

# Asher Warkentin

*2023 Bursary Essay*



*This past year at CMU was nothing short of incredible  
and I am so excited to be returning!*

The community formed by living on campus is such a joy to be a part of and is full of great people, meaningful conversations, and a lot of fun activities/shenanigans. The many people who regularly attend community events such as chapel, music recitals, and sports games only help build this sense of community and fellowship.

While the CMU community in itself makes it worth returning to CMU, this choice is only made easier by the variety and depth of classes available. While many of my courses were in the sciences, I was also able to take several courses in other fields including theology and communications. Each of these courses was not only incredibly interesting, but the professors sought to expose us to new ideas and ways of thinking that foster deeper growth than just knowledge.

In Dan Epp-Tiessen's "Creation, Ecology, and the Bible" we examined biblical passages that have led to the devaluing of creation and caused ecological harm. He pushed us to engage with these challenging passages (such as the flood story) to find an ecologically-friendly interpretive lens from which to approach. This involved us examining commentaries from writers of many different backgrounds as we attempted to form an eco-theology. It is courses like these that make me truly understand the value of attending a Mennonite institute and are drawing me back in the fall.