



BOOTH UC

CONNECT



FORGING EDUCATIONAL BRIDGES ACROSS CONTINENTS

P. 4



“PRESSING FORWARD” P. 6

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WINTER 2024

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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
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EDUCATION FOR A BETTER WORLD

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President's Message

I recently revisited Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's perspective-altering 2009 TED talk, *The Danger of a Single Story* (If you haven't watched it, I strongly encourage you to do so). It served as a poignant reminder of the limitations inherent in narrow perspectives and the imperative to transcend simplistic generalizations. Adichie's insights underscored the necessity of embracing nuanced narratives to perceive ourselves and others in richer and more respectful ways. Moreover, it underscored the profound influence stories wield. Adichie aptly expressed, "Stories matter. Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign. But stories can also be used to empower and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people. But stories can also repair that broken dignity."

"When we reject the single story, when we realize that there is never a single story about any place, we regain a kind of paradise."

– Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

At Booth University College, we harbor a profound appreciation for the art of storytelling. These narratives serve as the connective tissue binding us together, expanding our communal identity and fostering a broader understanding of who we are. Over our 40-year history, countless individual stories have converged here, blending into a harmonious chorus that defines Booth UC. As an institution, we are steadfastly committed to cultivating a collective (but multifaceted) narrative that authentically embodies empowerment, humanization, and the restoration of dignity for all.

In this edition of *Booth UC Connect*, you will encounter such stories—compelling narratives that encapsulate our shared journey. It is our sincere hope that these stories will not only captivate and motivate you but also provoke contemplation on your own narrative. We aspire for you to align your personal story with Booth UC's overarching mission of Education for a Better World and to actively engage in sharing this transformative vision with others.

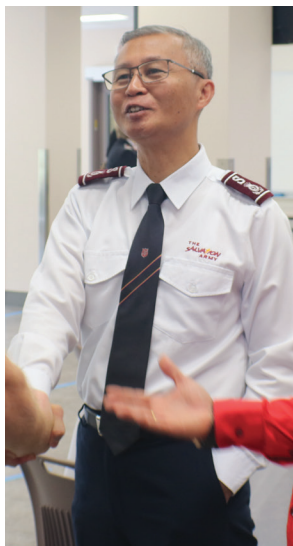
Rev. (Dr.) Rob A. Fringer,
President and Vice Chancellor



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From left to right: Rhonda Friesen, Dean of Students; Dr. Linda Schwartz, VP Academic and Dean; (on screen) Rev. (Dr.) Rob Fringer, President; Mr. Royke Lepa; Vice-Mayor Mr. Samuel Pongji; Commissioner Yusak Tampai; Dr. Mariciel Nuyda, Dean, School for Continuing Studies



Forging Educational Bridges Across Continents

Booth UC and Palu Theological Seminary form an Exciting New Partnership

Canada and Indonesia. They might not be the first pair of countries that come to mind when one thinks about educational collaborations. However, a new partnership between Booth UC and Palu Theological Seminary (PTS) is about to prove that even the most unexpected connections can lead to the most exciting learning opportunities.

A Natural Fit

Indonesia, the largest archipelago in the world, consists of about 18,000 islands of which about 6,000 are inhabited. The country is divided into provinces which are made up of cities and regencies.

It is in the heart of the Sigi Regency, where one can find Palu Theological Seminary, a Salvation Army institution. While the country is primarily Muslim, “there is a very large Salvation Army presence in that particular Regency,” explains Dr. Rob Fringer, President of Booth UC. “So when we were approached about a partnership, since they are a Salvation Army school and we are a Salvation Army school, it seemed like a natural fit.”

It was, in fact, a father/son connection that sparked the idea of a partnership. Commissioner Yusak Tampai, Territorial Commander of The Salvation Army in Indonesia, made the initial approach to Territorial Headquarters in Toronto. “And, really, it all came

about because Commissioner Tampai’s son Josh, was a business administration student and graduate of Booth UC,” states Fringer. Josh graduated in 2021 and was the recipient of The Chancellor’s Medal. He currently works as the Operations Manager for The Salvation Army Pine Lake Camp in Alberta.

Another important component to the Booth UC/PTS partnership’s foundation is the fact that the Indonesian government has been very invested in providing educational opportunities for its young citizens. They have sponsored many students, particularly lower income students, to take part in a variety of programs, including studying abroad. “The government was already sponsoring a group of students to attend PTS,” continues Fringer. “And because that connection was going really well, they wanted to look at sending some of those students to study abroad. And that’s where Booth UC comes in!”

From the Sigi Regency to Winnipeg

To further explore the potential partnership, a delegation from Indonesia recently visited Booth UC. It included Commissioner Tampai, Vice-Mayor of the Sigi Regency, Mr. Samuel Pongi, and Director of Palu Theological College, Mr. Royke Lepa. Over the 4-day visit, the delegates were introduced to Booth UC's campus, programs, and student supports, toured a number of TSA ministries in Winnipeg, and discussed outcomes that aligned with both the Indonesian government and PTS.

The initial goal is to send 3-5 PTS students to Booth UC to complete a term of full-time studies. "The idea is to give them a broad experience, beyond just theological studies," explains Fringer. "It's about capacity building, skill development, and broadening perspectives."


"All members of the delegation talked about how they would like the students to learn from their experience inside and outside the classroom," affirms Dr. Mariciel Nuyda, Dean of the School for Continuing Studies. "The study period in Canada gives them the opportunity to bring home an enriched experience of studying abroad and contextualizes the learning. They would see their role in relation to their community and work towards building a transformed and empowered community," she concludes.

"Having different cultures together in a classroom gives a larger perspective. It helps make us global citizens. It allows us to have more grace with each other, as we learn and grow culturally and academically."

- Rev. (Dr.) Rob A. Fringer

Making it Official

At the end of the visit (which also included a visit with Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham), a Memorandum of Understanding was drafted and signed between PTS and Booth UC. "It was eye opening to see and observe the vast range of programs provided by Booth UC, and how rich the resources are there," says Commissioner Tampai. "It is our hope that the partnership between the colleges will flourish with the development of our young people." Next steps include choosing the students, ensuring they have the supports in place for studying in Canada, and welcoming them to Booth UC in 2024!

"This partnership truly embodies our commitment to Education for a Better World," concludes Fringer. "Having different cultures together in a classroom gives a larger perspective. It helps make us global citizens. It allows us to have more grace with each other, as we learn and grow culturally and academically." 



Colonel Brian Armstrong,
Prairie Divisional Commander



Vice-Mayor Mr. Samuel Pongi
meeting Winnipeg's Mayor
Mr. Scott Gillingham



With the Executive Director of the Centre of Hope (second from right),
Mark Stewart



2024
THE SALVATION ARMY BOOTH UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
**SPRING CONVOCATION AND
CONFERRING OF DEGREES**
& Installation of the President and
Vice President Academic and Dean

Sunday, April 28, 2024 10:00 am Hetherington Chapel, 447 Webb Pl., Winnipeg, MB	Sunday, April 28, 2024 3:00 pm Knox United Church 400 Edmonton St., Winnipeg, MB
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“Pressing Forward...”

By Rhonda Friesen, Dean of Students

As the fall term comes to a close with remarkable speed, we are looking forward to a new year, with new adventures on the horizon, and with a common sense of purpose to promote Education for a Better World, wherever we are

Fall 2023 at Booth University College has been a whirlwind of students returning to campus, faculty and staff gathering once again in the Booth Bistro, virtual and on-campus events, and the hum of conversation wherever you go. We have once again been gathering in the Hetherington Chapel to sing and to encourage each other, and to remind ourselves of the call of Jesus on our lives. We are ‘pressing on’ and ‘pressing into’ the life that God has for us, both as individuals and as a Booth UC community.

September saw the arrival of new students participating in Booth UC Orientation, a new Student Council full of energy and enthusiasm, and new staff in the Student Services department. Cheryl Melbourne has become the familiar face greeting people as they come to campus, responding to inquiries, and helping with student events and services. Talitha Kaethler has been giving leadership to the tutors and programs of the Academic Learning Centre, as well as beginning to coordinate the Accessibility Services program. Matt Peters continues to make sure the Booth UC residence is having an amazing year leading up to the move to our new facility at 290 Vaughan Street.

The changes coming with our facility move has us dreaming of new ways to build our community in the future through partnerships, creative programming, and engagement with students in different neighborhoods, cities, provinces, and countries. We are pressing on... past our present boundaries... to explore and grow the vision of Booth UC in new ways. We are excited about the ways that our students are stepping into leadership and bringing a fresh outlook to the Booth UC learning experience.

And still, here at Booth UC this fall, we continue to celebrate our unique community. Student Council has encouraged us to learn about Indigenous culture and perspectives through a traditional beading workshop in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Holiday festivities have included a Thanksgiving Chapel, Halloween contests, and a Christmas Banquet. We have come together to learn about the perspectives of people living with disabilities during our Disability Dialogue Week and we have encouraged our community to live with respect during our Preventing Sexual Violence Awareness Week. Together, we have reflected and debated, we have laughed and been quiet, we have encouraged and have been encouraged as we grow together in community. 🇨🇦

A portrait of Mishel Grizina, a young woman with long brown hair, smiling. She is wearing an orange t-shirt and a white and blue patterned cardigan. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and fallen leaves.

Meet Mishel Grizina

2023/24 Student Council President

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I was born in Israel. I come from a Jewish family, and we immigrated to Winnipeg when I was three and a half years old, so I've spent most of my life here. But I still have a lot of family members in Israel.

After finishing high school I went straight into the U of W and took a three-year criminal justice degree. But halfway through, I started to realize that there wasn't a lot of focus on social work. I felt like it should have been brought up more, especially because it does play a big role within those systems. So I started to do my own research and realized that social work is actually what I'm passionate about and what I want to do. I decided, I'll finish this degree and then start pursuing social work.

Why did you decide to come to Booth UC?

I applied to Booth UC because a friend told me about it and the program. I thought it would be a really good fit for me in terms of class sizes. You can make those close connections with teachers and fellow students. It's more a community rather than university. It's like a family. Everyone knows each other and that's what I wanted.

“At Booth UC you can make those close connections with teachers and fellow students. It's more of a community rather than a University.”

- Mishel Grizina

I'm now in my final year of the after-degree social work program and I love it. It's very hands-on. I feel like Booth UC allows students to really get a sense of what community work is and how important it is and how we can work towards improving our systems. One of my professors says, 'You can say all these things but once you take action, that's how the work begins to happen.' Booth UC allows us to do that.

As the 2023/24 Student Council President. What would you like to accomplish?

I'm the kind of person who, if I want to do something positive or make a change, I try to put myself in a position to be able to do it. So that's why I decided to run. My goal is really to listen to students, to hear people and take action towards different concerns. My first university experience was during COVID. I spent most of my degree online. At first it was okay, but it did give me a bit of social anxiety. Now that we're back in person, I want to give people that university experience that I wasn't able to have. I want to plan events and host activities and make university fun!

Council is brainstorming different things and asking students what events they might be interested in, things like a beading workshop during Truth & Reconciliation Week, Halloween events, the Winter Banquet. We're all really trying to put all of our ideas together and make it inclusive and have a good time. This is my last year of university and I want to graduate with a bang!

What do you hope to do after Booth UC?

I'm graduating in April, 2024 and I'm kind of open to everything right now. I definitely want to find a position in social work and I am figuring out my options. I'm talking to other students about their placements just so I can learn about different opportunities in the field. I do also want to travel. I've been in school for six years and I finally might have time to do some traveling! Then I may try to go back to school and get my master's, and then go from there.

I just try to take things day-by-day. Every day is a blessing. I get to wake up and go to school. I get to study and go to practicum, and see family and friends. It's all a blessing.

What would you say to someone who was thinking of becoming a student at Booth UC?

Be open minded. Be open to trying new things. Don't be afraid to make mistakes! It's how we learn. 🇨🇦



In His Own Words

Captain Samuel Tim (BA/20, CCSC/23)

Officer, student, and now full-time Chaplain, Captain Tim's love of learning and helping others extends to all facets of his busy life. We asked him to share some of his personal experiences with Booth UC and beyond.

My first introduction to Booth UC was during my time as a Cadet in The Salvation Army Officer Training College. We were blessed to take some of our courses at Booth UC. After I became an Officer, I decided to continue my studies and I took advantage of the School for Continuing Studies to obtain a Bachelor of Arts (General) with a major in Biblical and Theological Studies (2020).

In 2021, I was asked to take on the role of a Chaplain with The Salvation Army as an additional responsibility. Though this only required about fifteen percent of my time, I decided to enroll in the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care program offered by Booth UC. Having talked with other Chaplains, they all recommended the program. Many of them described it as being "heavy, but very good." I have to be honest – they were pretty much bang on in their assessment, both in terms of the program being heavy, but also

exceptionally helpful. After two years of intense studies, I obtained my certificate in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care in April 2023.

Now, I am a full-time chaplain at the Winnipeg Centre of Hope. I feel like I have all the tools I need to journey with people and come alongside them in whatever capacity they need. The various courses required for the Chaplaincy Certificate have been extremely helpful – both personally and professionally.

The importance and power of listening was drilled into us again and again throughout the two years of the program. Lieutenant Colonel Susan van Duinen reminded us of the 80/20 ratio, where the chaplain should only talk 20 percent of the time while listening 80 percent of the time. I consider it a job well done when a client says to me after our meeting, "thank you for listening." More importantly, I think that I have become a better listener at work and at home (but I will let my wife speak to my success on the homefront!) Through the Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care program, I was reminded of the value of simply being present with someone and giving them my undivided attention as they pour out their soul.

One of my favourite memories of being a student was doing a group project online with my fellow students. As we were spread out all over Canada and even all the way to England, finding a time to meet that worked for everyone presented a unique challenge. However, it also provided me with the opportunity to get a glimpse of what life is like as a mature student juggling studies and a full-time job. I was extremely appreciative of how our instructors were so accommodating and understanding.

Booth University College, to me, is not just an educational institution. It is a community. Regardless of whether you are a current or former student, if you need assistance, all you have to do is reach out to someone, and you better believe they will be willing to help you out. I would highly recommend Booth UC to anyone who is interested in getting an Education for a Better World. 🇨🇦



What's Happening at the Winnipeg Centre of Hope?

The Winnipeg Centre of Hope provides emergency shelter and transitional housing for men, women, families and refugees, as well as mental health supportive housing for men. At any given time, 390+ individuals can be at the Centre seeking shelter and assistance. These needs can range from physical and mental, to emotional and spiritual. With cold temperatures fast approaching, the number of people seeking shelter increases, as many individuals camp outside during the warmer months.



Each of these people come with a story. Members of the chaplaincy team come alongside them and seek to support them no matter where they are along their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual journey.

The issues and concerns facing participants can range from trying to process the devastating news about a loved one's death, working through the refugee claimant process, looking for affordable housing, struggling with mental illness and addictions, etc.

In addition to the many persons seeking assistance, the Centre employs over 80 individuals. Each of these staff members also come with a story. Whether they need support for something related to their employment - such as processing a traumatic event that occurred at the Centre - or something more personal, like a family breakdown or illness, the Chaplains are there to provide a listening and compassionate ear.

Often when introducing themselves to a new participant, the Chaplains can hear comments like "Oh, I don't go to church," or "I'm not very religious." Rather than this being a roadblock, we can then say, "I am here to come alongside you and support you and help you connect with the Divine. Everyone is spiritual. Some connect through nature; others through music." Many individuals, when they hear the simple offer of connection and support, welcome the opportunity to chat with the Chaplain.

Besides one-on-one meetings, the Chaplaincy team at the Centre has worked to find creative ways to provide opportunities for connection. One such venture called 'Hope Café', occurs on

Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in the sanctuary. The purpose of Hope Café is to provide participants and staff members a safe space to gather, interact, and connect with each other and the Chaplaincy team. Everyone enjoys some tasty treats and warm coffee while listening to uplifting and energetic worship songs and hymns.

“Many individuals, when they hear the simple offer of connection and support, welcome the opportunity to chat with a Chaplain.”

- Cpt. Sam Tim

A new program that was launched a few weeks ago is 'Hope Choir'. Like Hope Café, Hope Choir provides participants and staff members the opportunity to gather together and connect - this time with the focus being on music. Currently, the choir is working on learning some songs for Christmas - so stay tuned. You might see Hope Choir on the next installment on 'Canada's Got Talent'!

In the end, whether it be through Hope Café, one-on-one meetings, 'aimless' wanderings through the hallways of the Centre; whether the conversation lasts 30 seconds or 30 minutes, members of the Chaplaincy team seek to demonstrate in a tangible way the love of Jesus and the hope that can be found in Him. 🇨🇦



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EDUCATION FOR A BETTER WORLD

Booth University College announced on October 11, 2023 that it is relocating its full operations to 290 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg, MB. The move will enable Booth UC to maintain and elevate the high standards of education for which the institution is renowned.

“There is great anticipation around the purchase of 290 Vaughan Street and the opportunities afforded us by this move,” says Booth UC President Rev. Dr. Rob Fringer.

290 Vaughan Street, a beautiful heritage listed structure, was first purchased by Booth University College at the end of 2002, and then sold to The Salvation Army College for Officer Training in 2006. Since that time, Booth UC has continued to rent space in the building for the John Fairbank Memorial Library and Petersen Hall. Now, it will purchase the building back and will relocate from 447 Webb Place in 2024.

The building has a long history in Winnipeg. Built in 1917 with a third floor added in 1927; it was originally owned by Public Press Limited, a subsidiary company of the Grain Growers’ Grain Company, and was known as the Public Press Building. It later became the Robinson Building.

“This space will facilitate innovation in learning and teaching across multiple platforms and modalities” notes Dr. Linda Schwartz, Booth UC Vice President Academic & Dean, “and foster learning engagement within a purposeful, relevant and rich environmental hub of learning communities—from undergraduate scholars to learning professionals—here in Winnipeg’s core, across Canada and beyond.”

Booth UC will continue to occupy 447 Webb Place until the end of June 2024, while renovations are carried out at the new location. 290 Vaughan will officially be named the Waldron Building in honour of the late Commissioners John and Helen Waldron, who played a critical role in the establishment of Booth UC. Hetherington Chapel will also be relocating, which is named in honour of Major Clifford Hetherington.

The largest renovation to the new Waldron Building will be the creation of a bistro in the basement. “We want to create an inviting, casual space where people feel accepted, comfortable, and safe,” states Angie Coe, Booth UC Hospitality Manager. “This establishment will be open to the public and will give those in the downtown area another affordable and inviting dining option.”

Dr. Fringer concludes, “Booth UC’s move to the new Waldron Building will help us to better serve the community and meet our aim of Education for a Better World. Our commitment to Winnipeg and to education is unwavering, and we look forward to many more years of service to both.” 

Booth University College is a private, Christian institution of higher education, located in the heart of Winnipeg, Manitoba, with roots in The Salvation Army. We offer personalized and interactive liberal arts degree programs and continuing education, both in-person and virtually, in Social Work, Business, Humanities, Social Sciences, and more.





By Andrew M. Eason, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Religion

The Centre for Salvation Army Studies: Nurturing Research Around the Globe

In 2009—shortly after my arrival at Booth UC as an assistant professor of religion—the college’s president at the time, Dr. Donald Burke, created the Centre for Salvation Army Studies and appointed me to run it. I must confess that I was initially reluctant to accept this role, given that I was only beginning my academic career. My time was already at a premium, so I wondered if I could handle this additional responsibility. Don’s vision, however, quickly won me over. One of his goals in establishing the Centre was to promote the production and dissemination of high-quality research on the organization. As an historian of The Salvation Army, I knew that I could not say no to such a worthy endeavour.

One of the ways that the Centre for Salvation Army Studies seeks to fulfil its mission is by organizing and sponsoring a “Salvation Army Scholars and Friends” session at the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meetings—the world’s largest gathering of Religion scholars. While this session was first held in Chicago in 2012 under the auspices of Major (Dr.) Dean Smith, an Australian Salvationist theologian, the Centre for Salvation Army Studies began to assume sole responsibility for this event in 2015. Since that time, our “Salvation Army Scholars and Friends” session has provided a venue for dozens of emerging and established scholars from Canada, the United States, England, Hong Kong, and Australia to present papers on the art, ethics, history, ministry, music, sociology, and theology of the Salvation Army. Some of this research has gone on to be published in academic journals, including *The Australasian Journal of Salvation Army History*, *Methodist History*, and *Word & Deed: A Journal of Salvation Army Theology & Ministry*.

Notwithstanding a hiatus during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the “Salvation Army Scholars and Friends” session continues to be an important expression of the Centre’s mandate. This past November, our event in San Antonio, Texas brought together academics from McGill University, Nazarene Theological College (Manchester), Wesley Biblical Seminary, and, of course, Booth University College. Chaired by Booth UC’s Dr. Isaiah Allen,



Three of the presenters from left to right: Dr. Andrew Eason, Erica Bowler, and Dr. Andy Miller III; along with the chair, Dr. Isaiah Allen.

presentations were made on William Booth’s theology and on different aspects of the Salvation Army’s history in Britain, France, and India. Plans are now underway for the next “Salvation Army Scholars and Friends” session in San Diego, California in late November 2024. If you happen to be in the area during this time, you are more than welcome to join us. Stay tuned for further details! 🇨🇦

CANADIAN
PREMIERE!

THE WALK FROM THE GARDEN

Opera by Jonathan Dove | Libretto by Alasdair Middleton

St. John’s Anglican Cathedral | 135 Anderson Avenue

March 22, 2024 at 7:30 PM | March 23, 2024 at 7:30 PM | March 24, 2024 at 2:30 PM



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2022/23

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.

2022/23 fiscal year Board of Trustees

- Chair:** Lt. Col. John Murray – until September 2022
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- Member:** Dr. Ellen Melis
- Member:** Lt. Col. Anne-Florence Tursi
- Member:** Dr. Evan Curtis – effective June 2023

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES AWARDED

\$177,447.00

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.



Dear Booth UC Community,

As I look back on this past year, Hebrews 10:23-24 comes to mind:

“Let’s hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable. And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds.” (CEB)



Our hope is centred in the faithfulness of God, and it is this unwavering hope that enables us to look beyond ourselves and consider the other—to truly see the other, to encourage them, to serve them, to love them.

Over this past year, you have helped us to fulfill our mission of bringing together Christian faith, rigorous scholarship, and a passion for service in the lives of our students and beyond. You did this through your financial support, through your prayers, through your participation, and through your promotion of Booth UC. Together as the Body of Christ, we are each using the gifts God has given us to advance the Kingdom (Romans 12:5-8). Booth UC’s aim of “Education for a Better World” is rooted in Christ, in community, and in our calling.

Through your support, you have evidenced the same commitment. Your passion is our passion and in communion together, we continue to forge our mission. On behalf of the students who have benefited from your generosity, we want to say a heartfelt thank you.

To God be the glory!

Rev. (Dr) Rob A. Fringer

President: Booth University College



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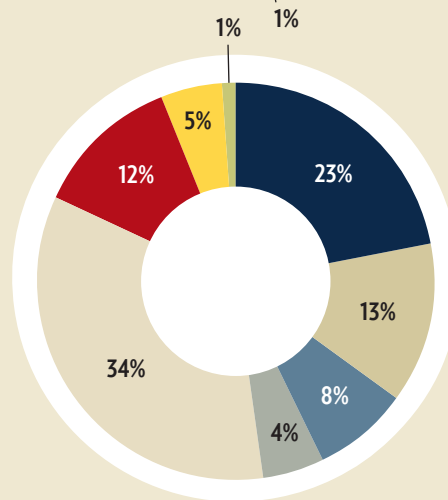
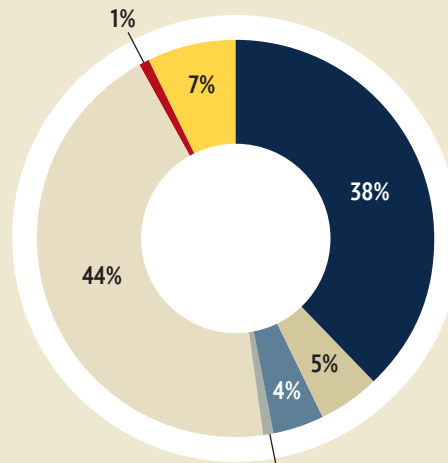
OPERATING FUND ACTIVITIES

REVENUE:

● Tuition/Fee	\$ 2,166,335.00
● Auxiliary Enterprises	286,274.00
● Room & Board	256,683.00
● Donations & Private Gifts	73,192.00
● Allocation from other Salvation Army Entities	2,520,000.00
● Interest on Funds and other Grants from THQ	57,268.00
● Province of Manitoba Grant	393,600.00
Total Revenue	\$ 5,753,352.00

EXPENSES:

● Instruction	\$ 1,297,143.00
● Academic Support	730,840.00
● School for Continuing Studies	438,192.00
● Student Development	259,830.00
● Institution Support	1,963,157.00
● Operations & Maintenance	714,896.00
● Hospitality Services	288,091.00
● Loss on Investments	62,746.00
Total Expenses	\$ 5,754,895.00



Deficiency of revenue over expenses
-1,543.00

Net Transfer to Restricted Funds
-273,731.00

Reduction in Restricted Funds
-275,274.00

Auditing Firm: KPMG

Full audited Financial Statements are available from Booth UC Management

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, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

(Listed in alphabetical order.)

- Emmanuel and Nkeiru Abara
- Yinka Akinola and Bosede Onaopemiposi Idowu
- Isaiah Allen
- Robert and Mary Allen
- Stanley and Ruby Anthony
- Jeff and Graciela Arkell
- Oladapo E. Ayeni
- Debra Beaupre
- Sharon Berry
- Joanne Biggs
- Gail Blake
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- Len and Laura Williams
- Stephanie Yamniuk
- Denise and Mark Young
- Linda Zimmerman
- Anonymous - 3

BE VOCAL

BE VISIBLE



Moral Courage for Mobilizing Justice

A Presentation by Assistant Professor of Social Work, Jennifer Meixner

“As leaders, mentors, advocates and allies, we have a responsibility to have critical conversations in our circles of influence and take actions for mobilizing justice. This means in our personal lives as community members, and in our roles working with students and especially young people.”

– Jennifer Meixner

On October 11, 2023, Booth UC held our annual Counsellors’ Breakfast. It is an event that brings together High School Guidance Counsellors and others working in secondary education, to introduce and share about all things Booth UC. This year our keynote speaker was Assistant Professor, Jennifer Meixner. Her presentation was so informative and timely, that we wanted to share it with you, our Connect readers.

When I was preparing for this talk, I knew I wanted to share about a topic inspired by some of the work I do in the community, work that is also inspired by students here at Booth UC. What I love about our students is that they ask critical questions. They practice reflexivity, they learn about and challenge themselves, and us, to be the best, whole, versions of ourselves personally and professionally.

“My heart work today is that of mobilizing justice. One of the goals is to bridge the gap between acknowledgment, good intentions, actions, and change.”

– Jennifer Meixner

Our Mission at Booth UC is grounded in values of hope, social justice, and mercy. I understand the important responsibility I have as an educator, mentor, ally, and researcher, in promoting these values with our students and in the work I do in the community.

I am a registered social worker. Prior to moving into academia, I worked in direct service delivery for 15 years, primarily in the provincial justice system and then at the Manitoba Advocate’s Office.

When I entered the field, I was working on a Bachelor of Arts degree and employed in the Manitoba Justice system. After graduating I came to Booth UC in the after-degree social work program which allowed me to continue working and studying.

Studying social work provided me with a critical framework and practical skills to not only carry out my basic work duties, but to think about the work itself. With a combination of lived experience, and professional skills and experience, it became apparent/or reaffirmed to me that the “systems” do not work the way one would hope they would, and in fact they are sometimes harmful.

My heart work today, is that of mobilizing justice. For me, this means a commitment to utilizing my circles of influence. One of the goals is to bridge the gap between acknowledgement, good intentions, actions, and change. Circles of influence are the people you sit at the dinner table with, the friends and family you see on the weekend, your co-workers, your volunteer experience, sports teams, students, and so on.

As I mentioned before, when I was working within systems, myself and other co-workers often found ourselves conflicted between our personal morals, and our guiding policies and legislation. It kind of felt like we were on two different paths. A common example I hear in my work today is related to this era of reconciliation we’re in concerning Canadians and Indigenous Peoples; many of us find ourselves farther ahead in our personal journeys of reconciliation, than the systems we work within.

We see persisting problems - the ‘injustices’ if you will, in this void between good intentions and implementation for change. Moral Courage is a critical ingredient to addressing that gap.

Moral Courage exists across many disciplines and experiences, but social work is part of my positionality so I'm going to share a few lessons on moral courage from Cindy Blackstock, a Social Worker, leader, and advocate:

- Moral Courage is needed to blow the whistle on longstanding rights violations perpetrated by powerful institutions and individuals...when pressing for better services for clients requires rocking the boat with colleagues or the employer.
- On a personal level, we may be having conversations about morals and ethics for justice, but it takes courage to give 'public voice' to courageous stances.
- The degree of moral courage required, increases as the risks become more personal and intense.
- Standing up can be misguided if based on self-interest, ambition, unresolved personal issues, and weak research.
- Moral Courage is not a value on its own, rather an activating agent of values.
- Moral Courage requires individuals to understand their own moral values. Consider the cost of doing nothing.
- Moral Courage must be informed by good evidence, policy results and meaningful consultation with those involved. 🏆



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By Kim Kakegamic, Communications Specialist

Family Ties

With a passion for seniors and elder care, Booth UC student Rachel Peters, has been determined to benefit the system since she was a young girl visiting both her great-Grandmothers in two very different nursing homes.

One of the more heart-wrenching aspects of the pandemic, was the impact on seniors in residential care homes and the gaps and neglect exposed in Canadian elder care. “Those issues were always there,” states social work student Rachel Peters. “They were the same issues I saw when I was 9 and 10 years old visiting my great-Grandma in her care home. Understaffing, people being neglected, the pandemic just made it more visible for a while.” Rachel, a first-year student with a passion for senior care, hopes to benefit and ultimately change the system.

A recent high-school graduate, Rachel grew up in the Garden City area of Winnipeg. It was her relationship with her great-grandparents that piqued her interest towards senior care and social work. “When I was little, my great-Oma was in a care home a few streets away. I often went and visited her. She had Alzheimer’s but she had a really good social worker at the care home. She was taken care of so well and had all the things she needed.”

When Rachel’s other great-Grandma started to develop Alzheimer’s, she had a social worker who wasn’t as involved and her great-Grandma got placed in a care home that wasn’t as good a fit for her needs. “So I saw a vast range of facilities, and how they are run. And the social workers that the residents work with can make a huge impact on how they are taken care of,” she explains.

That desire to help seniors led Rachel to volunteer at the very care home where her great-Oma lived. Her final year of high school saw her and her classmates “adopt” the seniors in the home and gift them with Christmas presents. Now, she is at Booth UC studying to be a social worker in order to “benefit the [elder care] system.”



2023/24 Student Council

Rachel first heard about Booth UC through a co-worker. In high school, she interned at a social work agency and learned through the staff there, “how good the social work program at Booth UC is.” That’s initially what prompted her to explore Booth UC. “Then, I kept hearing about so many positives like small classes and how that creates more connections with professors, which is something I wanted. Coming from a small school, if I had gone to a bigger university, I don’t know if I would have done as well.”

“Being in a Christian community is very beneficial for me. I feel like a lot of the school’s values are based on The Salvation Army’s values and I really appreciate that.”

- Rachel Peters



Another big positive for Rachel was being awarded the President’s Entrance Scholarship. The scholarship offers a full year’s tuition, and is awarded to an incoming high school student who demonstrates academic excellence and portrays consistent and outstanding dedication to Education for a Better World. “Winning the scholarship was amazing!” states Rachel. University is a big expense, and while she had been working to save up money, “I didn’t quite have enough to pay for everything I needed. So the scholarship affected my life in many positive ways. It has allowed me to spend less time focused on finances and more time focused on my studies, and being a part of the school community.”

One of the ways Rachel is involved in the Booth UC community is on the Student Council where she serves as first-year representative. It’s a role she is somewhat familiar with, as she was a member of her middle school’s student council and has always enjoyed participating in student leadership. “Getting to have a bit more say in what’s going on, and being able to voice my opinion, and my classmates’, that’s important and it’s been a lot of fun so far.”

When asked about other things she appreciates about Booth UC, Rachel reflects on the diversity and variety of life experiences found within the social work department. In her Intro to Social Work class, there are students with 10 years’ experience working as Case Aids who now want to upgrade with a social work degree and license. There are others who have no social work experience at all. And then there are some like her who fall somewhere in the middle. “It makes our class conversations more valuable because there is such a wide range of experiences. We’ll hear from people who are working in child welfare for example, about what’s new or happening in the sector right now.”

Beyond social work, Rachel also particularly enjoys the Christian environment at Booth UC, “Being in a Christian community is very beneficial for me. I feel like a lot of the school’s values are based on The Salvation Army’s values and I really appreciate that.” She also enjoys her religion class and has found it a place to “talk about



“I saw a vast range of [seniors’] facilities, and how they are run. And the social workers that the residents work with can make a huge impact on how they are taken care of.”

- Rachel Peters

different perspectives and dive deep into my faith.” She notes the engaging environment Dr. Andrew Eason creates in the online classes. “He does a really good job with classroom interaction. He provides videos of the lectures that we watch before class, and then we come and talk about them together.”

As a first-year student, Rachel cannot wait to connect more with her peers, dive further into the social work program, and begin the hands-on learning aspect through placements in the field. And with her heart firmly set on changing the elder care system, a desire that began all those years ago while visiting her great-Grandmothers, the future is definitely in good hands.



Shelter U

Aaron Klassen, Assistant
Professor of Sociology

A pilot exercise in collaborative, educational self-transformation

ES: Why do you think people are poor?

VW: You got to begin with the children. You've got to teach the moral life of downtown to the children. And the way you do that, Earl, is by taking them downtown to plays, museums, concerts, lectures, where they can learn the moral life of downtown.

“I smiled at her, misunderstanding, thinking I was indulging her. “And then they won’t be poor anymore.”

She read every nuance of my response, and answered angrily, “And they won’t be poor no more.”

“What you mean is...”

What I mean is what I said, a moral alternative to the street.”
(Shorris 2000: 97).

In the above passage, the sociologist, Earl Shorris, recounts a formative exchange with Viniece “Niecie” Walker, an inmate he interviewed in the mid-1990s at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, the maximum-security prison and intake and processing center about fifty miles north of New York City. In it lie the seeds of a program strategy that works to transform poverty and its traumatic experiences using the humanities and the collaborative way in which students and teachers can work through its content together. To Shorris, Walker’s point about a moral alternative represents a distinctly humanizing self-awareness in which one comes to realize their equal footing with fellow citizens in a modern participatory democracy through university level education. More than that, students reflect on their learning in relation to their own biographies or experiential learning so as to maximize their potential for self-transformation. Considering the ways in which people often feel squashed under the forces of modern life, including its fast-paced specialized economies, precarious supply-chain networks increasingly interrupted by changes in climate patterns, and rising costs of living, not to mention challenges having to do with discrimination and stigma, addictions, and limited mental health supports, it is no wonder many of us feel fragmented, run down, and burned out. Self-awareness in the oppressive conditions of this context can be particularly transformative.

Since the 1990s, Shorris’ Clemente course in the Humanities or Radical Humanities program has come to provide exactly that alternative to the streets. It is a program whose graduands often leave behind impoverished, unhoused backgrounds, through the discovery of life-long learning, with many going on to pursue degrees and vocational training. It responds to Niecie’s invitation by offering free university level education to non-traditional adult learners. Program variants are offered in prisons or with veterans,

the forcibly displaced and houseless. It is now found in universities, community centers and shelters around the world, as in Berlin and Budapest, where it has been found to mitigate recent challenges associated with poverty and forced migration due to the collapse in the Soviet Union, conflicts in Ukraine and climate change the Middle East. Here in Canada, in cities like Vancouver and Ottawa, it has provided transformative educational experiences for its student-clients experiencing houselessness. And here in Winnipeg, Booth University College is set to pilot its own version, Shelter U, in partnership with the Salvation Army, Winnipeg Centre of Hope (WCOH).

Shelter U stands to bridge a major growing gap between agencies and institutions, the street and a major means of escape via the classroom. This gap has to do with siloing. For the university, it has come about as its disciplines increasingly specialize in academic pursuits. For the emergency shelter, despite obvious strengths, siloing has come about due to strictly practical programming. As post-industrial economies grow increasingly specialized, the gap is anticipated only to grow in coming years. Shelter U will bridge this gap by leveraging the creative outlook and practices of the humanities, including de-colonized courses in political philosophy, literature and film, art and music history, critical thinking and writing, and others, that will be designed and taught by local and visiting scholars in the shelter space. Here, the classroom becomes a sheltered place where the oppressive forces of the street are interrupted with reflective, problem-posing exercises in collaboration with teachers who are as much students, as the students are teachers, giving voice to their otherwise silenced biographies. As opposed to an empty-vessel approach, self-awareness becomes the goal and practice from which social change follows.

Those who complete full 3-credit courses or modules therein will receive recognition from Booth UC and participating institutions for their efforts. Those who discover a desire for further learning will be provided letters of support pursuant to those goals, whether that is at Booth UC or elsewhere.

Shelter U will proceed in fall 2024 as a pilot, with instructors, students, and funding, coming from a variety of internal and external sources. Dr. Aaron Klassen, who teaches at Booth UC in the department of Behavioural Sciences and directs the Community and Urban Transformation (CUT) program there, will direct the pilot. 🏡

Staff & FACULTY NEWS

Welcome to all our new Staff and Faculty!



Cheryl Melbourne is our new Student Services Assistant and Receptionist, and is the friendly face who greets those that walk through our front door. Prior to arriving at Booth UC, she worked at Winnipeg Regional Health Authority as a Senior Administrative Secretary.

Fun fact about Cheryl: She was a CBBC student when we were located on Assiniboine Ave.



Talitha Kaethler comes to Booth UC with over 10 years of experience in the K-12 school system and has a bachelor degree in education from the University of Manitoba, and English literature from CMU.

In her free time, Talitha loves "good food, running, playing the recorder rather poorly, and singing in St. Margaret's Anglican Church choirs."



Erin Toews is our new Library Technician - Circulars and Serials, at the John Fairbank Memorial Library. Prior to joining Booth UC, Erin worked for the Winnipeg Public Library in shelving, circulation, and reference positions.

Fun facts about Erin: She loves cats, Star Wars, and singing.



Arvie Farin is the newest member of the Booth Bistro team. He is a graduate of the Red River College Culinary Arts program, and has over 8 years' experience as a Cook, including work at the Lewis Kitchen, Smith Restaurant – Inn at the Forks and Canad Inns. His most recent role was with Chrissea's Restaurant & Catering.



Jeff Peitsch Jeff is the new Vice President Administration for Booth University College. Jeff is a firm advocate of servant leadership, embracing the responsibility to support and uplift those in his community. He is particularly excited about the multifaceted nature of this role, encompassing fiscal planning, strategic implementation, risk management, and fostering collaborative relationships with all stakeholders.



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Meet Kailey.

**Studied Religion
at Booth UC**

**Graduated with
a BA in 2020**

**Pursued Further
Studies in Education**

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