

LUTHER

STORY



NEW PRESIDENT FOR
LUTHER COLLEGE

HONOURING
GERRY HARRIS AND
MARY JESSE

1990 CHAMPS REUNITE
AT L.I.T.





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I prepare to write my final column before retiring from Luther College, I find it almost impossible to focus my thoughts. I started my life at Luther College almost 46 years ago as an undergraduate learning from those I consider to be legends now in the history of Luther College. Art Krentz, Paul Antrobus, Don King, Phil Engstrom, and Roland Miller all taught me lessons about vocation, education, religion, and integrity I still carry with me today.

When I began teaching at the university, all of the above together with Rick Hordern, Bill Stahl, Mary Vetter, Bruce MacDonald, and Nick Terpstra were all there as friends who mentored me. As I moved into administration as Dean of the university campus, again all of the above were there for me but so were giants in administration like Morris Anderson and Don Lee whose counsel was and remains so valuable. Transitioning into the presidency under the guidance of Bruce Perlson was yet another gift for which I remain grateful.

Working with brilliant, creative, and completely dedicated colleagues like Mark Duke, Mark Anderson, Jodi Kydd, Yvonne Petry, Sean Bell, Michelle Clark, and Maureen Harrison has made my position as President a true joy. And this list only includes those people who report directly to me at the present. There are so many more like Mary Jesse, Volker Greifenhagen, Shawn Stieb, Nancy Ostime, Ed MacNeil, Herb Stoehr,

Larry Fry, and Renee Wilkinson who may not have reported directly but who were great confidantes in so many ways. These are just some among so many others who have contributed so very much to the success the College has enjoyed over these last 10 years. Whether they were faculty or staff working in administration, alumni services, food services or physical plant, they all have contributed so much to the College and to making it a joy to work there.

And then there is the group of dedicated volunteers we call Regents who have put in so many hours strategizing over the most complex decisions; only those who have worked closely with this selfless group of volunteers realize the contributions they have made.

On the one hand, these people and the events I associate with them are such an important part of my memory and my being that they are near and dear, just like a good yesterday. And yet on the other hand, we seem separated now by something called a pandemic that keeps us physically distant, threatening our community, and making us wonder just how and when this will all end.

So how does one focus one's thoughts in the midst of all this? As trite as it may sound, and as perplexed and concerned as I am about the future, it's gratefulness that dominates my thoughts. I have learned so much as a student,

professor, Dean, and President from so many people.

A special group that I want to address in this particular column are the alumni of Luther College from both the high school and university campuses. When I assumed the job of presidency, I had no idea how much fun and how rewarding it would be to get to know so many of you. Again, I know it can simply be trite or sound like something said at a fund-raising event, but you are a vital part of the difference that makes Luther College what it is today. I am so grateful for that as are our staff, faculty, and administration who know the impact you have on your alma matter, not just with your gifts but with your time, energy, and prayers.

I'm already over my word limit (I'm pretty sure the editors give me less to work with every issue!) but allow me to say one more thing. As all-consuming as this pandemic has been, I hope you also can find peace in the attitude of gratefulness, faith, and hope that somehow our Creator God is still in charge and that that same loving Lord will bring us all together yet in the community that we hold so dear and which we call Luther College.

Bryan Hillis (U'78), Ph. D.
President, Luther College

SENIOR EDITOR ANGELA BETHUNE

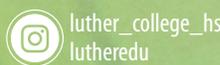
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FOLLOW US!





MESSAGE FROM THE PULPIT

This is the second draft of this article. The first draft was nice... but it is now one more thing that became irrelevant the moment all of humanity realized we needed to take COVID-19 seriously. My newest favourite meme is this revision of an old adage: "March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a *wild, apocalyptic, four-headed, green, six-legged DOOM beast!*"

It's in moments like this that we realize just how important it is to root our lives in a strong sense of vocation and the community that builds around that vocation, and to be open as it calls us to look beyond ourselves:

- beyond our own immediate needs,
- beyond the needs of our immediate family and friends, and
- beyond our acquaintances.

I am proud of our College. Both of our campuses have reacted with solid strategies and deep care for our students, dorm/residence students, staff, and faculty. I've seen many examples of people going 'beyond the job' and working hard to ensure safety for all with a smooth transition to how we are called to work and teach in these difficult months. This is the vocation of our Luther College.

I don't know where you will be when you read this magazine. I don't know when or if we will ever get back to a sense of normal. But I do know that Luther College will be rooted and open to what we are vocationally called to do and become. The mottos at the University and High School campuses, respectively, have never been more important: "Think Deeply. Act Passionately. Live Faithfully.," and "Quality Education in a Christian Context."

We will be ready for whatever may come. Thanks be to God.

Rev. Sean Bell
Chaplain
Luther College at the University of Regina

Corrections from the Fall 2019 issue: In the Homecoming photo for the Class of 1959, we regretfully misidentified Arden (Deck) Korchinski as Aleda (Loveless) Forseng. The editors apologize for the error.

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IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION AND/OR STORY TO SHARE,
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STILL A QUALITY EDUCATION DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Grade 10 students attend an English class by video conference following the closure of all schools in Saskatchewan during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Luther College is making the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff our top priority during the COVID-19 pandemic. We know the pandemic has impacted us all in different ways, and as such, we wanted to let you know how the College is moving forward during this time of global uncertainty.

Both campuses are following directives from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Advanced Education, public health authorities and the advice of the Chief Medical Health Officer of Saskatchewan. The high school (LCHS) and university campus (LCUR) buildings are closed except for our dorm/residence students with our cafeteria, physical plant and residence staff serving them.

Like many other schools and businesses, we have moved our operations online. We continue to offer learning activities and a revised form of our LCHS curriculum in a digital format. Following the lead of the University of Regina, LCUR finished off the winter semester online; the courses for the Winter and Spring/Summer 2020 semesters at the university campus were also transitioned to remote learning. Spring 2020 Convocation planned for June 4, 2020 was cancelled with the hopes that a celebration can be held for our graduates in the fall; some video messages are also being prepared for our graduates to be transmitted in June.

All faculty and staff are working from home but are still available to students by phone, email and various platforms like Google Classroom and Zoom. At the LCUR campus, our recruitment and academic staff have been working diligently to ensure that we are continuing to provide top-quality entrance counselling and academic advising remotely. The Luther university library has also transitioned to offering services online to assist students with accessing the resources they need to complete their research papers and projects.

We are also doing our very best to support and comfort our student residents on both campuses who are understandably stressed and overwhelmed. Many are international students who are unable to return home at this time. Both campus cafeterias are closed for in-house dining and are serving only take-out meals to our residents in compliance with public health directives. Residents are also being reminded to practice physical distancing when lining up for their take-out meals and when interacting with fellow residents.

Our Alumni and Development Offices had been planning a number of Luther alumni and donor events for the spring. These have been cancelled though some thought is being given to virtual offerings where I will get a chance to say good-bye to alumni whom I have so enjoyed meeting, and the new College president will be introduced.

What is in store for the fall? Many reading this will be aware of the Re-open Saskatchewan Plan, released by the Saskatchewan government recently. Given the parameters of this plan and the obvious need to ensure the health and safety of our students, their families, faculty and staff as well as the broader community, LCUR together with the University of Regina and the other federated colleges have decided that the most realistic plan involves the online offerings of our curriculum. If the pandemic eases, there is some hope that some smaller classes may be able to meet in-person but the situation is simply too fluid at this point to know what will happen. At the LCHS campus, the situation is even more uncertain as the Plan indicates that schools will only resume normal operation in the final phase when they are no restrictions on public gatherings. What is sure is that LCHS will be offering a robust curriculum whether that is online, in person or some combination of many formats. On both campuses, we will take our directions from the public health authorities and the province's Chief Medical Health Officer to ensure the health and safety of everyone involved.

Thank you to our hard-working faculty and staff for coming together in a time of crisis to ensure the academic success of our students. The resilience, courage, strength, creativity and good humour of all our staff and faculty is truly amazing as they adapted and constantly kept the best interests of our students as their first priority.

While this is a difficult time that presents many challenges for the school and our community, I want to assure you that Luther College remains on solid financial footing. Over the coming weeks, our Senior Leadership Team and our Board of Regents will continue to monitor the situation and its impact on the school. I am confident that the sound financial plan we have in place will enable the College to weather this storm. I also have great faith in the creativity and innovative spirit of our faculty and staff who will ensure that the quality education for which Luther College is so well known will continue, in whatever format necessary.

In closing, I want to thank you for your continued support for Luther College. The richness of community is one of the things that defines us. In times of crisis, I am incredibly grateful that we have such an engaged and connected community. I know you all care deeply about the school and I truly appreciate your support and especially your prayers for Luther, our nation and our world at this time.

Bryan Hillis, Ph.D.
President

NEW INCOMING PRESIDENT FOR LUTHER COLLEGE

Beginning July 1, 2020, Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry will become the eighth President of Luther College. He was appointed by the Board of Regents upon recommendation of the Presidential Search Committee.

Dr. Jerry's combination of expertise in business, academics, leadership, partnership building, and religious faith makes him uniquely qualified to fulfill the role of President. He was most recently a faculty member and past Lead/Co-Chair of the Business Baccalaureate Degree Development Team at the Donald School of Business at Red Deer College (now University).

Prior to this, he was Academic Dean at St. Andrew's Theological College and Seminary of Richmond, VA, and Associate Professor and Business Department Chair at the Bissett School of Business at Mount Royal University. Dr. Jerry has also served as pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Red Deer for six years and on the ELCIC National Church Council for four years.

Dr. Jerry holds a Doctorate in Theology from St. Andrew's Theological College and Seminary, a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, as well as a Master of Arts in Economics/Econometrics from Lakehead University and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Calgary.

In addition to his formal education and profession, Dr. Jerry is currently a Board Member of the Bethany Care Society and trained in not-for-profit Board governance through the Institute of Corporate Directors.

Board of Regents Chair Karl Tiefenbach says, "Dr. Jerry's diverse experience immediately caught the attention of the Search Committee. His energy, openness, creativity, and engaging style convinces us that he will be a very successful leader at Luther College."

"I am looking forward to returning to Saskatchewan and the Regina area to join the Luther College Team," says Dr. Jerry. "Luther has a superb history of excellence both at the high school and on the university campus in providing quality education and campus experiences in a faith-based context that is second to none. I look forward to meeting and working with all of the various constituents: students, staff, faculty, college supporters, community leaders, and alumni in the days ahead."



Dr. Jerry will take office following the retirement of Dr. Bryan Hillis, who will complete his ten-year term of distinguished service as President on June 30, 2020. We thank Dr. Hillis for his decade-long dedication to and leadership of Luther College, always remaining focused on high-quality liberal arts and sciences education and research, with an emphasis on community and service to our students.

Tiefenbach says, "It is a highlight of my lifelong association with Luther College to work with Bryan. His immense intellectual ability and relentless work ethic are matched only by his deeply rooted Lutheran faith and his unflinching dedication to Luther College."

The Board thanks the members of the Presidential Search Committee for their contributions during this important 12-month search process. Their commitment to the arduous task of selecting the next President will guide and shape Luther College's future and the education of thousands of students.



ALUMNI PROFILE

By Lynette Piper

JOANN (McILWRICK) MUNDIN

(HS'90) (U'94)

LIVING THE "LUTHER SPIRIT" OF GIVING BACK

As the world hunkers down during the COVID-19 pandemic, Luther alumna **Joann (McIlwrick) Mundin (HS'90, U'94)** is busier than ever. The Associate Director of Psychiatry for the Las Vegas Police Department Clark County Detention Center continues to spend her days tending to the mental health needs of thousands of inmates, while following pandemic protocols to help curb the deadly virus.

"We typically admit 72,000 inmates on an annual basis while they await trial or sentencing," she says. "Our facility is just two blocks away from the Las Vegas strip, which is now silent after the Governor ordered a complete shutdown of all casinos March 16. In normal times, we deal with plenty of tourists and convention participants who run into trouble, but our primary focus is to take care of Nevadans with criminal problems who have mental health issues."

Joann has three portfolios: overseeing patient care with her team of mental health specialists, educating officers on the effects of segregation (inmates "in the hole"), and working to ensure the Detention Centre receives psychiatric accreditation. "We're hoping to become the second such facility of its kind in the U.S. to receive that designation, which of course requires meetings, research, and education."

Joann's career trajectory mirrors a motivational movie. She originally thought she'd become an eye doctor, but after graduating with a bio-chem degree in 1994 from the University of Regina she was turned down from optometry school. "It was the first of many disappointments, but Luther taught me that I could do anything. I think I'm such a big thinker because that was the mindset instilled in me," she enthuses. "Our teacher Steve Haddad invited us to go sailing at his place on Lake Diefenbaker, and we learned how to harness the wind. He taught us to think big, be open-minded, and seek travel and adventure because anything was possible!"

Joann was accepted into medical school but discovered she didn't like blood – "something I realized was a bit of a problem,"

she laughs. Undaunted, she decided that the field of psychiatry was where her talents could best be used. "I ended up at the Foothills Teaching Hospital in Calgary in 2003 – a time when the city was booming – and it wasn't long before I was offered a position as Assistant Dean of the Medical School. It was ridiculous that I built this incredible resume in just seven years."

From there, Joann was recruited by the State of Nevada to become a state psychiatrist in Las Vegas. Then, in November 2019, she was asked to head up the Detention Centre's psychiatric unit. Throughout her journey, the spirit of Luther has been her guiding force. "My 16-year-old stepson attends a Lutheran high school in Vegas, and I'm reliving my own experience through him as he attends chapel and takes Christian ethics. At the front of the school property is a sign that says 'Return with Honour.' Every day, I make it my duty to do the same by honouring future generations of students back home in Regina."

Joann funds three annual Luther College High School scholarships totalling \$1,500 for students who show the most resiliency. "I wasn't the smartest academic or the best athlete," she admits. "I was known as the girl with the camera always taking pictures. I had to work really hard in spite of some hardships and a death in the family. That's why I wanted to 'pay it forward' and honour other students facing similar challenges."

These scholarships were started while Joann was still in medical school and money wasn't always flush, but she stresses it "had to be done – that's just the Luther way!"

As she contemplates her career today, with the love and support of her husband and stepson, Joann acknowledges that COVID-19 is having a dramatic impact on everyone's mental health, not just inmates shuttered inside her institution. "I'm in the right place at the right time, and the lessons learned from Luther are guiding me every day on how to make a difference."



REMEMBERING LUTHER:

“Luther taught me that I could do anything.
I’m such a big thinker because that was the mindset instilled in me.”



ALUMNI PROFILE

By Rob Vanstone

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PATRICK NEUFELD (HS'06)

GREY CUP CHAMP REMEMBERS THE 2006 L.I.T. WIN

Patrick Neufeld plays for the Blue Bombers and roots for the Lions. The Luther Lions, that is.

The Regina-born Winnipeg Blue Bombers offensive lineman — a recently crowned Grey Cup champion — renewed ties with long-time friends at the 68th annual Luther Invitational Tournament held February 6-8, 2020.

Neufeld attended Luther College High School from 2002 to 2006, helping the Lions win L.I.T. during his graduating year.

"I had such a phenomenal experience here in high school," Neufeld said. "I still have a lot of connections with teachers.

"Coming back, you can still feel that nostalgia in the building, even though there's a new gym, when you're walking through the halls. It's a place filled with tradition.

"It's great to come back and see it, and to see that the things we did when we were in high school are still going on. The things they did before I was in high school are still going on. It's a really cool tournament to come back to."

Neufeld, a University of Saskatchewan Huskies alumnus who spends his off-seasons in Saskatoon, drove down to Regina for this year's L.I.T.

Upon returning to Luther, he presented a game-worn Bombers jersey and a Grey Cup hat — both of which he autographed — to his old school.

Neufeld left his signature in another context, helping Luther win its most-recent L.I.T. championship 14 years ago.

"It's still one of the fondest memories I have in my sporting career," he said. "You're playing a game you love with all your best friends and you never think it's going to get better than that, and then you win one of the most iconic tournaments in Canada.

"To win it the way we did, we beat three really great teams — who, coincidentally, were all Spartans — it was such a cool thing. We won provincials in football that year and then ended

up winning L.I.T.. It was a pretty magical year for our senior year."

Neufeld didn't win another championship of any description until Nov. 24, 2019, when he helped Winnipeg defeat the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 33-12 in the Grey Cup game.

Blue Bombers fans rejoiced over their first championship since 1990.

"The reception we've had from not only Winnipeg, but also from Bomber fans anywhere and everywhere, has been amazing," Neufeld said. "People waited 29 years to see us finally hoist that Cup. It was pretty special to see the emotional relief people had."

Luther had not won for 16 years before winning the 2006 L.I.T. title.

"Looking back, just going to Luther and playing basketball and being around this tournament, you know the prestige that it has," Neufeld said. "You know how important it is as a Luther student.

"You always see the banners and all the tradition, so finally getting to win it in '06, we finally got to be a champion of this tournament that people revere so much.

"So I guess you could say in a little way that there are some similarities in the feeling and in the reverence that you have for a certain championship."

Neufeld's reverence for his high school endures.

"I was thinking of the things that I've carried on from Luther," he reflected. "Probably one of the biggest ones was the sense of community and team.

"Luther is a very tight-knit community for a high school. People always talk about how important it is to find people who inspire you and push you. I've taken along that sense of team and sense of community and brought it into my professional career."

Top photo: L.I.T. Director Troy Casper with Pat and the signed items he donated to the school.

Photo on opposite page: Winnipeg Blue Bombers offensive lineman Patrick Neufeld celebrates his team's 2019 Grey Cup victory.



REMEMBERING LUTHER:

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ALUMNI PROFILE

By Lynette Piper

RALPH CARL WUSHKE (U'74)

COMING HOME

For as long as Pastor **Ralph Carl Wushke (U'74)** can remember, he knew he was different – an “other.”

“I didn’t have the vocabulary to name it, but by the time I was in grade 3, I knew I had a secret, and the only way I could deal with it was through religion because I knew God loved me.”

When he was a young boy growing up on the farm in Wapella, a tiny community in southeast Saskatchewan, being gay was not on anyone’s radar. “This was long before the AIDS epidemic or anti-gay panic. I was simply different, and harboured this huge secret.”

The pastor who confirmed Ralph Carl convinced him to pursue university at Luther’s university campus; he was one of the first students to live in the newly-opened residence. “I was there from 1971 to 1974 and it was really lifegiving, but I still held on to this secret. I would slink around the library trying to find books on sexuality so I could better understand myself. I was living with this internal crisis and would pray every night that God would change me. I suffered suicide ideation, and convinced myself if I couldn’t ‘figure it out’ I would take my life.”

At seminary, he realized if he were ordained, the stakes would rise. “I couldn’t live a double life much longer.” So he wound up sharing his secret with a pastor by the name of Don Johnson while on retreat in Alberta. “I remember him embracing me. He was so accepting and offered to help find resources. In my journal, I called it the ‘beginning’ of my life. At least one other person now knew.”

In 1978, he was ordained at his home parish in Wapella and began to serve at a parish only 60 miles away in Redvers/Carlyle. While local church officials were still unaware, he came out to his parents and siblings. “My mom says she always knew, but my dad was bewildered. As a hardworking farmer, he wanted to know if I needed to see a doctor. I told him no, there’s nothing wrong with me, I just have an attraction to

men. It was hard because my parents never had the birds-and-bees discussion with me growing up, and here I was having that discussion with them.”

Ralph Carl then wrote a coming-out letter to his entire extended family. “I had all of these letters come back saying they loved me no matter what. Family loyalty trumped everything.”

But the church was a different story. As a young pastor, people were always trying to set him up so he could find a wife. “I quietly resigned from that parish so I could spare any coming-out firestorm.”

As a pastor without a parish, he approached the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), hoping to find a parish that would accept a practicing homosexual as a pastor. “One by one, the bishops closed the door in my face. Basically, I was done, and it was extremely painful.” By this time, he had obtained a degree in journalism, but the call to serve was too strong.

He was able to live out that call in the United Church, which was among the first denominations to accept openly gay pastors. He served a congregation in Toronto, Ontario from 2000 until his retirement in 2018. After open-heart surgery, he felt a new lease on life. “I couldn’t stop wondering if I could die a Lutheran pastor in good standing.”

Last year, in 2019, the ELCIC opted to expedite the reinstatement of LGBTQ clergy who were forced out in the 1980’s. As fate would have it, an opening became available at First Lutheran Church in Toronto, minutes from his home. On January 18, 2020, with a packed congregation that included his long-time partner, David Vereschagin, Ralph Carl was officially reinstated after a 30-year exile.

“People were crying – it was a beautiful homecoming,” he says. “My hope is that no one has to feel like an ‘other’ ever again. I want them to know there is a place for them at church – one that embraces love, tolerance, and acceptance for all.”



“My hope is that no one has to feel like an ‘other’ ever again. I want them to know there is a place for them at church – one that embraces love, tolerance, and acceptance for all.”



ALUMNI PROFILE

By Lynette Piper

WILLIAM WENAUS (U'14)

HITTING ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

When it comes to pop superstars, South Korea's Taeyeon rivals the likes of Taylor Swift or Ariana Grande. Everything the K-Pop sensation touches turns to gold, including her latest single "Dear Me," a soaring anthem about self-love and acceptance.

It's a catchy ballad accompanied by a gorgeous video, emotional lyrics and phrasing, soulful acoustic guitar and piano, and rising strings. In short – it's the perfect pop song. And it just reached #1 in 25 countries. It also happens to be written, produced, and musically-performed by Luther College at the University of Regina alumnus **William Wenaus (U'14)**, a professional songwriter who originally hails from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

"I come from a very musical family – the youngest of five," the earnest 27-year-old explains. "I took music theory, voice, piano, guitar, and trombone. My world was filled with music activities and lessons."

Will wrote his first song at the age of three, when his mom found some musical notes drawn on a napkin, and he's been working towards the goal of being a professional songwriter ever since. "I've been making connections, working strategically, and getting to know all the right people for years. It's been an incredible amount of hard work and perseverance, and still is," he says.

Will says that writing a hit song is a process of discovery, akin to an archaeologist dusting off a piece of pottery to find what's already there under the layers of sediment. For Will, his job is to reveal "that creative idea and share it," but, as he points out, "it doesn't happen overnight. Like any writing, you can labour over it for months, even years – editing and re-drafting – until you uncover what the song wants to be."

Will is extremely reluctant to name names or outline the finer details of just how a songwriter from Saskatchewan was able to get his foot in the door and connect with Taeyeon's 'people.' "It's kind of like how a magician never reveals his secrets," he laughs. "There's a lot of mystique involved. When I was an

outsider, I absolutely hated it when people wouldn't give me contacts, but music people are very guarded about their channels. It takes a lot of research and patience to get your songs in front of the right people."

Will intentionally writes for the Asian market, but his own listening tastes are very eclectic. "I love everything from 1980's Japanese ambient music to Swedish black metal," he laughs. "In writing songs, I want to bring an element of integrity to pop culture."

Surprisingly, Will didn't study music at Luther College. He obtained an Honours English degree with a minor in Philosophy (2014), and then completed a Master's degree in English at the U of R (2016). He says his formal education ultimately works in his favour as a songwriter. "Luther has such high academic standards, which fostered a very professional work ethic in me. And doing my MA gave me critical research skills. But I'm never one to rest on my laurels."

Will comes across as a fearless underdog. "This is a huge milestone, but it doesn't mean I simply wait for the royalty cheques to come in and my life is set. It's like passing a professional exam. Once you're a 'hitmaker,' you may have the title, but you still have to keep working extremely hard. This is just one hit. It takes time to establish credibility and staying power in the music industry."

For Will, that means continuing as a sessional lecturer in the English Department at Luther College while furthering his career as a professional songwriter. "I'm aiming to set up my operations in Vancouver, British Columbia closer to the Asian market, but in the meantime, I need to keep writing, proving myself, and building contacts, one step at a time."

The next big pop hit from superstars like Taeyeon and so many others could very well come from Will's latest creation. And that has this humble songwriter singing all the right notes.



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REMEMBERING LUTHER:

“Luther has such high academic standards, which fostered a very professional work ethic in me.”



01 내게 들려주고 싶은 말
(Dear Me)

Korean Lyrics by 황유라 (Jam Factory)
Composed by William Wenaus
Additional Composed & Arranged by 유영진

02 월식
(My Tragedy)

Korean Lyrics by 김부민
Composed by Hitchhiker / Daniel Whittemore /
Bonx / Elizabeth Russo
Arranged by Hitchhiker

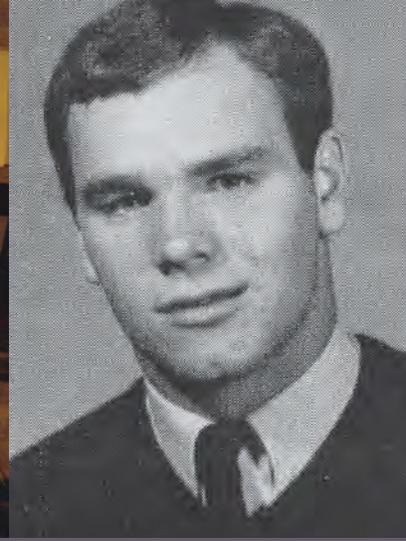
03 Here I Am

06 L
Kon
Con

07 하
Lyri
Con
Arr

08 B

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2019 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS RECOGNIZING GERRY HARRIS AND MARY JESSE

During the Founders' Day Dinner on November 14, 2019, Luther College presented its Distinguished Service Award to two deserving recipients – Gerry Harris and Mary Jesse. The Distinguished Service Award is granted to individuals who have shown dedication to and support for Luther College and its mission through their ongoing loyalty, commitment, outstanding contribution, and service. The Founders' Day Dinner recognizes and honours the generosity and spirit of Luther College's many benefactors, past and present, who have participated in the establishment and growth of the College.

GERRY HARRIS



Gerry Harris (HS'69) served Luther College High School for over 30 years as a teacher and coach. Gerry's relationship with Luther College began in 1965 when he enrolled as a student. He was involved in the SRC and was a dedicated Luther Lion athlete, playing nearly every sport offered. After graduating from Luther in 1969, Gerry returned in 1974 as a teacher and remained until his retirement in 2006. He spent much

of that time alongside Dick Stark, who Gerry calls "my best friend – I would say my brother."

Gerry was very adept at helping students find their way. He taught history, geography, physical education, math, and entrepreneurship. Gerry taught long enough to become a colleague to former students, such as Dave Hall, Mark Becker, and Troy Casper.

Gerry coached Luther football, track, baseball, and junior basketball over his career. He helped Luther win provincial and city football championships in 1992 and 2005. Gerry also served as Director of the Luther Invitational Tournament (L.I.T.) for several decades. Under his guidance and leadership, L.I.T. became a student-run event, which has been key to the event's success and longevity. Gerry was instrumental in establishing Luther College's film studies program, the first course of its kind to be offered at the high school level. Gerry also developed and taught an entrepreneurship class that ran for several years, teaching students the fundamentals of business.

In 2011, Gerry was inducted into the Regina Sports Hall of Fame for his lifelong commitment to athletics. Over his lifetime, he was an all-star high school athlete, he played football for five seasons with the U of S, and he was an assistant coach with the Regina Rams. Gerry and his wife, Jill, have two children who are also alumni, daughters **Meghan Harris-Ngae (HS'98)** and her husband **Joe Ngae** and **Logan Harris (HS'02)** and her husband **Scott Rodonets (HS'03)**. Gerry now operates a service company for Federated Co-op and has continued to organize alumni and parent bicycle tours to Europe while enjoying time with his grandson, Noah.



We congratulate Gerry and Mary on their achievements: Luther College is a better place today because of the contributions and service of these two special people.



President Bryan Hillis, Mary, and Gerry.

MARY JESSE



The name **Mary Jesse (U'81)** has become synonymous with Luther College at the University of Regina (LCUR). As one of Luther College's longest-serving employees, Mary had a profound impact on the students, faculty, and staff, as well as on the larger University of Regina community, over the span of her 30-year career.

After convocating from LCUR in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts Honours, Mary returned to Luther

in November 1982 as an Entrance Counsellor, driving to high schools all over Saskatchewan and sharing the Luther experience. Five years later, she moved into the role of Public Relations Manager, spending her time equally between the High School and University campuses. In 1990, she became the first Registrar of Luther College and served as Registrar until her retirement in 2015, working with students as they navigated higher education.

As Registrar, Mary was the primary advisor for all Luther students from admission to graduation. Mary's commitment to student success was well-

known and much appreciated. Students were always at the forefront of Mary's mind whenever she was approached for advice on decisions about the College and its academic program. She brought a calm demeanor, clear thinking, and common sense to every task and every challenge, and she never failed to demonstrate both professionalism and deep kindness.

It is no surprise, then, that Mary was highly respected throughout the U of R community for her experience and for her ability to see the bigger picture with a thoughtful perspective. She regularly volunteered to serve the campus and was a member of multiple committees, including the one responsible for overseeing the computerization of the U of R's entire operating system. Mary went above and beyond, putting in many additional hours while having a young family at home.

Mary was also an integral part in the planning and hosting of Luther College's 75th and 100th Anniversaries and the North American Interfaith Network conference.

In June 2019, in recognition of her distinguished career, Mary received the Western Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada Service Award. Mary and her husband, Howard (a Luther resident from 1973-1978), have two children, **Christeen (U'12)** and John.



“A WHOLE RUSH OF MEMORIES”

LOOKING BACK AT THE 1990 L.I.T. TITLE

By Britton Gray

Reprinted with permission of Rawlco Radio/980 CJME.

As Kobie Brandt (HS'90), Kent Wingert (HS'90) and Ryan Lightfoot (HS'90) walked down the halls of Luther College High School this past February, they were reminded of a celebration that occurred inside the 'old' gym 30 years earlier.

“When we first walked back into the gym, it was just like, ‘Wow, this brings it all back,’” Lightfoot said on the first night of L.I.T. 2020. “The lights, the floor — it just brought a whole rush of memories back, so it’s pretty special to be back here.”

Wingert hadn’t been back at Luther for nearly 25 years. “It’s quite overwhelming,” he said. “There has been a lot of changes. Just getting back into the old gym and seeing the new gym, it’s quite impressive what has happened here over the years.”

The three were members of the 1990 Luther Lions team that won the Luther Invitational Tournament, defeating the Balfour Redmen 83-82 in the final. Their victory marked only the third time Luther had won its home tournament. In 68 years, the Lions have won the tournament only four times (1953, 1984, 1990, 2006).

“That speaks to the level of competition that comes in on this tournament as well — it’s not an easy thing to do,” Wingert said. “It’s a big deal.”

To mark the 30th anniversary of their L.I.T. victory, the 1990 championship team was honoured at the 68th L.I.T.. The significance of their achievement is not lost on the Luther students who will be playing in this year’s tournament. “We’ve read about them and just seeing the banner up on the wall of the gym whenever we’re in there and just knowing about the Luther teams that have won in the past is just something we remember as players,” said Josh Soifer, a Grade 12 point guard with the Lions. “It’s something that has really left a mark on L.I.T. history and the Luther community.”

Wingert and Lightfoot now call Alberta home, while Brandt lives in Vancouver. Brandt said it’s a cool feeling to be able to come back to the school and see his teammates once again.

“This was home for four years and this gym in particular was home for all of us in that graduating class for many mornings, many nights, many weekends, many lunch hours, many spares,” he said. “I just have lots of memories of lots of good times and good friends and it’s cool that some of us are pretty close.”

Brandt, along with Lightfoot, was a captain on the team that year.

“It was crazy in here,” Brandt said. “We were just talking about how you really couldn’t stand outside of the boundary because people were lined up right to it. People were stacked up on the stage, students galore, all in Luther stuff.”

“(It was) probably one of the crazier basketball games I’ve been involved in and was sort of a dream of many of ours to come out on the right side of that and end up winning the tournament as a result, so it’s one of my favourite memories.”

Wingert said he and Brandt met at L.I.T. when both were in grade 7. “Our moms just happened to be sitting next to each other and (the tournament) was actually fuelling our fire to actually come to Luther. (The players) were larger than life,” Wingert said.

Wingert said the Lions had beaten Balfour twice before in 1990, both close games.

Wingert recalled the team being down 15 points at one point in the second half of the L.I.T. championship game. They mounted a comeback to take the lead. A Balfour player missed two free throws at the end of the game, which sealed the victory for the Lions.

“When that final buzzer went off, it’s just excitement. You’re reflective on all the time and effort and your teammates and your coaches and all the students. It was unbelievable,” Wingert said.

“I remember running around and my parents were in the front row,” Brandt said. “Lots of guys we played with in prior years (were there). It’s almost like the whole Luther family went and won that.”

Lightfoot had some advice for all the players in this year’s tournament: “Just enjoy the moment and live in the moment,” he said. “When I look back on it, I see some of the guys that I played with back then and some of us are still really close and once I see the other guys, it will feel like yesterday, not 30 years. Enjoy the friendships, enjoy the camaraderie but most of all, just enjoy the moment.”



Top photo: Kent Wideman, Kobie Brandt, Kent Wingert, Aaron Bell, Ryan Lightfoot, Nii Lutterodt, and Craig Perrault reunite at L.I.T. 30 years after their win. Inset photo: Luther Lions hoist the 1990 championship trophy.



INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES

A major strategic initiative for Luther College at the University of Regina (LCUR) has been for the College to move forward on its response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and to offer faculty and staff education on indigenization and reconciliation.

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS, AND TWO-SPIRIT PEOPLE CONFERENCE

The Canadian Roots Exchange (CRE), in partnership with LCUR, held a Conference on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People on February 15, 2020. The event had two keynote speakers: Ntawnis Piapot, Piapot Cree Nation; and Sheila North, Bunibonabee Cree Nation, Grand Chief of Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, both multi-award-winning journalists. A panel discussion following the keynote speakers focused on the links between the Truth and Reconciliation's 94 Calls to Action and the MMIWG2S Inquiry. It was the hope of the event organizers that participants would recognize how the colonial society we live in has 'normalized' the crisis of MMIWG2S and that we move forward in understanding how reconciliation is fundamental to any change that might occur.

CRE is a youth-led organization empowering youth to shape the future of truth and reconciliation in this country, and believes in a Canada where youth stand in solidarity to promote respect, understanding, and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. The Regina team consists of eight members from a variety of backgrounds working towards reconciliation in this country but more specifically in the community of Regina. LCUR is proud to support and partner the Regina CRE team for the fifth year in a row.

TWO NEW INDIGENOUS AWARDS

LCUR offers over \$100,000 in awards to Luther entering and continuing students each year as part of our commitment to student success. In 2020, two new Indigenous awards were established to support Luther Indigenous students. Bursaries of up to \$2,000 will be available for entering or continuing self-declared Luther Indigenous students who are pursuing an undergraduate degree; and residence awards of \$2,500 per semester for one year (toward residence accommodation and meal plan costs) will be available for self-declared entering or continuing Luther Indigenous students.

4 SEASONS OF RECONCILIATION

To start the process towards reconciliation we must educate ourselves. The "4 Seasons of Reconciliation," a web-based education training program produced by the First Nations University of Canada and University of Regina (UofR) campus-wide initiative supported by the UofR Reconciliation Committee, has been made available to all LCUR faculty and staff. Once the nine modules are completed, a certificate of completion is issued.

Three one-hour seminars led by the CRE team and Elders were planned for February, March, and May, in order to continue the education of faculty and staff in Indigenous ceremonies and treaties, and to help them consider what else they could do together as a College and as individuals in responding to the TRC's Calls to Action. The three seminars are: ENGAGING THE HEART, a talking circle on ceremonies and Indigenous worldviews; ENGAGING THE MIND, a conversation on treaties and prairie stories/memories from the turn of the 20th century; and ENGAGING THE BODY (ACTION), conversations on specific implementation strategies of specific TRC's Calls to Action and asking the question "what speaks to you?". The first seminar took place in February to a room full of Luther and University of Regina faculty and staff, but in light of COVID-19, the remaining two seminars will have to be held at a later date.

ON CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOL

MISSION IN REVERSE: CHRISTIAN ETHICS 30 CLASS IN EL SALVADOR

Partnering with CRISPAZ (Christians for Peace in El Salvador), 22 grades 11 and 12 Luther students, along with four Luther faculty members, travelled to El Salvador during the February break. The journey of over 5,000 kilometres took 24 hours and involved a 50-degree temperature change! Over the next nine days, they had the opportunity to meet the Salvadoran people and to learn about their history, their struggles, and their joys.

In San Salvador, the delegation visited Monsignor Oscar Romero's house and the Chapel where he was killed, and attended Mass in the crypt where his body is interred. Moving testimonies were heard from those who have suffered the loss of family members or experienced difficult migration or deportation. Others told how mentoring has resulted in building a successful small business and has increased his literacy skills.

The trip also included a short homestay in the small northern village of Carasque. The students found the experience of bonding with one's "housemother" to be swift and profound. Using limited Spanish, Google Translate, and plenty of gestures, they learned to play, dance, and eat together. Most important, the experience afforded each student a unique opportunity: to accept the gift of a stranger's love, hospitality, and acceptance.

The evenings brought time for reflection, an opportunity for everyone to "put skin" on the day's experiences, to ponder the puzzling reality of God's insistence alongside poverty and injustice, and to recognize that life might involve more questions than answers. The experience brought home for these students the words of Father Dean Brackley, S.J.: those who truly come alongside the people of El Salvador may well "have their hearts broken, fall in love, and be ruined for life."

L.I.T. 68

By Akash Ramoo, Grade 12 student and Head of L.I.T. Media Committee

The Luther Invitational Tournament (L.I.T.) is Luther's largest event of the year and could not be successful without our amazing faculty and students. From our Athletic Director Troy Casper, to a grade 9 student volunteering at concessions, nearly our entire Luther community plays a role in this amazing tournament. L.I.T. 68 all began in November 2019 when about 100 of our grades 11 and 12 L.I.T. committee members determined that "future" would be this year's theme. In early January we hosted Pre-L.I.T. to finalize the teams that would participate on the boy's side of the tournament. On February 6th, 2020, the countless hours of work from our students and staff were all worth it as our tournament began.

L.I.T. allows us to spread Luther's pride and joy to the rest of Regina and the travelling teams from Western Canada. L.I.T. is truly an event that highlights Luther's strong sense of history and tradition. On the walls in the Student Commons there are plaques and posters that tell the history of the tournament and the important figures who have helped make L.I.T. what it is today. One of these posters highlights the Champions of 1990. We were fortunate to have a number of players from that winning Luther Lions team in attendance this year.

This year's special guest, Angela Tillier, is a perfect example of the hard work and tradition of L.I.T. As Athletics Director for almost three decades, "Ms. Till" played a major role in introducing the girl's side to the tournament in 2016. Ms. Tillier truly understands that athletics has the ability to bring people together and she was an amazing special guest at this year's L.I.T., presenting the Champions trophies to Saskatoon Holy Cross Crusaders (Boys) and Regina LeBoldus Golden Suns (Girls).

LUTHER LION PROUD!

The annual L.I.T. Alumni basketball game was another ROAR-ing success! We welcomed alumni and fans from across western Canada in what was one of our most well-attended alumni games yet, including many of the Lions who played in the 1990 L.I.T. championship game! We kept score but can't seem to remember which team led the pack as alumni, faculty, friends, and family kept spirits high, laughing, reminiscing, and showing their Luther Lion pride. We wrapped up the morning with a delicious brunch.

\$60,000 RAISED FOR TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCIAL AID

Thanks to your generosity and the support of our Luther community, our annual fall appeal fundraiser raised a total of \$61,775.43. These gifts will be directed into the Annual Fund, which helps cover costs for technology, equipment, and financial aid for our students. The remaining donations were directed to the Community Bursary (\$4,970) and the *A Time To Build* campaign (\$1,000). Thanks to your gifts and continued support, we remain steadfast in our mission to offer the highest quality education in a Christian context.

\$2,100 RAISED FOR PLAN INTERNATIONAL

By Avery Lightfoot, Grade 12 student and SRC Secretary

This past November was the third annual Multicultural Night, where \$2,100 was raised and donated to Plan International. Multicultural Night has become a significant fundraising event featuring all the cultures present in the Luther College High School community, including India, Italy, Philippines, Africa, and First Nations. This event is student-run and organized by the SRC. Students represent their own culture at this event by cooking food, wearing cultural dress, and performing music and dances from their culture.

This event has been a phenomenal addition to our Luther community. It brings together all cultures in the school and showcases and promotes diversity. Luther is focused on international mindedness, and this event shapes our community by creating a bond between all students. It allows for all students to come together, and learn about each other's heritage and culture, strengthening and diversifying our community.



RESIDENCE INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

On February 3, students and staff participated in a fun evening of food and games at International Night. Flavours from all around the world were featured: Eggrolls, Falafel, German Potato Salad, Greek Chicken Wings, Pierogies, and Butter Chicken were just some of the dishes available to sample and enjoy. After supper, fun and games were had by all in a series of challenges put forth to the teams separated by quad. Congrats to the staff team for pulling out the win!

DEAN'S BREAKFAST

On February 14, our Academic Office hosted its bi-annual Dean's Honour Roll List Breakfast to congratulate Luther honour roll students. This breakfast, which is held each semester, is just one way of recognizing students who received an 85% or higher average in the previous semester. Twenty-three students were treated to a gourmet breakfast and received a special Dean's Honour Roll pin from Dean Yvonne Petry. A big congratulations to all 75 Luther students who made the honour roll in the Fall 2019 semester.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. NICOLE HANSMEIER!

Congratulations to Dr. Hansmeier, Luther Professor of Biology, who has received funding from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) and The Lung Association Saskatchewan (LAS), for her research into "Improving Cannabis-Related Health and Safety" with Drs. Tzu-Chiao Chao and Josef Buttigieg, both University of Regina Biology professors.

The grants will go towards investigating cannabis-related impairment and the differing effects depending on how it is consumed.

"The funding is crucial for the development of novel and pilot projects such as ours," says Dr. Hansmeier. "It will support graduate students and technicians. Without the support and investment of SHRF and the LAS, projects like ours would have a hard time getting started."

Congratulations to Dr. Hansmeier and team!

CONGRATULATIONS TO SIOMME JOELSEN ON HER RETIREMENT!

After 19 years at Luther College, Siomme worked her last shift in the Luther Cafeteria on Tuesday. Siomme joined the Luther family in August 2001 where she was in charge of the Luther Connection, a grab-and-go food & beverage shop, for 15 years before moving to the cafeteria for the last four years. Together with her "partner in crime," the late Rosa "Rosie" Kim, they worked at the Connection side by side every day greeting everyone with a smile and friendly "hello."

"Working at the Connection I really got to know the students who would visit every day and loved to give them help or guidance, or just let them vent to me," says Siomme. "That's what I'll miss the most. Getting to know and interact with all of the students and staff and faculty."

Siomme has no immediate plans for retirement except to enjoy the summer gardening, relaxing on her patio, camping with some fishing, and possibly taking a trip to Newfoundland in July with husband Brent to celebrate her 65th birthday but this may have to be postponed in light of current events.

One thing is for sure – Siomme will be dearly missed by everyone on campus. "Siomme is one of those great people at Luther who makes you feel like you were the only one in the room, who gives every attention to detail, and who cares deeply for her fellow workers," indicated President Bryan Hillis, seen here giving Siomme a "social distancing hug" on her last day. "We will miss Siomme so very much and wish her all the very best in her retirement."

No matter where the road may take Siomme on her motorcycle, we wish her good luck and a safe journey as she begins this new chapter in her life.

LUTHER COLLEGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY – AUGUST 2021

It's hard to believe that it has already been 50 years since Luther College at the University of Regina first opened its doors to students and residents in the fall of 1971. To mark this momentous occasion, we will be holding a day-long celebration in August 2021 and all alumni (academic and residence) and their families are invited!

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO:

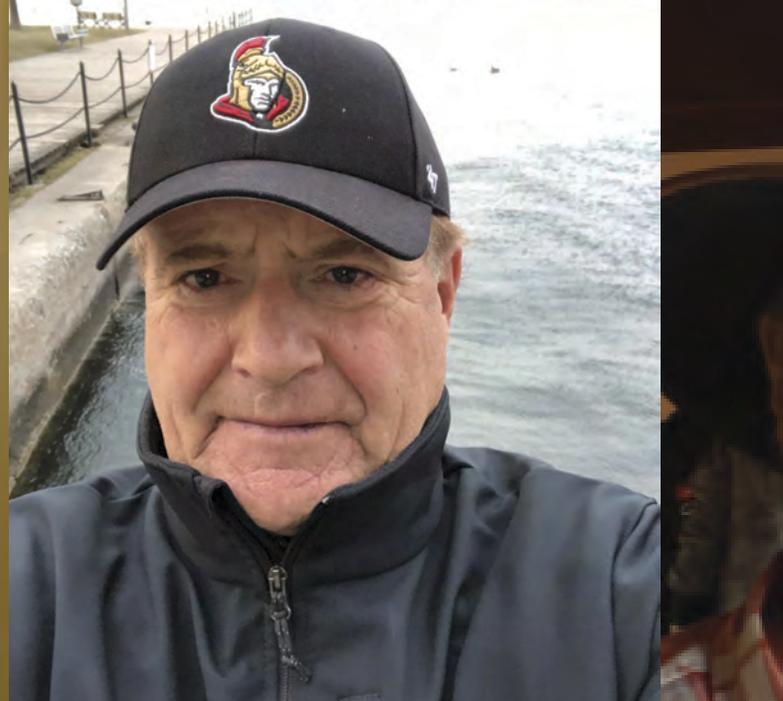
- Assist with the planning and hosting of the event
- Connect with fellow classmates/residents to confirm their contact info is up to date
- Compile photo collages and memorabilia

If you are interested assisting with the 50th Anniversary festivities, please contact Michelle Clark, Manager of Alumni Relations, at ualumni@luthercollege.edu.





Terence Harjula



Chris Dewart

CLASS NOTES

1930's & 1940's

FRED JAUCK (HSU'38) recently turned 101 and lives in Victoria, BC. He took his first year of university at Luther College in 1937-38. Fred was featured in the December 2019 issue of *Canada Lutheran*, sharing his story of life and faith.

TERENCE HARJULA (HS'50) studied law at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS, after graduating from Luther College. In 1952-53, he hitchhiked through Europe, North Africa, and England. He later attended Vancouver School of Art and Central School of Art in London, England. In 1958, he married Phillida Cocerell. In 1959, he had his first one-man show at the Charrison Gallery in England. Many moves followed, as Terence taught in various places in Mexico and then back in BC. The next move was to London, where Terence studied architecture. He worked in London for twelve years and also spent time in southern France, where they owned several properties. By this time, they had four children. At the age of forty-six, Terence left architecture and concentrated more on his paintings. They purchased a complex of buildings called Westmill House in England. Years later, Terence's wife developed dementia and had to give up her work as a jeweler and psychiatrist. They then moved to Norfolk and later to Suffolk, where Terence still lives.

1950's & 1960's

Congratulations to **DENNIS (HS'52, HSU'53)** and **JOYCE (BLASER) (HS'54) FITZ**, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in the summer of 2019 with family and friends. Dennis worked for Luther College from 1994 to 1999 as the Director of Finance.

MERLIS BELSHER (HS'53) was one of 14 Saskatchewan lawyers recognized for their contributions to the legal profession and public service with the Queen's Counsel (QC) designation.

EUGENE SEITZ (HS'53) earned degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and Oregon State University. Eugene was awarded a Post Doc with the Microbiology Research Institute at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, ON. In 1967 he returned to the US, taking up a leadership position at International Flavors and Fragrances, and launched a multi-teamed R&D program for this industry leader, manufacturing many successful biological flavorants. Then, in 1994 he was hired by a Danish biological food ingredient company, Christian Hansen, Inc., and was instrumental in designing a factory for them in New Berlin, WI. After twelve years of intensive work there, he was hired away by a prominent cheese company, where he worked until 2012. Eugene and his wife, Deb, now live on their 129-acre crop farm in Hartland, WI, enjoying the peacefulness of rural life. He is active in his 176-year-old Lutheran (ELCA) church. Eugene Seitz endowed both Luther College campuses with science scholarships in 2019.

SHARON (MEIER) HOWE (HS'58) graduated in X-Ray technology and worked in Regina and Edmonton, AB before taking a lab assistant course and working at the hospital in Pinawa, MB. Sharon married **Terry Howe (HS'58)** and they had two wonderful daughters who brought them two great sons-in-law. Those unions brought four grandchildren. Since retirement, they have been able to do several bus trips and cruises, including to Ecuador, where Terry could use his Spanish, and to Austria to see some of Sharon's roots. Sharon says that life has been blessed and they are thankful. Sharon has special memories of the camaraderie of the girl's residence, which kept her from being homesick. Her favorite teacher was John Chomay, who helped her in grade 10 math as she had taken grade 9 by correspondence and didn't have the basics. "Thanks to him I always got A's in math after the first midterm."

LESLEE ARGAN-TURMEL (HS'69) moved to the Niagara region upon retirement to be closer to her grandchildren. She has become active in the Unitarian-Universalist Community in the region with a focus on social justice. Her passion for eco-gardening, animal rights, and friends and family further enriches her life. She is currently registered in a two-year Canadian Unitarian Council Congregational Lay Chaplaincy Program.



Trevor Toews



Aaron Scherle and Pam Husak

1970's

CHRIS DEWART (HS'72) is currently President & CEO of Konica Minolta (Canada) Ltd. in Mississauga, ON, after serving with Konica Minolta in Chicago, Illinois. He says his most lasting memory of Luther College is "my friendship with one of the nicest and best people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing, and that is Brad Hagarty from the Class of '71, gone way too soon."

TREVOR TOEWS (HS'74) says, "after a number of zigs and zags with careers and hobbies, the Lord has been prompting me to get busy with all of these songs that He has given me over the years since I accepted Jesus into my heart. For the most part, they are country gospel, but I do have a few secular country songs." His music is available for free download at trevortoewsmusic.com. He also recently started a Cowboy Church in Edmonton, AB (Cowboy Church at the Gate on Facebook). He eagerly looks forward to getting in touch with all of the folks he met while at Luther. His life continues to ring with the occasional reminders of folks met and lessons learned while at Luther. He still hopes to make it out to one of the L.I.T. tournaments. "I always loved the atmosphere surrounding the games and events."

1980's

KEN SEITZ (HS'87) is now the executive Vice President and CEO of Potash at Nutrien. According to Nutrien's website, Ken has almost 25 years of commercial experience, primarily in the natural resource industry, including oil and gas, mining and power generation. Before joining Nutrien in October 2019, he was the President and CEO of Canpotex.

TREVOR MILNE (HS'88) is the Director of Information Technology for Viterra North America, and recently accepted a term position at their global head office in Rotterdam. Trevor will act as Deputy Global IT Manager, and will provide his leadership and expertise as Glencore Agriculture works to establish its own independent global IT division.

KENT FOSTER (HS'88, U'95) travelled to Europe and Asia after graduating from Luther. Upon coming home, he continued his education at Luther College at the University of Regina, where he received a B.Ed. He has been working for the Regina Public School Board for the last 24 years, mainly teaching in the carpentry and trade areas. He has been happily married for 20 years to his wife, Brenda, and they have two awesome kids, Kate (17) and Liam (15). "Life has been good!"

BRUCE HELMSING (HS'89) lives in Kentucky. He enjoys *The Luther Story* and catching up with everyone.

1990's

PAM HUSAK (HS'90) and **AARON SCHERLE (HS'90, U'96)** - While they didn't always know it, Pam and Aaron have been following each other since birth. They were both born in Winnipeg, MB, but grew up in Regina and ended up at Luther together. They graduated together, but then didn't see each other for 20 years. After getting her business degree, Pam began a career with Great West Life, where she was a regional sales manager by the time she was 27. In 2003, Pam moved to Phoenix, AZ, and began a highly successful career with TEKsystems (a technology services company). After getting degrees in political science and human justice, Aaron worked for several years as the advocate for Regina's Welfare Rights Centre. But working with the poorest of the poor changed Aaron's priorities, and in 2000 he joined the Canadian Armed Forces, where he was posted all over Canada as an infantry officer and then as a public affairs officer. From 2007 to 2011, he was a member of the Canadian Special Operations Regiment and was deployed to the Caribbean, to Afghanistan, and to the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics. Pam and Aaron reunited at the 2010 Luther Homecoming and got married in September 2011. They now live with their rescue pit bull, Frankie, in the downtown Roosevelt Row Arts District. Pam is a top-producer with TEKsystems, and Aaron is a public relations executive. Pam was a cheerleader at Luther and remembers L.I.T. fondly. Aaron says that he and **Brad Nattrass HS'90** spent more time playing frisbee than studying, getting by just fine on their good looks and charm.



Mary Bella



Thomas Boxall
Ashley Krefting



Graham McLuhan
Rocelyn Hodson



Bradford Pederson
and his wife

CLASS NOTES

MARY BELLA (HS'90) studied vocal music at Memorial University and opera at the University of Toronto. She worked in arts admin and started designing websites for artists and arts organizations around the year 2000. Her company Maestra Web Design has now been in business for 20 years and she has created well over 100 websites. She continues to sing in the professional opera chorus at the Canadian Opera Company when she can, and she has started conducting her own women's choir. She loves the way singing together builds community. Her favourite Luther memories are of choir tours! She says, "Strong friendships were formed, and many continue to this day. We were lucky enough to travel to Arizona and California in our grade 12 year - we even got a have a day at Disneyland with our choir friends! It was the BEST."

THOMAS BOXALL (HS'98, U'07) is a Business Metrics Analyst for SaskTel and is the Vice President of the Saskatchewan chapter of the Canadian Information Processing Society. Through CIPS, he volunteers on the Program Advisory Committee for two Saskatchewan Polytechnic programs. Thomas also serves as the Parade Sergeant for Branch 35 of the Royal Canadian Legion (Fort Qu'Appelle) and volunteers to talk to schools about Remembrance Day, the Canadian Armed Forces, and their role in peacemaking around the world today. He shared this special Luther memory: "I still remember orientation day for Grade 11 when I was signing into the dorms. **TIM WARDLE (HS'98)** came out from nowhere and ambushed me with a big bear hug. Growing up, I never had the sense of family I got from living in the dorms, the friends I made from around the world, and the impact that would have on my life going forward."

2000's

GRAHAM MCLUHAN (HS'02) recently received his 10-year service award with Apple, Inc. For the past five years, he has worked as a Quality Assurance Engineer on Apple's device management tools for education and enterprise customers. Graham works at Apple's corporate headquarters in Cupertino, California, and lives in San Jose with his wife, Raelyn, and their dog, Leo. He

had the honour of presenting at Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference in 2017 and 2019. Graham shared this memory: "Richard Nostbakken found a young grade 9 kid who had a passion for computers and helped set the course for the rest of my life. His mentorship and guidance were essential in my career progression and for that I am very grateful. We stayed in touch after I graduated and his passing was a great loss to me and so many others. Thank you, Rick."

ASHLEY (DIZY) KREFTING (HS'06) is a learning support teacher at Bert Fox Community High School in Fort Qu'Appelle, SK. She has a fabulous husband of nine years, Matthew, and two beautiful daughters, Melody and Lily (baby).

DERRICK EMSLEY (HS'08) was named by *Forbes* as one of the 2020 Top 30 under 30 Social Entrepreneurs. This Forbes list showcases those who are combining purpose and profit. Emsley is CEO of tentree, an apparel company that plants ten trees for every piece of clothing sold.

2010's

MARSHALL GENI (HS'10) took a trip of a lifetime to Brazil for carnival upon graduation. When he returned to Regina he took a summer job in a local Regina lumberyard with the anticipation of taking college courses in the fall. He was offered full-time employment that fall instead. He travelled to Australia in 2016 and purchased his first home in 2017. He has been with Taiga Building Products for nine years, and now is the logistics coordinator for the Regina hub! Marshall says the four years at Luther gave him all the skills he needed to succeed in the world: "I frequently think back to my time in high school, and the atmosphere around the school in the fall and winter months stick with me in my mind. I can imagine they always will! I wouldn't have had it any other way! Thank you!"



Thomas Fahlman
Leesa Weighill



Drew Barsness



Calysta Springer

ROCELYN HODSON (HS'10) graduated in 2010 and became a hairstylist and makeup artist. She has been working for Chatters hair salon for almost eight years. This past year was a year of accomplishments for Rocelyn. She was a stylist in Saskatchewan fashion week, Toronto fashion week, and Vancouver fashion week. She also competed in a Chatters live hair competition called Mane Stage. Stylists have to go through a two-step application process just to compete. The eight stylists that were chosen had 30 minutes to execute a gala-inspired hairstyle. Rocelyn placed first and won a trip to Toronto for an education event sponsored by Redken. She was also picked as one of the top 25 stylists in Chatters, part of an elite team moving the company forward. She wanted to share her success with fellow alums, as she feels she has worked very hard to get where she is today.

BRADFORD PEDERSON (HS'10) is an entrepreneur in Saskatoon. He is the Chief Operating Officer of Prehistoric Productions, along with fellow alumnus **Andrew Sorsdahl (HS'10)** who is the CEO.

LEESA WEIGHILL (HS'10) has been living in BC, working in film and music production, and writing and recording her own music.

THOMAS FAHLMAN (HS'11) left home to attend a discipleship training school to learn how to be a missionary, after which he plans to become a pastor. "I remember having everyone in my grade made a fundraising group for cancer research. It was amazing to see everyone cared."

DANIELLE (KOSTIUK) CORSON (HS'12) married **Philip Corson (HS '08)** in 2014. She graduated with distinction from the University of Regina in 2017 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Art and a Business Administration Diploma. She also received the Faculty of Media, Art and Performance Dean's Medal. In 2018, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Art History with distinction from the University of Regina and completed a curatorial internship at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Currently, she is working towards a Master of Fine Arts degree at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho.

TAYLOR TECKCHANDANI (HS'15) is the recipient of the 2019 Kinesiology and Health Studies Distinguished Undergraduate Award and was the University of Regina Undergraduate Research Award recipient, Spring/Summer 2019. Taylor studied Human Kinetics, graduating with high honours.

GABRIELA CELIS-GUEVARA (HS'15) is currently studying at the University of Calgary, with a major in Visual Arts and a minor in Architecture. She will complete her degree in April and graduate in June 2020. She plans to enter a master's program in architecture in fall 2020 as well as continuing her career as an artist. She exhibits many of her artworks in various galleries, specializing in exploring both the bizarreness and beauty of body modification. She is also a competitive athlete in tae kwon do and is hoping to represent Canada at the Pan-American Tournament in August 2020, the World Cup in October 2020, and the World Championship in 2021. She says her most memorable moment at Luther College High School was playing for the girls' soccer team and serving as a team captain for three years with Mr. Frostad.

DREW BARSNESS (HS'17) moved to Toronto after graduation and worked in the film industry. He worked for big companies like Google and the Toronto Raptors. He has since stopped doing that and has become a content creator on Tiktok, where he makes daily videos for his 375,000 fans. Find him on social media @canada_drew.

CALYSTA SPRINGER (HS'17) studied abroad at the Paris School of Business in 2019 and at York University in England. Calysta was co-chair of the Hill Dinner 2019 and co-chair of Keg-a-rama 2020, the longest running charity event at the University of Regina, raising money for the firefighters burn unit. "I remember the best part of Luther was the excitement of the blitz nights with Mr. Hunter, staying up until 3:00 a.m. with the other students, prepping for the L.I.T. weekend!"

CLASS NOTES

Faculty member Mr. Kris Dueck provided some updates for some of his recent improv and drama students who are pursuing their arts careers:

- **ZANE CLIFFORD (HS'15)** was a principal character in the Netflix movie *There's Someone Inside Your House*, filmed in Vancouver, BC.
- **MICHAEL LANG (HS'15)** was the lighting and sound designer for many Queen's University theatre shows, including *Fun Home*.
- **KATIE DECOSTE (HS'16)** is a part of the Citadel Theatre's young playwrights company in Edmonton, AB and has been busy writing and producing original works.

Thank you to all our alumni who submitted their story to the Spring 2020 issue of Class Notes.

IN MEMORIAM

With sorrow and remembrance, we remember these alumni, employees, and friends on their passing.

Glenn Peardon

Former faculty at LCUR '84-98 and LCHS

Vesna Morris

worked at LCUR from 1991-2011 in the cafeteria before retraining in the administrative field. She had a big personality, a great laugh, and was a lot of fun to be around.

Alice (Norin) Smistad (HS'38, HSU'39)

Wilhelmine Kinzel Hauser (HS'38)

Elizabeth Furtney Baumung (HS'43)

Randi (Farden) Nilson (HS'43)

Gertrude (Nagel) Hoffman (HS'46)

Walter Marquart (HSU'46)

Bill Silver (HS'49)

Vern Simonsen (HS'50)

Herbert Domes (HS'51)

Avalene (Purvis) Madsen (HS'53)

James (Gordon) Flett (HS'57, HSU'58)

remembered by his classmates as the "James Dean" of Luther College

Wesley Norheim (HS'59)

Elizabeth (Betty) Blight (HS'62)

moved on to do a pre-university year at Regina College. She continued her education in Regina and spent a year in England before taking a position as an Archivist in Manitoba. She spent her entire career there and made a significant impact on the archival community.

– Submitted by Joanne Kidd (HS'62)

Randy Holfeld (HS'55, HSU'63)

James (Jim) Overland (HS'65)

Gary Madsen (HS'77)

Lee Odelein (HS'85)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

As an independent school, Luther College High School would not be able to operate without the generous gifts of our donors. Many of these people are alumni, like Dr. William Silver, Class of 1949.

Dr. Silver worked as an academic orthopaedic surgeon, splitting his time between lecturing in the classroom as an assistant professor at the U of S medical school and in the operating room, teaching students orthopaedic procedures. Later in life, he and his wife Hilary operated a bison farm near Craven, SK. Bill passed away in May 2020.

With his donation made in early March, we were able to name the Biology Lab after him. Dr. Silver's faith inspired him to include the following scripture on the classroom: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God ... for instruction in righteousness" - 2 Timothy 3:16





BLACK AND GOLD BRUNCH SELLS OUT!

The Luther Parents' Association fundraising committee had a very successful event with their first Black & Gold Brunch in November 2019. Not only did tickets sell out, the event raised \$30,000 for student technology!

The proceeds from the brunch were used for technology for students including: 45 Chromebook laptop computers (with licences), 16 Chromebox desktop computers, equipment racks, carts, and wall mounts.

All of this technology will be ready to go for student use by the beginning of September 2020. This gets us closer to our goal - a ratio of approximately one laptop for every 10 students.

Thanks to our parents and community who attended the brunch and supported the silent auction! We look forward to hosting another brunch in November 2020!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

LUTHER PRE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Do you have a career in the Health Sciences, Law, STEM, Not-for-Profit, Government, Journalism, or Communications? As a university student, were you ever unsure whether the career path you had chosen was the right one for you?

Would you have benefitted from networking with professionals in your field of study, to hear their insights, experiences, and advice? We are looking to build a library of Luther College at the University of Regina (LCUR) alumni volunteers in the above careers to assist current LCUR students in finding their way to success.

Examples of alumni participation may include:

- Speaking about your experience at Luther to potential students attending our Information Night
- Giving a presentation about your profession to a Luther class or at Fall Orientation
- Sitting on an alumni panel at a Luther Pre-Professional Student Society Event
- Engaging with first-year Luther students involved in our English-Science and Justice & Journalism Bundles programming

Just think - you could be that ONE person who makes all the difference in the life of a student.
Volunteer by emailing Michelle Clark, Manager of Alumni Relations, at ualumni@luthercollege.edu.

THE STUDENT VILLAGE AT LUTHER COLLEGE

BEST CHOICE FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENT ACCOMMODATION



The Student Village at Luther College is Luther's residence, with 219 private rooms and 24-hour residence staff on-site. All rooms have been completely renovated and come with a meal plan, free laundry, free wi-fi, and a great sense of community.

We know that having a safe, affordable, and convenient home base is crucial to student success and wellness. You will enjoy the ease and convenience of living right on campus, never having to worry about shopping for groceries, cooking meals, or doing the dishes!

Until June 30, 2020 - SAVE up to \$1,000 on residence fees!
For more information, visit www.luthercollege.edu/residence.

HOMECOMING 2020 CELEBRATE

your high school reunion at Luther College this fall!

This year we honour the Classes of

2010, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1980, 1975, 1970, 1965, 1960, 1955, 1950, and 1945.

Friday, September 25, 2020

Class Reception

Saturday, September 26, 2020

Chapel Service, School Tours, Banquet

THE LUTHER STORY

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