU recognized the vision and generosity of the Redekop family in founding the Redekop School of Business. Twenty-one members of this family travelled from the lower mainland of BC for the occasion. They framed their support of CMU as an expression of thanksgiving for God’s providential care over many years. James (a grandson) and Peter Redekop (a son) expressed particular gratitude for Peter’s parents, Jacob and Maria Redekop,

whose teaching and example opened their children and grandchildren to love God and the church, to embrace the discipline of hard work, and to celebrate the joy of giving. CMU is deeply grateful for the vision of the Redekop family to nurture the potential of future business leaders who bring together sound business practice with commitments of faith, generosity, and service.

Funds support student success

CMU is the beneficiary of deep generosity and vision from five church and family groups, each having grown a bursary or scholarship fund to \$100,000 or more. These awards collectively generate over \$26,000 annually in financial support of students.

Christian Investors in Education Fund was started in 1984 by a group of Christian leaders to support new and ongoing Indigenous initiatives, students doing cross-cultural practica, and international students. (\$8,000 annually)

David D. and Susan Klassen Bursary endowment was started in 1990, established by the Klassen family to remember the life and work of David and Susan Klassen. Directed to training lay and clergy leaders for the church. (\$4,000 annually)

J.J. Thiessen Memorial Bursary endowment was started in 1968 by First Mennonite Church, Saskatoon in honour of J.J. Thiessen. Many congregations, individuals and family members contributed to the fund over the years. Directed to students in financial need. (\$4,500 annually)

Jacob A Rempel Memorial Scholarship endowment was started in 2001, funded by the family in memory of

the legacy of Jacob A. Rempel, a significant leader of the Mennonite churches in Ukraine/Russia. Directed to MA students pursuing church ministry. (\$4,000 annually)

Myrna Friesen Music Scholarship endowment was started in 2004 by Myrna and Gord Friesen to recognize and encourage students enrolled in the music program with interest in congregational music ministry. (\$6,000 annually)

I want to thank CMU for supporting me financially. I have come to value CMU’s liberal arts curriculum and the God-centred environment in which it is grounded. As a Roman Catholic I have experienced two fruitful years of growth in my faith and feel truly blessed to be a part of this community.

Davide Verelli (from Winnipeg), Science



The 460 tiles on the bridge to Marpeck Commons have all been sold! In the process, CMU friends and alumni raised \$230,000 for this project.

If you have been unable to see the tile you had engraved, please tell us and we'll gladly send a photo your way.
email: DZCornelsen@cmu.ca

After three years of study at CMU, I have developed a stronger connection with God, a bigger compassion for people around me and much love for the faculty, students and staff of the CMU community. Thank you for helping me afford not only the biggest gift of life: education, but also the opportunity for growth at CMU.

Inda Piroli (from Albania), Science and Communications

A different way to give

Alumna plans to give to CMU by means of her life insurance policy

By Aaron Epp

There are many ways to give financially, and Christine Kampen is pursuing an avenue many people don't think of.

Kampen has named Abundance Canada as the beneficiary of her life insurance policy. In the event of her death, Kampen has instructed Abundance to distribute funds to CMU from her insurance proceeds.

"Setting up this life insurance gift appealed to me because it was a creative way to give a lot more money to CMU than I could otherwise," says Kampen, who lives in Abbotsford, BC. "It's a way to maximize the amount I can contribute to something I believe in."

Kampen has a long history with CMU and one of its founding colleges, Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC).

She was born in Winnipeg while her father was studying at CMBC, and her first home was in Poettker Hall.

Kampen attended CMBC, graduating with a Bachelor of Theology degree in 1989.

She describes her experience studying at CMBC as "building a house on a theological foundation."

"My time at CMBC shaped my own personal theology," Kampen says. "I was raised in a Mennonite/Anabaptist home, but when I was at CMBC, I was constructing some of that theology for myself—particularly around peace and justice issues."

Although she considered working in the church while

studying at CMBC, she didn't become a pastor until more than 20 years later.

Her life took her in other directions. Kampen worked at a sexual assault centre in Saskatoon, SK, as well as a shelter for abused women in Abbotsford.

This was followed by 11 years working as an administrative assistant for Coast Hotels in Vancouver, BC, and Mennonite Central Committee BC.

Upon graduating from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, IN with a Master of Arts in Christian Formation, Kampen entered pastoral ministry.



"One of the best things about pastoral work is the opportunity to participate in others' lives in significant ways, and be the presence of Christ to them," she says.

Kampen recalls visiting a woman living with terminal cancer, reading scripture and praying with her.

"The opportunity to walk with people at those times in their life is very meaningful," she says.

With her insurance gift, Kampen hopes to

help women from developing countries pursue an education at CMU.

"Women receive fewer opportunities, so I want to empower them with opportunities to develop and exercise their leadership gifts," she says.

Kampen encourages others to think about contributing to CMU by means of their life insurance policy.

"I hope others might think about giving in a way that will allow them to extend the amount of their gift."



Canadian Mennonite University celebrates Class of 2019

By Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe

Another academic year came to a close as Canadian Mennonite University recognized the accomplishments of 96 graduates on Saturday, April 27, 2019.

CMU President, Dr. Cheryl Pauls, conferred 78 undergraduate degrees, 15 master's degrees, and three undergraduate certificates at the convocation service held at Portage Avenue Church.

“Through this ceremony we give public witness to our trust in you as gifted agents of service, leadership, and reconciliation in all that encompasses life, church, and society,” Pauls said in her opening remarks to the graduands.

The Class of 2019 included the first-ever graduate of CMU's Bachelor of Science program, Taysa Dueck. Two students, Erin Froese and Sara Wolowich, became the first students to graduate with Environmental Studies majors.

Pauls awarded President's Medals to Erin Froese (BA, Four-Year, Environmental Studies) and Mackenzie Nicolle (BA, Four-Year, Social Science), in recognition of their qualities of scholarship, leadership, and service.

Tegan Willick (BA, Four-Year, Psychology) delivered the valedictory address, based on this year's graduation verse from Philippians 4:9: “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me

« Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put that into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. »

Philippians 4:9





Baccalaureate speaker Gordon Zerbe



—put that into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

Willick said that at CMU, she and her peers were taught not only course material, but also how to care for the world. When feeling overwhelmed by the world’s seemingly endless problems, she turned to community to find hope. “No one can care about everything all the time, but a community that cares is capable of sustaining empathy,” she said.

She referred to the event hosted at CMU in March, where over 700 people gathered in support of Bill C-262 and the adoption and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into Canadian law.

Referring to this event, Willick noted, “Our grad verse asks us to put into practice that which we have learned, received, heard or thought. If what we have learned is the care and hope demonstrated that day, then we truly have everything we need to see us through what lies ahead.”

Another significant milestone this year was the graduation of the first Albanian student from CMU. Masimo Picaku (BA, Four-Year, Business and Organizational Administration) was one of the first two students to come to CMU from the Lezha Academic Centre in Albania in 2014. Five years later, 22

students from that school have since attended CMU.

In honour of this occasion, Klementina Shahini, Executive Director and Principal of Lezha Academic Centre, delivered the graduation address. She drew from Acts 20:32-35, which is about working to support oneself and others and ends with Jesus’ words, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

She shared her life story, which has been filled with hardship, but through which she experienced God’s providence and care. Despite the immense challenges of living under communism and spending seven years in a labour camp, Shahini was still able to fulfill her dream of opening a Christian school, which now has 165 students.

These difficult times taught her powerful lessons, which she passed along to the graduates before her. “My dreams were crushed, but not my life. It was at this point that I focused on the journey, not just the destination and I discovered that the journey *is* the destination.”

“When you come to a new season of your life, like you are facing today ... make decisions to serve others and you’ll have a life worth living. You and I have only one life to give for the Glory of God, so be sure to give your life for something that counts.”

Earlier in the day, CMU held its annual Baccalaureate



President Cheryl Pauls with Masimo Picaku, CMU's first Albanian graduate, and Klementina Shahini, Principal Lezha Academic Centre, Albania

Service, where a handful of graduates reflected on their time at CMU.

Marta Bunnett (BA, Four-Year (Honours), Interdisciplinary Studies – Theological Ecology) shared about her studies in an interdisciplinary degree.

“[My degree] is a way of saying that the lessons I have received from people in farmhouse kitchens, from the halls of academia, and even from the persistence and frustrating resilience of quack grass roots in Red River clay soil, are all important to my education. They have all given me glimpses of what it means to love the world.”

Vitor Jara Leite (BA, Three-Year, Business and Organizational Administration) reflected on how CMU has been a support to him since he and his wife came to Canada from Brazil. Through the birth of their two children, the death of his parents last year, and starting a new job, the CMU staff and faculty were a great support.

“CMU is like my second home. Here, I learned how to learn again ... I’m graduating today, and I’m already missing this special place.”

Hannah Derksen (BA, Four-Year, Arts and Science) explained that classes like Molecular and Cellular Laboratory Methods and Quantitative Research Methods in Ecology had her mutagenizing yeasts to study genes and waist-deep in the river, examining its diverse life.

“While learning about how the world around me works from a molecular to

an ecological level, CMU cultivated my love of exploration. Because of my time at CMU, I feel confident that I’m graduating having grown as an individual and am leaving with my own ideas of the world I live in.”

Kenji Dyck (BA, Four-Year, Communications and Media) spoke about developing a curiosity for how stories can express the transcendent, a profound emotional transformation, especially when stories today often produce feelings of despair.

“Over the last four years at CMU, I like to think I spent my time learning how to tell stories that are profound, confrontational, and ultimately, hopeful.”





« No one can care about everything all the time, but a community that cares is capable of sustaining empathy. »

Tegan Willick, valedictory address



President's Medal recipients Erin Froese (left) and Mackenzie Nicolle (right)



Valedictorian Tegan Willick



Convocation address with Lezha Academic Centre's Klementina Shanini



Outtatown: Grad Reflections

Rachel Herold (Guatemala Site Leader)

This Outtatown year saw us standing at the bottom of a mountain looking up at a daunting climb. For some of us that climb involved experiencing intense community for the first time. For others it took shape while talking about faith in the midst of our world's diversity and hurt.

For all of us that climb saw us travel to a new culture without family, and spend an entire day in silence or several dark hours in a cave. Indeed, fears and challenges defined much of our year, and while we may have more questions



than ever, we have also gained wisdom and perspective.

Our year has also seen us celebrate spectacular mountaintops. Many students have uncovered or solidified their passions, whether for justice, for art, or for outdoor exploration, and these are calling us into exciting futures as we share all that we are still learning. Our mountaintops

« ...students have uncovered or solidified their passions, whether for justice, for art, or for outdoor exploration... »

so many ways, having struggled and overcome—having experienced the daunting climb and the mountaintop—we have come to know that God is at work in all circumstances.

saw us learn to be vulnerable with those who walk alongside us; hopeful in witnessing each other's victories; and strong in encouraging each other through challenges. In

Chris Epp-Tiessen (South Africa Site Leader)

We have traveled. From lakeside camps in Manitoba, across the open prairies and through the stunning mountains of Alberta and BC. We have experienced the open plains of South Africa, the blue water of Cape Point and the stunning green mountains of the Drakensberg. God is creative and we have seen beauty.

We have learned. We are all stamped with the image of God. We have been stilled by the beauty and pain of our world as Indigenous communities have shared their wisdom, as the Bible has been opened in new ways, as we encountered new perspectives on development, and as we learned just a little about how to serve others with joy.

We have received and we have given. We have given of ourselves within our Outtatown community. We have laughed and cried in sharing the lies we've believed about ourselves and encountering the brokenness we see in the world. We have felt

anger in seeing the impact of residential schools, how addiction continues to destroy lives, and we've been shocked by how racism still exists in South Africa and

« We have learned. We are all stamped with the image of God. »

Canada. We have also received so much hospitality and been inspired by people's incredible stories of reconciliation and hope!

We leave knowing that life is anything but linear. Rather, life unfolds times of great doubt and questioning, and times of great passion and excitement. Through it all, this year on Outtatown has opened us profoundly to our faith and to a deep experience of God's love in our lives.





MSC inspires transformation

Alexandra Wiebe, *International Development Practicum in Papua, New Guinea (IDS at Menno Simons College)*

For the past two months I have had the opportunity to lead a Community Engagement Clinic team with YWAM Medical Ships. YWAM Medical Ships is an international NGO that partners with the government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) to deliver healthcare services to remote communities and build the capacity of the local healthcare workers. Onboard, over half of the volunteers are from PNG and they work alongside medical, marine and general volunteers from over 30 other countries to operate the ship and clinics. Clinical teams go into the villages to set up optometry, TB lab testing, and primary healthcare clinics. Patients are also transported back to the ship for the dental and surgical clinics.

A huge emphasis is placed on community-led development where the village leaders activate their communities to envision and implement development within their village. That is why YWAM Medical Ships also send a Community Engagement Clinic team into each village to meet with

village leaders, teach educational health lessons, facilitate discussions on gender-based violence, engage with disabled persons, and teach villagers how to fix water tanks, build water filters, and drill wells. In certain villages, my team also runs a Community Action and Participation (CAP) course for the village leaders. The CAP training provides tools for village leaders to identify needs in the community, brainstorm solutions, and implement those solutions without waiting for the help of the government or NGOs.

I recently had a meeting with some village leaders who received CAP training in 2016 and discovered that the village continues to meet weekly to discuss the CAP teachings and envision future development. When we sat down, they explained their one, two, and five-year plan for community development and presented proposals of how they wanted to partner with YWAM in the future. Their one and two-year plan included the construction of a clinic and primary school with running water. They requested training from YWAM engineers on how to install pipes from their rainwater tanks to provide running water in the clinic and school. They also recognised that imported clothing does not contribute to PNG's economy so they are planning to buy mechanical sewing machines and start a women's resource center to sew and trade clothing with other villages. They requested another YWAM team to teach them how to use and repair sewing machines and provide sewing patterns so they could continue a sustainable business in the future.

After hearing about their current investments in Port Moresby, seeing the four community buildings they built and the six new water tanks installed by YWAM, I have no doubt that this village will continue to steward their education and resources as they take ownership of their development.

SHAFTESBURY CAMPUS NEWS

2019 John and Margaret Friesen Lectures features Anabaptism in Guatemala

"How do we live as a transnational Mennonite community when some within the community are implicated in the harm done to others? How do we live out the authentic witness of early Anabaptism?" These and other questions framed the lectures offered by Dr. Patricia Harms at the 2019 John and Margaret Friesen Lectures.

Harms, Associate Professor of History at Brandon University, outlined the emergence and rise of Anabaptism in Guatemala, examined the historical context of the country, and explored the tensions of racism, social-political violence, and economic inequality.

"Guatemalan Anabaptism has a lot to teach Mennonites in Canada," Harms says. "People there literally risked their lives for their deep faith and belief that community, non-violence, and poverty are the values they wished to live by."

Harms, a CMU alumna (CMBC '85), wrote her master's thesis on the history of MCC in Guatemala. She now researches and teaches topics of women's history, gender analysis, politics, and decolonization in a Latin American context.



CMU honours writer Rudy Wiebe with 2019 PAX Award

By Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe

CMU President Dr. Cheryl Pauls presented renowned writer Rudy Wiebe the 2019 Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) PAX Award at Spring at CMU, the annual fundraiser in support of the university, on April 4.

The CMU PAX Award was created to honour people who lead exemplary lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society.

Wiebe has published 33 books and is a two-time recipient of the Governor General's Award for Fiction. He is best known for his novels that focus on faith, life on the Canadian prairies, and the voices of Canada's Indigenous peoples.

"Rudy Wiebe is a cherished and highly celebrated writer," Pauls says. "His works have been critical in exposing societal concerns, and in nurturing empathy and understanding on complex matters."

Wiebe says he is delighted and honoured to receive the award. He noted that the award from CMU is "particularly welcome" since it is coming from members of his own faith community.

His first novel, *Peace Shall Destroy Many*, caused controversy in the Mennonite world when it was published in 1962 because of its uncomfortably honest insider perspective on the community.

"The award is called pax—peace. Well, 57 years ago, my first novel *Peace Shall Destroy Many* was published," he says. "It 'destroyed the peace' of so many readers that I have never been able to stop writing, not for the rest of my life."

Wiebe was born in 1934 on his family's farm near Fairholme, SK. He studied at the University of Alberta and the University of Tübingen in West Germany and completed his MA in creative writing in 1960.



He proceeded to study and then teach at Mennonite Brethren Bible College, one of CMU's predecessor colleges, and worked as editor of the *Mennonite Brethren Herald* in Winnipeg. He also taught at Goshen College in Indiana before settling into a position at the University of Alberta, where he is currently Professor Emeritus.

In addition to winning numerous awards for his writing, Wiebe has lectured and given readings internationally, taught literature and creative writing for 30 years, and mentored now successful writers. He was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2000.

"Wiebe's novels draw admirably on the character and tenets of the Mennonite faith tradition," Pauls says. "His writing demonstrates the gift of the imagination of the church in delightful and astonishing ways."

2019 Scientist in Residence Dr. Dennis R. Venema speaks on evolution and Christian faith



Were Adam and Eve humanity's first parents? Genetics show that our beginning comes from a population much larger than one couple. Can belief in evolution and Christianity mix?

These were some of the key questions Dr. Dennis R. Venema discussed on February 4-6 as the 2019 Scientist in Residence.

Dr. Venema (PhD, University of British Columbia) is Professor of Biology at Trinity Western University in Langley, BC. He co-wrote *Adam and the Genome: Reading Scripture*

after *Genetic Science* in 2017 and speaks frequently on evolution and Christian faith.

"Evolution can be a scary word for some of us within the evangelical community," says Venema. "It's my hope that this series of lectures helped students become better informed about the science behind evolution, and better equipped to meaningfully integrate their faith with what modern biology is telling us."

All of the past Scientist in Residence lectures are available at cmu.ca/sir.

Renew: the holy work of caring for the dead

Renowned preacher Dr. Thomas Long spoke about death, funerals, and Christian hope at Canadian Mennonite University's (CMU) fifth annual ReNew conference on February 12-13. The conference provides resources for ministry for pastors and people working in spiritual care.



Gerald Gerbrandt, organizer of ReNew, says the planning committee chose to focus on death partly because of its relevance for those working in ministry, but also because of their desire to have Long as a speaker. "Tom has developed a very strong reputation both for being a dynamic presenter and for being a helpful person on this topic," says Gerbrandt. "He really brings biblical studies, theology, and preaching together to bear on the question of funerals."

Long certainly drew a crowd. Roughly 115 pastors attended this year's gathering, including almost 20 from non-Mennonite denominations and over 20 from outside Manitoba.

"Death is a very interesting topic because it's got a lot of existential weight to it," says Ryan Dueck, Pastor of Lethbridge Mennonite Church in Alberta. "It's not just something that I have to do as part of my job, it's something that we all face personally."

Participants were equipped with resources through sessions with Long, discussion, worship, fellowship over food, and workshops led by pastors, professors, and funeral directors.

"When you've done something for a long time it's good to interact with other people who do it in similar but different contexts," says Lois Litz, who is Spiritual Care Director at Lindenwood Assisted Living in Winnipeg. "You rethink things, you ask yourself why you do things a certain way, you find something you can add. It's enriching."

The average age of the population Litz works with is 88, so funerals and end of life discussions are common. "Part of what drew me here is my observation that people are doing less and less of [funerals]," she says. "Especially older people, they're telling their family... 'We don't want anything.'" She was curious whether other people were experiencing the same thing.

Long spoke to this during one of his sessions, saying, "The first thing we need to do in terms of a good funeral is to banish from people's vocabulary this sentence: 'I don't want to be a burden on my family'... By taking care of the dead, we also increase our wisdom about death. The work of caring for the dead is holy work."

"Even as pastors we can kind of get in the rhythm of just putting one foot in front of the other and not taking time to reflect on these deep theological questions about the meaning of life and death. [ReNew] is a good space to do that I think," says Dueck.

ReNew is co-sponsored by CMU, Mennonite Church Manitoba, Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, and Mennonite Church Alberta. It is planned by a committee of CMU faculty and the ministers of the supporting church conferences.

To learn more about ReNew visit cmu.ca/renew.

Diverse Face2Face panel discusses society's complicated relationship with death

Four panelists who deal with death in their everyday lives explored the different ways humans wrestle with death and how our understanding of it can change the way we live. The panel was part of CMU's face2face series, and was titled, "Let's Talk about Death...it won't kill you."

"There are only two experiences that are absolute guarantees in life: birth and death," says David Balzer, Assistant Professor of Communications and Media at CMU and moderator of the event. "Perhaps reflecting on the meaning of death can give us a better sense of the meaning of living."

The panelists explored both the fear people feel when faced with death but also the fascination our culture has with death. The panel was made up of: Rick Zerbe Cornelsen, Casket and Urn Maker; Doug Koop, Spiritual Health Practitioner;

Angelika Jantz, Death Café Participant; and Michael Boyce, Associate Professor of English and Film Studies at Booth College.

To view video recordings of all past Face2Face conversations, visit: cmu.ca/face2face.



People and Events



Karen Ridd and team awarded \$119,000 federal grant

Karen Ridd, Instructor in Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies at CMU's Menno Simons College, is part of a team that received a three-year Partnership Development Grant worth \$119,000 through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

She joins a team of University of Winnipeg professors as co-applicants on the grant: Judith Harris (Urban and Inner-City Studies), Heather Snell (English), Helen Lepp Friesen (Rhetoric, Writing and Communications), and primary applicant Kevin Walby (Criminal Justice).

"I'm quite thrilled about being involved in receiving this grant," Ridd says. "My role at MSC is primarily a teaching position, so being involved in this collaborative research project is something that is new and exciting to me."

The grant will be used to create a Centre for Prison Education and Research. The team will research prison education, community-based and experiential learning techniques, and prisoner re-entry using collaborative methods that will engage the community.

They will also form a network of researchers, educators, and community groups across institutions and disciplines who will pursue further work in this field and create partnerships between these groups and government agencies to improve education and support for prisoners.

Ridd's primary ways of participating in the grant will be teaching Walls to Bridges (W2B) courses and participating in the W2B Think Tank. W2B is a program that teaches university courses inside prisons to equal numbers of incarcerated students and campus-enrolled students.

This spring she will be teaching Restorative Justice, her first W2B course, at the Women's Correctional Centre in Headingley, Manitoba.

"CMU as a community cares deeply about justice and reconciliation," says Dr. Jonathan Dueck, Vice-President Academic and Academic Dean. "To me, this is an opportunity for our faculty and students to engage directly in that risky, transformative work."

Clarinetist wins 2019 Verna Mae Janzen Music Competition

A second-year music student from Winnipeg, MB was the winner of the 14th annual Verna Mae Janzen Music Competition, held on March 20 in CMU's Laudamus Auditorium.

Stephanie Wilson's clarinet performance earned her first place and the \$700 prize that comes with it. She is the first clarinetist to ever win the competition.

Nathan Dyck, a baritone, placed second and received \$500. Third place and its \$300 prize went to pianist Madeleine Friesen.

Riley Dyck (piano), Annabelle Hollander (soprano), Emily Rempel (piano), Katy Unruh (soprano), and Lisa Vuignier (soprano) also competed in the finals.



Irmgard Baerg, Professor Emeritus of CMU and a celebrated pianist who has performed across Canada and internationally, and Terry Mierau, alumnus of CMBC and a former opera singer who has performed across Europe, served as adjudicators for the finals.



"I think what's special about this music competition is the unending support of everyone around us, from the audience members to our professors to our peers," Wilson says. "It gave me the confidence to do my best."

The competition is made possible by the generous donations of Peter Janzen of Deep River, ON. The event is named in memory of his wife, Verna Mae, who died of cancer in 1989 at age 53.

Dr. Heather Campbell-Enns awarded \$100,000 grant



Dr. Heather Campbell-Enns, Assistant Professor of Psychology at CMU, received a one-year grant worth \$100,000 through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

Campbell-Enns will use the grant for a research project titled *Best Practices: Transitions from Hospital to Community-Based Settings for Rural and Remote Persons with Dementia*.

One aim of the project is to identify current methods of coordinating care for people with dementia when they are discharged from the hospital. Since most of these interventions have not been tested in rural settings, the team will select a few of them and customize them for rural and remote contexts. "This is an exciting and rare opportunity for a new investigator and I am very grateful to the team involved in this research," Campbell-Enns says. "I am excited to partner with them, and to get to know more about dementia care in rural areas of Canada."

Her team is made up of researchers, health care policy makers, and patients and their family

members from two provinces, Manitoba and Newfoundland and Labrador. Also represented are three universities: CMU, University of Manitoba, and Memorial University, and two rural health regions, Prairie Mountain Health (MB) and Western Health (NL). Campbell-Enns is the lead for this study.

The grant funds will allow Campbell-Enns to employ student research assistants who will compile information on coordinated care interventions. It will mean team members can have face-to-face meetings in each province to better plan future research activities in rural and remote settings.

The grant will also help the current team build connections and partnerships, thereby forming a team that's interested in future research in the field of dementia care. This will enable them to apply for a larger grant in the next few years, which they will be able to use to implement and evaluate one of the approaches to coordinating care across several rural areas in Canada.

"I am grateful to the CIHR for funding this project at CMU and I am very hopeful we will contribute to improvements in dementia care and rural health care through this research."



CMU students spend reading week helping others

Instead of writing essays or catching up on much needed sleep, nine CMU students spent their reading week building homes with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) in Bloomington, Texas.

From February 17-23, the group slept in a church extension and ate and worked with around 30 other volunteers, helping to build houses for people who lost theirs in Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

"My experience with MDS this reading break was phenomenal," says second-year student Joefin Peter. "We got to share in community the

hardships, accomplishments, and joy of Victoria County. We got to experience Christ's love in one way, then another, and then again in another."

Peter is the director of the Witness through Service committee that helped organize this service opportunity. She was joined on the trip by students Nicole Ternowesky, Cara Jones, Anna Lysack, Matthew Parkinson, Robbie Friesen, Beth Ens, Jessica Wynn-Penner, and Josiah Voth, as well as Lead Technician of CMU's maintenance team, Jose Staczewski.

There wasn't a day when the students weren't doing something new, whether it was framing, insulating, putting in sub-flooring, or installing windows and doors.

Staczewski says he enjoyed every moment of the trip, especially working and hanging out with the students. "You couldn't ask for a better group of students. I was amazed at their initiative, good humour, and fast learning."

The students expressed gratitude for the funding they received from MDS and CMU, which brought the cost of the trip down to only \$100 per student.

"Mennonite Disaster Service most frequently serves those with very limited resources," says Ross Penner, Director of Canadian Operations at MDS. "Assisting them in their disaster recovery journey is an excellent expression of the peace-building, justice-oriented learning that is a part of the CMU experience."

CMU student and alumna present papers at graduate conference

CMU student Isaac Schlegel and alumna Emily Stobbe-Wiebe both presented papers at Université Laval's Graduate Conference for English Literature. Titled "Divinity and the Supernatural in Literature at the Millennium," the conference took place on March 22-23 at the university in Québec City.

Being accepted into a conference for graduate students was especially notable for both individuals, as neither of them are yet graduate students.

"When I received the acceptance email from Laval, I was extremely shocked and excited, and also gratified," Stobbe-Wiebe says. "It confirmed that the work I am doing is interesting and important and I should be pursuing it."

Stobbe-Wiebe graduated in 2018 with a Bachelor

of Arts, majoring in English Literature. She will begin studying English Literature in the Master of Arts program at McMaster University (Hamilton, ON) this fall.



Her paper, "Undermining the Martyr Myth in Miriam Toews' *All My Puny Sorrows*," explores how the generational trauma of Mennonites in Toews' novel continues to retraumatize that community, as they continue to recreate it through cycles of "recurrent martyrdoms." She analyzes the solutions to this martyr script that are offered to two sisters who experience this cycle in the novel, and how they fail or succeed to help combat generational trauma.

Schlegel is entering his fourth year of studies in an interdisciplinary degree, titled Relational Theology.



His paper, "*In Bruges* and the Death of a Priest," examines

how the film *In Bruges* portrays the struggle of seeking forgiveness when the traditional means of absolution, through the act of confession to a priest, is not accessible. He reflects on what the film says about, in his words, "the post-Reformation struggle to recover a path to forgiveness in a society where the figure of the priest has seemingly vanished."

"Being accepted into the conference felt like a validation of the work I have been doing throughout my undergrad," Schlegel says. "Presenting my paper gave me a sense of connection to a broader academic community, for which I am grateful."

Alumni News



Paul Tiessen (MBBC 1964-65), Kitchener, ON, is currently investigating the evolution of Mennonite life and culture in relation to the work of novelist Rudy Wiebe (MBBC '61, 2019 CMU PAX Award recipient). Paul taught English, film studies, and communication studies for 37 years at Wilfrid Laurier University, following a year of teaching at the University of Manitoba from 1973-74.



Irene Friesen Wolfstone (CMBC '78), Pinawa, MB, is a doctoral student at the University of Alberta where she researches the links between indigenous matricultures, cultural continuity, and climate change adaptation.

Charlene Pauls (MBBC '88), Oakville, ON, received the 2018 Leslie Bell Prize for Choral Conducting in November 2018.



The prize is worth \$10,000. She is the associate artistic director of the Oakville Choir for Children and Youth, conducts the Mosaic Music Collective, an intergenerational, multicultural choir, and is music director at Oakville's Anglican Church of the Incarnation.

Matthew P. Unger (CMBC 1993-95), Montreal, QC, is an assistant professor in the department of sociology and anthropology at Concordia University. He holds a PhD in Sociology and a Master of Arts in Religious Studies, both from the University of Alberta. He is the author of *Sound, Symbol, Sociality: The Aesthetics of Extreme Metal Music* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).

Marcus Peter Rempel (CMBC '94), South St. Ouen's, MB, co-hosts the podcast *The Ferment* with songwriter Alana Levandoski. It explores topics like cultural unrest, faith, and radical

love through conversations with well-known theologians, activists, and musicians. Marcus is the author of *Life at the End of Us Versus Them: Cross Culture Stories*, published in November 2017. He is currently studying for his master's degree in marriage and family therapy and working at the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. He lives at Ploughshares Community Farm with his family.

Randy Grieser (CMBC '96), Winnipeg, MB, is co-author of *The Culture Question: How to Create a Workplace Where People Like to Work* (ACHIEVE Publishing, 2019). The book explores six key elements that make up a healthy workplace culture. As the founder and CEO of ACHIEVE Centre for Leadership & Workplace Performance and the Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute, Randy believes that everyone should be able to like where they work.



Cheryl Woelk (CMU '03), Swift Current, SK, is the co-author with Jan Edwards Dormer of *Teaching English for Reconciliation: Pursuing Peace Through Transformed Relationships in Language Learning and Teaching* (William Carey Publishing, 2018). The book offers insights into using the English language-learning environment to build peace.

Alicia Buhler (CMU '06), Kitchener, ON, was ordained during an evening prayer service at Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church, Kitchener, ON, on March 24, 2019 for her work both within MC Canada and beyond, as she continues to serve as a spiritual care provider in private practice. Alicia holds a Master of Divinity from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary.



Aaron Epp (CMU '07), Winnipeg, MB, is the Online Media Manager at *Canadian Mennonite* magazine. He also writes a weekly column about volunteers in the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

André Forget (CMU '10), Toronto, ON, is editor-in-chief of *The Puritan*, an online literary journal. Last October, *The Walrus* published his essay, "The Search for the Great Canadian Novel." André holds a Master of Arts in English from Dalhousie University (Halifax, NS).

Rachel Bergen (CMU '11), Winnipeg, MB, is a news ticker producer and reporter at CTV Winnipeg and Contributing Editor at *Canadian Mennonite* magazine. She holds a Master of Journalism from the University of British Columbia and has worked at CBC Saskatoon as a reporter and producer and Mennonite Central Committee Canada as a writer.

Melanie Kampen (CMU '12), East St. Paul, MB, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation titled, "The Spectre of Reconciliation: Mennonite Theology, Martyrdom, and Trauma," on March 4, 2019. She will graduate in May from Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto with a PhD in Theology.



Kathleen Vitt (CMU '12), Winnipeg, MB, was awarded the SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master's Award, worth \$17,500. The scholarship is in support of her Master in Social Work thesis, which she is completing at the University of Manitoba. Her research explores the development of resilient relationships and understanding between newcomer and Indigenous youth.

Hannah Pratt (CMU '14), Winnipeg, MB, is the manager of alumni and donor relations communications at the University of Manitoba. She holds a diploma in Creative Communications from Red River College and is currently pursuing a Master of Philanthropy and Non-Profit Leadership at Carleton University. In April 2018, she received the Large Campaign Award at the Canadian Public Relations Society's 11th annual Manitoba Communicator of the Year Awards. Hannah is also the founder of the WPG Dress Collective, a community giving project.

Merridy Peters (CMU '14), West Sussex, England, completed a Master of Arts with a focus on codicology and Anglo-Saxon literature at the

University of Victoria last year. She is currently studying Book and Library Materials Conservation at West Dean College in West Sussex, England.

Lauren Harms (CMU '15), Calgary, AB, is the Community Care Pastor for Calgary Inter-Mennonite Church.

Rebecca Klassen-Wiebe (CMU '15), Montreal, QC, was awarded the SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master's Award, worth \$17,500. The scholarship is in support of her project titled, "Maternal Music: Explorations of Motherhood in North American Art Song." Rebecca is pursuing a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano Performance at McGill University. This summer she is participating in Opera NUOVA's six-week collaborative pianist program in Edmonton, AB.

Alex Tiessen (CMU '16), Rosthern, SK, recently began working as Director of Admissions and Communications at Rosthern Junior College.

Alyssa Hildebrand (CMU '17), London, ON, is graduating this spring with a Master of Music in Performance and Literature from Western University. This summer she will be singing in the Halifax Summer Opera Festival program (Halifax, NS) and partnering with Mennonite Collegiate Institute (Gretna, MB) to begin a faith-based music camp for young vocalists.

Nolan Kehler (CMU '17), Victoria, BC, is graduating this June with a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Victoria. This summer he will be performing in Toronto and New Brunswick, and singing with the Winnipeg Singers on their tour to Barcelona and Finland.

Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe (CMU '18), Winnipeg, MB, recently began working as a writer for CMU's Communications and Marketing department. She is also the Manitoba Correspondent for *Canadian Mennonite* magazine.



Mattea Nickel Thiessen (CMU '18), Winnipeg, MB, recently began working as an Admissions Counsellor at CMU.

Marriages

Kloe Penner (CMU '15) and Ben Mak, Winnipeg, MB, February 16, 2019

Births and Adoptions

Julia Wiebe (CMU '08) and Jean Philippe Tetrault, Winnipeg, MB, a son, Thomas Joseph John Tetrault, May 27, 2018



Caleb Elias (OT '03) and Bonnie Dowling, Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Piper Maeve Dowling Elias, June 3, 2018

Tessa Froese (Suderman, CMU '06) and **Terrell Froese** (CMU 2005-06), Prawda, MB, a son, Kit Bernie Froese, October 10, 2018

Kristy Letkeman Hosler (CMU '04) and Jason Hosler, Morden, MB, a son, Theo Jacob Letkeman Hosler, October 18, 2018

Chris Lenshyn (CMU '07) and Katrina Lenshyn, Mission, BC, a daughter, Ayla Grace Lenshyn, October 19, 2018

Janessa Giesbrecht (Naylor, OT '05) and **Andrew Giesbrecht** (CMU staff), Winnipeg, MB, a son, Lincoln Edmund Naylor Giesbrecht, October 29, 2018



Paul Barkman (CMU '02) and **Elisa Barkman** (Suderman, CMU '02), Hadashville, MB, a daughter, Dawn Rowayn Barkman, December 10, 2018

Jotham Penner (OT '06, CMU '10) and Pamela Penner, Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Annabelle Noel Penner, December 19, 2018

Bruce Guenther (CMU '03, MSC '05) and **Emily Loewen** (CMU '09), Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Sophia Elizabeth Guenther Loewen, January 4, 2019



Dylan Tarnowsky (CMU '08) and **Kim Penner** (CMU '08), Kitchener, ON, a son, Ethan Peter Penner Tarnowsky, February 22, 2019

Daniel Wiebe (CMU '04) and **Erin Wiebe** (CMU '05), Winnipeg, MB, a daughter, Hazel Lyn Wiebe, March 31, 2019

Deaths

Victor Martens (MBBC '55), Waterloo, ON, November 25, 2018

Justina Kehler (Neufeld, CMBC '57), Winnipeg, MB, March 9, 2019

Peter Klassen (MBBC '59), Portage La Prairie, MB, October 25, 2018

Ernie Block (MBBC '59), South Surrey, BC, December 5, 2018

Erna Block (MBBC '61), Abbotsford, BC, October 30, 2018

Darlene Driedger (CMBC 1964-65), Winnipeg, MB, November 5, 2018

Werner Froese (CMBC '67), Cranbrook, BC, December 25, 2018

Margaret Loewen Reimer (Loewen, CMBC '68), Waterloo, ON, January 24, 2019

Herbert Pauls (MBBC '71), Plum Coulee, MB, January 23, 2019

Gary Martens (CMBC '80), Steinbach, MB, February 28, 2019

Tim Wiebe (CMBC '81), Gretna, MB, March 14, 2019

Menno Friesen (CMBC 1986-87), Winnipeg, MB, March 9, 2019

Gregory Ens (CMBC '91), Winkler, MB, March 16, 2019

Jonathan Reimer (CMU '16), Winnipeg, MB, February 23, 2019

Latoya Jones (CMU '17), Winnipeg, MB, March 23, 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.

CMU alumna problem solves path to parliament

By Nicolien Klassen-Wiebe

When she was in grade nine, Cordella Friesen was told she wouldn't make it in university. Fast forward 25 years, and she holds a master's degree and a prominent role in the Government of Manitoba.

Friesen, who graduated from CMU with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Studies in 2009, recently became the Assistant Deputy Minister of Environmental Stewardship with Manitoba Sustainable Development, a department of the provincial government.

In her new role, she is responsible for developing policy to sustainably manage Manitoba's environment. Friesen and her team issue environmental approvals, provide decision makers with information and advice, and ensure the government complies with environmental legislation. Monitoring the safety of drinking water, flood preparations, and permits for pesticides are just a few of the many issues Friesen and her team oversee.

"I love policy development because it always goes back to [the question], what is the problem we're trying to solve, and is there a better, more inventive way to solve that problem?" says Friesen, who grew up in Niverville, MB. "There are so many tools available to us once we decide to solve a problem, and that's super interesting to me."

She says it's CMU that sparked this love of problem solving, by challenging her assumptions of what she believed to be true and compelling her to question how we define problems and how we organize ourselves in society.

It was her practicum that gave her the experience and connections to launch her career. She did her placement in the Winnipeg mayor's office, conducting research that informed the creation of policies and coordinating programming to engage youth in politics.

Friesen says that as a practicum student, you get opportunities you could never access otherwise because of the label of student stamped on your forehead. "CMU was pivotal to me being able to get into the right doors, because of the practicum component." The mayor's office hired her when her practicum ended, and she continued working there for two years.

Friesen went on to complete a Master of Arts in Public



Administration from the University of Manitoba. She did policy analysis for six years at Apprenticeship Manitoba, of which she was made Executive Director, and then became Director of Post-Secondary Education Programs for the Government of Manitoba.

But at one point in her life, she would never have imagined having those experiences. She entered CMU with her guidance counselor's doubts ringing in her mind and not knowing where her place was in the world.

Things quickly changed when she walked into her first political studies course. Her classmates and professors immediately welcomed her into their circles and offered her guidance. "It was like I'd found my calling ... I arrived and I thought, wow, I've found my people."

Friesen went from shaky self-doubt to having a vision for her future. "It really was transformational, that first year at CMU," she says. "The people here invested in me and saw me in ways that no one else had ever seen me. Those people were incredibly key to my experience at CMU."

« CMU was pivotal to me being able to get into the right doors, because of the practicum component. »

For more CMU news and stories, visit the CMU Media Centre at media.cmu.ca.

CMU CALENDAR

- May 31–Jun 1:** #ChurchTooManitoba:
a conference responding to sexual misconduct in the church.
- Jun 7:** Alumni Chicken Fingers and Fries
- Jun 10–14:** Canadian School of Peacebuilding
- Jun 13:** MSC Graduation
- Jun 17–21:** Canadian School of Peacebuilding
- Jun 18:** 18th Annual CMU Golf Classic
- Jun 19:** Public Lecture | Imagination, Courage and Resilience with Emily Welty
- Sept 27–28:** Fall Festival
- Oct 25:** Open House
- Nov 15:** Discover Outtatown
- Nov 22:** Campus Visit Day
- Nov 29–30:** Out-of-Province Campus Preview Weekend
- Nov 30:** Christmas at CMU

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



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