



BOOTH UC

CONNECT



**A 1ST! CHAPLAINCY
CONFERENCE AT BOOTH
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

P. 7



**CELEBRATING BOOTH
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
2024 GRADS**

P. 10

PM 40772051

SUMMER 2024

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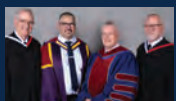
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Booth UC Connect magazine is published twice a year. We want to share the good news of what has been happening at Booth University College.

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.



BOOTH
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE

EDUCATION FOR A BETTER WORLD

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President's Message

Many people dislike change. Whether it is the loss of control, the struggle to adapt to new routines, the feelings of inadequacy related to handling new circumstances, the fear of uncertainty, or all the above, change is disruptive. Yet, it is also inevitable! Like the seasons of the year, change is coming, and it's often a good thing. These times of transition can be opportunities for growth and transformation; they can be times of reevaluating priorities and refocusing on goals, or better yet, refocusing on God.

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven”

– Ecclesiastes 3:1, NRSVUE

Booth University College has also been going through a season of change, and while there have been difficulties, it has drawn us closer as a community and helped us to reclaim our identity and calling. “Booth University College 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 the heartbeat of this place and its people and over this past year, we have seen it lived out in a multitude of ways.

This issue of *Booth UC Connect* spotlights a few of the stories of living out purpose amid change. Perhaps the greatest of these stories is that of our graduated students. Their perseverance in the midst of various personal and educational challenges is a testament to their strength, God's faithfulness, and the benefits of change and transformation. With their graduation, they end a season of their lives and move on to the next season, where they can apply what they have learned and where they can embody “Education for a Better World.”

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



BOOTH
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE



By Rhonda Friesen, Dean of Students

As the last term of studies in the 447 Webb Place location comes to a close, Booth UC students, staff, and faculty reflect with gratitude on the learning and life we have shared in this space. In the past four months, we have celebrated our journey together in many ways.



**Talking about
suicide saves lives.
Please talk, ask, listen.**



**Be a friend.
Have a friend.
We all need that!**

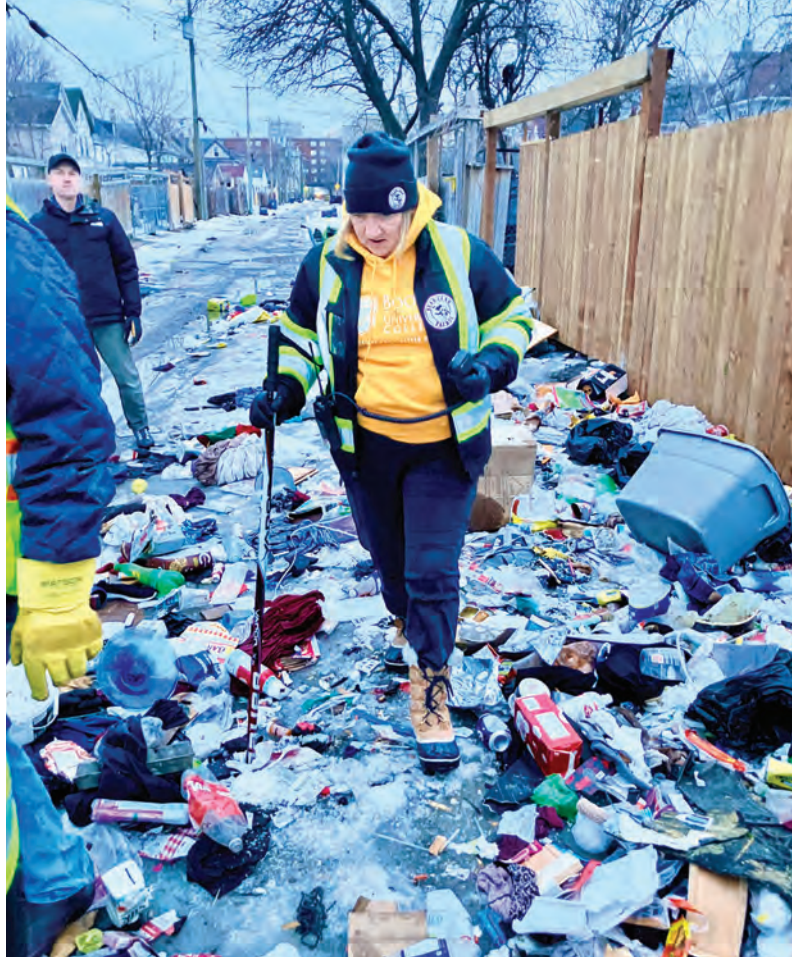
Student Council welcomed people back to campus with hot chocolate and conversation during Bell Let's Talk Day in January, followed by the fun and educational activities and displays of Black History Month in February. Heritage Days, also in February, challenged our campus to reflect on William Booth's original vision of a 'university of humanity', also indulging in the rich traditions of brass band music, soup and donuts during the week.

March kicked off with a cultural extravaganza at Culture Night. From Africa to South Asia, to Europe and the Americas, and the evening showcased the colours, music and food of our unique country backgrounds while generating a sense of community among us. Our Booth UC campus is a beautiful tapestry of diversity!

Indigenous Perspectives Week this year provided opportunity to engage with the 'Circle of Courage' as we explored themes of generosity, mastery, belonging, and independence. We listened and learned from each other and our local community as we participated in a Sharing Circle, welcomed teaching from local Bear Clan leader, Angela Klassen, and walked our downtown streets with the Bear Clan Patrol. New perspectives of our community came as we journeyed together.

We hope and anticipate this partnership will continue and grow in the years to come.

Student Council elections brought fresh ideas and new leaders to the foreground of campus life this spring. Eight new and returning student leaders will begin planning for the coming school year over the summer... we can't wait to see what they have in store for our campus!



We look forward with hope and anticipation of good things to come as we settle into the new location at 290 Vaughan Street. Already there is a buzz of excitement as Booth UC welcomes new students to campus through the ASPIRE program. We are surrounded by exciting new possibilities for partnership in our city and among The Salvation Army corps, opportunities to collaborate for student learning, engagement, and transformation. We claim Jeremiah's promise that God knows the plans he has for us, plans for hope and a good future (Jer 29:11). With this bright expectation, we look forward to seeing what this next year brings! 🇨🇦

One of the particular highlights this year has been the staff-student sports challenges in the Booth UC gymnasium. Students may have held the upper hand in floor hockey and basketball, but staff proved victorious in the final game of volleyball. What an amazing way to shake off study stress, dust off the sneakers, and build community spirit! Thanks to everyone who played and cheered along the way!

As the term drew to a close, our Residence students celebrated the close of their campus living community in style, complete with a lobster dinner, amusement centre antics, and bonfire in the Assiniboine Park. Bittersweet departures mixed with the excitement of new living adventures filled the hallways as students moved out at the end of term. Booth UC Student Services has provided support and assistance, a new Housing Resources website, lots of van trips, and encouragement along the way.





The Miracle of the Mosaic

By Jack R. Penner

Hailing from Addis Ababa, the bustling capital of Ethiopia, Iman’s journey to Booth UC was more than just a geographical transition; it was a leap into the unknown, a bold step towards shaping her future in a new land while immersing herself in a new culture. Navigating these uncharted (ice-covered) waters has not been easy, but the support of the community at our school and Winterpeg more broadly has made it all possible.

Now, Booth UC is her home away from home. “I’m glad to be a part of the family!” she says, her voice resonating with a sense of belonging that transcends blood, beliefs, and borders. Standing at the threshold of possibility, she is eager to enrich and be enriched by Canada’s cultural mosaic, embracing every challenge—snow or shine—with resilience and determination.

Having just wrapped up her first year of a bachelor’s degree in psychology, Iman hopes to use her education to find a career in Canada that would allow her to make the most of her unique perspectives and experiences. Her aspiration is echoed by both our domestic and international students, who represent a significant and ever-increasing variety of backgrounds. Such an accepting atmosphere not only fosters connection but also promotes inclusion and understanding, as Iman reflects: “It’s nice to know there is someone else who comes from a different culture and is going through a similar experience.”

Encouraging this open-mindedness creates an environment where every voice is heard, enhancing and enriching everyone’s experiences within an academic community that thrives on dialogue and collaboration. As Iman notes, our modest class sizes “empower you to take control of your learning. Rather than just being another number, you’re a real person whose ideas have the ability to meaningfully influence the discussion and trajectory of the class.”

However, at Booth UC, learning is not just confined to the classroom. Nestled in the vibrant heart of downtown Winnipeg, students have access to a plethora of captivating multicultural events, including Folklorama, Culture Days, and more. Events like these, Iman says, “provide a platform for you to celebrate your own identity while deepening your knowledge and appreciation of people from other cultures.” She is particularly excited about the experiential learning component of her degree because it will grant her hands-on experience working in this diverse community, thereby bridging academic theory with real-world practice to create a tangible, lasting impact.

Iman’s voyage from the sun-soaked cityscape of Addis Ababa to the snow-kissed scenery of Winnipeg epitomizes her unwavering dedication to growth and transformation. With a fervent desire to unravel the intricacies of human behaviour, she envisions a future where her education serves as a catalyst for societal change, cultivating a universal landscape of greater equity, empathy, and empowerment for all. As Iman puts it: “Education in a welcoming, multicultural environment equips us with the tools we need to truly make a difference.” And what better place to embody this ethos than within the halls of Booth UC, where the miracle of the mosaic helps guide our pursuit of Education for a Better World. 🌍



A NEW CHAPTER:

The first-ever Chaplaincy Conference at Booth UC

By Dr. Mariciel Nuyda, Dean of SCS

Booth University College (Booth UC) marked a significant milestone in its history by successfully hosting the “Strengthening Your Spiritual Care Ministry” conference for chaplains and spiritual care providers.

The event was spearheaded by the School for Continuing Studies (SCS) which took place on April 26-27, 2024.



The first of its kind at Booth UC, was tailor-made for chaplains and spiritual care providers who sought to deepen understanding, refine skills, and elevate their practice in the realm of caregiving. Additionally, this conference aimed to bring people together offering a platform for insightful discussions and networking opportunities.

According to Dr. Mariciel Nuyda, Dean of SCS, this gathering gave the participants the chance to talk about their present work, experiences, trends, gaps as well as the challenges they have experienced with chaplaincy work. To further contextualize this, the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care (CSC) Program has been the flagship program of the SCS and has been the longest running certification program at SCS of which its first offering was more than 20 years ago. “Since its first offering and with the changing needs put to the fore by the pandemic, this was the best time to bring various groups of people together,” Nuyda said. These groups included CSC alum, instructors, representatives from various chaplaincy and spiritual care facilities, and those exploring the chaplaincy vocation.

Over the course of the two-day period, participants actively engaged in lectures, workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities. The conference covered five (5) lectures, one (1) panel discussion, and seven (7) workshops. The topics for lectures were: Celebrating and Advocating Chaplains, Indigenous Spirituality and Traditions, Embracing a Shared Brokenness in the Journey Toward Holiness, Shock and Awe: Spiritual Perspectives on Suffering and Solace, and Life-long Learning and Professional

Development. Meanwhile, the panel discussion was focused on building resilience, hence, panel discussions provided different perspectives that promoted resilience-building practices as chaplains. They shared personal experiences, examples, stories and discussed taking care of oneself in the community, developing a care team, as well as fostering spiritual direction.

Furthermore, the workshop topics were: Suffering Well and Suffering With, Understanding the Scope and Perspectives for Ministry in Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD), Faith Formation: Help People with Disabilities Connect with Jesus, Working in a Multi-cultural, Multi-faith Context, Nourishing the Self and Others Through Prayer, Intersections of Shelters, Homelessness, Mental Health and Abuse, and Map to the Soul, a spiritual development approach for offenders.

Throughout the conference, the venue buzzed with enthusiastic engagement, dialogues, and networking. In the end, the participants shared how they were inspired by the insights gained, connections forged, and tools acquired which they can use as they continue to enrich the lives of countless individuals in need of spiritual care and support. As defined by The Salvation Army, a chaplain is someone who shares support and journeys with those in the storms of life to provide spiritual help and direction. Hence, members of the organizing committee are confident that the experience participants gained through this conference will continue to shape the practice of chaplaincy for years to come. In fact, participants are looking forward to the next conference. 🇨🇦



New Academic Innovation Department **AID**


The Academic Innovation Department (AID) was created as a hub for testing new initiatives. It provides us with a safe space to take risks that might not otherwise be taken. It is the proverbial sandbox where Booth UC can “play” with friends, old and new, and introduce ideas that may help us better fulfil our mission moving forward.

The primary purpose of the AID, as articulated in its Terms of Reference, is to:

- Cultivate a culture of academic innovation and experimentation within Booth University College.
- Seed and launch new academic programs and initiatives, both internally generated and in collaboration with external institutions.
- Provide a platform for faculty, staff, and students to develop and pilot innovative academic projects that align with the mission, values, and strategic goals of Booth University College.
- Enhance the quality, relevance, and impact of academic offerings to meet the evolving needs of learners and communities.

The impetus for the AID came when some of our faculty and staff presented two proposals that fit our mission and showed potential. Nevertheless, they were experimental and needed an incubation space to determine viability. The first proposal was for a pilot program called Shelter University (or Shelter U), which would offer free university-level courses to vulnerable and marginalized people “sheltered” at the Centre of Hope (a partner in this new initiative). The second proposal was for a new accelerated program, which has now been named ASPIRE (Accelerated Student Pathways to Innovative and Relevant Education). You can discover more about both pilot programs on our website (boothuc.ca). The AID allows us to trial these and future programs while keeping them at arm’s length from our normal operations. Once the first iteration of a pilot program is launched and reviewed, we can determine if it should be refined, refocused, retested, or ended. If the pilot program is found to be successful and on mission, it can then be integrated into the institution in a more thorough and thoughtful manner.

Booth UC President Rob Fringer said: “We believe we have a remarkable and creative community of people, and we want to provide an avenue by which they might evidence their brilliance and fulfil their callings while simultaneously helping Booth UC to carry out our mission and expand our reach.”

We are currently building an AID fund that will provide small grants to successful proposals. Initially, applications will only be accepted from current faculty, staff, and students. However, it is our hope to open this up to external partners in the future. If you would like to donate toward the AID fund, please contact us by email at Development@boothuc.ca 

Installation of New President and Vice President Academic and Dean



left to right: Mr. David Michel, Dr. Rob Fringer, Commissioner Lee Graves and Colonel John Chamness

On April 28, 2024, as part of Booth UC's Baccalaureate Service, the installations of Rev. (Dr.) Rob Fringer as President and Dr. Linda Schwartz as Vice President Academic and Dean took place.




left to right: Dr. Rob Fringer, Dr. Linda Schwartz and Commissioner Lee Graves

For centuries, universities have held installation (or investiture) services for incoming executive leadership. Like commencement and convocation, this formal ceremony is part of the rhythms of academia and provides an opportunity for the community to gather and celebrate a new season in the life of the university. For those being installed, it is an opportunity to officially take up the mantle of responsibility and to cast a vision for the future.

President Fringer was installed as Booth UC's 7th President by the Chancellor, Commissioner Lee Graves, who was assisted by the Board Chair, Mr. David Michel, and Vice-chair, Colonel John Chamness. In his installation speech, President Fringer articulated the significance of Booth UC's history, identity, purpose, and calling, all of which are grounded in Christ. While affirming Booth UC's commitment to being a Christ-centred higher education institution, he quoted from Catherine Booth (founding mother of The Salvation Army), who said, "There is no improving the future without disturbing the present." President Fringer continued, noting, "As a community, we have recounted our story, reinforced our mission, reclaimed our calling, reshaped our strategy, and re-envisioned our goals. This has resulted in a new Strategic Plan, which plots a course toward a flourishing future for Booth UC." He also stated that the public version of this new Strategic Plan would be released very soon and highlighted Booth UC's new "Why Statement"—"Booth University College 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"—adding that this is "the heartbeat of every individual that works at Booth UC and of the institution as a whole."

Dr. Schwartz's installation as VP Academic and Dean was performed by newly installed President Fringer and shared similar liturgy and calls to commitment by both Dr. Schwartz and the Booth UC community. In her installation speech, Dr. Schwartz gave a brief history of higher education and its foundation in diligent investigation and discovery informed by theological investigation—faith seeking understanding (Erasmus). Fast forwarding to present realities, she highlighted how public universities, now "far removed from intentional communities bound by a rule of life," have found themselves "set adrift of [their] original moorings in the liberal arts." She went on to lament that many Christian liberal arts colleges in North America "have been unable to survive the increasing burden of operation as distinctive communities of learning," adding that "for most of these casualties, the stark reality is that, in a drive toward cultural conformity and pragmatism, these institutions forgot their higher calling." Dr. Schwartz concluded by challenging Booth UC to be a Christian university that "practices scholarship as something that is grace-filled and open to the possibility and power of reconciliation of all things in Christ" and is made up of faithful scholars who practice a "scholarship of responsibility" where "questions are asked to address gaps in scholarly discourses."

It was clear to all present that Booth UC is in good hands and that it has a bright future ahead. Please join us in praying for and supporting these leaders and all the staff, faculty, and students of Booth UC. 



The atmosphere was jubilant and festive as friends, family, staff and faculty gathered for Booth University College's 42nd convocation ceremony. The event took place on April 28th at Knox United Church in Winnipeg.

The mood around campus was particularly enthusiastic this year as Booth UC officially installed Rev. (Dr.) Rob Fringer as President and Dr. Linda Schwartz as Vice President, Academic and Dean at the morning's Baccalaureate Service. Their dedication to the institution garnered hope and optimism for what the future holds for Booth UC in the years to come.

The Baccalaureate Service also featured a message from Commissioner Lee Graves, and student reflections from Major Pamela Stanger and Megan Vlok, "When I started my degree I was still in South Africa. It was tough to wake up at 1am for lectures!" said Vlok. "But that's when I knew it was something I was willing to work hard to achieve, and I did it. I'm grateful for everyone who helped me along the way."

In the afternoon, the focus shifted to the convocation. With members of the board of trustees, representatives from divisional and territorial headquarters, and hundreds of family, friends, and supporters looking on, 88 students graduated and received their certificate or degree.

"Graduating class, congratulations!" declared Scott Gillingham, Mayor of Winnipeg in his convocation address. "All of your work and sacrifices have culminated into this moment of accomplishment."

After further remarks from Winnipeg MLA Tyler Blashko and Valedictorian, Faith Ugwu, Commissioner Lee Graves, Canada and Bermuda's Territorial Commander and Chancellor of Booth UC, handed out the diplomas and certificates, accompanied by cheers and applause, and the occasional dance across the stage.



After the students received their degrees, Commissioner Graves presented the Chancellor's Medal to Bachelor of Arts (Behavioural Sciences) graduate Mayah Ferguson. Bachelor of Arts (Biblical & Theological Studies) graduate Captain Kelly Fifield was awarded the General's Medal.

"To my fellow graduates, thank you for doing the work and seeing this journey through to the end," declared Ugwu during her valedictory address. "As we transition to the next phase of our lives, let us reflect on the experiences that have shaped us, the challenges that have strengthened us, and the friendships that have enriched us. May our impact be felt far beyond these walls and for generations to come!" 🇺🇸



Captain Kelly Fifield, BA in Biblical and Theological Studies (BA/24) is the recipient of this year's General's Medal, awarded to an extended learning graduating degree student who has achieved a high academic standing, a minimum GPA of 3.6, has demonstrated potential leadership in The Salvation Army, and has demonstrated clear intellectual and experiential grasp of the distinctive mission and theology of The Salvation Army, including the Doctrine of Holiness.

Mayah Ferguson, BA in Behavioural Sciences (BA/24) was awarded the Chancellor's Medal, given to a graduating Winnipeg campus degree student who has achieved a high academic standing, minimum of a 3.6 GPA, demonstrated significant spiritual development and has contributed in significant ways to the life of the college and the wider community.





Remember Your

Why.

by Kim Kakegamic

***“Yet you, Lord, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.”***

This verse is the one Faith Ugwu quotes as she reflects on her time at Booth UC. “I really was remolded,” she explains. “I am coming out of Booth UC a different person, and I like the person I’ve become.”

Faith’s journey began in Nigeria, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in French. After moving to Canada in 2016, she took on an admin role at Altered Minds Inc., an organization that assists newcomers to Winnipeg. “But I was limited with what I could do for them, and I kept thinking ‘how can I do more for these people?’”

Faith moved on to work for Child and Family Services, also in an admin role, and that’s where she happened to cross paths with a Booth UC social work student. “The student was doing her practicum and she told me that I should come to Booth UC,” Faith describes. “She told me about the two year after-degree program. I did my research and it seemed like a good fit.”



The atmosphere was jubilant and festive as friends, family, staff and faculty gathered for Booth UC's 42nd convocation ceremony. The event took place on April 28th at Knox United Church in Winnipeg.

Booth UC's small class sizes and focus on social justice, mercy, and hope were strong pulls for Faith. "Coming from Nigeria where classes have hundreds of students, it was a bit shocking at first. But it made me really engaged. Your professors get to know you, where to push you, where to encourage you. It keeps you on your toes." Another draw for Faith was Booth UC's diversity, and the welcoming environment it created. From the moment she walked onto campus for orientation day, "I felt a certain kind of energy. It was more than just having a diverse group. It was how everyone actively engages with different perspectives." That variety of perspectives served Faith well in her social work classes and will aid her in her career as a social worker. "We really came to understand how things are in the real world, how to learn who our clients are, and how to work with each other when different views butt heads."

Being a student wasn't always easy. Faith reflects on some tough times when she contemplated giving up. But she kept reminding herself of the reasons she went into the program in the first place. "I kept remembering my why. That kept me going."

Faith's "why" came to fruition on April 28th, 2024, when she received her Bachelor of Social Work degree. She was also chosen as the class's valedictorian. She gave a poignant address with energy and eloquence, encouraging her fellow graduates to "remember the values Booth UC has placed in us, and why we started this journey."

Faith's journey now continues, as she has returned to work for Child and Family Services as a Social Worker. It took two busy years, time away from her family, some tear-filled nights, and a lot of hard work, but she is now living out the question she pondered many years ago, "How can I do more for these people?"

And she concludes with confidence, "It was worth it!" 





How do we remember the information we encounter day to day?

By Evan Curtis



For a cognitive psychologist, the question stands as a persistent mystery about the inner workings of the human mind. For an educator, the question is critically important in shaping the way we teach and the way students learn. Fundamental questions about memory processes form the core of my research, and my recent sabbatical leave provided a fruitful opportunity to pursue a new line of scholarship.

It is still often thought that processing information actively and elaboratively leads to better memory retention (see Craik & Lockhart, 1972). However, this principle is not uniformly correct, focusing exclusively on the stage of encoding and ignoring the importance of retrieval conditions (see Morris, Bransford, & Franks, 1977). The “deep processing” perspective has been rightfully replaced by a view that the relationship between encoding and retrieval is the strongest predictor of memory performance. Despite standing as one of the most well-accepted principles of human memory, this principle still lacks a clear and precise theoretical explanation. My sabbatical research aimed to develop such a theory.

My research works with computational models of memory, mathematical expressions and computer simulations that are meant to mimic human behaviour in laboratory experiments. I first adapted a model I have previously published (A Theory of Non-Analytic Association, or ATHENA) to account for encoding / retrieval interactions and then tested it against a large-scale memory experiment.

In the experiment, participants encoded English words by either determining whether they belonged to a category (“Is FLAME something hot?”) or whether they rhymed with another word (“Does FLAME rhyme with game?”). Then, participants either completed a recognition task (“Did you study FLAME?”) or a “rhyme” recognition task (“Did you study a word that rhymes with SAME?”). Replicating past research, category encoding led to better performance on the recognition task, but rhyme encoding led to better performance on the rhyme recognition task.

The model was built to perform the same encoding tasks as participants. When the studied information was encoded to memory, it was stored as an integration of the studied word and the context (category or rhyming word) used for processing. The

model simulations matched participant behaviour extraordinarily well, suggesting that the model’s mathematically expressed mechanisms accurately describe our own memory processes.

While it might be difficult to see the connection between this computational approach and real-world applications of memory, I think of these types of fundamental research as being akin to a wind tunnel or particle accelerator. While artificial in nature, they provide a controlled testing ground to establish validated theories and principles that can later be leveraged to develop real-world applications. Today the model predicts simple behaviour in the lab. Perhaps tomorrow it predicts the best study methods for different subjects, different assessments, and beyond. 🇨🇦

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Experiential Learning

By Mandy Elliott

When I lent five English and film studies students and one social work student some of my filmmaking equipment and sent them downtown to meet strangers, was I nervous? Yes. Was it worth it? Also yes.

In the Winter 2024 term, I taught an experiential learning-based course with a very specific mandate: to send students out to meet some of Booth UC's neighbours, tell their stories, and create projects to document it all.

The course, "Storytelling at our Core," was designed to make theoretical, classroom-based learning practical. Through a series of conversations, interviews, and cinematography trial and error, our students made short documentaries that highlight the good work going on in downtown Winnipeg and showed them a world of enquiry beyond the ivory tower.

Working in groups of two, the students made three short films about the Winnipeg Adult Education Centre's teachers, the Winnipeg music scene and the struggle to get people to come downtown, and the new Pitikwé Skatepark, respectively.

Class time was divided into three distinct parts: lessons and theory, check-ins where students would share their progress with their peers, and project work.

Sometimes, students would leave the classroom to work, and sometimes, they stayed after class to continue working and share ideas. I facilitated, and the students practiced.

Lessons and theory provided the background required for the project and gave the students a general framework for effective storytelling. Peer check-ins promoted a collaborative learning environment where we shared ideas and techniques, celebrated victories, and did some troubleshooting. Classwork time gave them the opportunity to ask me questions, conduct interviews, and mitigate burnout.

Their projects gave students the opportunity to learn how to use filmmaking equipment like field recorders, lights, microphones, and editing software. They experimented with different filming styles and techniques and painstakingly edited large blocks of raw footage into 15-30-minute stories.

At the end of the term, we held a public screening and Q&A session in Booth UC's then-chapel. The students had the chance to talk about their experiences and tie their work to their own interests, and their pride in showcasing their hard work was palpable.

The students came away from the course with the skills to understand storytelling and to tell their own stories. Two students even came away with job offers for future videography work.

Perhaps more importantly, they had the experience of taking their scholarship out into the community to understand other perspectives, share learning, and build relationships.

I'm told there were some sleepless nights. I'm told there was a lot of joy, too, and I can relate.

This course was everything I hoped it would be, and I'm excited to teach it again. Beyond the students' learning, this course was a lesson for me on classroom flexibility and tailoring a course to fit the students' needs.

This experiment with experiential learning has proven a vital way for Booth UC to demonstrate our existence as an accessible and approachable part of our community that fosters curiosity as we work toward hope, social justice, and mercy. I look forward to meeting more neighbours soon. 🇨🇦



Grateful to God

for Booth University College

Megan Vlok found her way to Booth University College from South Africa, where she was born and raised. Having done previous post-secondary studies in psychology, Megan desired to do additional studies in Social Work and to see and experience another country.

After some research she discovered that many Canadian schools offered an after-degree in social work, which would allow her to apply previous studies toward completing a Bachelor of Social Work in just 2 years. Nevertheless, this idea seemed like a “pipe dream” since, in her words, “prices for international students are very, very high,” especially when considering the conversion rate of the South African Rand to the Canadian dollar.

Megan’s dream was about to become a reality in an unexpected way. She shared how her parents had come to visit her and her sister on Christmas Eve. While out for a stroll, they heard music and followed the sounds to discover the source. It was a Salvation Army band playing for a local retirement village. This magical moment prompted Megan’s sister to wonder if The Salvation Army had any universities around the world. In what felt like a providential encounter, they discovered Booth University College in Winnipeg, MB, Canada, and that this school also had the after-degree in Social Work, and “honestly Booth UC had wonderful international student prices.” Megan applied to Booth UC saying, “we felt as a family that it was a door open by God.”

“I did it and it built that foundation for me that this was something I really wanted and something I was willing to work hard to achieve.”

- Megan Vlok

Megan was accepted and started studies in 2021. Unfortunately, because of Covid, she started from South Africa, which meant that many of her classes began at 1:00 AM in the morning her time. She explained, “I did it and it built that foundation for me that this was something I really wanted and something I was willing to work hard to achieve.” In January 2022, Megan arrived in Canada and split her time between living in Winnipeg and High River, AB, where her sister had moved, and from where she was also able to do her practicum placement. During her time at Booth UC, Megan received multiple scholarships, bursaries, and awards that made her studies affordable. She also took a job at Booth UC as a student tutor in the Academic Learning Centre (ALC), which she described as very exciting. She enjoyed walking alongside her peers in this way and seeing their confidence grow.

Megan completed her studies and graduated in April of this year. In Booth UC’s Baccalaureate Service, which takes place a few hours before its Convocation service, Megan was selected to give a reflection on her time at Booth UC. We conclude with her word.

“When I look back, I see how God opened our ears to music that day. I see how he opened door after door for me to get into Canada after having my first study permit denied and during a world pandemic. He gave me energy when I had weekly 3-hour lectures at 1:00 AM in the morning, because I was still in South Africa during my first semester. He gave me extraordinary strength to say goodbye to everyone and everything I knew to come to Canada. He surrounded me with supports and care from Booth UC faculty members who I truly, truly believe wanted to see me get to this point. He provided me with friends that I met in this very building, when I was lonely. When I was worried about finances, he opened Booth scholarship opportunities and provided me with a job at the ALC. And long before I knew I was coming to Canada, God established relationships with friends and family, incredible people, who throughout my time, told me I could when I felt I couldn’t, and who prayed for me and helped me out when I could not do so for myself. I am so grateful to God and to everyone who supported me and my peers in this remarkable rollercoaster of an experience.” 🇨🇦



Toward a Flourishing Future

STRATEGIC PLAN

Booth University College is in a season of transformation. As a community, we have recounted our story, reinforced our mission, reclaimed our calling, reshaped our strategy, and re-envisioned our goals.

MISSIONAL ANCHOR POINTS

Booth UC is Committed to:



Being a Christ-centred, educational community devoted to holistic student, staff, and faculty support, the identity and mission of The Salvation Army, the city of Winnipeg, and beyond.



Producing graduates that embody faith, think deeply and creatively, are global citizens, and work toward justice, reconciliation, and restoration.



Attracting, developing, and investing in faculty and staff who are people-focused, mission-centred, agents of hope and change, and committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion.



Designing, cultivating, and integrating academic courses and programs that align with our identity and mission, have clear articulation pathways, and are constantly striving toward relevancy, innovation, and excellence.

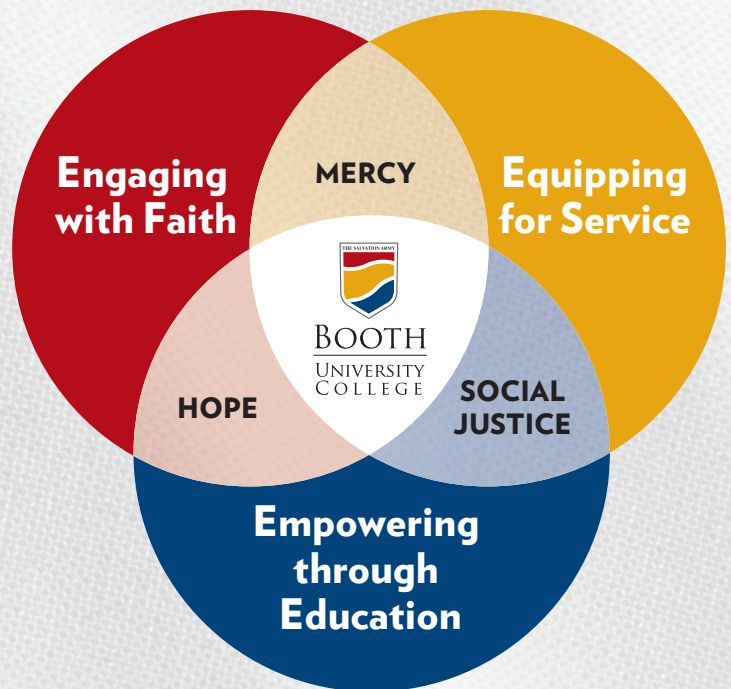


Building strong relationships with like-missioned organizations that help each other better fulfil their missions.



Improving and maintaining organizational effectiveness across all areas (governance, academics, finances, operations, and asset management), while still putting people, identity, and mission first.

THE HEARTBEAT OF BOOTH UC



“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.”



Want to learn more about our plans for the future? Scan this QR code to read our full Strategic Plan

Staff

FACULTY NEWS

Welcome to all our new Staff and Faculty!



Dorcas Atoyebi is our new Administrative and Program Coordinator at Booth University College. She is assisting in the School for Continuing Studies and comes to BoothUC with a Bachelor of Science in International Law and Diplomacy from Babcock University and a Masters in Peacebuilding and Collaborative Development from Canadian Mennonite University. Her last role was at Robertson College where she worked as a Lead Operations Specialist.



Itune John-Eze Itune is our new Administrative Assistant – School of Social Work and School of Business. She comes to Booth with a Bachelor of Science and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Calabar. In addition to working as a Brand Manager with Lafarge Nigeria for the last 3 years she has worked at Mutual Benefit Assurance as an Account Officer.



Luladei Abdi Hassen is our new Field Education Coordinator with the designation of Assistant Professor at Booth University College. She comes to Booth with a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Manitoba, and a Master of Social Work from the University of Manitoba. In addition to working as a Social Worker with IRCOM for the last 5 years she has worked at B & L Resources for Children, Youth and Families and Turning Leaf Community Support Services Inc.



Sunday Olukoju is our new Director of External Relations to Booth University College. Sunday comes to Booth with a Masters in Christian Educational Studies degree from Providence University College & Seminary, a PhD in Public Policy and Administration from Walden University and a PhD in Theology from Matej Bel University, with over 13 years of progressive experience in the academic environment. Prior to his arrival to Booth, Sunday worked as a Director of Distance Education and an Adjunct Faculty at Providence Theological Seminary. In addition, he has had roles as the Director of Academics at LINKS Institute and is an ordained minister under the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada.

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Booth UC's School for Continuing Studies offers more than one way to get your education! Introducing 2 new opportunities.

Personal Support Worker

(Certificate)

This new certificate program from Booth UC's School for Continuing Studies prepares you to provide supportive care for individuals in a variety of settings. As a Personal Support Worker (PSW) you play a vital role in our health-care industry, working in private homes or health-care facilities to help provide patients with care and comfort.

Online courses include:

- Principles of Person-Centred Care
- Person-Centred Activities of Daily Living
- Rehabilitative and Restorative Care
- Mental Health and Dementia Care
- PSWs As Part of an Interprofessional Team

You will also complete a student practicum in the field.

These tailored experiences in diverse healthcare settings are designed to bridge theory and real-world application.

For more information please contact:
scs@boothuc.ca

Email to receive updates regarding the Fall 2024 start.
(first-come, first-served basis.)

Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care

In this 2-year certificate program, you will learn the concepts and skills for effective ministry in chaplaincy and spiritual care in a variety of settings. Courses include both required and elective, and cover such topics as:

- Pastoral Counselling
- Foundations of Chaplaincy
- Spiritual Care in Times of Crisis
- Corrections Chaplaincy
- Long Term Care Chaplaincy

You will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the field through one of our many field placement options.

Graduates of this program have gone on to work in hospitals, long-term care and personal care homes, schools, non-profit organizations, and many others.

Register today for September 2024.
Visit our website www.boothuc.ca/apply/



LEARN MORE



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SCHOOL FOR CONTINUING STUDIES

GRAND OPENING

of our new facility



SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

290 Vaughan St., Winnipeg

RIBBON CUTTING - 12:00PM

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

