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POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW
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WINTER 2025

CONNECT



Flourishing Future

Advancing the Vision of
"Education for a Better World"
in our 290 Vaughan Street
Heritage Building



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Staff & Faculty News

Booth UC Connect Magazine is published two times yearly. We want to share the good news of what has been happening at Booth University College.

As the name of the publication suggests, Booth UC thrives on our connections between instructors and students and between theory and practice. Equally valued are the linkages between this institution and learning partners across Canada and around the world. And then there are the connections with people like you. Together, we are shaping the future.

William and Catherine Booth University College, rooted in The Salvation Army's Wesleyan theological tradition, brings together Christian faith, rigorous scholarship and a passion for service. The University College educates students to understand the complexities of our world, to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be active contributors to society, and to know how Christian faith compels them to bring hope, social justice and mercy into our world.

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President's Message

The idea of “calling” is not exclusive to Christianity, but it is integral to it. To be a follower of Christ is to be called—called to God and called to God’s mission of reconciliation and restoration of all creation. Additionally, we are called to hope against hope, to love unconditionally, and to seek justice for all.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!”

(2 Corinthians 5:17, NRSVUE).

These prophetic words speak of a new reality that God has already made possible, and they invite Christians to enter and expand this reality. We are called to reveal new creation (i.e., the Kingdom of God) to the world around us by the things we say and do.

Often in the seemingly circular routines of our days, we forget that our lives (and all of creation) are moving toward something, and that God calls us to participate in this movement. This invitation isn’t a burden. It is an opportunity to live into our purpose and thus to find deep fulfillment.

As you read through the stories in this issue of the Booth UC Connect magazine, I pray you see in them people embracing their calling, glimpses of new creation reality, and hope. Indeed, it is my hope that they inspire you to embrace your own calling, either for the first time or in a deeper way, and to know that you are participating in something bigger and grander than yourself.

To God be the Glory,
Rev. (Dr.) Rob A. Fringer,
President and Vice Chancellor



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Faith, Trials, and Family

Major Al Hoeft Reflects on the Lasting
Impact of Booth UC

Booth UC alumnus Major Al Hoeft, Divisional Secretary for Public Relations for The Salvation Army's Prairies & Northern Territories Division, shares how his time at Booth UC helped shape and prepare him for life today. He reflects on his experiences, the most challenging periods of his life, and the rich heritage of Booth UC that runs in his family.

Major Al Hoeft, as a graduate of Booth UC, how has your undergraduate learning experience at Booth UC impacted your journey so far?

I was blessed with an opportunity to attend Booth UC prior to attending the College for Officer Training, and that solid biblical & theological foundation, as well as the discipline involved in study and logical thought, gave me a good foundation for CFOT study and practical learning opportunities. Those early influences have impacted our journey in ministry consistently for nearly forty years. Additionally, though, is the impact of the friendships that have enriched our lives since those wonderful days.

We learned that you organized the last highly successful 'Hope in the City Breakfast' at the Fort Garry Hotel. Tell us a little about how you pulled it off with such a huge group of diverse people in attendance?

Events are always a bit of a challenge as there are so many moving parts – venue, speaker, program, menu, promotion, sponsors, ticket sales, etc. The most important thing in pulling off successful events, including the 'Hope in the City Breakfast' event, is to know the purpose of the event, whether that is promotion, celebration, or even fundraising. The other thing is that quality events do not happen without an incredibly committed team – which I am blessed to be a part of. When everyone does their part, events can come together in a powerful way and further the mission of The Salvation Army.

In your days as a Booth UC student, can you share the most difficult challenge you faced in school, and how did you overcome it?

When my wife, Karen, and I arrived at Booth UC (then known as Catherine Booth Bible College), we were newly married and had an incredible year there. However, the real challenge came after we moved to the College for Officer Training (CFOT) and had to complete our undergraduate degrees at the time. We had to rely on summer classes and, later, distance education to finish our studies. This was particularly challenging due to the limited number of courses available in those early days. Despite these obstacles, we were able to persevere, thanks to the unwavering support of the faculty. Their guidance and encouragement enabled both of us to successfully complete our degrees, even while living and serving in the Northwest Territories.

Can you share the most difficult challenge you have faced in life, as well as how your experiences at Booth UC helped you surmount the challenge?

A few years ago, I was faced with a cancer diagnosis. As much as the journey of cancer is a physical one, it is also a spiritual journey. Our foundational time at Booth UC had helped build a solid base to face life's challenges – whether in my personal or ministry life. For that I will always be grateful.

How did the skills you acquired/learned during your studies at Booth UC contribute to your highly successful professional life?

Our time at Booth definitely gave us a foundation for service that was modeled so consistently by the faculty we were able to observe and build relationships with. The disciplines of study, Scripture reading, and intentionally inquisitive thought have served us well as we have journeyed in ministry. The seeds of those were planted while we were at Booth UC.

How did Booth UC campus life/experience help shape your career path as well as your general understanding of the world we live in?

Having arrived at Booth as a married couple, Karen and I didn't have the blessing of campus residential living, but campus life, relationships, day to day experiences, spiritual days, and shared learning helped confirm our call and commitment to officership. The formal learning experiences, as well as the time of spiritual growth, strengthened our Christian worldview and gave us a strong footing whenever challenges came our way.

“So, I guess we would strongly encourage young people seeking a solid Christian education for a better world to consider Booth UC and all the amazing programs offered.”

What advice would you give someone who is thinking of attending Booth UC in 2025?

Our family has been blessed to be involved with Booth UC almost from its very beginning. Karen and I attended in year 3 of the school's existence, our daughter Alyssa worked in the library when she moved to Winnipeg for university, our son Zachary obtained his degree from Booth UC and now works full-time for The Salvation Army, and our son Nathanael is a Salvation Army officer and is currently working on his degree with Booth UC. So, I guess we would strongly encourage young people seeking a solid Christian education for a better world to consider Booth UC and all the amazing programs offered. It is a decision we have never regretted.



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↑
Peter

Aisha

Hiroshi

EDUCATION FOR A BETTER

WORLD



Susan

Juan

Mary
↓

GENERATIVE AI IN HOLLYWOOD: Revolutionizing Creativity or Undermining Authenticity?

by Dr. Mandy Elliott, Assistant Professor, English & Film Studies.

From the icy villainy of HAL 9000 in *2001: A Space Odyssey* to *The Avengers* franchise's J.A.R.V.I.S to "The Entity" in *Mission: Impossible—Dead Reckoning, Part One*, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has featured prominently in Hollywood as something to love and to fear. But, in recent years, generative AI—the type of AI many of these films have taught us to fear—has been put to work behind the camera, revolutionizing the industry for better or for worse.



As in academic pursuits, generative AI can be both useful and dangerous when used in art. Tools like ScriptBook are used to analyze screenplays to determine potential box office revenue and to punch up scripts. Similarly, Cinelytic is a company that uses AI to evaluate actors' box office potential and predict the success of a film they might be cast in. Able to fly through data that would take humans hours to parse, AI also helps with location scouting.



(c) Lucasfilm Ltd.

Generative AI is also extremely helpful in post-production. It de-aged actors in *The Irishman*, saving money on more costly CGI, and, with tools like FaceDirector, it can adjust actors' facial expressions and sightlines when working with entities inserted into the film during post-production, as seen in *Avengers: Infinity War*. It's also used in editing and colour grading to put the finishing touches on a particular film. Generative AI has also been revolutionary in experimental films and can be seen in Paul Trillo's lauded *Thank You for Not Answering* (2023), in which action and voiceovers have been synthetically generated.

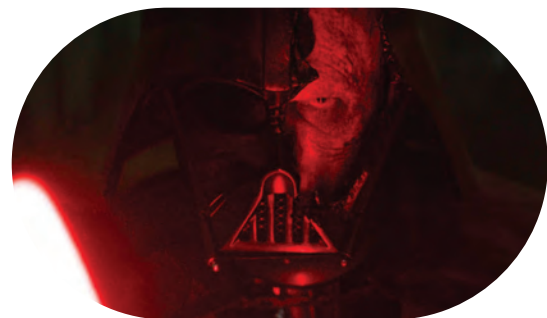
While AI has been celebrated by some as the future of filmmaking, there remain significant ethical concerns. AI technology has moved faster than anyone can

regulate it, particularly as it relates to intellectual property. In 2023, a company called Fable Simulation used its tool, Showrunner AI, to simulate an episode of *South Park*. The tool wrote, edited, directed, and voiced the episode, using elements taken from the show, but without the direct involvement of the show's original creators. This coincided with the Screen Actors Guild and Writers Guild of America strikes—which were, in part, about the threat of Hollywood using AI to simulate actors' and writers' intellectual property and likenesses without consent or compensation.

So, while generative AI has the potential to entertain us in new, exciting, and individualized ways, it also threatens to make the world of movies even more illusory.



(c) Lucasfilm Ltd.



(c) Lucasfilm Ltd.

Generative AI was used for de-aging effects as well as voice de-aging in the STAR WARS saga. It was also used to de-age Indiana Jones for the prologue of Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny.

Finding where *you* belong in Booth UC's student community

By Rhonda Friesen, Dean of Students

We all want a place to belong... a place where relationships are supportive... a place where our perspectives are valued... a place where we can journey alongside others who want the very best for us. At Booth UC, students find this belonging and build friendships that last!

Belonging in community

A Booth UC student survey conducted in Fall 2024 indicates that 90% of students feel a sense of belonging at Booth UC. Students who represent different cultures, languages, genders, abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and faith traditions are telling us they have found belonging in our tight-knit Booth UC community. Within our diversity, we have found commonality. With differing perspectives, we have discovered enrichment. Not all campuses enjoy this strong sense of community. What makes Booth UC a place where our students come together and thrive?

Our students tell us that their top motivations for coming to Booth UC are our excellent academic programs and our supportive learning environment. Our faculty and staff are committed to helping our students succeed. Whether in the classroom or their personal lives, students know they have people and supports they can turn to at Booth UC for any concern or challenge that prevents them from giving their very best. Students feel seen and heard as active participants in campus culture and learning.

Beyond the Booth UC Campus

Booth UC's community extends well beyond the walls of our 290 Vaughan Street and 123 Main Street campus locations. Each week, friends and alumni tune in to watch our weekly Booth UC Chapels livestreamed on our YouTube channel. Campus workshops and events have virtual options available to encourage participation regardless of where people are physically located. Our network of local Salvation Army Corps and ministry units, such as the Centre of Hope, are active on campus, sharing their knowledge and resources with our Booth UC community. Likewise, students engage through practicums and volunteering with our community partners in Winnipeg and beyond.

Belonging within the Booth UC community means learning alongside friends, mentors, and peers; it means embracing the wider community and making a positive contribution within it; and it means finding the purpose and fulfillment of discovering that an individual student's education really does translate to a better world for us all.

“Our students tell us that their top motivations for coming to Booth UC are our excellent academic programs and our supportive learning environment.”

Campus connections

Our Booth UC campus is a place where students connect both with their instructors and school support staff, as well as with each other. Our Student Council creates many opportunities for students to interact and discover new friends through various celebrations of culture, festive occasions, and just plain fun. This past term, students enjoyed a fall bonfire, a talent variety night, pumpkin carving, Toy Mountain fundraising activities, and a special White Christmas banquet.

Students also took the initiative to bring new awareness and education to our campus about the anti-trafficking work of the Joy Smith Foundation, the urban support offered by The Bear Clan Patrol, and developing positive attitudes towards people with disabilities with the help of Hope Centre Ministries. Students also contributed several inspiring video stories of living with disabilities as part of the “Humans of Booth UC Project” for Disability Dialogue Week.



Grand Opening



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On 28th of September 2024, all roads in Winnipeg led to 290 Vaughan Street for the grand opening and relocation to our new campus. The occasion marked a milestone in our growth as a Christian-based post-secondary institution in Winnipeg. In attendance at the event were members of faculty, staff, students, and our community, all gathered to celebrate the move to the new campus. Also present at the ceremony were dignitaries such as Territorial Commander and Chancellor of Booth UC, Commissioner Lee Graves, Minister of Advanced Education and Training Hon Renée Cable, MP Terry Duguid and the Acting Deputy Mayor of the City of Winnipeg, Councillor Markus Chambers.



Guests in the Hetherington Chapel at the grand opening ceremony of our new campus.



State of the art classrooms.



Cafe area.



Commissioners Lee and Debbie Graves, Colonels John and Lani Chamness.



Heritage Park Temple Band.

Photos: Sightlines Photography

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RECAP:

Booth UC Student Council's Best Moments

By Pamela SanDiego, President and Angela Ekeke, Vice President Communications, Booth UC Student Council

In the fall of 2024, the Student Council at Booth UC set a goal to create engaging activities for the student body. We kicked off the semester with a successful Welcome Week, which introduced new faces and welcomed back returning students to campus. This included a Welcome Day BBQ on the first day of school and a lively bonfire at the park, where students, staff, and faculty gathered to connect and celebrate.

Recognizing the diversity within our community, the Student Council organized a Variety Night to celebrate different cultural backgrounds. The evening featured an array of global experiences, including sampling diverse cuisines, showcasing traditional dances, and encouraging attendees to wear cultural attire.

As the fall term progressed, we embraced the spirit of Halloween with a fun-filled Trick-or-Treat event, allowing students to enjoy festive activities and collect treats around campus. Additionally, a pumpkin carving contest encouraged creativity and added to the seasonal festivities, bringing students together in a spirit of friendly competition.

To conclude the fall term, the Student Council planned several events to celebrate the holiday season. We hosted multiple fundraising initiatives, with proceeds going to Toy Mountain, and culminated the term with a Christmas Banquet. This evening of gathering allowed our community to come together, spreading joy and love as we celebrated the season.





SCS Roadmap: A Vision for Flourishing

Submitted by: Lieut. Colonel (Dr) Susan van Duinen

Beginnings get me excited. There's a certain thrill that attends what awaits, whether it's the changing season, the first stages of a new project, or a brand-new year. I never tire of that first-time feeling - the delight of untapped possibilities.

This Connect Issue theme, "Flourishing Future" gives one much to consider. A pause is necessary. A good future, a flourishing future, takes time and patience and many new beginnings.

God's loving and prophetic promise to Israel through the wisdom literature of the Old Testament is that we should be fresh and flourish. The Old Testament Scripture is full of flourishing metaphors, and they are meant to reflect God creating us in His image; Psalm 1:3 "tree planted by streams of water" Psalm 92:12 "flourish like a palm tree" and "grow like a cedar", bearing big clusters of fruit. We are born to flourish and so too is what we do.

The School for Continuing Studies (SCS) Team has spent the past three months considering the past and seeking divine guidance for the future and not just "a" future but a "flourishing" future. We believe the SCS is meant to flourish like a well tended garden and there are always new beginnings sprinkled throughout its seasons.

The illustration of the SCS One Page Plan 2025-2027 is the summation of the months of meetings, discussing, and planning. The Team considered questions like Why do we exist? (Mission); What are we trying to build or what picture are we painting? (Vision); What will we measure? (Objectives); How will we know we are successful? (Strategies); What work must we do? (Plans). We discovered that we desire the SCS to be accessible, flexible and empowering. We believe by following this plan for this season, the School for Continuing Studies can achieve significant mission-driven growth while fostering a community rooted in collaboration, inclusivity, and spirituality and have a flourishing future.

"Peter C. Brinckerhoff posed an insightful question in his book, *Faith-Based Management*: "...what happens when you take a level of commitment, a level of energy, and a level of passion and amplify it with a huge dose of faith?" At Booth University College's School for Continuing Studies, we believe the answer lies in our unique approach. By combining this faith-driven commitment with the Great Commission and our mission statement, we are inspired to create a thriving and purpose-driven community. It is this blend of faith, passion, and purpose that fuels our vision and leads us towards a truly flourishing future."



VISION

We equip diverse learners with the tools, knowledge, and spiritual foundation to transform their lives, serve their communities, and advance the Kingdom of God in a rapidly changing world.



MISSION

We are a Christ-centered pillar of Booth UC, dedicated to providing accessible and flexible education that empowers individuals to grow academically, professionally, and spiritually in their pursuit of lifelong learning.



OBJECTIVES

1. Maximize Mission Impact.
2. Forge Strong Partnerships.
3. Design Processes and Programs for People.
4. Strengthen Spiritual Foundations.



STRATEGIES

1. Maximize Mission Impact: Focus on achieving broader SCS goals.
2. Forge Strong Partnerships: Build collaborations that enhance learning opportunities.
3. Design Processes & Programs for People: Center programming around learner needs.
4. Strengthen Spiritual Foundations: Ensure the integration of spiritual development.



PLANS

1. Maximize Mission Impact by measuring and evaluating outcomes while investing in sessional development.
2. Forge Strong Partnerships by collaborating with organizations and agencies, developing ties with industry partners, and building interfaith and multicultural alliances.
3. Design Processes and Programs for People by adopting a human-centered approach, offering flexible learning options, and ensuring access to support services.
4. Strengthen Spiritual Foundations by integrating spiritual principles into the curriculum, celebrating diversity, and ensuring interdisciplinary approaches intersect with various fields such as business ethics and community leadership.

A Legacy of Impact: Booth UC's Social Work Program in Action.

by Cynthia A. Sottie, PhD, RSW, Director, School of Social Work

The Social Work program is a distinct feature of Booth UC. The program's vision and mission centre around empowering students to meet their highest potential and igniting in them a passion for service that emphasizes justice, equity, and ensures well-being for all. Rooted in the Salvation Army's heritage of hope, social justice and mercy, the program prepares students of all faiths and creeds to be change agents in the world by providing them with an educational experience that gives them confidence to engage with systems from the micro to the macro level.

We have an open campus which means that we benefit from a broad and diverse student demography. Our curriculum is committed to promoting our mission statement of ensuring students develop their passion for social work practice regardless of social locations. Students are prepared to work with individuals and groups from diverse backgrounds; syllabi illustrate this commitment both in learning objectives and topics.

Besides core social work courses that introduce students to social work, social issues, ethics, human behavior in the social environment, and practice with Indigenous Peoples, the program offers a wide range of courses covering mental health, addictions, trauma, practice with newcomers, international social work, environmental justice, social work and the justice system, anti-oppressive practice, and practice with children, adolescents, and older adults. Additionally, students take courses in other disciplines, ensuring a well-rounded education.

The Social Work program has a dedicated Field Education Coordinator and collaborates with nearly 200 social service agencies in Manitoba and beyond. This partnership provides students with hands-on experience, making them highly appealing to employers who seek social workers that are well-prepared for the realities of practice. Booth UC social work graduates find employment in various social service sectors, including health care, mental health and addictions, trauma-informed care, Indigenous service agencies, child/youth/family services, and elder care. The versatility of our graduates makes them highly employable, as we receive numerous requests from employers throughout the year requesting us to inform our students about job openings in their agencies. Our graduates hold notable positions across Manitoba and beyond.

Social Work faculty, both full-time and sessional, have experience from diverse fields, and bring a wealth of knowledge and practical insights to the classroom. They have genuine enthusiasm for the subjects they teach, are student-centered and dedicated to fostering intellectual curiosity in students to grow their ability to think critically. Faculty employ creative teaching methods that are engaging to ensure all learners succeed.



“Someone told me while struggling to apply to a school for my social work program. She said, and I quote, ‘When I was looking at different social work programs, I met some social workers, and they all said the same thing: If you want to know the job and be good at what you do, go to Booth UC!’ This quote from her made me realize that Booth UC is the best place for my social work journey. I am excited about joining the Department of Social Work at Booth UC. The record that most of her students have taken the (ASWB) exam and passed the exam once is also a big motivation. It is one of the reasons why I want to attend Booth UC and study social work.”

(Anonymous)

Faculty members are committed to professional development; they conduct research and attend regional and international conferences to stay updated on best practices. Their expertise spans areas such as mental health, addictions, Indigenous issues, newcomer and immigrant issues, indigenization, emotional intelligence, climate change and action, women's empowerment, gender equality, and social inclusion.

Our small class sizes allow for personalized attention, enabling faculty to track student progress and provide tailored feedback. We value our students and foster relationships that encourage them to seek academic support when needed. Our program is known for preparing students for clinical practice and work with families, small groups, and organizations. Assignments emphasize real community issues, training students to identify needs and collaborate with others to find solutions. Graduates leave the program with a strong sense of self-awareness and purpose. Beyond the classroom, faculty, peers, and administrative staff provide academic and career guidance throughout students' educational journeys.

We are excited about pursuing CASWE accreditation for our program, which is currently approved by the Manitoba College of Social Workers. We have started the process and remain optimistic about our success, given our track record and the significant impact our program has made since its inception in 1987.

If you aspire to build a career working with people to enhance their well-being, Booth UC's Social Work program is an excellent choice.

“... I find great pride in having gone through the program. I've often had positive feedback in practice about application of different theories or styles, and I largely think Booth UC is to thank for that. The education is engaging, thorough, and practical in an intimate setting. I feel I'm a better social worker for having been there.”

(Chance)

“Loved my time at Booth UC in the SW program and I felt very prepared to go on to do my MSW and teaching career.”

(Patricia)

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If it doesn't
sit right,
STAND UP.

Pioneering Social Change:

Booth UC's First Postdoctoral Fellow Discusses Shelter U

Can you briefly tell us about yourself and why you accepted the postdoctoral research fellow position at Booth UC?

I was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil, and I have dedicated practically my entire career to the educational sector. Education, to me, is a transformative process — one that enables individuals to better understand themselves and others, while also serving as a vital tool for changing societal realities.

Here in Winnipeg, I had the privilege of working with the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba, where I witnessed firsthand how transformative education can be for society. When the opportunity arose to contribute to the Shelter U project at Booth UC—helping to transform the lives of marginalized individuals in a prosperous city like Winnipeg—I immediately felt a responsibility to offer my skills and knowledge as an academic. It is a privilege to play a role in such meaningful work and contribute to this mission of empowerment and change.

How does your research relate to Shelter U and/or Community and Urban Transformation that Booth UC offers?

I am a semiotician by training, and for those unfamiliar with this field, Semiotics is a branch of Philosophy closely tied to Applied Linguistics and Cultural Analysis. It provides a framework for understanding how meaning is constructed and communicated within society.

Through this field, I bring a diverse range of approaches and insights that can significantly contribute to the Shelter U project, particularly in exploring how education can serve as a bridge connecting university students with the most vulnerable populations in our society. The content of the classes, the language used to connect with students, and the environment created to stimulate learning and the sharing of knowledge—all these elements fall under the umbrella of semiotics. My research focuses on how education and the arts can serve as connectors between different generations and social groups. In this sense, I believe my work

can be highly beneficial to the Shelter U research, as we aim to (re)connect participants from the Centre of Hope with the transformative idea that they can change their reality through education and culture.

How do you hope to impact the community positively in this role?

As a professor, researcher, and Christian, I strive to promote change by including groups that have been marginalized and excluded from society. Those who lack access to quality education, dignified housing, and a balanced diet. I aim to contribute to the most vulnerable participants in this project by helping them regain trust in the very society that pushed them away years ago. My goal is to support them in rediscovering their strength and finding their path to rewrite their history through education. There is nothing more transformative than the educational process of self-discovery and rediscovery.

How does it feel to be the very first postdoc research fellow at Booth UC, and what does that say about the institution?

For me, this role is both an honor and a blessing, but it also carries a tremendous sense of responsibility. The work I undertake here will lay the foundation and establish the standards for future postdoctoral fellowship candidates involved in research at Booth UC. I view this as a significant step in advancing Booth UC's role as an active leader in applied research and urban transformation.

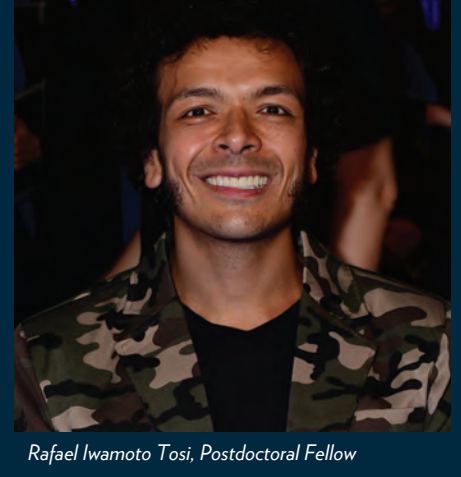
I strongly believe that every educational institution should be anchored in three fundamental commitments:

- 1) **learning and teaching,**
- 2) **research, and**
- 3) **social transformation.**

If you appeared before a funding agency and were asked why this project should be funded, what would your answer be?

My answer will focus on how important it is to include segregated people in our society. One of the best ways to reintroduce them as individuals who can become real social contributors is through education. If the major concern in our society today is the increasing number of unhoused individuals, rising crime rates, and unemployment, all these issues are directly related to how we distribute opportunities for marginalized groups to transform their lives and break cycles of poverty, violence, and neglect.

By offering free university-level education to those experiencing tough times, we provide them with the opportunity to rediscover their value as human beings and gain the social visibility needed to reconnect with society. This reconnection allows them to collaborate and contribute meaningfully to their communities.



Rafael Iwamoto Tosi, Postdoctoral Fellow

Tell us more about the uniqueness of this program, and why you think both private and public sector organizations should step up to support the program?

The Shelter U project is an unprecedented initiative in Winnipeg, offering a truly revolutionary format: the inclusion of vulnerable populations in a university course. This program not only provides postsecondary-level education but also integrates these individuals with regular Booth UC students in a mixed-class experience. The mission of reintegrating the most vulnerable members of our society—focusing on their rehabilitation and collaboration—should not rest solely with public institutions. It must also be embraced by the private sector, as the rehabilitation of these groups yields multiple benefits for everyone. These include generating social good through a more qualified workforce, reducing crime and substance abuse rates, and fostering cultural growth and opportunities for the less fortunate. Education has the power to drive real transformation in our society. This shared goal of societal improvement should serve as a point of connection between private and public sectors, uniting their efforts to create lasting change.

Finally, what is your ideal dream of a transformed Winnipeg city center, and how do you hope to mobilize resources and people to accomplish this?

A city where better opportunities are created for those who have already suffered enough in our society—that is the vision behind programs like Shelter U. This initiative not only provides educational content but also offers participants the chance to see themselves as worthy human beings who deserve an opportunity to regain their sense of belonging.

To raise funds and mobilize resources—for this mission, we must view it as a collective responsibility, one that involves all of society rather than a select few. When the sense of responsibility for change is shared, we can all contribute our best to support and transform the realities of others.

2023/24

ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT:

William and Catherine Booth University College, a Christian university college rooted in The Salvation Army's Wesleyan theological tradition, brings together Christian faith, rigorous scholarship and a passion for service. The University College educates students to understand the complexities of our world, to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be active contributors to society, and to know how Christian faith compels them to bring hope, social justice and mercy into our world.



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Dear Booth UC Community,

Last year we unveiled a new "WHY" statement that encapsulates the heartbeat of Booth UC and its people:

"Booth UC exists to engage with faith, equip for service, and empower through education . . . so that hope is embodied, mercy is experienced, and social justice is expanded."

This is a reminder to us and to you, our supporters, that Booth UC is not just another business providing services and products in exchange for funds. We are not transactional, we are relational. We are the church in education; a devoted group of Christ-followers who are walking alongside others in the difficult process of learning and growing, of finding self and finding God. Every year, we have the privilege of seeing students transformed—mind, body, and soul—and getting to watch as our graduates go on to become leaders in the community and transform the world around them to the glory of God.

Your prayer, promotion, and financial assistance help make this calling possible. In a world that has become increasingly disconnected, divided, and devoid of empathy, compassion, and reason, the value of a Christ-centred higher education is needed now more than ever.

Thank you for your support over this past year. It has blessed many and will have an ongoing impact for years to come.

Rev. (Dr.) Rob A. Fringer,
President and Vice Chancellor

Booth University College is grateful for the generous support it receives from a number of organizations. The funds provided allow the University College to extend its reach and to improve the quality of education available to its students. Thanks to their support, we have been able to serve students from Winnipeg, across Canada and from around the world.



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TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES AWARDED

\$169,725.00



“The scholarship has been more than just financial support - it has been a vote of confidence in my potential. At Booth UC, I’ve found not only academic excellence but also a supportive community that encourages personal growth and pushes me to achieve my goals. I’m very grateful for that, Alhamdulillah.”

- Iman Mohammed

“You cannot imagine what international students go through in Canada. With only 24 hours of work weekly, which may not be enough to cover rent and living expenses. God graciously provided scholarship awards through Booth UC to reduce my tuition, eventually lowering my financial burdens.”

- Johnpaul Obaribirin

“I was awarded the B.G. Price Scholarship, and this generous scholarship not only supports my academic journey in my third year but also allows me to pursue my studies with greater focus and dedication. I am honored by this recognition and inspired to contribute meaningfully to both my academic community and the broader society.”

- Pamela SanDiego

Booth University College is grateful for the support it receives annually from many generous donors. A special thank you to the following who gave during the period from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

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The Perfect Grilled Cheese from Booth Bistro



There's something incredibly comforting about a perfect grilled cheese paired with a bowl of hot soup on a cold Winnipeg day. But what makes a grilled cheese truly "perfect"? At Booth Bistro, we're here to share the secrets to crafting this classic dish at home.

At Booth UC's in-house restaurant, Booth Bistro, we believe that the quality of ingredients elevates any dish, even something as simple as a grilled cheese. That's why we use **City Bread French Bread, Bothwell Cheese Old Cheddar, and Notre Dame Unsalted Butter** to create ours.

Make the Garlic Herb Butter:

Ingredients:

- 1 lb softened unsalted butter
- 30g minced garlic
- 10ml cold water
- 10g kosher salt
- 5g dried parsley

Method:

1. In a bowl, combine the softened butter, minced garlic, cold water, and kosher salt. Mix until the butter becomes light and fluffy.
2. Add the dried parsley and stir until just incorporated.
3. Store the prepared butter in the fridge or freeze it in smaller portions for easy future use.

Grilled Cheese Preparation:

1. Butter one side of each slice of bread with the garlic herb butter.
2. Place the bread, buttered side down, in a hot pan set to medium-high heat.
3. Layer Bothwell Old Cheddar Cheese on each slice of bread and cover the pan to allow the cheese to melt.
4. Once the cheese starts to melt, assemble the sandwich.
5. Remove from the pan once both sides are golden and crispy. Cut diagonally for that classic look.

You can also enjoy our delicious Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup for lunch, Monday through Friday, at Booth Bistro.

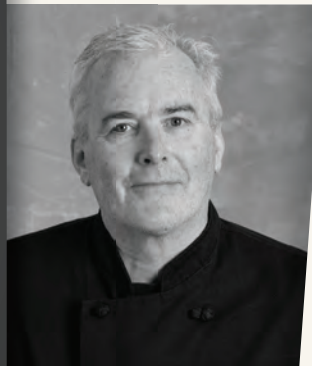
Pro Tip: Serve with your favorite tomato soup for the ultimate comforting meal.

Staff FACULTY NEWS



Opiola, Austin | Admissions Counsellor

With 10 years of experience in hospitality and a deep commitment to service excellence, Austin has transitioned his skills into the role of Admission Counsellor. Drawing from a strong background in guest relations and team management, he brings a unique perspective to student admissions, ensuring a welcoming and supportive experience for all prospective students. As a graduate of Red River College Polytechnic with honours, Austin combines practical industry expertise with a passion for helping others navigate their educational journey.



Kitt, Geoffrey | Chef

Geoffrey Kitt is an experienced chef and culinary professional based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. With over 20 years of expertise in the restaurant and hospitality industry, Geoffrey brings a well-rounded perspective to the daily operations of food and beverage establishments. His passion lies in crafting innovative dishes that emphasize local products, seasonality, healthfulness, and bold flavors.

Geoffrey studied Culinary Management at George Brown College and is an active member of the Endangered Fish Alliance and Slow Food Canada. He has also attended Jonas software seminars, further expanding his operational expertise.



Brekashvili, Paata | Director of the ASPIRE Initiative

Paata Brekashvili joined Booth University College as Director of ASPIRE Initiative and Professor of Business Administration. Paata is a management scholar, international university lecturer and academic administrator. He obtained a Ph.D. in Management from Caucasus University (Tbilisi, Georgia) and Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University (Atlanta, GA, USA). Paata has published scholarly articles in management journals and various conference proceedings on different aspects of Employment Relationships and Psychological Contracts in organizations. For 15+ years, Paata has taught various management courses in Georgia, France, Poland, Slovenia, Germany, Ukraine, Britain, Colombia and Canada. He has previously served as an academic chair, director, dean, accreditation & quality assurance expert and board member.



Lieut. Colonel (Dr) Susan van Duinen | Director, School for Continuing Studies
Lieutenant-Colonel (Dr.) Susan van Duinen returns to Booth UC as The Director of the School for Continuing Studies at Booth University College.

She previously served as Dean of the School for Continuing Studies from 2014-2017 and President of Booth University College from 2021-2023. Since 2017, she has remained actively involved with Booth UC, teaching cadets at the College for Officer Training and teaching certificate courses in chaplaincy, management, and leadership.

Her academic credentials include a Doctor of Ministry (Counselling) from Providence University College and Seminary in Winnipeg and a Master of Divinity from Tyndale University in Toronto. Susan is also a Certified Professional Leadership Coach and brings a wealth of experience as a speaker at national and international conferences. In addition, she is a highly respected Executive Leadership consultant, sought after for her expertise in fostering leadership and organizational growth.



Tarasenko, Anna | International Student Advisor and Tutor
Anna holds a PhD in Art Studies from Nanjing University of the Arts (China) and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Business Management from the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology.

Before joining Booth UC, She worked as an administrator and artistic manager, organizing international artistic projects in China and Algeria. She has extensive experience in international academic environments, both as an international student and as a lecturer, designing and teaching educational programs in language and art studies at institutions in Russia, China, and Algeria.



Awojide, Olumuyiwa Sylvester | Marketing and Communications Specialist
Sylvester joins Booth as the new Marketing & Communications Specialist with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Covenant University, an Integrated Brand Experience Diploma, certifications in Digital Marketing and Digital Advertising, with over 12 years of experience in the field of marketing. Prior to his arrival to Booth UC, Sylvester worked as a Senior Digital Marketing Specialist at Catch Corner.



Nuyda, Jerardo | Development and Alumni Associate (Part-Time)
Jin Nuyda is the new Development and Alumni Associate and is currently pursuing a 3-year Bachelor of Arts in English. He has previously worked a couple of summers at The Salvation Army Beaver Creek Camp as the Program Coordinator for a couple summers, and more recently, the Recreation Coordinator.



Marynowski, Cherie L. | Administrative Coordinator - Academic
Cherie comes to Booth UC with a Certification in Administrative Support from the Academy of Learning College (North) and with 13 years of experience in post-graduate administration at the University of Manitoba where she worked as a Medical Education Program Administrator and Coordinator. In addition, she has worked with the WRHA Corporate office as an Administrative Assistant and as a Senior Secretary in Neurosurgery at HSC. In addition, Cherie has a background in Hospitality Management.

Now Open




**Our Doors are Open,
MONDAYS - FRIDAYS
10AM - 4PM
290 VAUGHAN ST, LOWER LEVEL**



BOOTH
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE

2025

THE SALVATION ARMY BOOTH UC
**SPRING CONVOCATION AND
CONFERRING OF DEGREES**



BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

10:30am

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Booth UC, 290 Vaughan St., Winnipeg, MB

with guest speaker:
Commissioner Debbie Graves



**CONVOCATION AND
CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

3:00pm

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Knox United Church, 400 Edmonton St., Winnipeg, MB

with guest speaker:
Dr. Chris Trott