

Ecumenical Campus Ministry Lethbridge - - - News

Celebrating our community!

McKillop United hosted a wonderful rib dinner to raise money for the First Third ministries in south Alberta.



These are ministries for children and young adults, including ECM. It was a fabulous evening with \$10,000 raised

by the dinner and another \$4000 contributed by the men's and women's groups at Southminster United. We are so grateful for the wonderful support we receive from our local congregations!

At the beginning of May, Southminster United hosted the meetings of the Chinook Winds region, and I was able to speak about the work of ECM as a part of the First Third ministries presentation. It was so delightful to see old friends and supporters of our ministry and to meet new folks.

This spring the convocations on both campuses were especially meaningful for me. There were students graduating at both convocations at the Polytechnic and at all four ceremonies at the university who I've watched grow through their studies.

There is an incredible sense of joy at seeing our students flourish and knowing that ECM has been a part of that for many of them. This spring we also got to celebrate two people with long connections to ECM. The

Honourable Justice Derek Redman, who in the early days of the chaplaincy gave us a lot of legal advice, was given an honorary degree from the University of Lethbridge. (For the full story see the university website here - <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/unews/article/honourable-justice-derek-redman-be-given-university-lethbridge-honorary-degree>). Derek's speech to the

graduates was a powerful call to recognize our connection to each other and to all of creation and I encourage you to look for it on the university's YouTube channel. It was also in the early days of the chaplaincy that I became friends with Rebekah Eckert, then doing an internship at Hills of Peace Lutheran Church. Rebekah now teaches in the Academic Writing programme at the U

Honourable Justice Derek Redman to be given University of Lethbridge honorary degree



The Honourable Justice Derek Redman is a distinguished Alberta jurist recognized for his exemplary judicial leadership, his dedication to public legal education and community service. An unwavering advocate for a justice system that is accessible, culturally informed and responsive to communities, the University of Lethbridge will grant Redman an honorary degree at Spring 2026 Convocation.

"Justice Redman has had an exemplary legal career and been a pillar of the Alberta justice system, and at the heart of his practice, first as a lawyer and then as a jurist, has been his commitment to fairness, accessibility and innovation," says ULethbridge Chancellor Terry Whitehead (BA '94). "His unique ability to inject humanity into the legal system, as seen in his unwavering support of the incredible ULethbridge Chess for Life program and its emphasis on guiding youth on probation, sets him apart from his peers. His creativity and



Honourable Justice Derek Redman will be honoured during Ceremony IV of Spring 2026 Convocation.

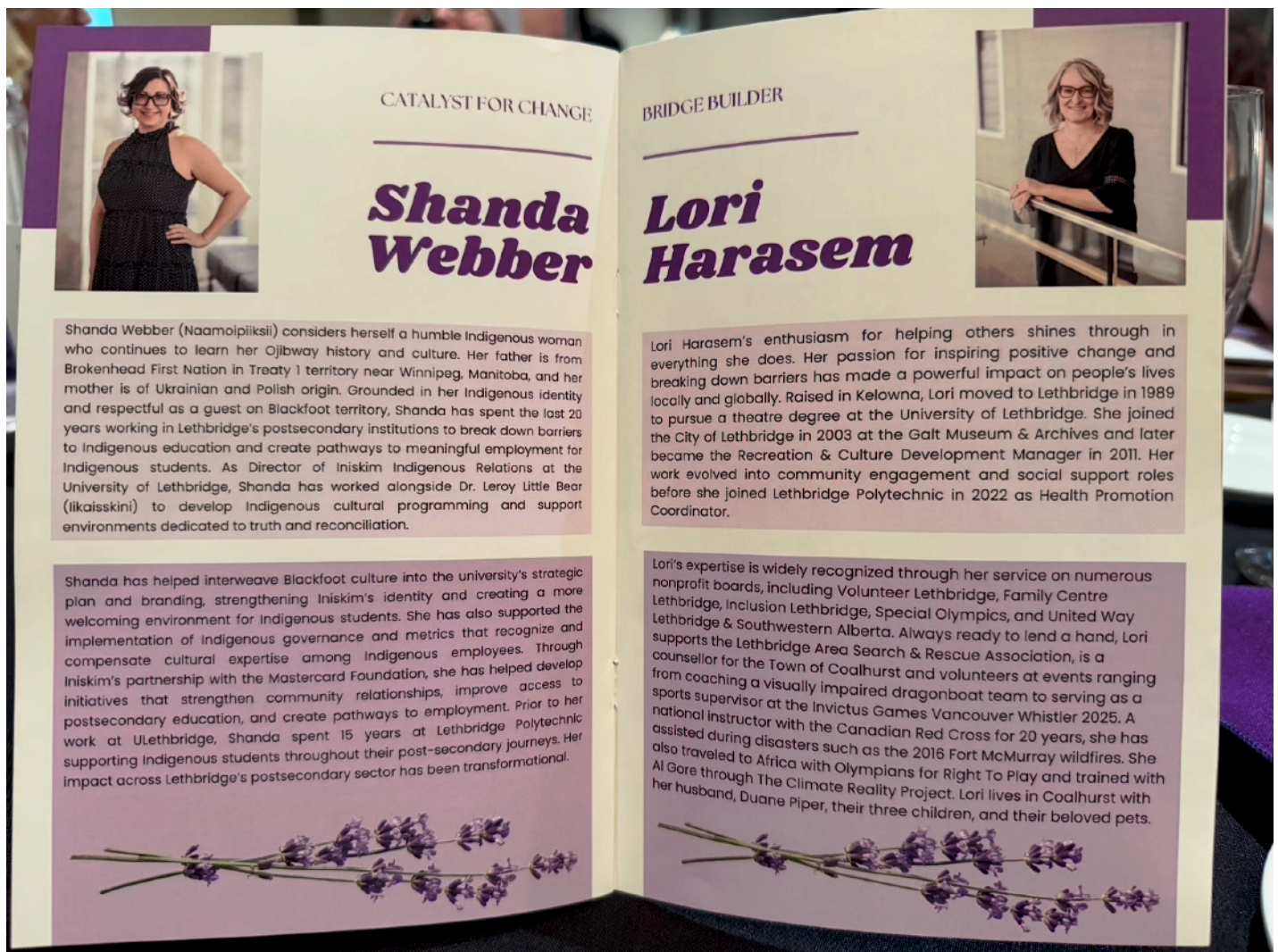


Chaplain Erin & Rebekah Eckert,

of L and was given the Excellence in Teaching Award by the university and was also honoured by the U of L

Student Union for her outstanding teaching. (You can read more here - <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/unews/article/academic-writing-program-instructor-rebekah-eckert-earns-2026-excellence-teaching-award>).

This year marked the tenth anniversary of the first arrivals of the Syrian families sponsored by a combined sponsorship group made up of the university, a group of doctors, and three Anglican churches. In all, our joint effort brought seventeen people to be a part of our community. Members of the university community also formed a WUSC (World University Service of



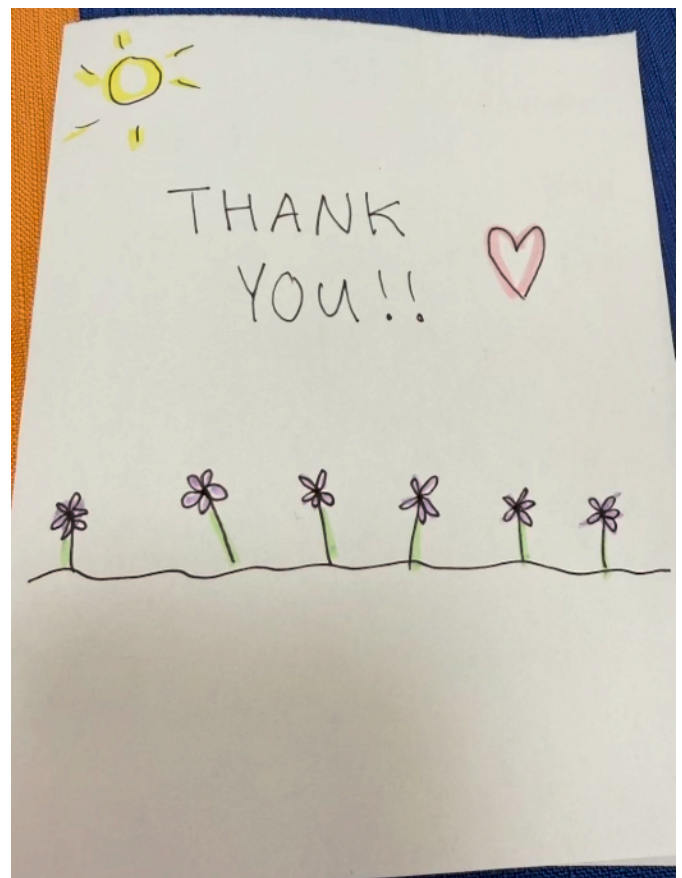
Canada) club to sponsor student refugees. The club sponsored their first student for the fall of 2016, and this fall will bring their 10th refugee student to study at the U of L. It was very moving to see students who came to the university as refugees convocate this spring, including two WUSC students!

This year's YWCA Women of Distinction Awards were also a wonderful time of celebrating two individuals from our campuses. Shanda Webber, Director of Iniskim Indigenous Relations at the university and Lori Harasem, Health Promotion Coordinator at the polytechnic, both received awards for their incredible contributions to the well-being of our students. Lori also serves at the polytechnic's representative to the ECM board and does much to support Smiles and Snacks there. I've known them both for many years and am inspired by their passion and commitment to the flourishing of our community.

For the past two years ECM's board has been greatly enriched by the presence of Andreas Gateman, a U of L education student. Andreas brings many gifts to the work of the board, with technology, with social media, and with insights into the experience of students. He is distinguishing himself in his studies and has been profiled by the university (see here - <https://stories.ulethbridge.ca/andreas-gateman-relational-teaching/>) and has

already published a paper in the U of L journal, *Sociological Imaginations*.

Our former student chaplain, the Rev'd Erin McIntyre, who has been ministering at Knox-St. Paul's United Church in Cornwall, Ontario, is beginning a new position. Beginning in August Erin will be working with the Office of Vocation (OV) within the United Church of Canada. She will be supporting the discernment, formation, oversight and ongoing support of ministry personnel in 5 Regional Councils! It is so lovely to see someone who explored her own discernment within ECM now contributing in this way to the broader church.



Considerations of Matters of Life and Death

Cade Community Lectures

Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm

Gallery Theatre, Lethbridge Public Library, Main Branch

**September 15th "It's alive! It's alive! the Enduring Fascination of
Frankenstein's Monster"**

Erin Phillips, Chaplain, Ecumenical Campus Ministry

**September 22nd "What's Left: Behind the Scenes of
Anatomy Education"**

Tegan Barry, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Lethbridge

September 29th - "Mothering in a Patriarchal World"

**Mary Siever, Dept. of Women and Gender Studies,
University of Lethbridge**

October 6th "Willing to Die: Martyrs in Mennonite Memory"

**Jennifer Otto, Dept. of History and Religion,
University of Lethbridge**

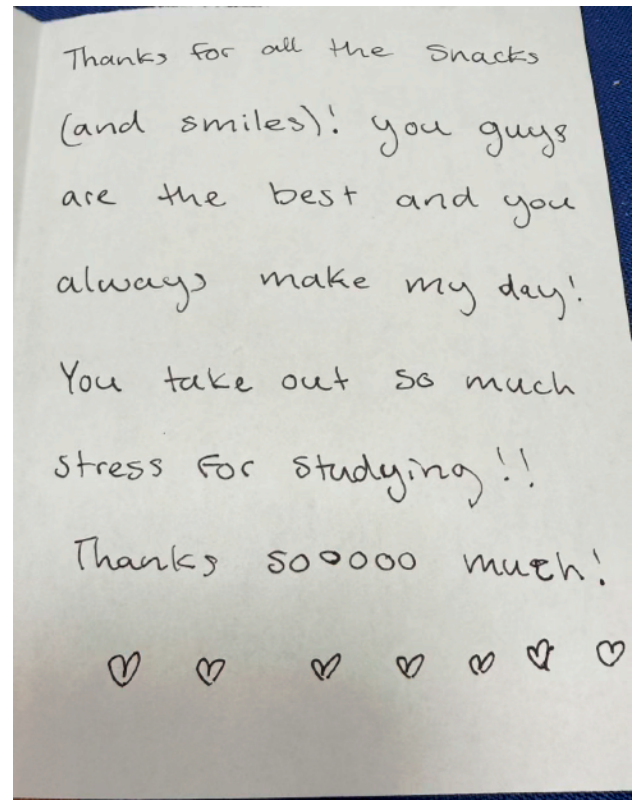
**Sponsored by Ecumenical Campus Ministry - Lethbridge
and the Lethbridge Public Library**

More Smiles and Snacks

Smiles and Snacks continues to be one of our most successful programmes ever. Thanks to a generous grant from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada we are



able to provide conversation, crafts, and goodies every week on both campuses. We have a wonderful team of volunteers who come hang out regularly to visit with students or teach them some crocheting or knitting skills. This year some of the volunteers brought special crafts for Christmas or Valentine's Day and we did cookie decorating for Halloween too with the help of Bootsma's



Bakery. We estimate that during the term about 200 students a week stop by to pick out a treat or sit down for a



conversation between the two campuses. During exams, we offer S & S's daily and support 50-75

students each evening as they study for exams or finish up papers. This year we realized that one of our volunteers was featured



in a poster from many years ago that was hanging in the 24-hour study hall. You get special credit if you recognize this U of L alumnus who went on to a distinguished career in education!

There are many things I love about Smiles and Snacks. I love seeing the connections our volunteers make with the students, getting to know their names and programmes, where they are from and what they hope to do in the future. I love seeing volunteers showing up with some special craft or supplies that they thought a particular student might like.





This year we had many students bring back pieces of cross-stitch or crocheting to give to the volunteers as thank-yous. We also had students take a break from their exam studying to create little works of art to thank us. I can't knit or crochet, but I have shared my love of fountain pens with interested students and had to smile when a student introduced me to her mother at convocation as 'the pen lady.' One of the highlights of the year for me this year is seeing students getting to know each other and arranging to come hang out together with us the following week. This year we were

also asked to support a variety of initiatives on both campuses. We made little micro green gardens for Nutrition Week at the university, supported a mental health initiative put on by the ULSU, and participated in a special exam prep event at the polytechnic. We were also profiled in

the local news by Bridge City News. Watch it here: <https://bridgecitynews.ca/smiles-and-snacks-outreach-to-polytechnic-students/>.

Food Insecurity and Financial Precarity

We've known for thirty years that the cliché of the starving student was sadly often true. Over the years we've become very aware of the other struggles facing students without financial means, problems with housing and transportation, the struggle to pay tuition and for books. In 2017-2018 we were part of a major study of poverty among students on

in the early study and we are analyzing the results to see where things have changed and where things remain the same. We hope to repeat the survey at the university next spring.

Over the years ECM has made addressing food insecurity a priority.

Besides providing snacks every week at Smiles and Snacks we provided Christmas dinner for 165 university and polytechnic students and stock the pantries on campus when possible. This year St. Andrew's Presbyterian gave special financial



both campuses which gave us a much better picture of the circumstances facing many of our students. This spring, Shay Wall, an instructor at the polytechnic, repeated the survey done





support to the pantries on both campuses! ECM also supports a wonderful initiative by Dr. Janet Youngdahl of the U of L music faculty. For four years, Janet has organized an incredible concert at Southminster United on or around Valentine's Day to raise money for the Interfaith, Lethbridge, and U of L food banks. ECM supports this incredible benefit with advertising and volunteers. This year, volunteers from Christ Trinity Lutheran and Southminster United helped with the door and ushering, and an incredible \$10,000 was raised!

Losses to our community

Soon after he arrived in 2000 as the new president of the University of Lethbridge, Bill Cade and I met and talked about an idea I had for a lecture series to bring together the campus and the community. Bill was an enthusiastic supporter

of the idea and, for the next ten years, provided financial support and attended one of the talks from each series to bring greetings from the university. When he retired from the university in 2010, he gave a talk in that year's series, and we announced that from then on the series would be known as the Cade Community Lectures in recognition of his support.

Bill was quickly renowned on campus for knowing everyone, their names, and their families. So many people told me over the years that he made them feel seen and appreciated. We were working together on a project to acknowledge people from campus who had died when my own father died. I came back from dad's funeral and got an email from Bill that he wanted to see me. I took my project notes to his office, but

he said, 'Put those away and tell me about your father.' For the next hour and a half, he was chaplain to me. He died at his home in San Antonio in December. His memory will always be a blessing.

For many years I taught in the religious studies, history, and sociology departments at the university and early on I got to know a wonderful student, Jamie Haney. Over the years, I met the rest of the Haney family, including his father, Peter, who was the assistant registrar at the university. I was privileged to preach at the wedding of Jamie and Karen Broadhead, and they continue to be chosen family to me. Peter and I would have great conversations, mostly about novels and our dogs, whenever we ran into each other. After his wife Robin died two years ago, we met more intentionally to share coffee and rich conversations about poetry, music, politics, and grief. I treasured those conversations and was deeply grieved when Peter died in January.

In May we gathered with Peter's family and friends, and it was wonderful to hear stories from so many people of Peter's great contribution to the university long before I arrived. I knew how respected and liked he was by

people on campus, but it was wonderful to hear more about what he meant to the life of the university. In one of our conversations, we both shared our love of the song "Go in Peace" by Sam Baker, and I share the lyrics with you now in memory of both of these much-loved men:

Go in peace
Go in kindness
Go in love
Go in faith

Leave the day
The day behind us
Day is done
Go in grace

Let us go
Into the dark
Not afraid
Not alone

Let us hope
By some good pleasure
Safely to
Arrive at home

Let us hope
By some good pleasure
Safely to
Arrive at home

Looking ahead!

Smiles and Snacks begins Tuesday, September 8th again at 11:00 am in the Centre Core and Thursday, September 10th at 11:00 am in the UHall atrium.

The Cade Community Lectures begin Tuesday, September 15th at 6:30 pm at the Lethbridge Public Library.

The blessing of the U of L campus will take place Monday, September 21st at noon on the UHall patio.

Join ECM on FACEBOOK



Supporting ECM

Ecumenical Campus Ministry relies on the support we receive from our denominational partners, our congregations, and from individuals.

Over the years as our programming and presence on campus has expanded, we have come to rely even more on donations from individuals. We can not do what we do without your financial support. We have been encouraged by the response to direct appeals and are delighted when we receive unexpected gifts.

There are two ways you can support ECM. The first is to send a cheque payable to **"ECM Lethbridge" c/o Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (2406 11 Ave S, Lethbridge, AB T1K 0K8)**. The second is to contribute online through Canada Helps at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/ecumenical-campus-ministry/>

To make a regular monthly contribution please contact us at ecm.erin@gmail.com. ECM is a registered charity and issues tax receipts for donations of \$25 and over.

The Rev'd Canon Erin Phillips
(she/her)

Chaplain, Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Lethbridge
ECM is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran,
United, Presbyterian, and Anglican churches
403 382 0294

The University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge Polytechnic stand on the traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy

