

# TANGENTS

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a white lace-trimmed top, sits on a colorful patterned rug in a classroom. She is holding an open children's book and looking down at it. In front of her, the backs of several children are visible; one wears a bright pink hat and a dark jacket, another wears a blue hoodie. The background shows a classroom setting with a large alphabet chart on the wall, shelves filled with books in colorful bins, and a small table with a white cloth.

SPRING 2016 /// VOL. 6 /// ISSUE 2

## Acting justly and loving mercy

Alumni bring about shalom through  
law and indigenous education

p.8

Revamping  
the Core p. 4



## A Kingdom vision for today and tomorrow

**AN IMAGE I HAVE USED MANY TIMES** with our staff is this: navigating Redeemer through our changing times is like a canoe ride through river rapids – it will be a bumpy ride, but we need to keep paddling forward, in unison, steering carefully to avoid the rocks.

Our voyage of late has been through a pretty rough stretch of water. The same demographic trend that caused high schools to experience declining enrolment since 2006 is now cycling through Redeemer. This has a significant effect on our enrolment, and hence, our budget. As a result, we are now having to go through the very painful exercise of downsizing staffing at all levels. We take these difficult decisions in order to continue our efforts to balance our budgets and ensure that Redeemer can continue its mission for the long term.

Demographics and current budget challenges do not tell the whole story, however. We are seeing in Christian families a growing tension about the purpose of post-secondary education. Should students answer the siren call of job training and economic security promised by “prestige” universities and specialized programs? Or should they choose a university like Redeemer that—through all of its academic programs—encourages students to grow in faith and Biblical wisdom and prepares them for vocations in ways that allow them to realize a Kingdom vision for their talents and their whole lives?

This is, of course, a false dichotomy; Redeemer’s liberal arts and science programs have track records of graduating students who have gone on to meaningful and transformational callings and careers. But meanwhile, as scholars like Anthony Kronman and Harry Lewis have argued, prestige universities have lost their vision for the meaning of life, leaving a profound hollowness in contemporary learning and culture that so many youth long to have filled.

That’s why our mission remains so vital, even through these turbulent times. The intellectual and educational vision professed and worked out at Redeemer prepares the leaders who answer this call and who are urgently needed for leavening our culture today and tomorrow. It is a vision that can be seen in our academic program, including our new Core curriculum (see page 4), and in the shalom-filled relationships our graduates develop across communities, cultures and workplaces, in areas such as law and indigenous education (see page 8).

***“We want to be in position to carry out God’s calling for Redeemer for the long term.”***

It’s also why we must “paddle through” these rough waters – we want to be in position to carry out God’s calling for Redeemer for the long term. As we navigate today’s challenges, we trust that God, who has led Redeemer through many rapids in the past, will continue to lead and use Redeemer for His purpose in the future. We thank you for your support as we “lean in” to the mission God has given us. /T

**DR. HUBERT KRYGSMAN,**  
President, Redeemer University College

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On the cover: Erin Taylor '13 at Eenchokay Birchstick School.

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# READY TO THE CORE

## REDEEMER'S NEW CORE CURRICULUM SCHEDULED TO LAUNCH IN THE FALL

**REDEEMER'S MISSION IS TO** educate students in such a way that they become transformed into God's agents of change. That can be seen in the track record of Redeemer alumni – for more than 30 years, they have been positively impacting business and politics, art and music, medicine and social work, community development and environmental sustainability and much, much more.

At the heart of Redeemer's academic program is the Core, a set of ten courses all students take, regardless of their major. This foundational curriculum provides students the breadth of knowledge, critical thinking skills and spiritual engagement that enables them to connect more deeply to their primary areas of study and to relate to broader societal and cultural issues.

At the same time, the Core provides students a firm Kingdom foundation which they use to learn from and grow in the knowledge of all of God's creation, whatever their calling and career.



Over its history, Redeemer has adapted and altered the Core program to best meet the changing needs of students. In 2013, the Core curriculum was reviewed as part of the Redeemer 2020 strategic plan. One of the goals of the 2020 plan is to refresh and renew the Redeemer experience to meet the academic and spiritual needs of today's students. The review included surveys, forums and meetings involving close to 700 stakeholders, including faculty, staff, current students and recent alumni. At the end of this inclusive exercise, the new Core curriculum was approved by Redeemer's Senate in 2015. Students entering the University in September 2016 will be the first to benefit from the new curriculum.

## Purpose and structure in renewed Core curriculum

Building on the strengths of the existing Core, the renewed Core will help students situate themselves in God's unfolding story and relate their university learning to God's calling for their lives. It will be relevant and engaging, while continuing to reflect Redeemer's commitment to a worldview, theology and philosophy rooted in the Reformed tradition.

Overall, the Core program enables students to discover more about their world, to transform their minds, to think more deeply and creatively, to deepen and more fully experience their faith and to find a sense of calling for where God can use their gifts after they leave Redeemer.

The ten courses of the Core are integrated throughout all four years of each student's academic program, building on and complementing the content of their chosen discipline. In Year 1, Redeemer students will discover more about how being a university student is intertwined with being a follower of Jesus Christ through three broad approaches:

## TRANSFORM THEIR MIND

Learning how to think critically will enable them to engage the challenges of today's world

## FIND THEIR CALLING

Discovering and developing each student's gifts so they can impact our world for God

## DISCOVER THEIR WORLD

Learning about our rapidly changing world to understand their place in God's unfolding story

## DEEPEN THEIR FAITH

Integrating their faith into learning and being part of a spiritually vibrant campus

### *By learning about God, Scripture and the Biblical Christian worldview.*

They will be able to relate who they are as part of God's story to who they hope to become through their university experience.

*By discovering more about the history, culture and philosophical inheritance of western civilization.* They will be better able to understand where they came from and how the western context of the global experience impacts the present.

*By grappling with the effects of the digital technology and communication revolution.* That will include understanding how people relate to knowledge, learning and information, as well as how they relate to each other, God, and His creation.

In Year 2, students begin to dig more deeply into how academic study and knowledge in general are shaped by Scripture, the Christian faith and Reformed philosophical traditions. Students will also explore how to look at the world from perspectives very different from those of their discipline and major. For example, students majoring in the humanities will take Understanding the World through the Sciences. That course will enable them to appreciate the basic philosophies and approaches underpinning science today and provide a foundation from which to engage

cultural and societal issues related to science and scientific research.

In Year 3 and Year 4, students begin to look beyond the familiar to connect what they have learned in those foundational courses to new and relatively unfamiliar areas. Through electives in "non-western" perspectives and "issues" courses, students will learn about other cultures and engage contemporary problems and challenges. These courses could also be part of students' majors or minors, helping fulfill their program requirements.

Finally, the fourth-year Capstone experience will use project-based learning in an interdisciplinary setting to connect students to real world problems or challenges. This course will encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity, presentation skills and teamwork, valuable skills for the workplace and for the communities which our graduates impact daily.

***"Redeemer's new Core is counter-cultural because, for those who follow Jesus Christ, job training alone is not enough."***

## The outcomes of the Core

Ultimately, the Core seeks to help students discover both what they want to do and who they want to be. It seeks to be a critical part of the spiritual formation that occurs through university learning so that students grow in Christian character and in the acquisition of the critical skills needed to contribute positively to God's world.

The outcome might sound ambitious, but it is really at the heart of Redeemer's academic mission. Already there is a lot of buzz about the Core on campus and among prospective students and high school guidance counsellors.

Part of that interest in the Core is related to its uniqueness among universities in Ontario. At Redeemer, the Core reflects what it means to be a distinctly Christian university, one that prepares students to serve God in a variety of careers and callings. In today's "job-training" culture of higher education, Redeemer's new Core is radically counter-cultural because, for those who follow Jesus Christ, job training alone is not enough. Ultimately, we live to glorify our Creator, to discover His world and to walk more closely with Him in whatever work He calls us to do. /T

More information on the Core is available at [redeemer.ca/core](http://redeemer.ca/core).

## COURSES OF REDEEMER'S CORE CURRICULUM

### REL 110 - The Drama of Scripture

Discovering the grand arc of the biblical story and the student's place in it. It will introduce tenets of Reformed Christian philosophy such as worldview

### HUM 110 AND HUM 120 - Western Culture and Tradition I and II

Understanding how history, philosophy, literature, science and the fine arts have led to the development of our Western world

### CTS 110 - Being and Knowing in the Digital Age

Exploring the ever-increasing world of digital technologies and how they affect the way we relate to each other, to creation, and to God

### PHL 210 - Faith and Philosophy

Studying how Scripture, the Christian faith and Reformed philosophy inform the foundations of academic study

### Understanding our World courses

Developing an appreciation of the broad range of knowledge, students take two interdisciplinary courses that expose them to issues in areas outside their major concentration:

#### HUM 210 - Understanding our World through the Arts

Exploring how aesthetic and reflective aspects of being human are shaped by the arts and the humanities

#### SCI 210 - Understanding our World through the Sciences

Investigating how the study of science and mathematics increases an understanding of the natural world that God has created

#### SSC 220 - Understanding our World through the Social Sciences

Examining how people function individually and collectively, and how the social environment shapes individuals

### Global – Local Issues

Engaging students to learn about contemporary problems

### Non-Western Perspectives

Encouraging students to discover the wider world and develop an appreciation for the perspectives and experiences of others

### Capstone Experience

Using project-based learning, innovation, entrepreneurship and an interdisciplinary team approach, students tackle relevant issues in connection with a community business, not-for-profit partner, civic organization or government department.



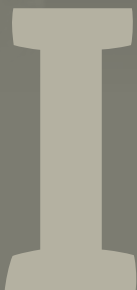


# Acting justly *and* loving mercy



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## ALUMNI BRING ABOUT SHALOM THROUGH LAW AND INDIGENOUS EDUCATION



**N MICAH 6:8, THE PROPHET MAKES CLEAR WHAT** the Lord requires of us: to act justly and love mercy. Although that command is not restricted just to the workplace, many alumni take the opportunity to work out that call intentionally through their vocation. Through their work, they extend the shalom of Christ to diverse areas of our world.

These two articles demonstrate how alumni are working out both parts of that call—lawyers who work to bring about justice, and educators who bring mercy to the oft-broken world of First Nations communities.



# Administering justice: Alumni working in law

## FEW PROFESSIONS CAN IMPACT SOCIETY

like the practice of law. From the judicial jousting of a criminal courtroom to providing advice on a range of issues to navigating the somewhat arcane details of corporate finance and government, lawyers influence much of how our world functions.

That importance is reflected in the challenges that it takes to even enter the profession – admissions standards for law school require, but are not limited to exceptional grades, the content is demanding, the training is rigorous. Even after they are called to the bar, lawyers are constantly working to understand how new laws and regulations affect their profession and their clients.

Yet for many Redeemer alumni who practice law, it is also rewarding. It is a profession that challenges them but also allows them to use the gifts they have developed to impact the communities and individuals they serve. It also offers a unique opportunity to advance justice in many different, if unseen, ways.

The breadth and scope of law is one of the most appealing aspects of the field for alumni. Even within the somewhat narrowly defined areas of her practice, “Every transaction I work on is unique and has its own intricacies and issues that need to be defined,” says Maria Vanderspek Kinkel ’03. For lawyers who practice outside a law firm, the diversity of work can be even broader. As Assistant Solicitor for the City of Brantford, Heidi Ellens de Vries ’05 loves the variety of files that come across her desk. “On one day recently,” she recounts, “I provided advice on a site plan for a commercial development, reviewed a commercial lease and agreement of purchase and sale, discussed litigation strategy for a potential claim, and advised on the disinterment of human remains at the cemetery.”



**My job is helping people in complex situations – that is what I love about it.”**

## Service and Solutions

With so much of daily life governed by the laws, regulations and guidelines of the legal system, many lawyers see themselves as service providers, finding solutions to problems in an increasingly multi-faceted and technical field. “My job is helping people in complex situations – that is what I love about it,” notes corporate law specialist Edgar Hielema. “I like to think I make a difference because I understand people and situations. This means I can help people get to a solution that works.” Identifying those solutions can be



### HEIDI ELLENS DE VRIES '05

English Literature and Theology  
Queen's University Faculty of Law

Assistant City Solicitor for The Corporation of the City of Brantford.



### EDGAR HIELEMA 'x86

BA in Political Studies and English (Honours) from Queen's University, 1988, University of Toronto Faculty of Law

Partner, Gardiner Roberts LLP, Toronto, specializing in mergers & acquisitions, corporate finance, corporate governance

**STEPHEN WITTEVEEN '95**

Business  
Osgoode Hall Law School/York  
University – Joint JD/MBA program

*Partner at Pavey, Law & Witteveen LLP,  
Lawyers (Private Practice), Cambridge,  
ON, focussing on corporate/commercial  
law, wills and estates, commercial and  
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**MARIA VANDERSPEK KINKEL '03**

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a balancing act between competing or dissimilar interests. “Finding common ground in these situations can be challenging, but it is always rewarding,” notes Kinkel. “Helping clients find resolutions to the issues they are facing helps them focus on what is really important in life.” In de Vries’ work, potential solutions can have far-ranging—and very public—consequences. “It isn’t sufficient to simply provide legal solutions to problems that arise: I also have to ensure that the advice I give won’t lead to decisions that cause political problems for the municipality or its Council.”

It’s that ability to impact people’s lives, and the interests of organizations and corporations, that alumni find so rewarding. In his private practice, Stephen Witteveen ‘95 assists clients “in many of their major life decisions,” such as buying a home and planning or administering estates. Outside of his formal practice, he and his firm also provide expertise to boards, committees and non-profits (he currently is serving on Redeemer’s Board of Governors). For de Vries, the advice that she and her colleagues—“trusted advisors” of the City’s Council—often leads to tangible change for the city.

## The practice of justice

For many, the practice of law is a dramatic public struggle for justice played out in a courtroom. As this piece is being written, for example, local and national media are making sure the names of the crown attorneys and defence lawyers in the Tim Bosma murder trial become well known. Another popular perception is of the lawyer as passionate advocate for the oppressed. In reality, however, very few lawyers ever enter a court room, and Hielema, for one, cautions that working for an NGO is “not always the answer” for those seeking to pursue justice.

But there are opportunities to seek justice even in the most administrative types of law. “In my work, I am indirectly

supporting the democratic process by drafting by-laws that are equitable,” notes de Vries. “That gives an acute awareness of the need for fairness in our work.” In her practice, Kinkel often works with clients, including families, to protect those who are vulnerable through the estate planning process. And Witteveen is able to give business owners the advice they need not just to avoid running afoul of the law, but to thrive, creating equitable opportunities for all to develop their gifts and talents.

Micah’s biblical call to justice should not be so narrowly defined as to be applicable only to those lawyers who carry out their calling in the courtroom or in the fight to resolve some great wrong. For many lawyers, justice is practiced in the minutia of day-to-day life, and our lives and society as a whole are richer for it. For we depend on their work in adopting, interpreting and implementing the just laws and regulations that help guide how we interact with one another, with governments and other organizations.

“In law school,” concludes de Vries, “a professor of mine said that the law must at all times be fair, efficient and predictable. I measure both the drafting and interpretation of our by-laws by that standard. That is how I advance justice.” **/T**

*The opinions expressed by the lawyers in this story are solely their own, and not necessarily those of their employer.*

# Loving mercy: Teaching in Indigenous communities

*Sarah Mork, Erin Taylor, and Brooke Palahnuk on the Pikangikum First Nation*

**FOR MANY YEARS, REDEEMER WAS KNOWN**, fairly or not, as a “Dutch school.” As it has grown, however, Redeemer has become much more diverse, not just in its students and faculty, but also in its curriculum and in the communities its graduates impact. One area where this can be seen is in education, where our graduates, armed with their Ontario College of Teacher designation, are entering the public as well as the Christian school systems.

From right next door to about as far away in Ontario as you can get from Ancaster, Redeemer graduates are teaching in a number of First Nations communities. Christina DeVries '11 has been teaching on the Six Nations reserve in Ohsweken, about 25 kilometres from Ancaster, for five years. Starting with her first education class at Redeemer, she was very intentional about wanting to teach in an Indigenous community. “One of my professors at the time, Dr. Mary Ashun, challenged us to consider what part of education touched our hearts. I chose to learn more about education among Canada’s First Nations.”

After making her decision, DeVries attended events on the Six Nations reserve and completed one of her teaching practicums there. She further prepared for work on the reserve by completing an AQ (Additional Qualification) course in Teaching First Nations, Métis and Inuit Children. Shortly after graduating, she accepted a post at one of the five schools on the Six Nations reserve.



Brooke Palahnuk '13 and Erin Taylor '13 are also working in a First Nations school, but their commute is a bit longer. Eenchokay Birchstick School, on the Pikangikum First Nation reserve, is a four-hour flight from Thunder Bay, Ontario. Several other Redeemer grads—Julia Wybrow and Sarah Mork, who also graduated in 2013, and Jarret Vandonkersgoed '06 and Amy Klumpenhauer Vandonkersgoed '08—have also taught at the same school. “Jarret and Amy gave a presentation to students in the education program on teaching in a Northern Ontario First Nations School,” says Taylor. “That really piqued my interest and led me to investigate the possibility of working there.” The school’s familiarity with Redeemer grads helped them secure a job there. “The current principal continues to talk about Redeemer as an excellent candidate pool for teacher hiring. There is a lot of respect for Redeemer grads as teachers. She says that they come prepared and they demonstrate upstanding character.”

The opportunity for students to teach in First Nations communities near and far has also driven some new initiatives in Redeemer’s education department. In 2013, Phil Teeuwssen, Assistant Professor of Education, explored Aboriginal culture and history in his Teaching Social Studies course. Throughout the course, students discovered different aspects of Aboriginal literature and art, including a visit to the Woodland Cultural Centre and the former Mohawk Residential School in Brantford, Ontario. At the conclusion of the course, those Redeemer students led gifted students from public, Catholic and private schools across Hamilton through workshops that focused on Aboriginal arts, media and stereotypes, land claims and resources, recreation and sports and oral storytelling.

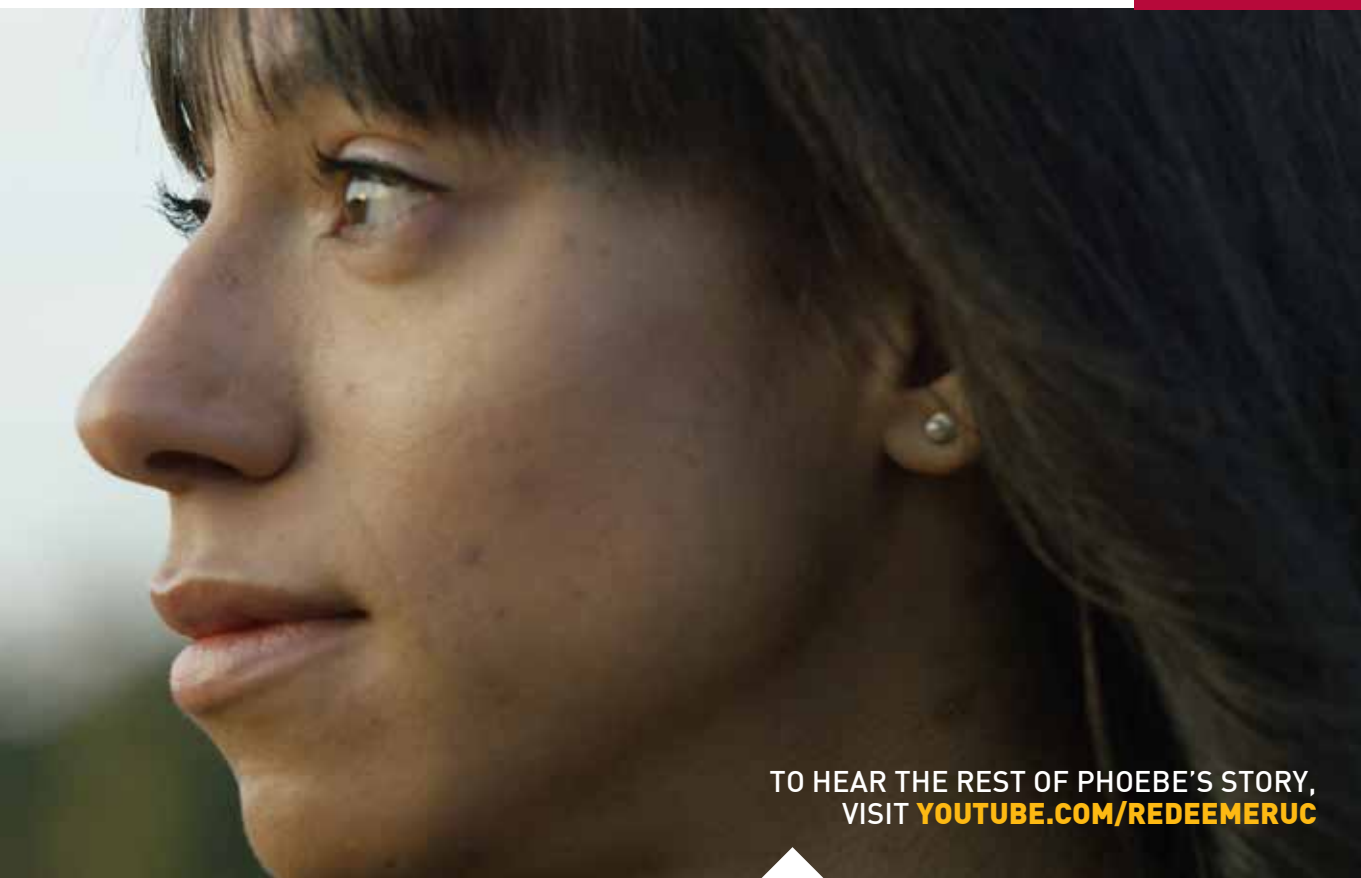
Teaching in First Nations schools has its own opportunities and challenges, much of them related to working in what is for the most part a very different culture. This is especially true for Erin Taylor and Brooke Palahnuk, who live in a remote community. “Moving to Pikangikum has opened our eyes to how other Canadians live,” notes Palahnuk. “We have seen the importance of having activities for the kids and youth to engage in after and outside of school, providing a safe place for the kids to hang out after school instead of them being on the streets unsupervised.” Over the past two years, they have, along with fellow Christian teachers, run a youth program to share the truth of Jesus through exciting and interactive activities. “Friday Night Live is very intentional about sharing the Christian message,” says Taylor. “Through it we are starting to build meaningful relationships with the youth.” DeVries’ involvement with First Nations communities also extends beyond the classroom. She is involved with several volunteer activities focused directly in Aboriginal communities. She is also influencing her own culture, in



**Redeemer’s liberal arts education allows prospective teachers to broaden their horizons and gets them thinking in different ways.”**



*Christina DeVries '11 has been teaching on the Six Nations reserve in Ohsweken, about 25 kilometres from Ancaster.*



TO HEAR THE REST OF PHOEBE'S STORY,  
VISIT [YOUTUBE.COM/REDEEMERUC](https://www.youtube.com/redeemeruc)

part by serving on the Canadian Aboriginal Ministry Committee of the Christian Reformed Church. "Having experiences working directly in First Nations communities has allowed me to share stories I have heard from First Nations peoples about the truth of the past, the realities of the present and the hope of the future," she says.

It is not just education students working alongside First Nations communities. Phoebe Mitton graduated from Redeemer in 2010 with a degree in history. While earning an MA at Carleton University, she interned at the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development. Her experiences there eventually led to a position as a policy analyst at the ministry, with a focus on aboriginal education. She sees her role as preparing the way for others in Indigenous communities. "Every day," she says, "I wrestle with the question of how to provide the support First Nations students need to graduate and access the same opportunities that have had such a profound impact on my life."

All these alumni involved in Aboriginal communities speak of the way Redeemer prepared them not just for their work, but their role in impacting individual lives and the structures of our society. Beyond the professional preparation of the education program, it

was the sociology classes that enlightened them about other cultures, the psychology classes that prepared them for some of the personal issues individuals on reserves face and the social sciences classes that provided an appreciation of the history and worldview of First Nations in Canada. "Redeemer's liberal arts education allows prospective teachers to broaden their horizons and gets them thinking in different ways," notes DeVries. "In this way, graduates are able to be better teachers when they take time to extend their thinking to understand Indigenous culture, traditions and beliefs."

The ongoing work of repairing the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada is often marked by the idea of reconciliation, of finding a way to heal the pain caused by centuries of violence and neglect. It is a road that is hard and long, but for Redeemer graduates such as these, it is also one of hope. "I so value the holistic Christian education I received at Redeemer," says Mitton. "The centrality of Christ's restorative work in my experience at Redeemer has helped me recognize, especially in my approach to working with First Nations communities, the importance and possibility of reconciliation." /T



# Teaching and Learning with

# Heart, Soul and Mind



**“TEACHING AND LEARNING” IS A** phrase we use at Redeemer to capture how professors and students partner to achieve educational outcomes at the program and course levels. Teaching and learning is the mutual obligation of professors and students to respond faithfully to the materials and methods of our scholarly disciplines. While their roles are different, professors and students are united in their commitment to lifelong formation as God’s image bearers in a beautiful but broken world.

This is nothing less than a radically biblical vision for education at the post-secondary level. Increasingly, schools have become providers of services to individuals and society. Society assigns universities the business of equipping students with job-ready skills that will make them productive members of society. It’s a transaction, with students on one side of the counter and professors on the other. At Redeemer, the sort of Kuyperian perspective that drives scholarly research and artistic expression also drives our teaching and learning. Through it, professors and students engage together in a common vision for Christ’s kingdom-building work.

What does this philosophy of teaching and learning look like inside and outside the classroom at Redeemer? Professors and students, across all academic divisions, work with each other more than they work for each other:



**"We are called in our teaching,  
research and artistic expression  
to witness to the victory of the  
cross and the lordship of the  
resurrected Christ."**

- The Cross and Our Calling

**In the sciences**, they collaborate in their courses on research that impacts the Hamilton region.

**In the social sciences**, they tackle contemporary problems in dynamic in-class activities.

**In the arts**, they construct a theatrical space, smooth out dramaturgical wrinkles, and take the stage together.

**In the humanities**, they read texts, evaluate competing interpretations, and discover collectively the richness of literature.

Active learning, experiential learning and high impact practices are currently the buzzwords of post-secondary education. At Redeemer, these strategies for teaching embody for us a way of being in the world of higher education that is engaged, responsible and communal.

Recent initiatives at Redeemer, such as the new core program (see page 4) and the Centre for Experiential Learning, foster an even stronger commitment to teaching and learning. In developing

**"Professors  
and students  
are united  
in their  
commitment  
to lifelong  
formation as  
God's image  
bearers."**

new courses for the Core, for instance, we have been intentional about aligning varieties of teaching styles, class sizes and student assignments with targeted learning outcomes. Not only does the content of the new core deliberately integrate key competencies and interdisciplinarity with knowledge of the Bible, Christian philosophy and character formation, but the delivery of the courses is also designed to realize their teaching and learning potential. When introspection and self-awareness are the goal, a reflective journal is the assignment. When principled pluralism and Christian charity are the objectives, a group discussion might be the order of the day. When understanding a Christian philosophical framework is the purpose of a class, a lively lecture fits the bill.

Ultimately, we believe that responsible teaching reflects the selfless love, single-minded purpose, profound care and sometimes firmness with which Jesus taught. Responsible learning involves the child-like wonder, delightful discovery, sincere commitment and even dogged determination with which God's people unfold the wonders of his world. The aim is to match the spectrum of diverse characteristics of teacher and learner with the means and methods of teaching and learning. That's a tall order, but it's one we're committed to deliver at Redeemer. /T

**DR. BEN FABER** is Assistant Professor of English. As Redeemer's Director of Teaching & Learning, he is also involved in the professional development of faculty.



# The world is watching

## NEW MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES PROGRAM EXPLORES OUR INTERCONNECTED WORLD

### RAPIDLY-CHANGING

technologies, such as the rise of digital media, have had a dramatic impact on our culture. Preparing students to respond is the goal of Redeemer's new Media and Communication Studies (MCS) program. Launched in September 2015, the program will equip students to interpret, assess and engage in culture-making in this new landscape.

Media and Communications includes streams in Professional Writing, Media and Culture and Digital Media and Production. All three combine the strengths of Redeemer's broad faith-based liberal arts curriculum with applied courses in media and communications. The practical aspect of the program will be enhanced through experiential internship opportunities, giving students the chance to learn from both scholars and practitioners in the field.

Dr. Naaman Wood is the first full-time professor in the program and he recognizes the importance of Christians to be engaged in the field. "We must discern, with great wisdom and patience, the contours of mediated life," he says. "Our response should reflect both gospel healing and words of prophetic critique, and it should speak not only to our fellow Christians, but to the wider world."

That need for a Christian voice is also emphasized by Stephen Lazarus. He is a writer and producer on *Context with Lorna Dueck*, a weekly, half-hour, independently-produced television program offering analysis of news and current affairs. At a reception celebrating the launch of the program, he talked about how so many young professionals he knows – at *Context*, but also at CBC News – are "cheering you on with this new venture. Because we all know how significant it truly is."

The Media and Communications Studies program is one of the outcomes of Redeemer 2020, a strategic plan that is exploring how to best work out the mission and vision of Redeemer in a new context. "Launching this program is a reason to celebrate," noted President Hubert Krygsman. "It is another example of the kind of transformational education that Redeemer students receive, preparing them to impact our culture."

/T

# Straatsma sets Ontario college record

**CURTISS STRAATSMA, A FIFTH-YEAR** physical education major from Brampton, Ontario, broke the Ontario College Athletic Association women's volleyball record for most career points earlier this year.

"It is pretty exhilarating, but also humbling because I know that none of this would be possible without the tons of people who have supported me," says Straatsma. "I feel pretty honoured to be doing this with the Redeemer community behind me, showing that even though we are a small school, we can achieve big things."

Straatsma's accomplishment was recognized in several news outlets, including the *Hamilton Spectator* and the *Brampton Guardian*. **T**

**It's been a very busy year for all Redeemer's varsity teams. For up-to-date news and scores, visit [RedeemerRoyals.ca](http://RedeemerRoyals.ca).**

**"Even though we are a small school, we can achieve big things."**

## ROYALS ALUMNI

Redeemer hosts annual alumni events for athletes that have competed on a Royals sports team. Varsity athletes helped build the framework that has produced strong varsity teams, and we want to keep you connected. We want to hear from you! If you are interested in a soccer, volleyball or basketball alumni event, email us at [athletics@redeemer.ca](mailto:athletics@redeemer.ca) and let us know!

## THANK YOU!

The Redeemer Department of Athletics & Recreation would like to thank those who have supported our student athletes by funding a series of scholarships. These supporters have an incredible impact on Redeemer student-athletes by making it possible for them to have the opportunity to attend Redeemer. In turn, these donors are contributing to Redeemer's varsity athletic program, a core part of the Redeemer community:

VSP Sports / Dr. H. Feenstra / Shane Renovations  
Hooper Law / Mr. David Tofano/ Subaru of Hamilton

These donations complement the Athletic Scholarship Fund, which provides ongoing support to student-athletes. To learn how you can provide our student-athletes with this type of opportunity, connect with us at [athletics@redeemer.ca](mailto:athletics@redeemer.ca).



# A word from the Alumni Council President

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**Here, Christ is over every square inch, from the classroom to the kitchen table to the soccer field and across the world where its alumni live.”**

## WE ARE WINDING DOWN

another academic year, and your Alumni Council has been a part of the many fantastic things that have been taking place at Redeemer and in the lives of its 4,000 alumni.

We are very excited to launch our Affinity Program with TD Insurance (see page 20). Alumni, Council members, and staff have put in many hours to bring this program to Redeemer. It's a great program and also a great way for alumni to give back to Redeemer.

This past November, I attended Cornerstone, Redeemer's donor recognition event, and met some of the students we support through the Alumni Award Fund. The generosity of alumni and other supporters is incredible and helps so many students continue their education. If you would like to be a part of giving back to students, those who one day will also be alumni, please support the Alumni Award Fund.

Some of the initiatives we are planning this year include the awarding of our 3rd Annual Distinguished Alumni Award this spring, hosting a networking social in St. Catharines and holding a Redeemer Alumni Mentorship Program (RAMP) event with the Religion & Theology Department.

I will be completing my term on the Alumni Council at the end of August. It has been a pleasure serving in this way for the past four years, including the last three as president. Being on Alumni Council is one of the ways I've been able to give back to the community that grew my faith, instilled a sense of

belonging and enhanced my leadership abilities. It has been so much fun interacting with current students through dorm dinners or listening to their conversations about faith and culture. You can hear in students' voices the confidence they have in Christ – that's why I love Redeemer. Here, Christ is over every square inch, from the classroom to the kitchen table to the soccer field and across the world where its alumni live. We're making an impact for the Kingdom of Christ wherever we are.

If you would like to know about any matters relating to Alumni Council, please email [alumniCouncil@redeemer.ca](mailto:alumniCouncil@redeemer.ca) or contact Valerie Louter, Director of Alumni Relations at [vlouter@redeemer.ca](mailto:vlouter@redeemer.ca). You can also connect with us via Facebook, LinkedIn and the monthly Alumni eNewsletter. We love to hear from our alumni!

In His Hands,

Miranda de Rooy,  
Alumni Council President



# Alumni Council update

## THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Council is a volunteer group that works with Redeemer's Alumni Office to provide support for programs that connect alumni and students and for building a network of support for alumni and Redeemer.

New Council member Kristel Bulthuis explains why she volunteers her time and gifts: "Redeemer gave me a musical education that is second to none, as well as a degree that is multi-faceted, grounded in Scripture and has ensured my success in every career choice I have made in the past 10 years. My goals are to galvanize our alumni community to share the Redeemer story, their own personal story, and to be a vital part of the next chapter that Redeemer is writing." /T

## THE 2015-16 ALUMNI COUNCIL

*Back row left to right:*

**Wendy Fennema '86** is a GED educator at the Immigrant Women's Centre in Hamilton. She is also a supply teacher for Calvin Christian School, Hamilton, a teacher for the Hamilton Conservatory of the Arts and an invigilator for Mohawk College and McMaster University.

**James Constable '17** is a third-year student studying history and political science. He is Student Senate's VP of Student Affairs.

**Miranda de Rooy '07** is an accountant and is working towards her CGA certification.

**Scott Kooy '96** is a teacher at Woodland Christian High School.

**Doug Sikkema '06\*** is a senior researcher at Cardus and part-time instructor in English at Redeemer. He is the Alumni Council's representative to the Academic Senate.

*Front Row:*

**Valerie Louter '95** is the Director of Alumni & Parent Relations for Redeemer.

**Jacqueline Slater '15\*** is looking forward to working with young alumni to keep them engaged in the Redeemer community.

**Rachel Brouwer '09** is the Church Mobilization Coordinator for International Justice Mission.

**Kristel Bulthuis '06\*** is the editor of *urbanicity* magazine and recently started her own company, KB & Co, an operations consulting firm. In her spare time, she can be found in the middle of the revitalization that is downtown Hamilton.

*Not pictured:*

**Cassandre Dauphin '07** is a treasury accountant for Wolseley Canada, Inc.

**Lloyd Rang '89\*** is the executive director of communications for the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. He is the Redeemer Board of Governor's representative to the Alumni Council.

\*First year on Alumni Council





## Redeemer University College partners with TD Insurance Meloche Monnex

### Save more with TD Insurance

As a Redeemer alumnus, you have privileged access to the TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program, which provides savings through lower preferred insurance rates for home and auto. Plus, by choosing TD Insurance you also give back. The program contributes to Redeemer University every year, so while you benefit from savings, you will also be supporting your alma mater.

TD Insurance has been serving thousands of member organizations like ours for 65 years.

For more information and to find out how much you can save call TD Insurance at 1-800-339-1847 or visit [melochemonnex.com/redeemerU](http://melochemonnex.com/redeemerU)



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“The Alumni Council has worked hard to launch Redeemer’s Group Insurance Program with TD Insurance. I am excited to see how, through our new group rates, alumni will have access to tangible savings on their home and auto insurance.”

#### Joel Span ‘13

CPA, CA , KPMG Luxembourg,  
Société coopérative,  
Past Alumni Council member



Jeremy Parsons '12 in  
the Meadowlands



# The making of the Meadowlands

**JEREMY PARSONS '12 HAS FILLED IN THE** missing history of the development of the Meadowlands with his master's thesis. Written as part of his studies in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences at McMaster University, Parsons traces the history of the Meadowlands, from a Neolithic settlement to an important Loyalist village and finally to a large suburban neighbourhood. "The thesis is a brightly written and thought-provoking examination of a defining development (and a still divisive one) in the commercial (not to mention cultural) structure of our city. It says a lot about how we relate to each other in and conceptualize our spaces of community," wrote Jeff Mahoney for the *Hamilton Spectator*.

Case studies like Parsons' show the multi-faceted process of expansion Canadian cities go through, while also providing a richer account of local history. Parsons interviewed residents, spoke with key figures in the development of the Meadowlands and scoured archives to create his nearly 200-page thesis. "Locally, I hope it can be a tool for residents and scholars to learn about the history of a place often denigrated as being 'placeless' and without character, culture or history. I hope that it also raises concern about the cultural and environmental impacts of these types of mega-developments," he said.

The research topic was partially inspired by his time as a student at Redeemer. "When I started my undergraduate degree in 2007, there was still a rural character to the campus and to the southern end of Kitty Murray Lane. By the time I graduated in 2012, a lot of residential infill had happened around Redeemer," Parsons recalls. He also continues to be inspired by the works of theologians—like Eric O. Jacobsen, Philip Bess and Craig Bartholomew—whom he first read for his Redeemer classes. "They all seemed to be pointing to the fact that there is a disconnect between Christian theology and the built environments which Christians choose to inhabit. There has long been a strong suburban ethos to North American Christianity, particularly among evangelicals. I wondered how we could look theologically, and perhaps critically, at our own backyard."

/T



# From Redeemer to missions at home and abroad

## AFTER GRADUATING FROM

Redeemer, Rhonda Elgersma '01 could have pursued a profession in social work, but "I knew I was being called into ministry work. But it wasn't until I took my youth group on a short-term missions trip that I was reminded of the richness of being around people that looked, acted and lived differently than I did," she shared. Elgersma moved to Mexico to serve with the missions organization she had visited with her youth group. What started as a season of figuring out what's next became living in Mexico for seven years and becoming a director of a missions base in Ensenada, Mexico. "It was when I was walking through the poverty-stricken villages or sharing a meal in a humble

***"Redeemer gave me an incredible big picture understanding of our world, of our faith, of our place in it."***

home or calling North Americans to a life of justice and mercy that I realized global missions was now part of my passion and calling," Elgersma said.

Elgersma is now transitioning this vision of action, change and mission into life in Ontario and her role as Ministry Partner Program coordinator with World Renew. "My role with World Renew allows me to marry my passion for the local church and the global church. I love that I get to help equip, train and stir up life among our sometimes sleeping culture here in Canada—myself included," Elgersma reflected.

Her time at Redeemer would become a launching point: "My time at Redeemer gave me an incredible big picture understanding—of our world, of our faith, of our place in it. I didn't just zero into my specific field of study, but sharing life with dorm-mates, fellow students, staff and professors was so rich and significant. It taught me so much that I have carried with me as I have lived and served in various community environments." /T

## REMEMBERING ROB

A new award has been established in memory of Robert Van Hartingsveldt '95, known for his gifts in music and bringing people together.

The award, valued at \$1,500 or more, will be given annually to a returning student with musical gifts and a heart for all people.

Students with financial need will be given priority consideration. Preference will be given to the most deserving candidate in the area of contemporary/jazz/fusion and at the discretion of the music faculty.

# A Year of International Internships

## ALUMNA ASHELY MULLER

has spent her years since graduation joining peacebuilding and sustainability initiatives in the UK and Switzerland. What started as an internship in Calgary then became volunteering and then a five-week program in Caux, Switzerland, for the International Development and Political Science major.

When her Initiatives of Change's Caux leadership program was complete in September 2015, Muller moved to the UK to join the pilot program A Year of Living Differently. She is currently on the coordination team for Initiatives of Change's Just Governance for Human Security conference. She is a UK regional coordinator for Creators of Peace, a women's initiative engaging with women's roles at every level of society. She is a communications developer for the Balfour Project, looking at reconciliation between the UK and Israel and Palestine.

She looks back fondly at her time at Redeemer: "Through many conversations, Redeemer taught me to articulate my beliefs and to be able to align my heart with my actions. I see this as a lifelong skill. In the daily grind of the real world, it's important to me that I know and understand my faith and how that looks in a secular, modernized generation."

**Redeemer taught me to articulate my beliefs and to be able to align my heart with my actions."**

Muller graduated with a BA in International Development and a BA in Political Science in 2014. She was at Redeemer for two years, first majoring in Sociology/Social Work, and then switching to International Studies. She transferred to study International Development and Mandarin Chinese at the University of Calgary. /T



# Brent van Staalduin wins Short Works prize

## REDEEMER WAS FRONT

and centre at this year's Short Works Prize for Writing (SWP), a partnership of Bryan Prince Bookseller, *Hamilton Arts & Letters* magazine, and the Hamilton Public Library to promote Hamilton authors. It sponsored the Redeemer University College Prizes for Writing, given to two emerging, unpublished writers. Richard Van Holst '86 (who received the Short Works Prize for Fiction last year) was a juror for this year's awards, and Brent van Staalduin '01 won the City of Hamilton Ward 1 Fiction Prize for his short story "Mum 2 Mum." Brent also received an honourable mention in



**"We're really excited that Brent will be teaching for us this winter."**

the non-fiction category for a piece called "Finding Iraq."

It's been an impressive year for van Staalduin, who also won the 2015 Bristol Short Story Prize for his haunting story, "A Week on the Water." Van Staalduin is an alumnus of Redeemer's English program and teaches creative writing as a part-time instructor at Redeemer. The Bristol Short Story Prize is an international writing competition open to published and unpublished writers. Van Staalduin's story is included in the *Bristol Short Story Prize Anthology*, Volume 8, which features the three winning stories plus 17 other shortlisted stories. Dr. Deborah Bowen, chair of English at Redeemer, says, "We're really excited that Brent will be teaching for us this winter. It's a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn from a successful young author, and to imagine what they themselves might accomplish in the future as graduates of our writing program." **/T**

## STAY CONNECTED ONLINE



Learn more about the personal and professional benefits that come from staying connected with alumni and the Redeemer community. You can also find ways to use your gifts and connections to support current students and promote the mission of Redeemer University College.

**VISIT** [redeemer.ca/alumni](http://redeemer.ca/alumni) - *Connect* for more details on staying in touch. While you're on the *Connect* page, complete an Alumni Update form. It will help us to stay connected with you.

**SUBSCRIBE** to Alumni eNews to get news and updates about alumni and Redeemer delivered directly to your inbox.

**LIKE** the Redeemer Alumni Association Facebook page to receive daily updates and links. This is the one to join for current news.

**JOIN** the Redeemer University College Alumni LinkedIn group to connect to other alumni and students in your field and find job postings.



# Personal Touch

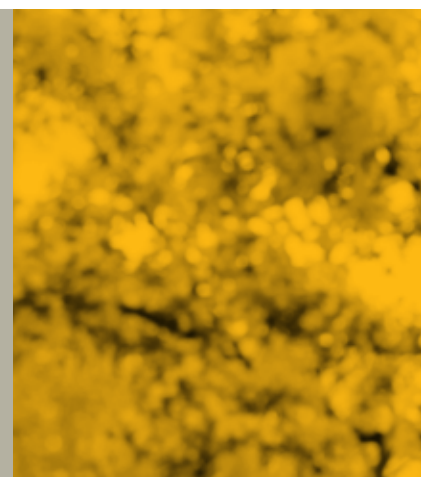
**Ruth-Ellen Wallace '03** worked as a medical laboratory technologist for ten years in Winnipeg, in the area of women's cancer diagnostics. Feeling the need to increase her knowledge of the Bible, as well as serve women in a different way by writing a devotional book to encourage them in the struggles of their daily lives, she enrolled at Briercrest Bible College in Saskatchewan to complete a two-year BA in Biblical Studies. She looks forward to graduating in April and seeing what the Lord has in store for her next. Ruth-Ellen is excited to announce the release of her first book, a devotional for women entitled *All My Love, All My Life* through Word Alive Press. Books can be ordered on Amazon.ca or directly through Ruth-Ellen (psalm91@hotmail.com). Copies will also be available in the Redeemer Campus Bookstore.



**Mike '99** and **Amanda '99 Kleinhuis** moved to Lindsay, Ontario, in August 2015 to plant a community church in the poorest area of town. Centre Community Church is a combined effort of a few different local churches in Lindsay, each wanting to see a strong, evangelical presence in that neighbourhood. A common question they get asked is, "What do church planters do all day?" Well, if you pop into Tim Horton's on Lindsay St. in the afternoon you might just find Mike there studying and praying. He does this to be visible in the neighbourhood and to start conversations with community members over a cup of coffee.

If you'd like to learn more about Centre Community Church, or to be added to their mailing list, please send an email to [mike.kleinhuis@gmail.com](mailto:mike.kleinhuis@gmail.com) or [amandakleinhuis@gmail.com](mailto:amandakleinhuis@gmail.com).

**Eric Van Huizen '96** moved out to BC after graduating from Redeemer, got married, and did a number of different jobs. For the past 10 years he has been a small business owner doing landscaping and running a plant nursery in Langley. He has been coaching volleyball at Langley Christian for 15 years and now finally has the opportunity to coach his own kids. Eric feels God has blessed him richly over the years.



# Faculty on the *move*

REDEEMER WELCOMES  
AND BIDS FAREWELL TO  
SEVERAL FACULTY

## Redeemer welcomes Rev. Ken Herfst

**ONE OF THE ACADEMIC INITIATIVES OF** the Redeemer 2020 Strategic Plan is to provide an expanded program in ministry. To assist with this effort, Rev. Cornelis (Ken) Herfst has accepted a tenure-track appointment to the Department of Religion and Theology, effective December 1, 2015.

Herfst earned a BA in history from McMaster University and then studied at the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches. In 1991, he was called as a missionary pastor by the Vineland Free Reformed Church, and in July of 1992, he and his family moved to Guatemala where they spent several years among the Achi people. While his main focus was church planting, Herfst also supervised the translation of the Old Testament in the local Mayan language, trained leaders and planted a number of churches in the mountains of Guatemala.



Herfst was later appointed as professor of theology at the Presbyterian Seminary of Guatemala where he taught from 2004 to 2014. In the aftermath of Hurricane Stan (2005), he was instrumental in forming a Christian relief organization that continues to respond to disasters as well contributing to community development in Western Guatemala. Prior to coming to Redeemer, he was on staff at Providence Free Reformed Church in St. George, Ontario. He is also working to complete his doctorate in theology. /T





## FOND FAREWELLS

**Professor Patricia Slade** has retired as Associate Professor of Social Work, effective December 31, 2015. Prof. Slade was instrumental in the development and expansion of the social work program through the design of new courses and increased internship opportunities for students. "We acknowledge Slade's enormous impact on her students, who have faithfully served communities near and far using the knowledge and skills she has imparted to them," says Dr. Doug Needham. "Slade will be deeply missed by the Redeemer community and we wish her God's blessing in her retirement."

Assistant professor, director of teacher education and chair of education **Dr. Dirk Windhorst** will also be retiring this year. Windhorst came to Redeemer in 2001 and has witnessed many changes to the program, including accreditation of the B.Ed program by the Ontario College of Teachers in 2006 and the expansion of the program from two to now four semesters. "Nothing compares with coaching teacher candidates as they learn the craft of teaching in the crucible of the practicum," he says. "It has also been wonderful to work alongside fine colleagues especially in the department of education but also in the wider faculty. We – students, faculty, and staff – are blessed to experience a Christian community of scholarship, teaching and service."

## Focus on Faculty



## Back to class

**AFTER 17 YEARS** of administrative service, Dr. Doug Needham will be returning to the classroom. Needham was appointed as Provost and Vice President Academic in July 2012. Prior to that, he had served as Dean of Sciences and Social Sciences for 10 years. As Associate Professor of Psychology, he will be focusing on courses in developmental psychology and the psychology of health and well-being.

"While we will miss Doug's administrative skills and expertise, our students will certainly benefit from his return to teaching," notes President Krygsman. "I want to thank him very much for his years of service in academic administration, and look forward to his contributions in providing psychology students the excellent education that marks Redeemer." **T**





# Launch of the Margaret Eaton Digital Collection

**DR. JOHN BYL, EMERITUS PROFESSOR** of physical education, has spent several decades researching the role of women in the history of physical education in Canada, and particularly the Margaret Eaton School, which was significant in developing physical education programs for women. The school's founding principal, Emma Scott Raff (1880-1942), had developed a groundbreaking approach to teaching by balancing theory with experiential learning.

During his research, Byl interviewed more than 100 graduates of the school and collected from them not just stories but books, yearbooks, calendars, photo albums, course notes, and other archival material. He discovered that Bob Young, owner/caretaker of the Hamilton Ti-Cats, founder of Red Hat, owner of Lulu.com, and a well-known Hamilton philanthropist, is the great-grandson of Emma Scott Raff. Young has a great interest in the school and agreed to fund Byl's work in digitally archiving the materials at Redeemer, in order to create an archive that can be searched worldwide. Marlene Power and Patricia Kok of Redeemer's Peter Turkstra Library and two students organized, photographed and prepared a database of the 17,000 items Byl had collected.

The Collection is housed in the Peter Turkstra Library at Redeemer and is available online at [www.redeemer.ca/margaret-eaton](http://www.redeemer.ca/margaret-eaton). /T



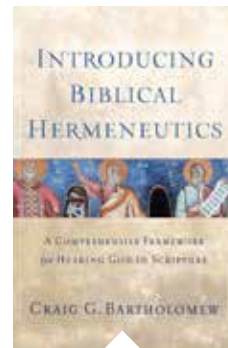
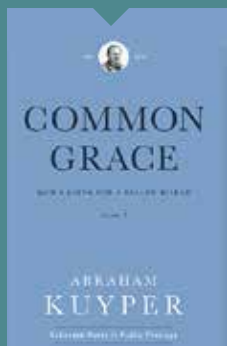
*Mrs Dorothy Scott Raff,  
c/o Captain Porter,  
Lucas Island,  
Tahiti,  
Muskoka.*





# The on-going influence of Kuyper

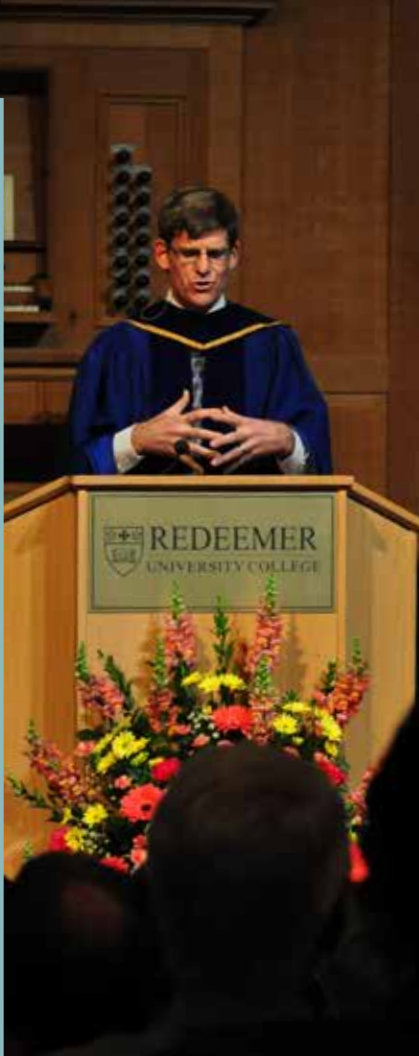
**DR. HARRY VAN DYKE**, emeritus professor of history, is one of the key contributors to a new series of books and digital resources titled *Abraham Kuyper: Collected Works in Public Theology*, published by Lexham Press. Kuyper, a Dutch journalist, statesman and Neo-Calvinist theologian, is one of the strongest proponents of a Christian worldview that insists that the Christian faith is both for salvation and for the rest of life. His influence on Christian scholars, including those on Redeemer's faculty, is almost impossible to overestimate. The series is the capstone project of the work of the Abraham Kuyper Translation Society, a loose-knit group of Kuyper scholars from across North America and Europe. Through his attendance at the annual Kuyper Conference at Princeton Seminary, Van Dyke was asked to translate and edit *Our Program: A Christian Political Manifesto*, the first volume to be made available in the series. And he has been asked to do more for the series. "Currently, I am translating pieces for two planned anthologies of writings by Kuyper on education and on business and economics," Van Dyke reports. "I find him still amazingly relevant today." /T



## The academy and the Church

**IN HIS RECENT PUBLISHED WORKS**, Dr. Craig Bartholomew takes the "dual purpose" approach of writing for the benefit of both the academy and the church. These works centre on hermeneutics or, as he defines it, "learning how to listen to Scripture for God's address." In November 2015, Baker Academic published *Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Framework for Hearing God in Scripture*, a culmination of Bartholomew's many years of scholarly work in this area. Next March, *A Manifesto for Theological Interpretation*, co-edited with Heath A. Thomas of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, will be released.

Bartholomew writes with an eye to pastors and laity as well. "Biblical interpretation should be centred in the context and service of the church," he notes. "These books are intentionally sensitive to the needs of professors, students and church leaders." That practical focus is reflected in some of his other publications as well, such as *When You Want to Yell at God: The Book of Job*, the forthcoming *Jesus and Prayer in Luke* and *Excellent Preaching*, which is based on an address he gave to the Synod of the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC). He has also provided the study notes for Ecclesiastes in the new NIV Zondervan Study Bible. "It has been a privilege to be part of the extensive team writing the notes for this new version," he says. "Few things are more important than a renewal of Bible reading with a sense of the overarching message of Scripture, a distinctive emphasis of this new edition." /T



# Inauguration of Dr. Edward Berkelaar

## AT A FORMAL CEREMONY

this past November, Dr. Edward Berkelaar was inaugurated as Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Studies. At the inauguration, the president and provost installed Berkelaar as a professor, and Berkelaar gave an inaugural address highlighting his research and teaching. The celebration was a gathering of family, friends, students, alumni, professionals and academics to celebrate Berkelaar's work and his new role at Redeemer.

In his address, Berkelaar traced the history of nitrogen and its dramatic impact on the modern world. The modern nitrogen fixation

has changed our weapons of war, the amount of food we can produce, the size of our population and the quality of our water; nitrogen use has changed the way we are impacting our environment.

Berkelaar joined the Department of Environmental Studies and Chemistry in 2003. Outside of teaching, he researches trace element uptake by plants, focusing on thallium and selenium. He also writes for agriculture development workers in the ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization) technical bulletin. Recently, he has joined research projects monitoring water quality of local, urban creeks that drain into Cootes Paradise, research funded by Redeemer's Centre for Christian Scholarship. Prior to coming to Redeemer, Berkelaar spent three years working as a research director at ECHO, an NGO that provides technical support to agricultural development workers. /T

## OTHER RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

**Dr. Kevin Flatt** discusses the history of Christianity and immigration in his article "Pier 21: Canadian Evangelicalism is an immigrant faith" in the November/December issue of *Faith Today*: "Today's immigration is potentially an enormous boost to Canadian Christianity. Immigration brings the unreached world to our doorstep. This is a tremendous opportunity. Will today's Evangelicals, like those of previous eras, answer the call?"

**Dr. Robert Joustra** explores "What's next for Canada's Office of Religious Freedom?" in an opinion piece for the November 19, 2015, issue of *Embassy*: "The genius of Canada, regardless of its political masters, is a tradition and a legacy of living together amidst, rather than despite, our deepest diversity."

**Dr. David Koyzis** explores socialism's resurrection in US politics in his article "Socialism in America?" in the November 24, 2015, issue of *First Things* magazine. Why has socialism failed to make an impact in the US for so long, and what's changing now?

**Dr. Derek Schuurman** discusses "Technology and the Church" in the Fall 2015 issue of *God & Nature Magazine*: "Although there are certain constants in Christian worship, such as the preaching of the word and administering the sacraments, worship also reflects the traditions and context in which people live. The style of music, the aesthetics of worship, the language spoken and church architecture have all been shaped, to one extent or another, by the surrounding culture. Technology, as part of culture, has also shaped the church in significant ways."

# Exercising the mind and the body

## EXPLORING THE ROLE OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN HEALTHY AGING

**O**NLY A FEW SHORT DECADES ago the role of exercise in disease prevention was primarily focused on heart disease and the prevention of atherosclerosis or plaque in arteries. Now, we know that exercise plays a significant role in the protection and treatment of numerous health issues including diabetes, cancer, vascular disease leading to stroke, hypertension, osteoarthritis and osteoporosis. We also know that exercise training for fitness and skill is the greatest tool for optimizing sport performance. Even astronauts use exercise on the International Space Station to preserve physiological function and health while military troops use it to improve function and safety in combat. There are also benefits that extend far beyond the physical, and I feel extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to conduct research in most of those areas as well. For example, exercise is a primary source of recreation and social interaction. Research has also found that physical activity has a positive role in a number of issues relating to mental health such as depression, anxiety, dementia and age-related mental decline.

Currently, I am investigating the role of exercise in brain health in seniors. We know that exercise training increases blood flow in the brain, which is associated with brain health and the slowing of age-related cognitive decline. However, this kind of training requires a rather intense workload, for at least 20 minutes three times per week. Most seniors don't exercise this way.

What I am exploring is if the activities of daily living—walking, stair-climbing, cleaning, gardening—can on their own place a sufficient challenge on the cardiovascular system to

***“As Canada’s population ages, this research could have a significant, positive impact on a larger segment of our society.”***

increase blood flow to the brain. In my current study, seniors wear portable instruments to measure brain blood flow and several other markers such as blood pressure, heart rate, caloric expenditure and breathing parameters as they walk at different speeds and then as they do a series of household activities such as walking stairs and putting away groceries. Through those activities, my research partners and I are able to determine if brain blood flow changes with each activity and investigate what is causing those changes.

As Canada’s population ages, this research could have a significant, positive impact on a larger segment of our society and the heavy burden facing public health in an aging demography. **T**

**DIANNE MOROZ** is Assistant Professor of Physical Education and Chair of the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education.

# The Church's social responsibility

**A NEW COLLECTION OF ESSAYS, TO** which Redeemer faculty contributed, explores a number of questions related to the church's witness to society: Why is the church significant? How should it speak and act—and who should do the speaking and acting?

The collection, titled *The Church's Social Responsibility: Reflections on Evangelicalism and Social Justice*, was edited by Dr. Robert Jousstra and by Jordan Ballor of the Acton Institute. Dr. David Koyzis contributed the essay, "A Neo-Calvinist Ecclesiology," and Dr. Kevin Flatt wrote the epilogue.

In the volume's introduction, Jousstra writes:

"It has long been the conviction of Christian social thought that 'the Church' has a social responsibility. Back in our grandparents', and great-grandparents' day, that responsibility

was obvious. The Church ran schools. It ran hospitals. It ran out-of-the-cold programs and homeless shelters. It spoke with weight and power about international and local issues. But those days in North America are long gone, and many of those churches are long gone, as Kevin Flatt writes in *After Evangelicalism*. The decline in organized religion is real, and the influence of organized religion in North America has long collapsed and is by now overgrown. So what voice should the Church have today in North America, what should it speak about and who speaks for it? Those are the questions that bind together this new book."

The book is available at Christian's Library Press. /T

## PURPOSE, POWER, POTENTIAL CONFERENCE

Modern culture, more than ever, needs the wisdom, knowledge, and research that is being produced in Christian schools and institutions. The Purpose, Power, Potential conference, co-sponsored by the Christian teachers' association Edifide, was designed to expand the imaginations of Christians to use their power as Christians to shape culture and further the kingdom. The Redeemer Centre for Christian Scholarship hosted three scholars from varying disciplines for the November conference. Dr. Karen Swallow Prior (Liberty University) discussed abolitionist Hannah More's efforts to reform the culture of her day as a template for modern Christians shaping our own culture. Dr. Peter Mahaffy (The King's University) spoke about the role of storytelling in helping people to understand complicated scientific issues like climate change. Dr. Noah Toly (Wheaton College) spoke about the future of cities and our Christian calling to work within the cityscape to shape a fair future for those most vulnerable. Dr. Toly is also the recipient of the Centre's Emerging Public Intellectual Award, recognizing the public impact of his scholarship.



Dr. Robert Jousstra



Dr. Kevin Flatt



Dr. David Koyzis



# The biblical roots of peacekeeping

**ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL** international institutions is the United Nations. As part of a collection exploring the role of the Bible in global affairs, Dr. Robert Joustra, Assistant Professor of International Studies, has contributed a piece about the biblical roots of the U.N.

The chapter he penned, "The Isaiah Wall and the world: Origins and outlook of the Bible and U.N. peacekeeping," was published in the International Bible Advocacy Centre's latest publication, *Democracy, Conflict & the Bible: Reflections on the Role of the Bible in International Affairs*.

"The Bible matters for global affairs," writes Joustra. "It matters not only because it was influential, once upon a time, but because it is a living, serious book which shapes hearts, minds, systems, and institutions even in the present day." In the chapter, Joustra shows how Biblical ideas of justice shaped the "just and durable peace" envisioned by political leaders after World War II and how this vision supported and enabled the practice of peacekeeping.

Joustra argues that there is still a role for peacekeeping as part of global governance. "Through a continued biblically-engaged approach to peacekeeping, we recognize the possibilities for realizing Isaiah's ancient invocation to 'beat swords into ploughshares.'"

*Democracy, Conflict & the Bible: Reflections on the Role of the Bible in International Affairs* is available at [bibleadvocacy.org](http://bibleadvocacy.org) /T

"They will beat  
their swords into  
plowshares and their  
spears into pruning  
hooks."

Isaiah 2:4

# The power of partnership

## STRONGER TOGETHER SUPPORTS REDEEMER'S MISSION

**AT THE CORE OF REDEEMER'S** mission is the delivery of university-level learning that helps students understand the world in the light of God's word and His redemptive claims on every part of life. Students are guided by faculty who use their skills and passion to explore in-depth many of the issues that confront our world. Their research informs a greater and deeper understanding of those issues, which is essential in preparing students to use their gifts in the calling God has for them.

There are many individuals and organizations who work side-by-side with Redeemer, supporting its work in equipping students and faculty to make an impact for Christ and His kingdom. We are grateful for those who share our mission. Mark Petersen, president and CEO of Stronger Philanthropy, believes intentional, strategic, collaborative giving will both empower charities and increase satisfaction and joy in the giver.

"After analyzing over 74 grants and applying a rigorous process of due diligence in 2014, our giving consortium selected Redeemer's new Centre for Christian Scholarship as a project that could maximize our impact in the world for Christ. Funds applied to this project enabled Zylstra grants to encourage original academic research by Redeemer faculty and launch the Centre for Christian Scholarship, which honours one emerging academician from a North American institution every year.



***Intentional, strategic, collaborative giving will empower both charities and increase satisfaction and joy in the giver."***

Through this issue of *Tangents*, you can read many examples of the impact that results from the support we receive from people and organizations like Stronger Philanthropy: alumni bringing about reconciliation in First Nations communities; students learning to understand the impact of media; faculty publishing research in support of the work of the Church. With our recently-announced Redeemer 2020 Strategic Plan, we will launch even more new initiatives to help Redeemer extend that impact even further.

We invite you to join us in expanding the range and scope of Redeemer's impact in the lives of students and the communities they are called to serve. To discover the many ways you can help in this shared Kingdom-building work, visit [redeemer.ca/give](http://redeemer.ca/give).

To learn more about why Stronger Philanthropy supports the type of work that Redeemer is engaged in, visit their website, [strongerphilanthropy.ca](http://strongerphilanthropy.ca). /T

# "Your joy cannot be diminished"

**Bethany Gloria Sider – 1992-2016**

## THE REDEEMER COMMUNITY

was shocked and saddened when Bethany Sider, a student in Redeemer's education program, passed away on January 15 from injuries she sustained in a car accident earlier that week. Bethany was from Canfield, just south of Hamilton.

Bethany's parents said that she considered Redeemer "one of her families." At her funeral service and later at a Service of Thanksgiving held on campus, friends and family remembered Bethany as a vibrant, caring student whose impact on others was shaped by an exuberant joy and an unshakable faith.

Redeemer's chaplain, Deb Roberts, said that Bethany had "the gift of presence. Her focus, her empathy and encouragement, were always directed to the people with whom she engaged at that moment." Naomi Zagala, a fellow BEd student, saw that in so many of the interactions Bethany had with friends and faculty at Redeemer. "It would take a half an hour for Bethany to walk from one side of the school to the other," she said, "because she had to talk with everyone she met. And in the constant tension Bethany felt between the demands of school and the calling to spend more time with friends, the person always won." It's not surprising that in the photos and videos shown at the service, there were few of just Bethany—she was almost always seen arm-in-arm with friends.

Her love of people was surpassed only by her love of Jesus and the impact it had on her life. "It's rare to see a young person fixed on eternal things," Rev. Ralph ten Brinke of Dunnville's Jubilee Community Church said of Bethany. "Yet when we set our hearts on the eternal it changes everything. Bethany knew that." Bethany shared with friends her desire to leave a legacy of love that reflected Christ's love

to her. At her funeral, friends recalled that Bethany would ask herself "Did I choose to love? Did I point to You enough to make a mark?"

The loss of Bethany is painful beyond words for her family and friends, and her impact will linger because of the knowledge of the eternal she held so dear. Her life resonated with and reflected the anticipation of future wonder and grandeur. "I'm not sure you realize how prophetic you were when you gave Bethany the middle name Gloria," Chaplain Roberts said to her parents. "For her life truly was a peek into the glory of God."

Bethany will be missed, by many, for a long time. As her friend Naomi noted at the funeral service, what she brought won't be forgotten. "Your joy cannot be diminished," she pointed out, "because your joy is beyond this world."

Bethany Sider is survived by her mother Kim (Jim) Huitema, father Karl (Nancy) Sider, one step-sister and four step-brothers; one step-brother, Jordan, predeceased Bethany.



*Bethany in Paris, in her favourite colour: light pink. Students, staff and faculty wore light pink to the Service of Thanksgiving as a show of support to Bethany's friends and family.*





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