



BOOTH UC

CONNECT

All Because of *Booth UC*

Without Booth UC, Sibusisiwe "Busi" Sabheni Musiwa (BSW/05) wouldn't be the person she is now p.15

- Sibusisiwe "Busi"
Sabheni Musiwa



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

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

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

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BOOTH
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EDUCATION FOR A BETTER WORLD



Director of Advancement's Message

C.S. Lewis once wrote "There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind." This quote came to mind as I watched our first virtual Spring Convocation in April 2021 and saw the faces of those who were graduating and moving on into the world. It resonated once again when we contacted two of our professors, both Booth UC alumni, for our Prof Files article and, again, when I read about Sibusisiwe Sabheni Musiiwa's (BSW/05) journey. It inspired me as I watched and read about Japhlet Lolo (BSW/21), our valedictorian.

Deuteronomy 28:6

"You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out."

Booth UC is a beginning for our students. It is often a beginning for our staff and faculty as well. Our faith sustains us and blesses us as we venture forth, whether it is into the world of virtual education, new leadership, or life after Convocation. We walk with the knowledge that we are a community in Christ, and we are not alone.

We are thankful for the past year of guidance from Interim President Dr. Donald Burke and we are blessed to welcome Dr. Susan van Duinen as our new Interim President. We are grateful for the vision of those who have continued to support our Bricks in the Bistro donor wall campaign. Our faculty and staff continue to educate and nurture students, conduct research and share their knowledge, all for a better world. Students like Jessica MacKenzie who "was allowed to, indeed, love radically" at Booth UC are evidence of the power of a good beginning and God's blessings.

I hope you are inspired by the comings and goings of those who share their stories in this issue of *Booth UC Connect*. We are firm in the knowledge that, yes, far better things are ahead.

Georgine Van de Mosselaer
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT



Special Message of Thanks

Thank you to Douglas Wilder for his kind and continued support for Booth UC. Douglas' philanthropy championed the John Fairbank Memorial Library and The Wesleyan Collection.

Douglas has been helping Booth UC deliver Education For a Better World with his annual gifts since the 1980s.

Through the generosity of donors like Douglas, Booth UC can send graduates out into the world to make a difference in their communities through hope, mercy, and justice.

Another Brick in the Wall

Booth University College's Bricks in the Bistro fundraising campaign aims to build the institution

One of the first things Georgine Van de Mosselaer noticed when she arrived at Winnipeg's Booth University College in 2017 were the bricks.

"They're everywhere, and you learn to love them," the University College's Director of Advancement smiles. "It's part of the sense of permanence and stability of Booth UC. Other than Hetherington Chapel, the place where students, staff and faculty gather the most is Booth Bistro, and, again, two of the four sides are clad with bricks."

The other thing that was immediately apparent to Georgine was that there was no donor wall on the premises of Booth UC, recognizing those generous people—past, present and future—who have played a pivotal part in the growth of the institution.

Out of these two observations came the Bricks in the Bistro fundraising campaign.



A Great Need

"There's never ever enough money for higher education. It's as simple as that," says Lt-Colonel Lloyd Hetherington, second President of Booth UC. "Education is costly. Real estate, bricks, mortar and personnel cost a lot of money. But you've got to have them; that's just being realistic."

That need is compounded by student bursary funding and financial aid. And COVID-19 has only amplified that need.

Key Spot

"This is the first significant fundraising campaign that Booth UC has ever run," says Dr. Donald Burke, formerly Interim President.

"We wanted to do something to recognize donors that would be visual both on campus and virtually," he continues. "And we wanted recognition levels that were affordable, recognizing that not everyone can contribute in a major way, though every contribution is major to us."

In her time as a fundraiser, Georgine has seen commemorative floor tiles and staircases, but she also knew that it was not uncommon to use bricks in this fashion.

"There are a lot of bricks in the Waldron Building, where Booth Bistro is located," she says. "I thought it would be nice to have a donor recognition there, because every student that comes through our doors, past and present, has spent time there. And being a fan of alliteration when it comes to campaigns, 'Bricks in the Bistro' came to mind."

Dedicated to the Future

Instead of engraving the actual bricks, an acrylic panel will be suspended just in front of the walls. There will be three sizes of bricks depending on the donation level, and there is the opportunity to commemorate someone special with a dedication.

For instance, Lt-Colonel Lloyd's wife had recently passed away when he received the fundraising mailing for Bricks in the Bistro.

What a beautiful way to build a memorial to her by buying a brick to place there in the college where we spent six years together, he thought.

Students, staff, faculty and visitors will see this and other inspirational messages when they sit and dine in Booth Bistro.

During the pandemic, the donor wall will be virtual and located on the Booth UC website. The physical donor wall will be unveiled at the University College's 40th anniversary celebration in 2022.

"By donating bricks to the Booth UC Bistro, you're helping to literally build the institution."

— Georgine Van de Mosselaer

Building Booth UC

For Georgine, the bricks are apropos.

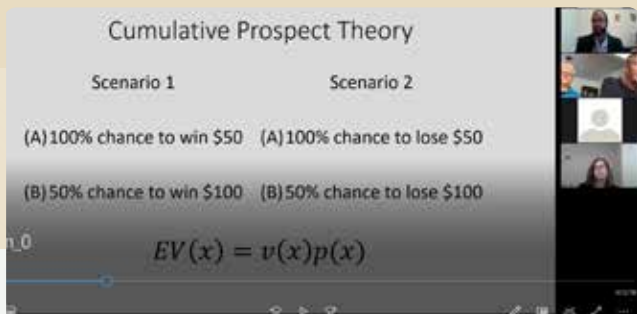
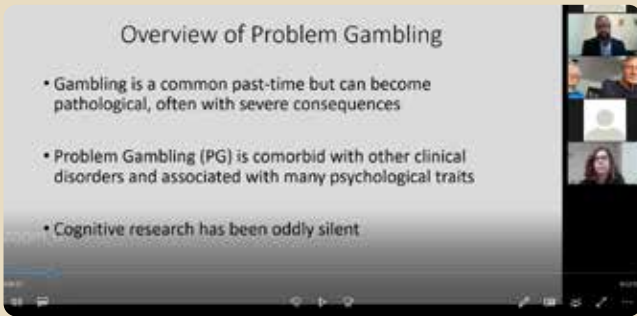
"When you buy a brick, usually you're building something—a patio, a garden wall—so by donating bricks to Booth Bistro, you're helping to literally build the institution.

"Building knowledge, building faith, building community. A brick builds many things. It builds students. It builds a better world." 🇨🇦

Problem Gambling and Cognitive Science

Research Into Problem Gambling Behaviours Covers New Ground

By Dr. Evan Curtis, Associate Professor of Psychology



Problem gambling is prevalent, affecting between 2-5% of North Americans. Its consequences are wide-reaching and severe, sometimes even leading to bankruptcy and homelessness. There have been extensive efforts to understand problem gambling from the fields of clinical and social psychology, but cognitive science has been relatively silent. My recent research, funded by a grant donated in honour of Dr. Edgar and Ynez Smutny, set out to fill that gap.

Behavioural economics is a branch of cognitive science that describes people's preferences and decisions under conditions of risk and uncertainty. Cumulative Prospect Theory (CPT) is a theory of behavioural economics, originally developed by Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky, that describes the ways in which people subjectively interpret value and probability in the context of economic risk. The theory is explicated on a formal, mathematical level, precisely defining the formulae and functions underlying risky decision-making. Conceptually, the theory states that (1) people are risk-averse in the domain of gains but risk-seeking in the domain of losses, and (2) that people overweight low probabilities and underweight moderate and high probabilities.

"The research exposes cognitive distortions that might exist on a fundamental level for problem gamblers."

- Dr. Evan Curtis

Because CPT is expressed mathematically, the parameters associated with its underlying cognitive processes can be estimated for any given individual. I hypothesized that problem gamblers would show systematic variations in the assessments of value and probability, as specified by the theory.

I had participants complete a set of artificial monetary decisions in which they chose between two competing gambles. I applied CPT to their choices, estimating parameter values that produced the closest fit to each participant's decisions. I also had each participant complete the Canadian Problem Gambling Index, an established measure of gambling behaviour used to diagnose problem gambling. From there, I was able to evaluate any relationships between the CPT parameters and gambling behaviour.

I found two systematic differences. First, problem gamblers interpret gains as being much smaller than non-problem gamblers, causing them to require larger wins to feel any sense of satisfaction or reward. Second, problem gamblers weigh gains more heavily than losses, the opposite pattern shown by non-problem gamblers. This might prevent gamblers from feeling the weight of their financial losses, focusing instead on their infrequent wins.

The research exposes cognitive distortions that might exist on a fundamental level for problem gamblers. Those distortions can then manifest as harmful and uncontrolled gambling behaviour. The clinical implications are exciting, and I look forward to continuing this research. 🇨🇦

DID YOU KNOW?

Two of our Professors graduated from Booth UC. Find out what brought them back to their alma mater.



Assistant Professor of Religion,
Dr. Isaiah Allen

Q: Tell us a little bit about your background.

When I was about eight, my mother showed me the well-worn childhood Bible that she had read. I was fascinated at the prospect of getting to know God by reading it myself. At thirteen, I finished reading it through for the first time. Ever since, I have had an intense and unbroken interest in studying scripture.

I studied the Bible avidly as a teenager and young adult, but I had concept of scholarship as a vocation. I did not anticipate ministry, either. I was struggling to grow a career as a ballet dancer, and never moved past the “starving artist” stage. Only after a Salvation Army leader suggested that I use my theatrical training and experience as an Officer did I consider how the Bible might fit into my professional life.

I began to study scripture formally and academically at the Salvation Army’s two-year ministry training school in New York. I then served as a Corps Officer (local pastor) for nine years in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Q: Why did you decide to attend Booth UC to study?

At the time, the territory in which I served (USA East) had a cooperative program for officers to finish their degrees at Booth UC. While serving full-time as a Corps Officer, I finished my BA in ministry as a part-time student

(husband and father), taking intensive, distance and online courses. I could not think of a more appropriate place for me to study as a Salvationist—to dig into a broad range of critical issues (ministry, worldview, leadership, etc.) where my commitments were understood and appreciated.

My Junior Soldier Sergeant, Brigadier Alice Roby, took her role in the discipleship of children very seriously. Since being enrolled at age ten, the Junior Soldier promise has shaped my life, especially as a succinct outline of the dimensions of Salvationist discipleship.

Q: What did you specialize in while you were there?

I earned a BA in ministry, which complemented my service as an Officer perfectly. I was afraid that studying part-time would detract from my ministry, but instead it enhanced and strengthened every aspect. Courses in Bible, counselling, management, ethics, social issues, and so forth grew my capacity in proclamation, congregational and organizational leadership.

Q: What impressed you about the institution then?

It was flexible. The instructors and administrators understood and cared. I was surprised at how readily I was able to form meaningful friendships with fellow students and faculty in spite of being a part-time student. I was afraid that I might feel disconnected, but I felt integrated.

Q: Where did you go after Booth UC?

After Booth UC, I plunged full-time into academia, earning my MDiv (with biblical studies academic concentration) from Asbury Theological Seminary (2013) and PhD from London School of Theology (Middlesex University, 2019). In my PhD thesis, I applied insights from cognitive linguistics, specifically relevance theory, to the interpretation of scripture, with Titus 1:12 as a test case.



I taught New Testament Greek at Asbury Theological Seminary as Teaching Fellow of Biblical Languages (2014-2016). I have taught Bible and religion courses at Asbury University since 2014, and I also taught exegesis and exposition courses for three summers (2013, 2015, 2016) at ECWA Theological Seminary in Kagoro, Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Q: What are your areas of research?

Application of linguistic theory to biblical hermeneutics, African biblical hermeneutics, New Testament Greek, Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus).

Q: What brought you back to Booth UC?

To be honest, I have wanted to return since my first semester at Booth UC. I owe a debt of gratitude for my formation as a scholar to the environment of grace and critical inquiry that first inspired and encouraged me here at Booth UC. For me, contributing to the formation of students from various walks of life and interests is a calling. I can think of no other place that I would be happier to fulfill this calling.

Q: How does your research help “Education For a Better World”?

We have seen very public examples of scripture being poorly understood and leveraged for improper ends. My own research has brought to light some interpretive habits and assumptions that accommodate bigotry and has reinforced the importance of diverse voices in interpretation. Grasping scripture and the Christian faith more clearly and faithfully can support healthy practice in a number of disciplines—social work, ministry, leadership, literature.

Q: What inspires you to teach at Booth UC?

See above. After falling in love with the Bible as a child, I invested my life in studying and teaching it in hope that others might also fall in love.

Q: Outside of teaching and research, what are you interested in?

I still love ballet, but I haven’t danced for a few years. I enjoy hiking and staying active. I’ve been married for 24 years to Ellen, who also attended Booth UC but finished her degree at Asbury University. We have four biological children (Zac, Barney, Julia and Sophia) and two adopted children (Jayden and Rosie)—a busy household. 🏡



**Associate Professor of Religion, Director, School of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Dr. Andrew Eason**

Q: Tell us a little bit about your background.

The youngest of three children, I was born into a Christian home in Toronto in 1966. My Salvation Army officer parents were very active members of the North Toronto Citadel Corps, so it is not surprising that many of my earliest memories were formed at this church. It was here that I accepted Christ as my saviour and learned to play a musical instrument. After spending the first decade of my life in Toronto, I moved from place to place for the remaining years of my primary and secondary schooling, much like any child of officer parents. My final years of high school were spent in Prince Rupert, a beautiful town on the northern coast of British Columbia.

Q: Why did you decide to attend Booth UC to study?

Prince Rupert had limited options for post-secondary education, so I knew that I would have to go elsewhere once I graduated from high school. In contemplating my future, I happened to come across an academic calendar from the Catherine Booth Bible College (the original name of Booth University College). As I read about the College, which had just recently opened in Winnipeg, I quickly came to sense

that God was telling me to go there. After securing the necessary recommendations, I sent in my application. I cannot remember when the acceptance letter arrived in the mail, but I can still remember taking the VIA Rail train to Winnipeg in early September 1985.

Q: What did you specialize in while you were there?

I ultimately chose to pursue a three-year degree in biblical and theological studies. There were, admittedly, fewer options to choose from at this stage.

Q: What impressed you about the institution then?

The College sought to provide students with a wholistic education. In addition to courses that stimulated the mind, we were equipped to grow spiritually, to serve the wider community, and to look after our physical health. I was also impressed by the professors, who were approachable as well as knowledgeable. They were great teachers and gifted mentors. Needless to say, there was also a strong sense of community among the hundred or so students at the College. No one felt left out.

Q: Where did you go after Booth UC?

I graduated from Booth UC with a burning desire to become a professor. With this lofty goal in mind, I went on to study at Tyndale Seminary, the University of Waterloo, the University of Windsor, the University of Notre Dame, and the University of Calgary. Some might say that I remained a student far too long, but Booth UC instilled in me a lifelong passion for learning.

Q: What brought you back to Booth UC?

Teaching opportunities brought me back to Booth UC, first as a sessional instructor in 2003 and then as a core faculty member in 2009. It has been a privilege and a delight to teach at my alma mater.

Q: What are your areas of research?

I focus on the history of The Salvation Army in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Areas of particular interest to me include gender and equality within the early Army, the life and thought of William and Catherine Booth, and the work of Salvationist missionaries in colonial settings. Two of my research projects were just published in *Methodist History* and the *Journal of Religious History*. My current book-length project examines various facets of the Salvation Army's work in British India.

Q: How does your research contribute to Booth UC's aim to provide "Education for a Better World"?

In order to create a better world, we need to understand our collective past. We can hardly know where we are going if we do not know where we have come from. By examining the successes and failures of the early Army in a variety of historical settings, I hope to contribute, however modestly, to the betterment of the Salvationist world.

Q: What inspires you to teach at Booth UC?

Teaching is a noble and challenging profession! I realize that I have a tremendous responsibility as a teacher (James 3:1), so I don't take my profession lightly. I am accountable to God and to my students. They deserve my very best. Booth UC expects as much, because it places a great deal of emphasis upon the student experience. The institution does a lot to help students succeed in their studies. At the same time, Booth UC recognizes that good teaching is informed by ongoing peer-reviewed research. My classroom teaching is enriched by the scholarship I produce and get published. This means, for example, that the institution does what it can to support my research projects, not only in the form of annual professional development funds but in the generous funding of regular sabbaticals. Each of these things inspires me to continue teaching at Booth UC.

Q: Outside of teaching and research, what are you interested in?

I do not have a lot of spare time, but I really enjoy watching hockey (especially the Winnipeg Jets) and going to the occasional minor league baseball game. I also like to travel to new places, especially in the United States. 🇺🇸



Announcing!

As of June 1, 2021, Lt-Colonel John P. Murray has been appointed the new chair of the Board of Trustees at Booth University College. An Officer for 25 years, Lt-Colonel Murray is Secretary for Communications for the Army in the Canada and Bermuda Territory. Congratulations Lt-Colonel Murray!

We look forward to your leadership.



How a Booth UC Professor Made it to the Big Screen (Hint: It has to do with spirituality, sci-fi & why stories matter)

“Science Fiction is a form that plays on the imagination and it uses current developments to speculate about what things might look like in the future or, in some cases, the alternative past,” states Dr. Michael Boyce, Vice President Academic and Dean of Booth University College. What makes this statement unique, however, is that it was made via a 2021 documentary titled *The Science Fiction Makers* (the second film in the Faith in Imagination trilogy). Dr. Boyce, along with an impressive panel of experts, appears in the 90-minute film written and directed by Andrew Wall. The feature documentary examines the Christian Science Fiction sub-genre and three writers that played a role in its emergence—C.S. Lewis, Victor Rousseau Emanuel and Madeleine L'Engle.

“Science fiction doesn’t naturally have a spiritual element,” continues Dr. Boyce in a follow-up interview about his appearance in the film. “The focus is usually more on the physical world and using science as a way of progressing humanity. But there was this small pocket of writers who used science fiction to try and explain something about their understanding of Christianity. That’s what the film is about.”

Dr. Boyce wasn’t actively pursuing the chance to appear in a feature documentary. The opportunity came somewhat “out of the blue.” He had met director Andrew Wall at a film festival where he was presenting the first film of the trilogy, *The Fantasy Makers*. A subsequent phone call and a few discussions later, “I told him if I can help in any way with the making of the second film, I will. The next thing I know he’s encouraging me to be on camera.”

Dr. Boyce appears throughout the film. Many of his more expansive insights focus on Victor Rousseau. Rousseau, who grew up in the Jewish faith but was later influenced by Baptist teachings, wrote in a variety of genres during the first half of the 20th century, including

science fiction. One of his best-known novels, *The Messiah of the Cylinder*, tells the story of a man who is frozen in suspended animation for 100 years. The man awakens to an entirely different society devoid of religion and family (a “dismal dystopia” is how Dr. Boyce describes it in the film), and then proceeds to try and bring Christianity to the world. “Rousseau wrote it, really, as a response to other science fiction novels that left out religion and spirituality.”

Generally, an obscure novel such as *The Messiah of the Cylinder* might be found in a university course grounded in critical readings of historical science fiction and fantasy. A documentary like *The Science Fiction Makers* brings it to a wider audience. This is something Dr. Boyce appreciates.

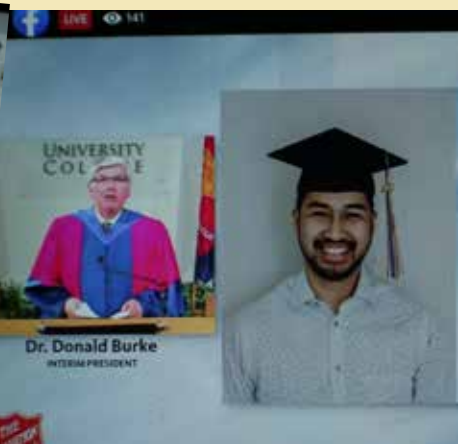
“As academics, we don’t often get an opportunity to present ideas in as accessible a way as a documentary,” he says. “We try and we want to, but it isn’t always easy.” A film like *The Science Fiction Makers* provides that opportunity. It also shines a spotlight on stories and storytelling, something that touches all areas of life. And something, Dr. Boyce says, “that I think I do in the best of my classes at Booth UC.”

“There was this small pocket of writers who used science fiction to try and explain something about their understanding of Christianity.”

— Dr. Michael Boyce

Talking about stories and the ways in which stories shape people and reflect concerns about the world are themes that come up in many Booth UC courses. Learning about these ideas in, for example, a Faith, Fiction and Popular Culture course, is a way for students to explore how stories form the basis for how they think about the world and live their lives. Appearing in the documentary brought this idea full circle for Dr. Boyce. “Stories matter. I am constantly telling my students that. The documentary gave me a chance to talk about that, in the context of science fiction and Christianity, outside of the classroom. It was a different experience, a unique experience.”

The Science Fiction Makers can be viewed on Super Channel (a streaming channel through Amazon Prime). 📺



A COVID Convocation

Booth University College's 2020 and 2021 graduating classes virtually step out into the world in a special online double ceremony

In pre-COVID times, this past April 25th would have seen Knox United Church in Winnipeg filled with Booth University College graduands gathered for the 2021 Spring Convocation and Conferring of Degrees. Faculty, staff and invited guests would have been in the front rows, while family and friends would crowd the rest of the building, all the while being serenaded by a Salvation Army band. The pomp and circumstance would have been memorable as the graduates walked up to receive their hard-earned degrees, diplomas and certificates.

But as with so much else around the world, this past year's pandemic has changed how Booth UC operates, with any sort of large in-house gatherings simply out of the question, not to mention so many students respecting the health orders and staying at home.

Nevertheless, it was still a day of celebration and festivities as a virtual convocation was held instead. The 2020 graduates were also celebrated, as there had not been the opportunity to prepare a virtual convocation last year.

"This is a convocation unlike any other that we've held in the 39-year history of Booth University College," explained Dr. Donald Burke, formerly Interim President. "To the graduates, on behalf of everyone at Booth UC, I want to congratulate you for your success."

A Celebration of Excellence

After the invocation of the ceremony by the Chancellor of Booth UC, Commissioner Floyd Tidd, Dr. Michael Boyce, Booth UC Vice-President



Graduate | 🔍 ☰

Academic and Dean, bestowed the rare academic rank of Professor Emeritus and Professor Emerita to Dr. Roy Jeal and Professor Bonnie Bryant, respectively, after years of service.

“Booth University College has never given this rank until now,” said Dr. Boyce. “But today we recognize two recently retired professors who have made considerable contributions to Booth University College and to the lives of their many students.”



“I would not have asked to be a part of any other class other than the graduands of 2021.”
 — Japhlet Ldo (BSN/21)

Professor Bonnie Bryant of the Social Work Program, who retired April 2020, “worked tirelessly to build the reputation of the program and to ensure the success of its many graduates,” said Dr. Boyce. “She’s been a role model and mentor for her colleagues, a cheerleader and an ambassador for the institution and a respected figure within the world of social work in Winnipeg and the province of Manitoba.”

Upon arriving at Booth UC, Dr. Jeal “established a reputation as a passionate educator and an internationally respected scholar of Biblical studies,” continued Dr. Boyce. “In the classroom, Roy has shaped the minds of generations of students, including many Salvation Army officers, instilling in them a love for the gospel of Jesus Christ and an intellectually mature faith.”



Changing the World

“We made it!” declared class valedictorian Japhlet Lolo.

“Today, we have achieved a great milestone that will leave an unwavering mark on our hearts. I would not have asked to be a part of any other class other than the graduands of 2021.”

Japhlet likened his fellow students as a representation of the lessons learned from forests, which are made of unique trees, with different trunks, different sizes and fruits. “Despite these differences, the trees form a beautiful forest site.

“The graduating class of 2021 has co-existed together for the last four years, despite our differences.” he continued. “When we entered the doors of Booth University College, we came in with different lived experiences, different beliefs, from different ethnicities, some of us fresh from high school, some of us parents and mature students. Despite these variances, we co-existed and became a community and, for some, family as well.”

In conclusion, Japhlet quoted Nelson Mandela: “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

“That is exactly what Booth University College has given us, an education for a better world. We might take different paths and aspirations in life, but as graduates of Booth University College, our goal is to be active contributors to society. Nothing can stop us from chasing our dreams and changing the world.”

Goodness in Action

After Brig.-Gen. (Ret’d) Linda Colwell, the retiring Chair of Booth UC’s Board of Trustees, provided the scripture reading for the day, Dr. Burke introduced Commissioner M. Christine MacMillan, who was conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree, the first to receive such an honour in the history of Booth UC.

The convocation and conferring of degrees followed, and a total of 162 students graduated with either a diploma, certificate or degree as they move beyond Booth UC to the next stage of their journey. Of special note was the awarding of the Chancellor’s Medal to Joshwill Tampai (BBA/21) and the General’s Medal to Lieutenant Kassie Cain (BA/21).

“We pray that out of their lives would flow service, love and compassion in a world that desperately needs to see God’s goodness in action,” concluded Dr. Cynthia Sottie, Associate Professor of Social Work, in a prayer of dedication to the graduating classes. 🇳🇵



Continuing the Journey

Lieutenant Kassie Cain (BA/21) 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, has demonstrated potential for leadership in The Salvation Army, and has demonstrated a clear intellectual and experiential grasp of the distinctive mission and theology of The Salvation Army

Q: How did you find your time at Booth UC?

I really enjoyed my time as a Booth UC student! I have great memories of meals and breaks in the Booth Bistro with my classmates, and I am thankful for the support and care I received from staff and professors. I loved learning in a faith-based environment and really benefited from learning in small class settings, both in person and online.

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

I was fortunate to have taken other post-secondary schooling before my time at Booth UC, and that helped prepare me for this degree by teaching me time-management, coping skills and the importance of taking time to rest. I was also very fortunate to have professors who were willing to help me with papers and offer flexibility, session mates who would study with me and friends and family who would support me when things got hectic. I am also very thankful for the support of The Salvation Army as I continued my education while working full-time as an Officer.

Q: How did you find your time at Booth UC? What did you enjoy most about the experience?

As a cadet at the College for Officer Training (and, later, an officer participating in distance-learning), most of my experiences at Booth UC happened in a classroom. Although lectures may not seem like the highlight of university life, I have so many fond memories from these classes, and I am so thankful for the level of knowledge, passion and care shown by the professors I had the privilege of learning under. Not only did they teach me so much about God’s Word—and Salvation Army history!—but they also taught from a place of deep faith and inspired me to combine my love of learning with my love of God and His church.

Q: How do you feel now that you have your degree in hand?

I am both proud of my accomplishments and relieved to be done with this part of my schooling! I am excited to apply everything I’ve learned as I continue my journey as an officer of The Salvation Army, and I look forward to exploring new learning opportunities in the future.



Leap of Faith

A stranger in a strange land, Japhlet Lolo (BSW/21) was determined to make a place for himself at Booth University College, and the class valedictorian's efforts were rewarded

Watching Japhlet Lolo deliver his valedictory address at Booth University College's online convocation this past April, viewers would be forgiven if they thought the young man had always been gregarious, confident and self-assured.

But when he arrived in Winnipeg from his home in Kenya four years ago, Japhlet was anything but.

"It was a moment of high anxiety," Japhlet smiles now. "It was the beginning of a long, long journey for me, one I wasn't sure I would finish."

Rocky Start

"When I came to Booth UC in January 2017, I was the only new student," Japhlet recalls. "It was hard to make friends at first because some students were already in their second or third year or were graduating while others had arrived in September. They already had made their friends and were hanging out."

"I talked and talked and talked! And that started to give me confidence." — Japhlet Lolo

That first semester was rough for Japhlet, despite Booth UC's welcoming atmosphere.

"People had a hard time understanding my accent, despite their best intentions. They were friendly and would nod at me when I was talking, but I could tell.

"I was shy, and there was a lot to take in—new country, new school, new educational system—so that first semester was rough."

Leap of Faith

Rather than retreat into a shell, Japhlet realized he would need to push himself next semester.

His big break came that summer when he worked at The Salvation Army's Beaver Creek Camp.

"Kids will make you talk," Japhlet laughs. "They'd ask me all sorts of questions such as where I was from to how large my family is to what I wanted to be when I grew up. I talked and talked and talked! And that started to give me confidence."

Returning to Booth UC in the fall, a determined Japhlet made it his mission to just go up and talk to people. It was a leap of faith, but he broke out of his shell and made friends.

Always a churchgoer, he decided to become part of the choir and, because he genuinely loved kids, joined the kids' club at church.

Before long, his smiling face was seen everywhere on campus, lending a hand or a listening ear when needed. Soon, he was asked to volunteer with the Student Council and the following year was voted in as an official member.

Humbled and Honoured

"I don't regret my time at Booth UC," says Japhlet. "Self-awareness, reflection and critical thinking—these are things I've acquired, which will be helpful moving into a life after graduation.

"When I look at myself when I arrived to Booth UC in 2017 compared to now is a reflection of the relationships I've built and my emotional, spiritual and educational growth. I'm very grateful to be in this position and I was humbled to be able to represent my fellow students. It's an honour." 🇰🇪



Radical Love

Jessica MacKenzie is grateful that Booth UC allowed her the freedom and security to pursue her faith as well as her studies

One Sunday morning, Jessica MacKenzie was at church listening to her parents, Salvation Army Majors Bruce and Kristiana MacKenzie. In their sermon, the pastors quoted inspirational Christian speaker Jefferson Bethke: “Love others so radically that they wonder why.”

“The quote stuck with me through my four years at Booth University College,” Jessica says. “Now, I try to live my life in a way that it reflects that as well.”

“Somewhere Else”

Born in Swift Current, Sask., Jessica can’t remember a time in her life that she wasn’t a Christian. But when she turned 14, she decided she needed to be more intentional about her faith.

“I spent three hours each day with my Bible, thinking about everything I read and that God was telling me,” she says.

“It was as if I had a second family here at Booth UC. I made a lot of good friends and I learned so much. The professors make themselves available and the small class size really was a godsend.” — Jessica MacKenzie

She attended the University of Regina but, halfway through her first year, Jessica realized she needed to be “somewhere else.”

“I felt God calling me to a Bible College and that desire grew the further I pursued my studies,” Jessica says.

“It was a good program and I learned a lot,” she continues. “It just wasn’t where I needed to be in terms of my spiritual growth.”

That “somewhere else” was Booth University College.

On Account

Jessica thrived at Booth UC. As her parents were stationed in Regina, she lived in residence for the first two years she was there.

“It was as if I had a second family here,” she says. “I made a lot of good friends and I learned so much. The professors make themselves available and the small class size really was a godsend.”

Jessica has always been “painfully shy” but the welcoming atmosphere at Booth UC encouraged her to push past her fears and love radically.

While in residence, she stepped out in faith, led the student chapel and started a weekly Bible study.

“We started off with only two or three people and finished the year with eight or ten students,” she says. “That was pretty cool!”

And during the summer, she and a group would meet to work their way through the Book of Proverbs.

“We were supposed to meet for 15 minutes each night, but it always ended up being one or two hours,” she smiles. “We’d talk about everything we learned and everything God was telling us. It really became an accountability group. That was a lot of fun.”


A Safe Space

Jessica is on track to graduate from Booth UC this summer with Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion. From there, she plans to attend The Salvation Army’s College for Officer Training (CFOT), with the aim of becoming a Salvation Army pastor herself.

Jessica decided to become an officer only this past year.

“At one time, my dream was to open up a coffee shop,” she shares. “But the closer I’ve gotten to God, the more I’ve realized that officership was where He was leading me.”

Jessica is grateful that Booth UC allowed her the freedom and security to pursue her faith as well as her studies.

“I hear a lot about people struggling with their faith, not being comfortable enough in their space to spend time with God and to grow their relationship,” she says. “I’m happy that this was not the case for me, that I was allowed to, indeed, love radically.” 

All Because of Booth UC

Without it, Sibusisiwe “Busi” Sabheni Musiiwa (BSW/05) wouldn’t be the person she is now. And she is grateful for it.

“I found my way to Booth University College thanks to God,” declares Sibusisiwe “Busi” Sabheni Musiiwa (BSW/05). “If it wasn’t for Booth UC, I don’t know where I’d be now.”

Huge Opportunity

Born in Zimbabwe, Busi attended the elite Howard High School, a Salvation Army institution.

Busi knew of Booth UC, but for her, attending was just a dream, “Something I thought would never happen to me.”

“When I received my Booth UC letter of acceptance, I remember keeping it in my backpack, and I’d take it out and just look at it; it was so beautiful,” she says. “That’s how excited I was. This opportunity was huge, but I knew God was in it.”

A Great Experience

Busi attended Booth UC in 2001. Not only was she a new student from a foreign country but her sister had died that summer and her mother had passed away just the week before she started.

“God intervened,” she says. “He’d planned that I’d be in a nurturing and God-centred environment.”

Booth UC helped Busi cushion the shock of loss and new surroundings.

“The people I met, the friendships I built . . . Booth UC became my family,” she says. “They embraced me and helped me deal with my grief. Having that support was huge.”

Busi thrived there. The smaller class sizes allowed her to flourish as never before, and the professors pushed her to excel.

“I wasn’t spoiled,” she laughs now. “Support was offered when necessary, but you were expected to work hard. And I did!”

Committed to Learning

After graduation in 2005 with a Bachelor of Social Work, Busi married Owen, who she had met when she had worked at a Salvation Army summer camp. After a spell in the United States, they decided to move back to Manitoba, “the place we loved and the place we knew best.”

Now parents, the couple decided to return to school, Busi completing a Masters in Occupational Therapy while Owen went into Psychology.



“It was a struggle,” says Busi. Tessa was two years old and the young couple would spell each other off. While one studied, the other would look after their daughter.

“My Booth UC work ethic kicked in, definitely,” she says, “but, looking back, if God hadn’t been there, there’s no way we’d have made it.”

Babuebaby

After graduation, Owen, a psychometrician, and Busi, an occupational therapist, welcomed a new addition to the family, Aaron, and moved to Edmonton, where they worshipped at The Salvation Army’s Edmonton Temple.

Busi’s baby carrier company, Babuebaby, was also born around that time.

“Owen and I were constantly on the go, but we needed to have our children close,” Busi recalls. She relied on the soft Zimbabwean wraps she’d been raised with.

Busi realized what was missing on the baby-carrier market was her nurturing Zimbabwean wrap coupled with the experience she had gained through Booth UC.

By 2014, Busi was tinkering with her design and getting feedback from parents through focus groups, as she had been taught at Booth UC.

With Owen’s input, they came up with a stylish and versatile design based on his bio-mechanic expertise and her experience as an occupational therapist. Her soft-structured baby carriers have been engineered to distribute weight around the torso and hips and eliminate weight through the shoulders.

Feeding Faith

“When I left Zimbabwe, God knew I needed to be at Booth UC,” Busi says. “I have to blame Booth UC for the person I am now!”

“Booth UC fed my faith day in day out,” she continues, “through interaction with friends or just talking to the professors. And this faith has stayed with me and guided all I do.

“I’ve always made it clear—I’m doing Babuebaby for His kingdom.” 🏳️‍🌈



Hope for a Hurting Heart

When my husband passed away my world imploded, but I knew I was not alone

When I look back, it was one of the most peaceful Sundays my husband, Dirk, and I had experienced in a while. As we were not leading services elsewhere, we went to worship at Cedarbrae Community Church in Toronto. That morning, there were two cadets there, Tina and Keesom Phanthaamath. Keesom asked Dirk if he could evaluate his sermon. After that was done, Dirk went over to him, had a word of prayer and gave him some feedback. His ministry responsibility completed, we went home, had lunch, took a long, quiet walk, then went to bed.

Little did we know that this would be his final ministry responsibility, for that night, Dirk passed away in his sleep. And everything changed.

Beginnings

Dirk and I first met in August 1970 at the training college in Toronto. I was starting my first year at the college while he was in his second. Despite the fact that we were strangers, we fell madly in love and were married five weeks later. It was as if we'd always known each other, and we firmly believed the journey that brought us both together and into officership was God-led.

We duly went through our training and were commissioned. Our first appointment was in Montreal, and then we served in a variety of postings both in Europe and across the territory.

In 2011, the Army asked us if we'd be willing to consider trying a new model where the wife, not the husband, is the divisional commander, for the then Manitoba and North West Ontario Division. Commissioner Christine MacMillan, then the territorial commander, was concerned that Dirk wouldn't buy into the plan. That was the furthest thought from his mind. He sincerely believed that the right individual should be in the right spot. But to make this new paradigm work, both partners had to be engaged in the new venture. The important question she asked each of us was, "Is your marriage strong?" And there was absolutely no doubt about that.

Journey's End

In retrospect, I don't think we were ever as happy as we were that June Sunday in 2013 when we visited Cedarbrae.

Dirk had been in perfect health before his sudden death. Even our family doctor was dumbfounded. He contacted me a couple of days after looking through the files. "I'm mystified," he told me. "Dirk was always full of life and energy. There was no indication that something was wrong."

After dialing 911, I immediately called our sons, Peter, who was in Parry Sound, Ont., and Richard, who was in Winnipeg. The paramedics arrived and took over from me, but though they tried their best to resuscitate Dirk, I knew he was gone.

In that awful moment, however, I was not alone. Almost before I knew it, Major John Murray and Commissioner Brian Peddle arrived, as well as our good friends Majors Len and Heather Ballantine. They stayed with me until the coroner took Dirk away at four in the morning.



- June's issue of *Salvationist* features the territory's newest officers from the Messengers of Grace Session
- The summer issue of *Faith & Friends* highlights the faith journey of Olympic swimmer Steele Johnson
- Listen as Captain Crystal Porter describes how the art of beading helped her reclaim her Indigenous identity



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Opportunity to Witness

Dirk's passing stunned everyone at divisional headquarters, but I will never forget how they rallied around me in the days that followed. I'd get up in the morning and while my sons and I were preoccupied with the myriad funeral arrangements, people would be at the house, cooking meals, cleaning up, putting food in the fridge, even making sure there was enough toilet paper on hand—those practical pieces that no one can grapple with in their deep, unexpected grief.

In my numbness, I felt a nothingness, not even the presence of God. Yet when I most needed him, God was there, constantly shining through, and it was how those people interacted in my life that demonstrated his presence.

That's what kept me connected to God in those early days and months. It was not so much the feeling in my heart of God with me, but the knowledge in my head that he was, and the demonstration of it worked out through those practical acts of kindness.

Of course, my letter carrier knew something was up as he delivered card after card to my door, hundreds and hundreds of cards from all over the world. One day, the letter carrier saw me from across the street and walked over.

"These are not Christmas cards I've been delivering, are they?" he asked.

"No, they're not," I said, and I told him what had happened. "I'm so sorry," he said. "I can't understand how you can go through something like that."

"I'm a person of faith," I replied. "And I know that the Lord is with our family right now and looking after us."

Even in my time of grief, God used that as an opportunity to witness.



Living With Hope

June is always a hard month for me to get through. Besides Dirk having passed away that month, there are a lot of anniversaries: his birthday, Father's Day, our commissioning and our wedding anniversary coming up in the fall.

Yet even now, I still receive text messages and e-mails from active and retired officers around the world with lines such as, "June the second will never be the same in our family" and "We're thinking about you on this day."

My faith is grounded in Lamentations 3:22-23, which talks about the faithfulness of God, how his favours are not all past and done: "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Are there still tears? Absolutely. Are there days when there are no tears? Yes. But the grief is always there.

What people don't realize is that you're always in grief. It becomes part of your life. It's not that it holds you down or makes you dreary to be around, but it's very much a part of you, the pain of who's missing, the hole that's left because there's been deep love shared for so long with another person.

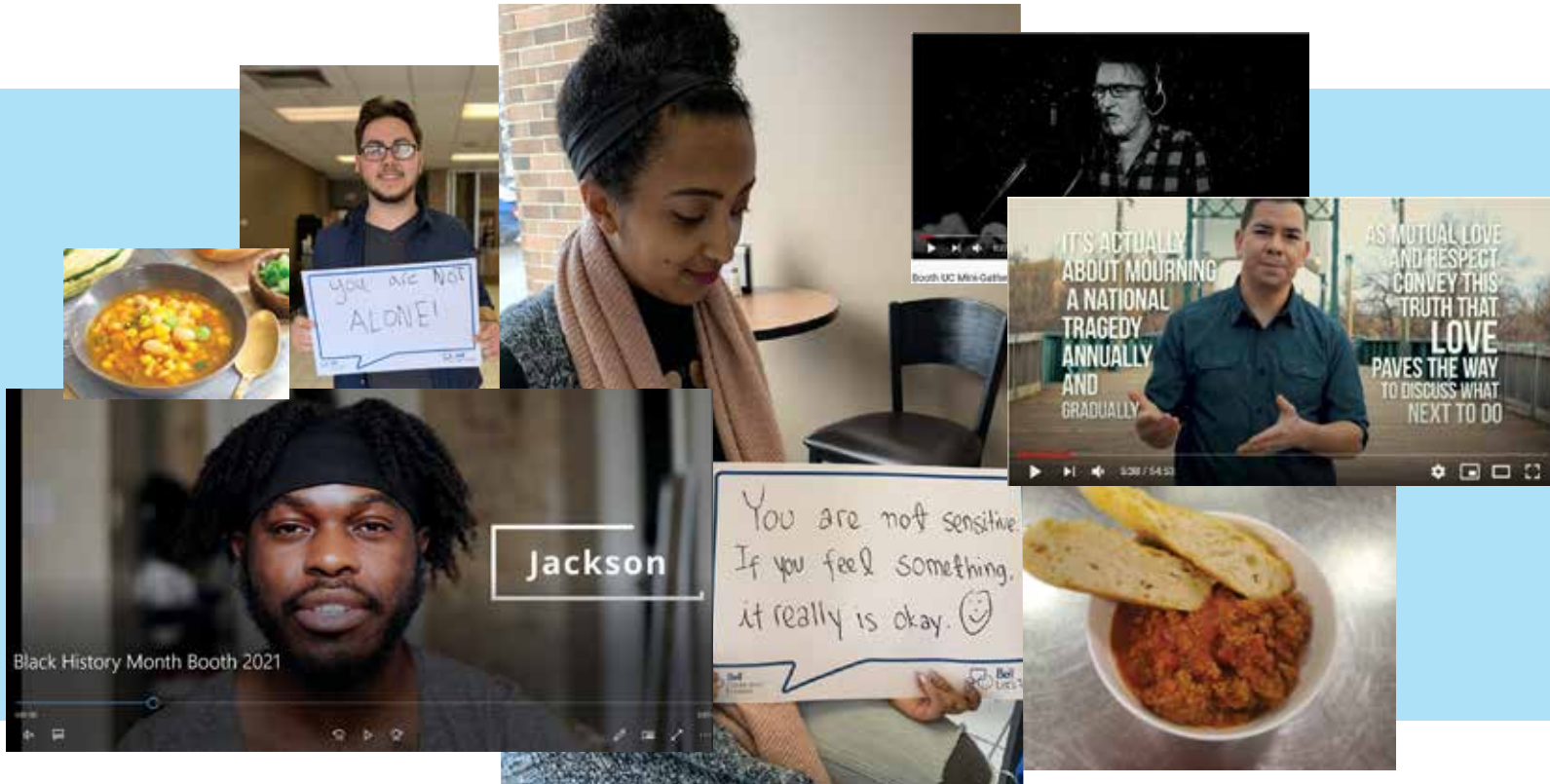
Recently, somebody asked me, "What's good now about your life?"

I replied, "What's good now about my life is heaven." Because I know that while Dirk's in the presence of God, there will come a time when we'll be reunited. That's our belief. And I know that it's possible to live with deep pain, with a gaping hole in your heart, because you can still have that promise.

There is hope for a hurting heart. 

Building Community During Adversity

By Matthew Peters, Student Services Coordinator



How do we connect? How do we stay in touch, build relationships and form community during a pandemic? For a little over a year, these have been some of the most difficult questions to answer. However, Booth UC students and staff have rallied together and found ways to make the most of this past winter term!

Student Services

The Booth UC Student Services team learned many lessons during the fall term and worked hard to implement what was learned. Returning in January, students and staff alike continued to embrace the virtual tools at our disposal. Virtual town halls continued to serve as a pillar of the community, offering students the ability to connect with one another, ask questions, give live feedback and just “hang out.” For those studying internationally, virtual lunches were held to provide alternative opportunities to connect with one another at more accessible times of day. Students were encouraged to bring their unique or favourite lunch to these events and, boy, did they not disappoint!

Booth UC Mini-Gatherings were joined by two separate bible studies in providing spiritual encouragement and opportunity for growth. The Academic Learning Centre continued to provide vital virtual aid as students pushed to complete one of the most difficult years of learning to date.

Awareness Weeks

A prominent feature of the winter term was our various awareness weeks (Heritage Days, Black History, and Indigenous Awareness). Planned by joint committees consisting of staff, faculty and students, these weeks put the spotlight on topics close to the heart of Booth UC students. Our students’ dedication and willingness to champion different causes is truly remarkable!

Student Council

The Booth UC Student Council showed remarkable foresight in discovering and meeting the needs of the larger Booth UC community. Recognizing the strain of the pandemic and isolation of quarantine, Student Council partnered with the Bell Let’s Talk initiative to provide students an outlet to talk about mental health. This resulted in an honest, extraordinarily vulnerable yet uplifting conversation as students freely discussed their struggles and strove to support and uplift one another. Student Council was also able to meet the material needs of several families in the community by providing hampers over the Christmas Break.

Amidst the more serious issues, Student Council also recognized students’ need to relax and recharge amidst a particularly difficult term. Regular game nights, virtual show and tells, and various other events were held throughout the year providing students with ample opportunities to relax, have fun and connect. A survey by Matchomatics was also distributed by Student Council. The survey was a unique way of connecting different students who may not ordinarily find themselves in the same social circles.

Our students continue to make an impact and be a powerful influence, even in times of intense stress and difficulty. Their heart, care for each other, and personal stories of strength continue to drive, energize, and encourage us. We also wish our grads well and are thankful we could virtually celebrate their achievements. We now proudly stand behind them, as they go out and use their education to shape a better world! 🌈

Staff & FACULTY NEWS



New Interim President and Vice-Chancellor of Booth UC

Booth University College welcomed our new Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, Lieutenant-Colonel (Dr.) Susan van Duinen on June 14, 2021.

Lt-Colonel (Dr.) van Duinen brings vast leadership and education experience to her new position. Booth UC is not new to Lt-Colonel van Duinen as she was Dean of the School for Continuing Studies at Booth University College from 2014-2017 and continued to teach cadets at the College for Officer Training and certificate courses in chaplaincy, management and leadership as part of the Booth UC offering. She has a Doctor of Ministry (Counselling) from Providence University College and Seminary and a Master of Divinity from Tyndale University. She is also a Certified Professional Leadership Coach.

Prior to her retirement from officership, Lt-Colonel van Duinen served as Divisional Commander in The Salvation Army's former Manitoba and north West Division, the British Columbia Division and the former Ontario Central-east Division. Susan and her late husband, Dirk, were commissioned in 1978 and enjoyed various appointments over their 36 years in ministry in Canada, Germany and the former Czechoslovakia.

Dr. Isaiah Allen

We are excited to have alumnus Isaiah Allen (BA/08) join the School of Humanities and Social Science as our new Assistant Professor of Religion (beginning July 2021). Dr. Allen has always felt a strong call toward an academic vocation. After Booth UC, he earned graduate and post graduate degrees in Bible from Asbury Theological Seminary and London School of Theology-Middlesex University. He won a two-year post-graduate fellowship at Asbury to teach New Testament Greek, and also taught Bible and religion courses at Asbury University (Wilmore, Kentucky, USA) and ECWA Theological Seminary (Kagoro, Kaduna State, Nigeria).

Before his professional life turned to academics, Dr. Allen was a "starving artist," pursuing a career as a ballet dancer. He still enjoys dancing, hiking and campfires with his wife and six children.



Frida Nones

Welcome Frida Nones, who joined Booth UC as an Administrative Assistant for Human Resources and Social Work in January 2021. She has degrees in Development Communication and Management from the University of the Philippines. She has completed her Post Degree Human Resources Management Diploma at the University of Winnipeg and has recently become a member of CPHR Manitoba. She has previous experiences in Community Development and built her career as an HR practitioner before moving to Canada in 2017.

Frida, her husband and two children love to travel and explore the outdoors and the exquisiteness of nature. She has a passion for continuous learning and treats new experiences as opportunities to grow and live productively.



Theodros Jeffrey

In April 2021, we welcomed our newest Technology Support Technician to the Booth UC Technology Team, Theodros Jeffrey. Theo has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Manitoba and a Diploma in Computer Science. He has experience as a Service Desk Technician and Information Technology Coordinator. Having worked for both non-profit and for-profit organizations in technology roles Theo brings experience in operating systems, networking essentials and systems maintenance.

Theo still finds the Canadian cold somewhat challenging but has an appreciation for it in some ways. He loves nature and finds the seasonal transitions quite spectacular. Due to influences by Cuban, Ethiopian, and Guyanese cultures, Theo enjoys meeting people and learning about their culture, cultural history, beliefs, and language.



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