



BOOTH UC

CONNECT



Celebrating 40 Years!

P.4



WELCOME TO
OUR NEW
PRESIDENT

P.12

M40772051

Inside this issue:



4 Booth UC's 40th Celebration



6 In the Right Place with Catherine Zhang (BA/22)



7 Cultivating Community with Beth McDonald Funk (BSW/16)



8 Amazing Year...Amazing Team! An update from Student Services



9 Our Team & Their Pets Get to know Lily, Ernie, and Potato



10 Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2023



12 Writing Her Own Story: Valedictorian and Chancellor's Medal recipient, Marla Warkentin (BSW/23)



13 Captain Alex MacDonald (BA/23) This year's recipient of the General's Medal



14 Meet Our New Leadership Team



16 Student Story: Patience Onah, Social Work student



19 Announcing New Program Streams majors and degrees



19 Staff & Faculty News



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

Publisher | Booth University College

**Editorial Team | Advancement/Communications:
Georgine Van de Mosselaer
Kim Kakegamic
Connie Janzen**

Layout & Design | Stephen C. Boyd

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

Booth University College Advancement Office
447 Webb Place
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3B 2P2

T: 204-947-6701
Toll-free (in North America): 1-877-942-6684

E: Development@BoothUC.ca
W: BoothUC.ca



President's Message

For most people, honour is akin to worth. When someone honours us, we feel valued—and everyone wants to feel valued. But we live in a world where genuine honour appears to be in short supply; a world where we often believe it is necessary to take honour for ourselves, even if that means taking it from someone else. Jesus continually shows us that true honour is given rather than taken and that we should seek to give it generously, especially to those whom society might not necessarily see as valuable. When we honour others, we live out the Great Commandment of loving God and loving neighbour (Matthew 22:37-39). Furthermore, as we live in this space of love and honour, we discover that our true worth comes from God, and that God is always seeking to honour us because God knows that we are valuable!

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”

(Hebrews 12:1-2a, NIV)

This issue of *Booth UC Connect* honours many people for their work and commitment to the Kingdom of God and to Booth UC. From donors who gave generously to students who finished well, from our amazing valedictorian to our brilliant and deserving convocation award winners and scholarship recipient, by listening to a bit of their stories and learning from their examples, we honour them.

This issue also celebrates and gives further introduction to our new Vice President Academic and Dean, Dr. Linda Schwartz, and me, Rev. (Dr.) Rob A. Fringer, as President and Vice Chancellor. But before we look forward, we look back, and I want to personally honour the amazing and selfless work of Lt-Colonel (Dr.) Susan van Duinen and Mrs. Denise Young. They have helped to lay a foundation on which we can boldly and confidently move forward together. In the words of the writer of Hebrews: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith” (Hebrews 12:1-2a, NIV).

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



BOOTH
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE



Thank you so much Lt-Colonel (Dr.) Susan van Duinen for your years of service to Booth UC. You are a gifted and committed leader, and your legacy will continue to be felt into the future.



40th Celebration

On April 29, 2023, the board, the community and donors gathered at the Waldron Building for our 40th anniversary celebration and the official unveiling of Booth University College's Bricks in the Bistro Donor Wall





After introductory remarks by Lt-Colonel (Dr.) Susan van Duinen, President of Booth UC, the highlight of the afternoon was the official unveiling of the donor wall by Commissioner Floyd Tidd, Territorial Commander and Chancellor of Booth UC, and Mr. David Michel, Chair of the Board of Trustees. Pride for accomplishments past and excitement for the future permeated the Bistro as guests reminisced and renewed acquaintances. Donors present received lovely bouquets of tulips from a grateful school. 🇺🇸

Examples of commemorations on the donor wall include:

HOPE MERCY AND JUSTICE

“If we are to better the future, we must disturb the present.”

“Believe”

“Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”



IN THE RIGHT PLACE WITH CATHERINE ZHANG (BA/22)

By Micael Moura

It's been six years since a life-changing event — being accepted into Booth University College — happened for Catherine Zhang (BA/22). Her journey to post-secondary education was marked by resilience. "Getting a college education has been an uphill battle for me. During my childhood and youth, I was not encouraged to study beyond Grade 6. I managed to finish high school by picking up recycling and eating discarded food from stores," she remembers. However, she never gave up on seeking truth, purpose, and a better life.

"Getting a college education has been an uphill battle for me. During my childhood and youth, I was not encouraged to study beyond Grade 6. I managed to finish high school by picking up recycling and eating discarded food from stores."

- Catherine Zhang

Her passion for learning and search for truth led her to God and the Christian faith. In 2017, Catherine saved up enough money to pursue higher education. "That's how a miracle happened: I typed 'Christian Faith University Canada' into the Google bar, and Booth UC was the first one in the search list." Catherine had been searching for a school that shared her values of social justice, hope, truth, love and non-judgmentalism, and Booth UC resonated with her.

Upon arriving at Booth UC, she felt like she found her new home. "Booth UC cares about students, with a down-to-earth environment, and the small size made me feel I'm part of a family. Booth UC was exactly what I was looking for, and I have received so much more along the way." She pursued Interdisciplinary Studies, which broadened her knowledge in various fields, such as environmental science, marketing, religion, philosophy, creative writing, film, and accounting.

Asked about memorable experiences she had at Booth UC, she points to movie days with Assistant Professor, Dr. Mandy Elliot, where students watched a film and discussed it openly, with everyone having a chance to pitch in. She also expressed her gratitude to our Dean of Students, Rhonda Friesen, who supported and cared for her during her toughest moments, and to the continuous support from Booth UC's community: "I received generous scholarships, and I couldn't have done so much without all the mental and financial support. I would have not achieved my dream without Booth UC."

The opportunities for intellectual growth, personal development, and spiritual exploration provided by Booth UC have left an indelible mark on Catherine. "Most importantly, I was inspired by my teachers and my schoolmates; they gave me a fundamental academic and Christian spirit, the spirit of giving and the spirit to practise life learning."

After graduation, she has been engaged in multiple projects, such as *Banking on a Better Future*, *Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty*, and Manitoba Hydro's *Smart Grid*, a solar energy plan for the next 10-15 years and, more recently, has been using her marketing skills to promote Ukrainian companies on social media. Catherine's current projects are to open a business that will contribute to a better, safer, and greener world, and use part of the profits to fund a project to help hungry children, as well as writing a fiction novel inspired by her own experiences. "I know what it's like to be hungry, and I hope that no child in the world suffers from it. After the valuable lessons and encouragement I found at Booth UC, I finally have the courage to follow my dream and write my autobiography."

Catherine's story is a testament to resilience, inspiration, and giving back. She overcame challenges and pursued her dreams with faith, hope, and love. She encourages future students to consider Booth UC, where they can find purpose and academic growth. Her story is a reminder that education is a transformative experience that can change one's life and help make a difference in the world. 🇨🇦

Cultivating Community:

Alum Beth McDonald Funk returns to Booth UC to plant new seeds

By Micael Moura



Beth with husband, Bob

Sometimes it's the small things, the simple things such as planting a seed in a garden, that can make the biggest impact and yield the most beautiful fruit.

With this idea in her heart and mind, Beth McDonald Funk (BSW/16) started a new chapter of her life. In 2023, she returned to Booth University College as our new Admissions Counsellor, specializing in high school and Salvationist students. After graduating from Booth UC, Beth worked with The Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services, where she honed her skills in helping individuals and communities thrive.

Throughout her professional career and personal life, Beth has encouraged others to explore their spiritual connection with the environment and to find ways to connect with nature in their daily lives. This includes her nine years of experience volunteering and working for Bridging the Gap (Nature Manitoba), an environmental education program delivered to elementary school students in the inner city of Winnipeg.

Additionally, Beth's love of gardening is rooted in her belief that it is a way to reflect on and connect with God." Planting a seed is about deepening the spiritual connection between humanity, the Earth and the Creator; it nurtures a sense of peace, purpose and interconnectedness."

During her time as a student, Beth especially enjoyed learning from passionate scholars. She explains that classes were engaging and edifying on both an academic and personal level, helping her see how theory connects to the real world. "Learning from scholars who are passionate in their respective fields of study is what I found exciting as a student—and Booth UC has plenty to offer in this regard. I unashamedly admit that other professors, such as Dr. Andrew Eason and Dr. Roy Jeal, were also my favourites, who almost convinced me to switch majors."

Returning to Booth UC as a staff member "feels like home," she says. In fact, Beth's decision to return is rooted in cherished memories of the profound sense of community and belonging she experienced over the course of her student journey. As an Admissions Counsellor, she is dedicated to guiding students through the application process and helping them decide if Booth UC is the right fit for them. Beth specializes in working with high school and Salvationist pupils, whom she feels have a distinctive perspective on the world and a special connection to Booth UC's mission and values.

Her aim is to help sustain a supportive and caring environment for future students, ensuring that they too can benefit from the shared bond and fellowship that made her experience here so special. Beth is enthusiastic about Booth UC's mission of Education for a Better World and is eager to help others discover what makes this place unique.

Booth University College is proud to have Beth McDonald Funk as an alum and as a valuable member of our staff. Her commitment to social work, her dedication to helping others, and her love for gardening and the environment make her an excellent role model for current and future students alike. 🇨🇦

Amazing year ... Amazing team!



Booth UC's 2022/23 Student Council

By Rhonda Friesen, Dean of Students

As we take a peek at the 2022-23 academic year in the rearview mirror, it's fun to note the amazing things that happened at Booth University College this last year. The pandemic has had a huge impact on most of us, but at Booth UC it means that we have been navigating the mix of virtual, on-line, and in-person community in new ways. It has been wonderful to see students and staff on campus again, but also to maintain flexibility of joining community events from remote locations. What an amazing opportunity we have been given to connect with each other in so many different ways!

Our Student Services team has been in the thick of these student community connections this year, and we've been energized by student engagement. I have invited them to give a brief snapshot of student activity from the perspective of their various service areas.

"I'm thankful for the wonderful Student Services team that truly desires to support students in all areas of need."

- Darla Thiessen

On-campus fun was also an important contributor to student community this year. Weekly games of Futsal in the Booth UC gym gave students the chance for some friendly competition while getting exercise. A highlight event for this year was the Murder Mystery night, complete with full character costumes (thanks to several trips to SA Thrift Stores!) and a specially prepared Bistro supper. Residents truly embraced their characters and had great fun solving the "mystery"!

From welcoming students and taking care of their needs, to supporting their learning and academic success, to connecting them in community, our Student Services team is passionate about supporting students! Throughout the summer we will be planning towards 2023-24 ... looking forward to another amazing year starting in September! 🇨🇦



Karen Ng, Student Services Assistant & Receptionist: The Front Desk is not just the first point of contact at Waldron Campus, where you feel welcomed to Booth UC; it is also the service and information hub for students. Students come to the Front Desk to make their fee payments, purchase their Post-Secondary Peggo Card, pick up their access fobs and student cards, and purchase a variety of Booth UC merchandise. The Front Desk also provides students with information about their student health insurance, student account access and any external resources that might be able to help them.

Darla Thiessen, Academic Learning Centre Coordinator: Booth University College's Academic Learning Centre (ALC) is designed to assist students with developing the skills and strategies that will help them succeed academically. Throughout this past year, the tutor team and I met with 124 students over the year for a total of 1,015 "visits," which were mostly one-on-one appointments and skill-building workshops. As I wrap up and reflect upon my final year as the ALC coordinator, I am so grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Booth UC community over the past five years! I'm thankful for the wonderful Student Services team that truly desires to support students in all areas of need, and for the immeasurable knowledge I've gained from our amazing faculty. Most of all, I've really appreciated all "my" students! I appreciate all that I've learned from them, and it is always exciting to see students improve their skills, increase in confidence, and reach their goals!



Matt Peters, Student Services Coordinator: This has been an eventful year among the 21-22 students in Booth UC residence ... the most residence students we've had since before the pandemic! With more people on campus, we've had more opportunity for connections, relationships, and fun community-building events. Our residents particularly enjoyed hosting various game/movie nights as well as exploring a variety of event venues in Winnipeg. Throughout the year, residents visited places such as The Forks (including skating in the winter), the Manitoba Legislature, A Maze In Corn, escape rooms, Activate, the Trampoline Park, The Rec Room, Assiniboine Park, and many other places!

OUR TEAM & THEIR Pets

Behind many of the hard-working Booth UC Advancement Team are loving pets. Here, we get to know Lily, Ernie and Potato.



**Georgine Van de Mosselaer B.Sc.(Eng),
Director of Advancement**

Lily is my silly 7 year-old black Labrador retriever. She is most happy in a food-filled environment, or when out on walks.

Always joyous to greet visitors and enjoy some well-deserved tummy rubs, Lily is not quick to bark, and full of love. True to her breed, she is a wonderful family dog and the love is reciprocated by all who meet this tail wagging wonder! 🇨🇦

“I am grateful for the joy Lily brings to my life. She is not quick to bark and full of love.”



“Even though Ernie is not my pet, I consider him a member of my family.”

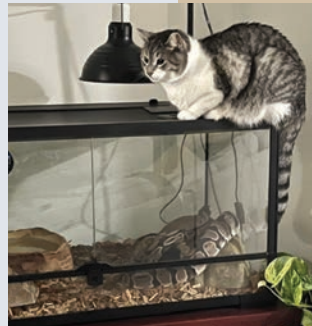
**Kimberly Kakegamic,
Communications Specialist**

Ernie is my sister’s cat whom I lovingly refer to as my nephew. He is six months old and as curious as you’d expect from any kitten. He loves to climb his cat tree and jump up on counters (where he is not allowed). Even though Ernie is not my pet, I consider him a member of my family and I love spending time with the little monster!! 🇨🇦

Connie Janzen, Administrative Coordinator, Advancement

This is Potato. She is an eight-year-old Ball Python who is part of my extended pet family. She is one of the many animals in what we call “the Zoo.”

Potato joined the family four years ago. She belongs to my niece, Kairi, who has a love for all animals. Potato is very curious and always looking for a warm place to hide when she comes out of her home. So far, I have not held her, but I have petted her many times. She is soft to the touch and always very relaxed.



“Potato is very curious and always looking for a warm place to hide when she comes out of her home.”

In the pictures you see Kairi with Potato and Potato’s home. Pinocchio, the cat, loves to sit on top of Potato’s home and watch her. 🇨🇦



A Long Time Coming

The mood was enthusiastic and joyful on the last Sunday in April when friends, family, staff and professors gathered for the first in-person Booth University College convocation ceremony since the start of the pandemic

The atmosphere was extra festive this year as Booth UC turned 40, and reflections on past accomplishments were coupled with optimism for what the future will bring to the institution in the years to come.

"I don't know about you; I get excited about any prospect of a celebration," smiled Lt-Colonel (Dr.) Susan van Duinen, President of Booth UC. "The anticipation heightens as the day of celebration draws near. At Booth UC, we have been building a better world every day for the past 40 years. Booth has been a pillar in the Winnipeg society. This holds true today as well."

Another Brick in the Wall

The celebrations started the day before the convocation, as members of the Booth UC community gathered for the official unveiling of the Bricks in the Bistro donor wall.

Instead of actual bricks, an acrylic panel was erected in front of the brick walls, with three sizes of "bricks" depending on the donation level.

Examples of commemorations include:

HOPE MERCY AND JUSTICE

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

"Building hope."

"To Ellen Allan whose enduring love and faith has borne fruit every season."

"Donors are men and women who believe in the mission of Booth UC, and we mark that belief through the unveiling of the donor wall," declared Lt-Colonel van Duinen. Also in attendance were Commissioner Floyd Tidd, Territorial Commander and



*Congratulations to Booth
University College's
40th-anniversary
convocation class of 2023!*

Chancellor of Booth University College, and David Michel, Chair of the Board of Trustees. Those donors in attendance received a bouquet of tulips from a grateful school.

"Cool News"

On Sunday, the focus shifted to Winnipeg's Knox United Church.

After the Baccalaureate Service, a time of worship for the graduands, their family and friends, and the community of Booth UC, and following a photo session, the larger school community gathered for the Spring Convocation and Conferring of Degrees. The Living Hope Community Church Band provided accompaniment.

With area MLAs, members of the board of trustees and representatives from divisional and territorial headquarters looking on, 101 students graduated and received their certificate or degree.

"This is the first in-person ceremony since 2019," declared Lt-Colonel (Dr.) van Duinen to rapturous applause. "Graduating class, congratulations! You've done it."

"A convocation is a very celebratory time, is it not?" she went on to say. "It's a milestone. It marks the moment that you cross the line from student to alumni. Crossing the line between one phase of your life that leads to the next, between what lies behind and what lies ahead."

After introductory remarks by Winnipeg MLA’s Uzoma Asagwara (Union Station) and Malaya Marcelino (Notre Dame), and an address by Colonel (Dr.) Wendy F. Swan, director of the International Social Justice Commission, Dr. Linda Schwartz, Vice President Academic, presented the graduates to Commissioner Tidd, who handed out the diplomas and certificates, accompanied by cheers, applause and ululations.



After the students received their parchments, Commissioner Tidd presented the Chancellor’s Medal to bachelor of social work graduate Marla Warkentin. Bachelor of Arts graduate Lieutenant Alexander MacDonald, Corps Officer at Bay Roberts, N.L., was awarded the General’s Medal.



“After three years without an in-person Convocation, it was wonderful to be back at Knox United Church. To see the graduates, hear the cheers and experience together the joy of our students’ success.”

- Kim Kakegamic, Communications Specialist

“Why am I here?” asked Marla, who was also the valedictorian. “To be a representative of my peers and our school. I am standing up here today because I am a culmination of all of you. And I am so honoured to represent you.”

Marla shared a quote from a 2022 convocation address at New York University by singer-songwriter Taylor Swift: “Scary news is: you’re on your own now, but the cool news is: you’re on your own now.”

“The cool news is,” Marla concluded, “that now we get to take our new formed identities out into the world, and though we will be on our own, we will not be alone.” 🇨🇦



In our first year of eligibility, *Booth UC Connect* won two awards. Our magazine’s Start Here series won first place in the Advertisement category (see back page), and our series celebrating Booth UC’s 40th anniversary won second place for Photo Essay.

Geoff Moulton, The Salvation Army’s director of internal communications and editor-in-chief, notes, “A hearty round of applause to all the winners. In addition to the editorial department, it was great to see our colleagues at Booth University College’s advancement office garner two well-deserved awards. We are thankful for all of our writers, editors, designers and digital specialists who keep our territorial communications going from strength to strength.”

The Canadian Christian Communicators Association includes representatives from approximately 47 member publications, including mainline, Catholic and evangelical churches. Member publications were invited to enter in more than 30 categories. The awards were judged by accomplished journalists and academics from both the religious and secular media. 🇨🇦

Writing Her Own Story

Booth University College's professors, staff and students made valedictorian and Chancellor's Medal recipient Marla Rae Warkentin's long and winding path to the school a smooth one

By Ken Ramstead

"I've been a university student for five years, declared four different majors, studied at three different universities, in two different countries, and here I am today finally getting my first bachelor's degree," declared valedictorian Marla Rae Warkentin in her address to a packed convocation audience this past April. While her journey has been unique, she has no doubt that Booth University College made it all happen.



"It really felt as if I was writing my own story, but Booth UC made space for me to do it and figure it all out along the way. It made a lot of sense, it really worked out well and I wouldn't have had it any other way."

Getting to Know Booth UC

While Marla was born in Waterloo, Ont., her parents moved to Winnipeg with the 2½-year-old, when her father, Curt, became the athletic director at Canadian Mennonite University (Today, he is the associate athletic director of the University of Manitoba's Bisons sports department.) Her mother, Buetta, was a social worker who soon became a professor at Booth UC.

Young Marla became quite familiar with her mom's new place of employment.

"On days when there was no school, I'd hang out at her office," she recalls. "I got to know all of the professors and staff. It was a great way to grow up."

"What's unique about Booth UC is that you can grow your own identity."

- Marla Warkentin

From English to Social Work

Despite that familiarity, Marla applied to the University of Winnipeg's education program after high school and was there for a year. From there, she did a semester abroad in Norway, followed by a year off.

"I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do, and that's what actually led me to Booth UC," she says.

While working toward an English degree, Marla decided to take a course in social welfare. That, in turn, inspired her to apply to the social work program.

Surprisingly for Marla, she loved it, and sometime between the start of that class in January and applications for the social work program in April, she decided to transfer into the social work program at Booth UC.

"Who You Are"

"What's unique about Booth UC is that you can grow your own identity," Marla explains. "You're not just listening to a lecture in a hundred-student hall. You are participating in conversations directly with your peers and with your professor. And by hearing other people's thoughts, that pushes you to reflect on your own a little bit more. That really helps in fostering interest and passion in social work—or in whatever you're pursuing at Booth UC."

"Whether you're a Christian or not, having courses where you discuss and examine religious texts, views and perspectives helps build character and identity," she says. "By hearing other's views, you think about your own beliefs. That builds character and identity while staying true to who you are."

Helping Others

Besides being elected valedictorian by her peers, Marla also received the Chancellor's Medal, given to a graduating Winnipeg campus degree student who has achieved a high academic standing, a minimum 3.6 GPA, demonstrated significant spiritual development and has contributed in significant ways to the life of the college and the wider community.

Through religion, philosophy and sociology courses, Marla realized that she was passionate about society and social work, and she hopes to parlay that into a full-time social work job this fall.

"My plan is to eventually go back to school and do a masters," she says. "I'm looking at something that'll be more policy-related."

Marla did a practicum working with newcomers and would be interested in learning more about barriers in immigration policy.

"I want to be a part of making a difference." 🇨🇦

Milestone Moment

Congratulations Captain Alex MacDonald,
this year's recipient of the General's Medal

What attracted you to Booth UC?

As a cadet entering CFOT, I looked forward to learning more about my faith at Booth University College. As a student in the Biblical and Theological Studies program, I had many questions concerning the Bible, and I was not disappointed. A well-designed course structure taught by excellent professors guided me toward developing a robust, practical theology with a solid biblical foundation. In particular, I sought three things: a cohesive understanding of the Bible; a deeper understanding of the doctrines of salvation and holiness; and the knowledge required to interpret the Bible in context. I found all of this and more, which helped prepare me for officership and the challenging situations in which Salvation Army officers are sometimes called to minister.

How did you find your time at Booth UC?

I enjoyed Booth UC immensely, both in person and, later, as a distance student. The academic environment at Booth UC allows for intellectual curiosity to flourish while its character as a Christian institution values expressions of faith. I found the professors to be very knowledgeable and genuinely interested in helping students grasp the subject matter. What I did not expect was to enjoy the elective courses outside my core discipline so much. Booth UC offers courses in subjects as varied as environmental science and neuropsychology. I was able to learn things there that I had not dreamt of, and it was a joy to do so.

"As a student in the Biblical and Theological Studies program, I had many questions concerning the Bible and I was not disappointed. A well-designed course structure taught by excellent professors guided me toward developing a robust, practical theology with a solid biblical foundation."

- Captain Alex MacDonald

How did you balance the demands of home, school and work?

I am fortunate to have the support of my amazing spouse, who is also my partner in ministry. I had moments when I wondered if I would complete the degree, but I enjoyed it so much, I just kept



Captain Alex MacDonald 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.

working at it. However, my time had to be well-managed so that no aspect of my life was neglected. I find the advice I received as a young man is still true today: We have time for what is most important to us, so make sure you know what is most important.

What did you enjoy most about the experience?

I enjoyed learning in a fostering environment with supportive professors and students. I found the atmosphere at Booth UC to be encouraging and warm, and the subject material to be invigorating. I deeply appreciated each of my instructors for all they imparted. I am especially indebted to Dr. Burke, Dr. Jeal, and Dr. Eason for their willingness to share their depth of knowledge, their engaging lecture styles and their encouragement throughout the learning process.

How does it feel to have your degree in hand?

I feel a mixture of gratitude and excitement to have reached this milestone. I am grateful to The Salvation Army and my family for supporting me in completing this degree. I am excited to see what the future holds and how God will use this experience in my life for His purposes and His glory. 🇨🇦



Rev. Fringer with his family (from r) Brenden, Sierra, and wife, Vanessa

Meet Our New Leadership Team

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

Q: Tell us a little bit about your background

My father (now deceased) was American, and my mother is Thai. They met when my father was stationed in Thailand for seven years. When he retired from the military, they moved to California, where I was born, and raised with my two sisters. I grew up in a non-religious environment and came to know the Lord at the age of 19. I quickly felt a call into ministry, which included studies. Ironically, I hated school as a teenager and vowed not to return once I had completed high school. Instead, I did vocational degrees in welding and machining and had planned to go into one of these trades. The Lord changed this direction and ultimately changed my attitude toward education. I grew to love learning and the holistic transformation that could take place through Christian higher education.

My wife's name is Vanessa, and we have two children—Sierra (15) and Brenden (13). Vanessa and I were married in 2005, and that same year, I was ordained in the Church of the Nazarene.

Q: How has your knowledge of The Salvation Army led to your decision to become involved with Booth UC?

In my years of pastoral ministry (mostly in the areas of youth work, discipleship, and community outreach), I quickly gravitated toward acts of service as a way of evidencing the love of God and building new and deeper relationships. I came to understand and believe that all Christians are called to love and serve others in tangible ways, especially “the least of these.” Through these ministries, I came to know The Salvation Army and partnered with them in various ways in each of my ministry assignments. When I moved into higher education, these partnerships continued, just in slightly different ways. I have a deep respect for The Salvation Army and the work they do around the world. That is why this opportunity to join the Booth UC community and work side-by-side with The Salvation Army in Canada (and beyond) is so exciting to me.

Q: What gives you inspiration/motivation in your field?

I enjoy journeying with others toward shared goals and helping them to excel in their areas of gifting. I love dreaming together and then working to see these dreams become a reality. This is not an easy process. It takes wrestling together, learning together, compromising together and even failing together. But my calling is first and foremost focused on relationship and, as cliché as it may sound, I do believe we are better together and can accomplish more Kingdom results together. Others inspire me and I hope that I inspire them as well. I believe God doesn't necessarily call us to success as much as God calls us to faithfulness and love. These must remain our primary goals.

Q: How does your research and/or teaching help “Education for a Better World”?

My areas of research and teaching are Biblical Studies and Biblical Theology with a primary focus on New Testament and Hermeneutics. I enjoy helping students learn to read and interpret Scripture with more depth and from a Wesleyan perspective. I believe the stories and teachings of the Bible help us to better understand who this God is and who we are in light of this God. As we study the whole of Scripture, we see the story of a relational God who continues to pursue us with love and mercy and who calls believers to a ministry of reconciliation, justice, compassion, and grace in our world. This excites me!

Q: Outside of your work at Booth UC, what are you interested in?

Even though I love people and love being with others, I am an introvert who has learned how to thrive in extroverted situations. Therefore, in my down time, I prefer smaller groups or one-on-one time with others. This is especially enjoyed over good food or playing almost any board or card game. I also enjoy most things related to creativity. This includes reading, writing, playing guitar, writing the occasional song, watching the arts, and dabbling in a number of other creative ventures. 🇺🇸

Q: Tell us a little bit about your background

I am originally from Saskatchewan, born and educated (K-12) in Regina. My university background is mostly in Music (theory and composition): Bachelor of Music (Composition: University of Manitoba); Master of Music (Digital Music & Composition: Western University); PhD (Music Theory Cand.: University of Minnesota and Interdisciplinary Project: University of Manitoba). I lived and worked in Winnipeg for 25 years as a teacher/professor before moving to British Columbia to be a dean (Trinity Western University; Kwantlen Polytechnic University). After living in B.C. for ten years, my family and I moved to Medicine Hat, Alta., where I was VP Academic (Medicine Hat College); and then to Calgary (Executive Director to the Provost, University of Calgary; and Dean of Arts and Science, Ambrose University). For the past three years before coming to Booth University College, I worked for a private educational entrepreneur, helping Christian and other private universities in the U.S.A. and Canada (who were struggling financially) with appropriate programming, academic and regulatory support.

Q: How has your knowledge of The Salvation Army led to your decision to become involved with Booth UC?

My husband was raised in The Salvation Army (small corps in southern Ontario). My own heritage is in the Church of the Nazarene — which, like The Salvation Army — is Wesleyan/Methodist in theological orientation. I have been aware of Booth University College since the day it opened in Winnipeg (1983) and have had the privilege of teaching and working with a number of former students who attended Booth UC over the years.

I am a confirmed Anglican and a member of St. Margaret's Anglican Church in Winnipeg. St. Margaret's is the flagship, evangelical Anglican parish in the Diocese of Rupertsland. It is the parish home for a number of Booth UC students, staff and faculty for many years.

Q: What gives you inspiration/motivation in your field?

What motivates me—having been in university administration in both public and Christian higher education settings—is the belief that education is about transforming lives. The particular focus of Christian Higher Education is to provide a setting in which one wrestles with all kinds of questions about life and Christian commitment in the context of being a scholar and a disciple of Christ. Our task as educators within this context is to ensure that our students are equipped to be competent contributors to society who care deeply about the world, the Church, their commitment as Christ-followers who are not afraid to engage the dangerous intersections between faith and public discourse within our culture and society.

Q: How does your research and/or teaching help “Education for a Better World”?

My research—outside of music scholarship — is all about Christian University education, about how we understand the notion of a “Christian worldview” and how we build core curriculum and create values-based educational model that is distinctive from the sphere of public university discourse and teaching. We need to have something meaningful to contribute to the larger cultural dialogue across the spectrum of academic fields; and our values must be articulated shape the ways that we view local and global complexities, challenges and approaches to problem-solving - in our past, present and future human experience.

Q: Outside of your work at Booth UC, what are you interested in?

I am endlessly fascinated by world politics (global and local) and the challenges of human survival, adaptation and identity across and between cultures. I am an avid reader of both historical non-fiction and well-crafted literature that is historical. I enjoy travel and learning about history and culture through identification with geography (place), museums, monumental sites—and people. And I have researched—and continue to research my own family history.

I enjoy spectator sports, especially Canadian football. I listen to all kinds of music and I am a news junkie (primarily CBC One). 🇨🇦



A Faithful Foundation

By Kim Kakegamic

From practising law in Nigeria to studying social work in Winnipeg, Patience Onah transitioned to a new life during the pandemic and credits her family, her Booth University College community and her faith for getting her through the challenges

With courage, determination, and a humble heart, Patience Onah made the move from Nigeria to Canada in January 2021 to study social work at Booth UC. It was a journey that began while she was practising law in Nigeria.

“I got my degree in law and was working as a lawyer when I had this realization. Law is purely transactional and sometimes you meet people you really want and need to help outside of the law. People experiencing domestic violence. People with mental health concerns. People that a legal transaction alone cannot help.” That’s when she decided that social work would be the best program for her to take.

Having made the decision to become a student again, her next step was to find the right school. Patience happened to have a friend who was working with The Salvation Army in Winnipeg at the time. Her friend recommended Booth UC because of its excellent social work program. "She told me that she had worked with Booth UC social work students and they were excellent. I took her word for it and applied. The application was seamless."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Patience began her studies in Nigeria. As soon as she was able, she applied for a visa and moved to Winnipeg in January of 2021. The hardest thing about the move wasn't the new surroundings or the frigid winter; it was the fact that her children couldn't accompany her at the time. It would be nine months before they could join her.

"There were times I did feel like going back home because I had never been away for my kids for that long. I was always hoping and praying that their visas would come through, that COVID would improve. I just kept putting one foot forward at a time with hope that something could change." September of that year it did, and Patience's family arrived in Winnipeg in November 2021. For someone with such a strong family focus, that moment was pure joy.



"There were times I did feel like going back home because I had never been away for my kids for that long. I was always hoping and praying that their visas would come through, that COVID would improve. I just kept putting one foot forward at a time with hope that something could change."

- Patience Onah

The first of eight children, Patience grew up in a small town in the Benue state of Nigeria. She fondly remembers her childhood, playing outdoors with her siblings. At the same time, she recalls being a "little mommy" with the responsibility of taking care of her younger brothers and sisters. Today, with her own four children by her side, they are carrying on the tradition. "When I'm not home, the older ones take care of younger ones. That's a blessing for me. I tell them we are all students going to school, so we help each other."

What also helps Patience is the community she found at Booth UC, even during the pandemic. She joined the planning committees for Indigenous Perspectives Week and Disability Awareness Week, as well as an online Bible study. "I'm from the Christian faith, so having an environment at Booth UC that helps you grow in your faith is important. I joined a Bible study with other students and whenever we had that fellowship, it helped and encouraged me." She also talks about the supportive staff and faculty, and the scholarship she received, as being instrumental to her success.

"The scholarship I received was lifesaving." With her savings being impacted by inflation and an incredibly high exchange rate, it came at a time when "I was wondering how to make up my fees." Consequently, she is motivated to do even better.

With her program almost complete and an eye on graduation next April, Patience is excited about the future and happy to recommend Booth UC to others. "I tell people it's a good place to be, you get the support you need. It's home. And the social work program is fantastic. I'm learning for myself, my kids, people I support, people I will likely support in future. I would recommend it. If you want to do social work, come to Booth UC!" 🇳🇮



At Booth University College, we strive to make a high-quality education as affordable as possible. We offer many scholarships, awards and bursaries that recognize and reward students. That translates into big savings on tuition.

For example:
The President's Entrance Scholarship gives you a full year of tuition.

The Lifelong Learning Award for mature students offers \$250 per 3 credit hour course.

And there are so many more!
Visit : boothuc.ca/admissions/scholarships-financial-aid/ and apply today.



ANNOUNCING New Program Streams, Majors, and Associate Degrees!

Booth University College is committed to Education for a Better World. That commitment has now extended to new program streams, majors, and two associate degrees.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHS) is excited to announce a new 3-year Community Mental Health stream in the Department of Psychology (Bachelor of Arts).

Our new program focuses on areas such as social psychology, community psychology, social change, and neuroscience. It's a great option for those interested in helping others in their community and in creating positive change. Upon graduating, students may continue to complete a 4-year Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, including our Applied and Honours degrees, or work in the social services.

The SHS is also now offering a 3-year Bachelor of Arts in Behavioural Sciences.

This program gives students an opportunity to acquire knowledge in psychology, sociology and a foundation in the social sciences. Upon graduating, students may continue to complete a 4-year Bachelor of Arts degree in Behavioural Sciences.

In addition, a new 2-year Associate of Arts degree is now an option for students. This degree is an opportunity for students to acquire a breadth of knowledge in the liberal arts. It's a great choice for those interested in a program that's less than three or four years. Upon graduating, students may also continue to complete a 3- or 4-year Bachelor of Arts degree.

“We are a progressive institution, adaptable to the needs of our students. We saw an opportunity to broaden our reach with these new streams, adapted programs, and degrees, and we responded to student demand with further tools to change the world.”

- Associate Professor of Social Work, Buetta Warkentin

Booth UC's School of Business is thrilled to once again be offering a major in accounting.

A 4-year Bachelor of Business Administration degree (BBA) with a major in accounting provides the knowledge and skills necessary to help students enter for-profit or not-for-profit organizations. The accounting courses qualify as prerequisite courses as part of the admissions process into the Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) Professional Education Program.

Additionally, a 2-year Associate of Business Administration degree is now an option for students. This degree provides students with foundational competence in the key areas of business, in combination with a liberal arts background, and is designed for those looking for a program shorter than a three or four-year degree. Upon graduating, students may continue on to complete their 3- or 4-year BBA. 🇨🇦

Staff & FACULTY NEWS

We would like to extend congratulations to the following staff and faculty members who are celebrating milestone years of service this year!

5 YEARS!



Georgine Van de Mosselaer



Louis Svenningsen



Barb Laforce

15 YEARS!



Georgina McSherry,
and Happy Retirement!

30 YEARS!



Walter Richie

35 YEARS!



Denise Young
Thank you for all your years of service at Booth UC. You will be missed as you move on to new endeavors.

Welcome to Our New Staff!



**Beth McDonald Funk,
Admissions Councilor**

Beth joined the Advancement team as our new Admissions Counsellor. She has worked with The Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services as a Diversion Program Social Worker and then as an Administrative Coordinator. Prior to that, she was a Program Assistant for Bridging the Gap, (Nature Manitoba). Beth holds a Bachelor of Social Work with Distinction from Booth University College.



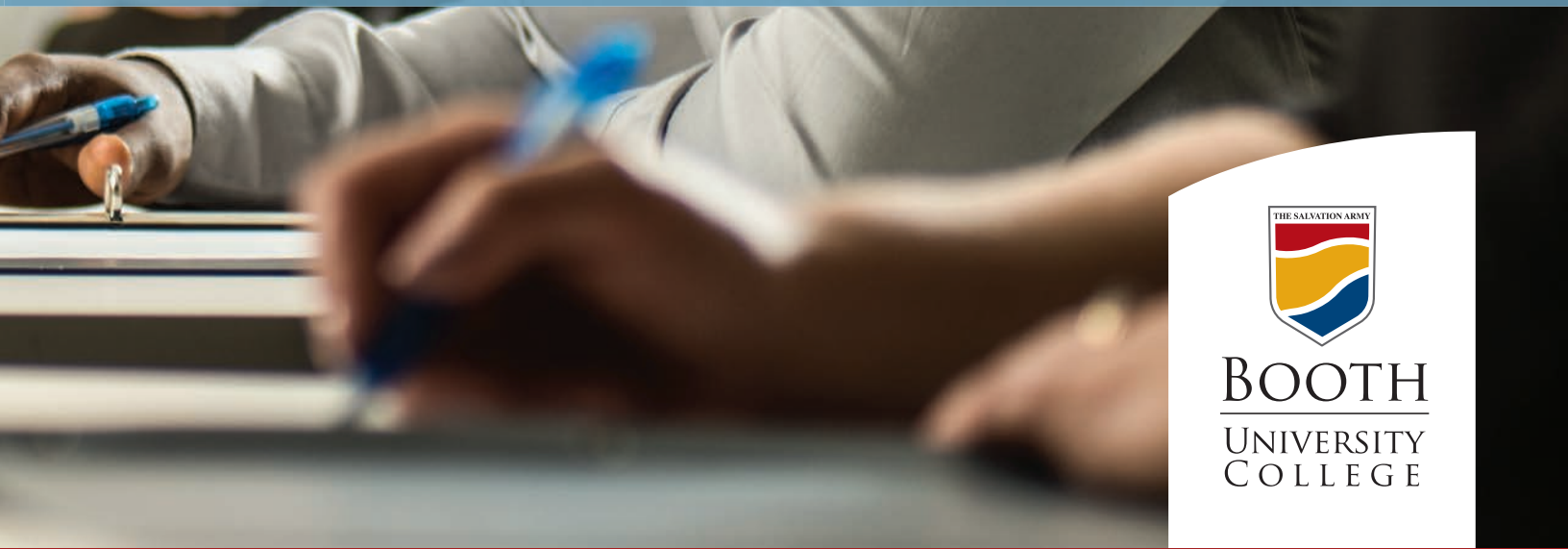
Shannon Loewen, Registrar

Joining the Academic team as our new Registrar, we have Shannon Loewen. Shannon has worked with Tyndale University as a Residence Director and then a Community Life Senior Manager. Prior to that, she was the Director of Summer Ministries at Camp Arnes. Shannon holds a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies from Goshen College and an M.A. in Educational Students (Student Development) from Providence University College.



Start Here

Booth University College | 



BOOTH
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE