

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

AGM: OCTOBER 3, 2019



*Creative? Out of touch?
Discipleship? Caring?
Leadership training?
Bible?*

FROM THE PRESIDENT: ONE WORD BRAND IDENTITY



Higher education experts argue that institutions get one—maybe two—words to be associated with in the imaginations of any given person. This speaks to the importance of top-of-mind associations when it comes to an institution's brand. The question then becomes: what 'word' do you want to own?

If talk about brand identity sounds too market-driven, then recall Jesus' question to his followers: "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" And then even more directly, "Who do you say I am?" (Matthew 16:13-15) Peter was able to identify Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Even though Jesus didn't need anyone to affirm his identity, he clearly did want his disciples to wrestle with the question because nothing was, or is, of greater importance.

It seems to us at Columbia that the issue of identity formation in Christ is only going to become more acute in the days ahead. Christian organizations need to be very clear about their convictions, vision and mission. As people and as institutions, we must not forget who we are, and who we should be. Here at Columbia, we're engaged in a strategic planning process that is looking ahead to 2025. This is a great time to seriously consider who we are, who we want to be, and how we want to be known.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Born". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Bryan Born
President

Philosopher Thomas Merton once wrote that the university is a critical means of grace. "It should help men and women save their souls and, in so doing, to save their society: from what? From the hell of meaninglessness, of obsession, of complex artifice, of systematic lying, of criminal evasions and neglects, of self-destructive futilities." Can you imagine if that was the mission statement of Columbia Bible College? Instead of equipping people for a life of discipleship, ministry, and leadership in service to the church and community, we could follow Merton's line of thinking and say that we are saving the souls of men and women, and in so doing, saving society from the hell of meaninglessness, obsession, and self-destructive futilities.

My guess is that this sort of mission statement would most likely be dismissed as extreme or as just plain silly. However, I hope that our college is a critical means of grace, and that a salvific work is being carried out in the lives of our students. And, if we are honest with each other, I believe it is quite apparent that too many in our society appear to have either embraced or been sentenced to a hell of meaninglessness and self-destructive futilities. Whatever language we use to describe the mission of Columbia, it is vital that we be a means of grace, not only in the lives of our students, but in our city, country, and world.

G. K. Chesterton wrote that the "object of opening the mind . . . is to shut it again on something solid." In a society that increasingly values relativism and a plurality of personal opinions, Columbia can provide the youth of our churches with a solid foundation. I know that what our faculty teach, what our staff model, and what our students strive for, is a faith that is solid.

A key verse for Menno Simons was 1 Corinthians 3:11: "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." A solid faith, and a solid college curriculum built on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ can not only make a difference in our world, but truly can save our world from the hell of meaninglessness and self-destructive futilities. I pray that Columbia can be a critical means of grace, and that this grace will extend through the lives of our students into our churches and our communities.

Richard Thiessen
Board Chair





**FROM THE
BOARD CHAIR**



FALL 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

1936

Year Founded

398

Current Students

69

Faculty & Staff

4

Varsity Teams

212

Female Students

186

Male Students

174

Residents

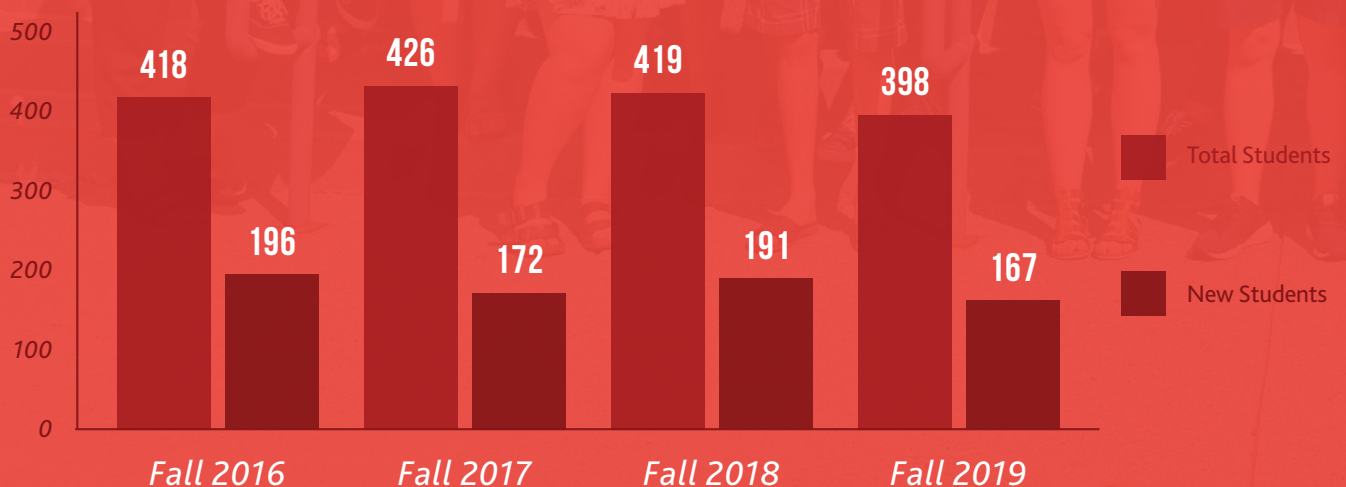
204

Communters

20

Offsite

STUDENT ENROLLMENT



WHERE OUR STUDENTS ARE FROM

18

United States

11

International



TOP 10 DENOMINATIONS

- Mennonite Brethren
- Mennonite Church Alliance
- Baptist
- Evangelical Free
- Non-Denominational
- Reformed
- Pentecostal
- Presbyterian
- Other

STUDENTS BY PROGRAM



BA Degree

48%
196 TOTAL



Diploma

25%
103 TOTAL



Certificate

24%
97 TOTAL



Undeclared

03%
13 TOTAL

OUR PROGRAMS:



APPLIED
LEADERSHIP
32*



BIBLICAL
STUDIES
74



COLUMBIA ONE
32



COUNSELLING
79



EDUCATIONAL
ASSISTANT
27



EMERGENCY
RESCUE TECH.
8



GENERAL
STUDIES
18



INTERCULTURAL
STUDIES
41



OUTDOOR
LEADERSHIP
21



QUEST
28



SOCIAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
20



WORSHIP ARTS
19



YOUTH WORK
36

*Students enrolled in program as a major or minor.



MEET HEATHER

Heather Belanger is in her final year of the Intercultural Studies degree program. In September, she shared this story at our Scholarship Celebration Evening, in appreciation of the many donors who have partnered with God to make her Columbia journey possible.



Serving with Mennonite
Disaster Service



Heather Belanger



Summer camp
Memories



Internship in India

My story about coming to Columbia all began with a bursary. After high school I took a gap year to work, volunteer, and save money for post-secondary education. I initially had the hope of pursuing nursing at another institution, but after getting waitlisted, I re-evaluated where I thought God was calling me. I have a travel bug and have always wanted to be a missionary, so after getting waitlisted, I began searching for schools in the United States that offered programs that would help me pursue my dreams. Unfortunately, due to work circumstances, I was unable to write the SAT exam prior to the application deadlines.

After a week of many tears and a lot of prayer, I came across the Camp Match Bursary through Columbia. That summer, I was planning on returning to work at a Mennonite Brethren camp, and at that point, I had already been accepted to Columbia and attended a view day, but was still unsure if I wanted to be a student at Columbia come the fall. This bursary was a confirmation from the Lord that opened the door for me to attend Columbia. Throughout my first year, God made it more clear to me that Columbia was where I was meant to be as I was given assignments that made an impact on my life: my Shalom Project in Old Testament Survey, Psalm memorization in Psalms, practical discussions in Evangelism, and spiritual disciplines in Spiritual Formation and Discipleship.

After a wonderful first year of studies at Columbia, I was anticipating having to take out student loans in order to continue my education. When scholarship applications opened, I decided to apply for as many as I could. I was beyond grateful to receive the President's Leadership Group scholarship, as it blessed me personally and financially throughout my second, third and fourth years. It was a challenge to maintain a high GPA, but I was thankful for the challenge as it helped me focus on my studies and provided mentoring and leadership opportunities. At the beginning of my second year, I sustained a concussion that made studying quite difficult. Despite being encouraged to drop out of school by doctors, I decided to push through; I am so thankful I continued my studies as I had an incredible support system surrounding me with encouragement and prayer. Through this difficulty I grew so intimately with God through prayer and meditation, and the classes I was taking helped me dive deeper into theology. The combination of my personal time and academic load helped me understand God in a new way—God's faithfulness was so evident within that season.

One aspect of the Intercultural Studies degree is a cross-cultural internship. Thanks to the President's Leadership Group scholarship, the majority of my tuition was covered for my third-year internship, allowing me to focus on raising funds for all the other areas of my overseas internship. God taught me so much within the time leading up to my internship as well as my time serving in India. The patience and closeness with God I learned within my second year helped me immensely amidst

various visa complications throughout the summer. Ultimately, God helped me get through it all and was again so faithful as I served overseas—he used what I learned throughout previous classes and my injury to encourage me in the new setting.

The other scholarship that has significantly impacted my journey at Columbia has been the MDS Sheep & Goats Scholarship. The first year I received this scholarship was an immense blessing from God. I was overseas on my internship in India trying to determine how I would make money for the upcoming school year once I returned to Canada. I knew my transition back to Canada would be difficult so I figured a service opportunity would be good. For the summer of 2018, I served with Mennonite Disaster Service in Williams Lake, BC helping rebuild homes for families that had been affected by the 2017 wildfires. While in Williams Lake, God's providence was overwhelming. He provided an incredible church community for me to learn alongside as I transitioned back to Canadian life.

This past summer, I was given the same opportunity to serve with Mennonite Disaster Service, this time in Grand Forks, BC. This summer I did construction on some houses that had been affected by the flood in 2018. I also served as Head Cook for the volunteers, and my final three weeks were spent working as the Office Manager. The various roles I learned over the two summers have helped me gain a lot of experience; through these opportunities I have gained skills and experience in construction, budgeted and cooked for groups up to 40 people, as well as gained financial organization and experience through the office manager role. I also gained many friends from all over North America, and learned how to communicate and serve alongside various kinds of people. One thing that has impacted my life immensely from MDS has been the conversations about Jesus. Hearing stories about how volunteers have shared the gospel with the clients or laborers has encouraged me greatly as I think about my purpose in studying at Bible college and ultimately the calling on my life as a Christian.

All these scholarships have blessed me immensely financially, but more so relationally. Being involved in various ways on campus has helped me get to know a large variety of people associated with the Columbia community. Due to these various opportunities, I have been able to make connections with staff and faculty at Columbia, as well as with other MDS volunteers from all over North America. The bonds and memories I have made thanks to these scholarships cannot be replaced. I am so thankful to everyone who has helped in forming, funding and sustaining all these scholarships and bursaries. I am beyond grateful to everyone involved for following our incredible God and giving generously; it is because of you that I am able to stand here as a 5th year student with minimal debt, something I never imagined possible. Never doubt the faithfulness of the Lord; He is so good.



2018-19 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: REPORT CARD



INTEGRATE PRACTICAL THEOLOGY INTO ALL PROGRAMS

We're working to clarify exactly what we mean by practical theology, and ensuring that we stay grounded in Scripture. At the same time the word integration is becoming a key term for us – the goal is to break down walls between specific areas of study so that we apply God's Truth into every aspect of life and every area of the world.

GRADE: B *(Still In Progress)*

We completed a program audit for "practical theology," and we struck a task force to develop recommendations and implementation strategies for all areas of the Columbia curriculum.



HIGHLIGHT SEXUAL ETHICS WITHIN COLUMBIA'S CURRICULUM AND STUDENT LIFE

After our Spring #ChurchToo conference, we determined that a weekend seminar wasn't good enough. We have been working to update our policies and procedures in relation to sexual misconduct. We are introducing a ladder approach when educating around this topic so that various issues related to sexual morality are addressed within our core curriculum in years 1 through 4 at the College. In addition, Student Development has ramped up their training both with student leaders, and during the orientation of new students.

GRADE: B+

We've implemented training of students and staff in areas related to sexual morality and sexual misconduct in a more complete and intentional manner. At the same time, we continue to learn 'best practices' for dealing with reports of sexual misconduct.



DEVELOP A HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT CERTIFICATE

After lots of planning, we are poised to launch a healthcare assistant training program in just a few weeks. We are very pleased to be partnering with Menno Place in this endeavor, and we are also establishing a strong relationship with the Tabor Home.

GRADE: A

Although it took longer than hoped to receive our required approvals, we are now fully prepared to launch. Our one major concern is that of enrollment. Please recommend us to potential students!



INTENTIONALLY SEEK TO DEEPEN OUR ENGAGEMENT WITH CHURCHES

Finally, while we have been working hard to strengthen our relationships with our partner churches, we want to go deeper. To this end, we plan on sending out a survey to churches in January, and we continue to reach out church leaders to get feedback on how we can improve.

GRADE: B

We should probably get an "A" for effort, but we'll stick with a "B" due to the fact that there is so much more we can do in this area. We also didn't manage to get the church survey out. We're excited that we now have both a Church Relations Coordinator, Shar Warkentin, and a Columbia Representative, Hannah Juras.



CONTINUE TO INVEST IN EQUIPPING STUDENTS FOR LEADERSHIP

Our Student Development team continues to find new ways of strengthening our training and mentoring of student leaders. We are excited to see how eager they are to both learn, and to assume new responsibilities.

GRADE: A

Intensive Leadership Training efforts in August and January are empowering students to grow in both their knowledge of, and skills in, leadership. Students are taking the initiative to launch new programs both on and off campus.



COLUMBIA
BIBLE COLLEGE



**LOOKING AHEAD:
2020 & BEYOND**

DEVELOPMENT OF A COLUMBIA STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2025 PLAN

We have adopted a preliminary Columbia Strategic Direction 2025 document that emphasizes practical theology and leadership development. We will edit, develop and expand this statement in the months ahead by means of a collaborative and consultative process led by Lead Team members.

STRENGTHEN COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL AND CONSTITUENT CHURCHES

With new staff in place to help us focus on church relations, we intend to discern action steps for improved programming in collaboration with ministry partners. (Strategic conversations with BCMB churches, MCBC churches, Multiply, MCC and other strategic partners regarding necessary programming for equipping future leaders.)

INITIATE A CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN (WITH A PROPOSAL FOR NEW RESIDENCE AND LEARNING CENTRE/CHAPEL)

With two older, and increasingly maintenance-heavy, buildings needing replacement, it is time to initiate a campaign to raise the necessary funds to provide Columbia with a top-notch campus for years to come. This requires a comprehensive campus development plan which includes concept designs and cost estimates. Our Development departments, along with Marketing & Communications, will be significantly involved in this effort.

LAUNCH TWO NEW PROGRAMS: HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT AND THE ONLINE CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

The Health Care Assistant program begins in mid-October, while the final course developments are still in process for the online 30-credit certificate in Biblical Studies. Both of these new programs are adaptations to changes in what both students and our partner organizations are desiring. Increasingly students are looking at job opportunities, and online accessibility.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRACTICAL THEOLOGY EMPHASIS

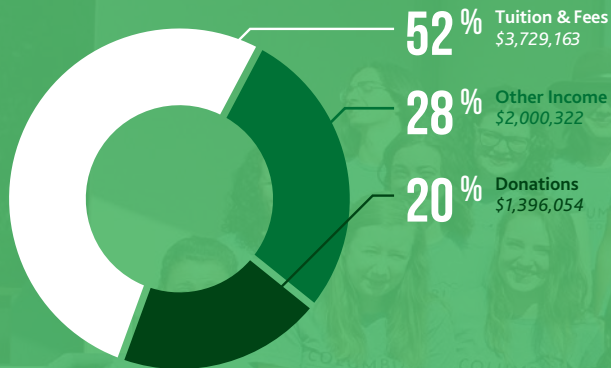
As we continue to press into the importance of integrating biblical studies with all areas of life and practice, we will begin implementing strategic changes in both courses and programs. In order to promote the formation of faithful followers of Jesus, orthodoxy (right belief) and orthopraxy (right practice) must be inextricably linked.



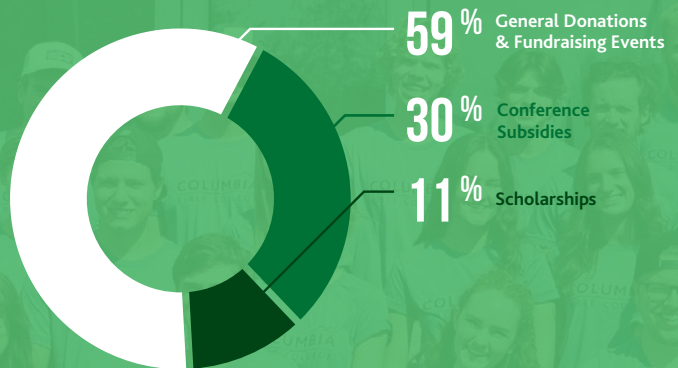
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

2018-2019 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

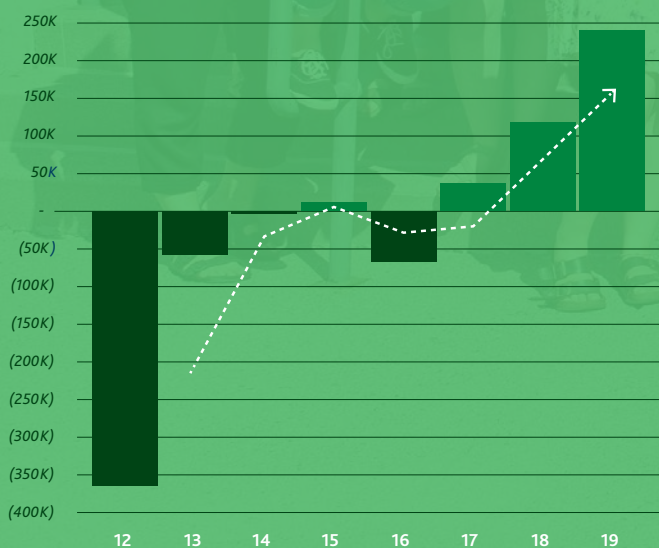
SOURCES OF INCOME



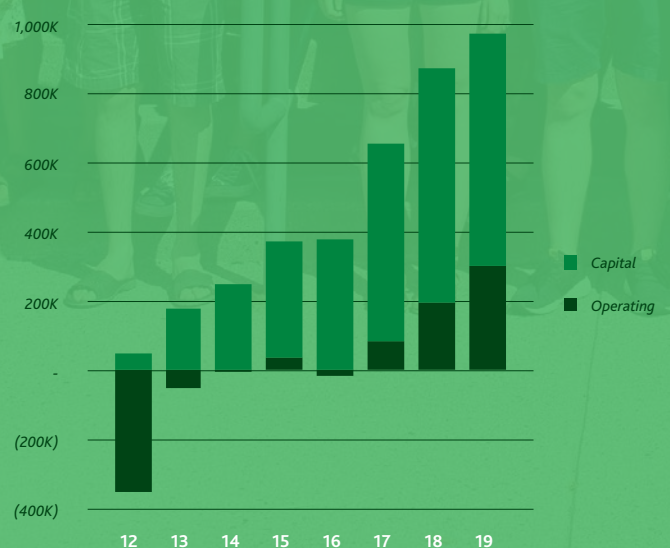
FINANCIAL SUPPORT



CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS



CAPITAL RESERVE ALLOCATIONS





WORLD-IMPACTING GRADS



ZLATA ZOLOTAROVA

BA in Intercultural Studies
Class of 2019
*Serving with Multination
Mission Foundation*



COLIN YEN

BA in Youth Work
Class of 2018
*Director of Middle School Ministries,
Tapestry Church*



DEXTER VOLKMAN

BA in Intercultural Studies
Class of 2018
*Serving at Communitas
Supportive Care*



JOSH RYALL

BA in Worship Arts
Class of 2018
*Technical Assistant, Sound & Media,
Northview Church*



JORDAN CHANIN

BA in Biblical Studies
Class of 2019
*Serving on pastoral staff at
Willingdon Church*



JOSIAH LEONARD

Quest
Class of 2019
*Studying business at
Grand Canyon University*



BRITTANY TOEWS

Diploma in Biblical Studies
Class of 2018
*Studying education at
University of the Fraser Valley*



SARA MARTIN

BA in Counselling & Human Services
Class of 2019
*Mental Health Worker, Stepping Stones
Community Services*



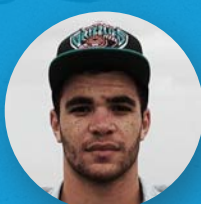
SARAH REMPEL

Diploma in General Studies
Class of 2019
*Completing Bachelor in
Integrated Studies at
University of the Fraser Valley*



VICTORIA TYDEMAN

BA in Counselling & Human Services
Class of 2019
*Educational Assistant,
Repat worker with MCFD*



JOSH BROWN

BA in Youth Work
Class of 2018
Youth Pastor, Grace Church



INTEGRATED & MATURING DISCIPLES

“Graduates root their lives in a deepening relationship with Jesus that permeates identity, priorities, lifestyle, vocation, and relationships. They understand the biblical narrative, and locate themselves and their continuing story within it. Graduates commit to lifelong growth through the ongoing transformative work of the Holy Spirit. They love the church and work actively toward the health and vitality of its local and global expressions.”

- From the Columbia Graduate Attributes