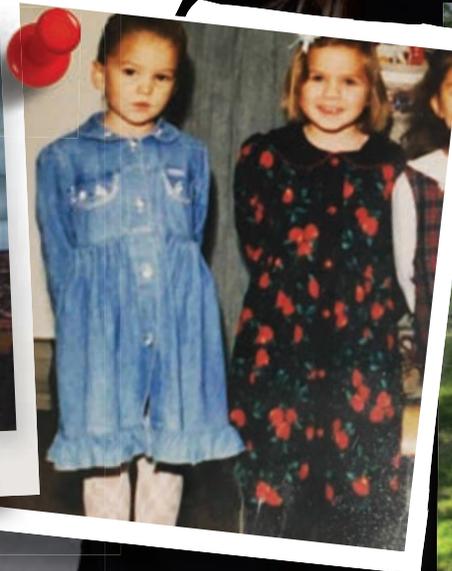
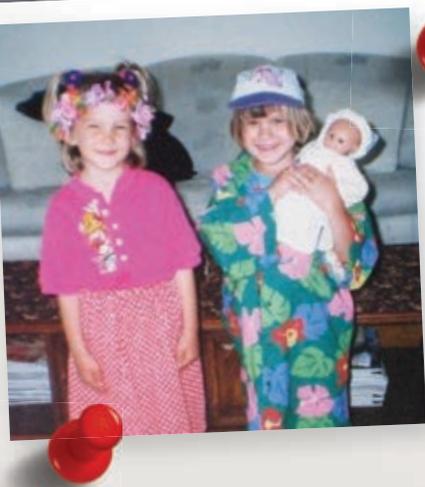




# Lifelong Friends



From kindergarten through university,  
two friends found themselves side by side.  
Booth University College was their final  
educational step together

Many of us venture into our university years alone and wait for friendship to find us.

For two Booth UC alumnae, Britta Grundmann (BSW/18) and Elan Mueller (BSW/18), friendship was already checked off the to-do list.

Britta and Elan met as youngsters living in the same neighbourhood and attending the same preschool. After many years of schooling and graduating high school together, Britta began studies at the University of Winnipeg next door to Booth UC, and Elan attended a program overseas.

How did they come to be at Booth UC? “When I came back, I didn’t really know what to do with my life,” Elan says. “Britta encouraged me to look at the Booth UC social-work program since it lined up with what I was all about, plus she had decided to transfer there.”

They both applied and were accepted to the school and began their journeys toward their Bachelor of Social Work degrees.

“We had gone to school together since nursery school so it was exciting to extend that through university,” Britta says.

“Britta became the anchor at Booth UC,” Elan remembers.

“No, I was the sails!” Britta interjects. “We were on the ship together!”

Though the pair admit it was a bonus to have a close friend going in, they were sure to allow space for new friendships to blossom.

“It was good to have a constant, but also good to stretch ourselves and make new friends,” concludes Britta.

Because of her year of studies at the University of Winnipeg, Britta was admitted further into the social work program and ended up ahead of Elan in course work.

“Britta was a bit ahead of me, so it was nice to be able to talk through things,” says Elan. “We were able to be sounding boards for each other.”

“Especially at Booth UC, having classes where we were broadening our world views and thinking about things differently, it was nice to bounce ideas and thoughts off of someone who had the same faith as me, and grew up the same way,” Elan reflects.

“We would debrief almost every day! We were processing together,” Britta adds.

Britta and Elan graduated together and walked the stage at Spring Convocation in 2018 where Elan was valedictorian.

“I was so proud. I knew she was going to be valedictorian. I had a feeling long before graduating that it would be Elan. She just has that energy to make friends and talk to everybody,” Britta smiles.

On convocation day, the two were quite busy with their respective families and friends, but they managed to spend some time together, and at the Baccalaureate Service, exchanged flowers (a Booth UC tradition) to show their appreciation for one another.

Elan remembers, “That whole day was a ...”

“ ... good end point to our educational journey together!” Britta finishes.

“I feel like it’s quite unique for friends to stay together from pre-school to university. We always caught up and kept a connection point,” Elan says. “And we always stayed on the same trajectory with our faith. You don’t always stay close with friends the same way as with someone of the same faith. We were able to pray for each other and really be there for each other.”

“In university everything is changing, and people are going through so much change ...” Britta starts.

“ ... yeah, and you are absorbing so much new information and questioning everything and asking, ‘What do I even believe about this anymore?’ So it was really nice to be able to go through that with a friend,” Elan concludes.

*“It’s quite unique for friends to stay together from pre-school to university.”  
- Elan Mueller*



Their career paths have since taken them different directions in the social-work field. Britta is now working with seniors in transitional care, while Elan is working with newcomer elementary and middle-school students. Yet, with a lifelong friendship built on trust, respect and true admiration for one another these two Booth UC alumnae will always be close, with a treasure trove of shared memories to enjoy. 🍷