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Norghall/Winter 2021-2022 news

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Cover photo - Imagery photography

St. Thomas More College Board of Governors























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President's Message

Throughout the fall I have been asked whether STM is offering courses in-person this term. Where last year we had no choice but to offer all courses online, the planning for this year was much more difficult, as it required selecting a mix of in-person, remotely delivered, and web-based courses. When all is said and done, we will have offered about 40 percent of our courses in-person this semester. Like many workplaces, this has meant that STM has had a staggered workforce, with some faculty, staff, and students in the building, and some working and studying at home. It is a tribute to all those working on-site that face-to-face classes have not reverted from in-person to remote delivery, despite the severe fourth wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in Saskatchewan. Students who registered for in-person courses report how pleased they are to be back in the classroom, while others chose the option of studying remotely again this term.

With the recent announcement of a vaccine mandate at the University of Saskatchewan, the plan for the winter term is to return to on-campus activities as fully as possible. At STM we are planning for over 90% of our courses to be offered in-person in the winter term. While we will continue to offer a small number of our courses in web-based format, the "remote delivery" option – where a course designed for in-person delivery is translated to online delivery – is to be phased out. As one faculty member put it to me recently, the winter term will once again be "real". Real students in a real classroom with a real instructor – just the way STM has taught every year from 1936 until March 2020, when the pandemic reached Saskatchewan and forced a hasty move to remote delivery. This prospect promises a much wished-for return to the pre-pandemic "normal" way of teaching and engaging with our students.

Of course, the pandemic is still very much with us. But while we are not yet living post-Covid, the pandemic has already produced changes that will remain with us for the foreseeable future. Some point to the involuntary shift last year from face-to-face instruction to remotely delivered education as a harbinger. In a display of astonishing agility, faculty showed that they could teach their courses through a learning management system. But the university's decision to phase out "remote delivery" as an alternative to in-person instruction leaves the two modes that were already available pre-pan-

demic: the "real" course, live and in-person, and the web-based course, which was always designed to be offered online and asynchronously. In that sense, universities and colleges, including STM, have been offering "hybrid" education for some time, but the number of web-based courses has been too small to affect the curriculum much.

But there is new kind of "hybrid" instruction coming to higher education that has been accelerated by the pandemic but will outlast it.

This approach will take different forms at different post-secondary institutions. At STM the stage is being set this term with the installation of cameras and voice-activated microphones in our classrooms. In its first phase, this will enable instructors to record their classes and make them available to students who could not attend that day or who wish to review the class later. But this first phase will prepare the way for a second stage, where there will be real-time, two-way interaction between the instructor, students in the classroom, and students attending remotely. This goes beyond today's hybrid meetings where a limited number of attendees are present on-site, and others connect remotely via a video conferencing platform. When I attended the recent meeting of Universities Canada remotely, I could see and hear the proceedings on-site, but there was no reciprocity: remote attendees could not be directly seen or heard, and had to relay their comments through a person on-site to the meeting chair. Anyone in that position will feel more like a spectator than a full participant.

By contrast, the fully hybrid classroom will allow students connecting virtually to be full participants in the class by enabling them to see, hear, and speak to those in the classroom. Other universities already experimented with this approach last year, and initial reviews have been mixed. At a time of public health restrictions, the hybrid classroom allows students who are ill to attend virtually without falling behind or potentially spreading a virus. For institutions, it vastly expands their reach beyond those who can attend classes on their campus and opens up new possibilities for access. But for faculty, teaching in this way represents a mental feat that goes beyond performing for an audience in front of them and another at



home; the instructor must engage two distinct audiences at once and ensure that both are learning. Many reported feeling exhausted from the experience.

The new hybrid classroom represents a "brave new world" for higher education. It blurs the clear distinction between in-person education and online education. If widely adopted, it is likely to make a permanent and disruptive change to the educational experience. Its advantages are considerable, but so are its disadvantages. Every university – even those most devoted to face-to-face instruction – is already in competition with every higher education institution that offers its courses virtually. But a widespread hybrid option would allow any student anywhere not merely the online access to high-quality university courses that they have now, but a virtual seat in the classroom at their preferred university.

It is possible that the technological and human

challenges inherent in this hybrid approach will prevent its widespread adoption, and that the pre-pandemic distinction between fully in-person and fully online courses will reassert itself as the norm. But every university will be thinking about how to reap the advantages of this technology-enhanced classroom and how to manage its disadvantages. STM crossed the Rubicon when it decided to offer online courses some years ago, and we stand before another such threshold again. In order to make the best decisions for the College and our students, we need a thoughtful conversation about the opportunities and challenges of the fully hybrid classroom that may soon be the norm. What could emerge may be nothing less than a more inclusive pedagogy than we have ever practised before.

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Dr. Carl N. Still, PhD President St. Thomas More College

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Although we are a good way through the fall semester, I want to wish everyone a warm welcome to the new academic year, especially to our new and returning students. As I begin my term as STM's seventh Dean, I want to express my appreciation to the students, staff, faculty, and alumni who have given me so much wonderful support, advice, and guidance during my four years as Associate Dean and during the past number of months as I transition into this new position. A very special thanks to Dr. Arul Kumaran, STM's previous Dean, the Dean's office staff including those in Student Services and Engaged and Experiential Learning, and the members of our senior leadership team. I would also like to thank Dr. Gerry Farthing who is serving as the Interim Associate Dean while we complete a search early next term for a new Associate Dean.

Although we are not yet back to 'normal,' this year holds so much more promise than did last year at the same time. While all our courses and activities were delivered remotely during the 2020 - 2021 academic year, almost 40 percent of our fall courses are now being offered in-person. Many STM faculty who are teaching face-to-face have reported that both they, and their students, are very happy to be back in the (physical) classroom. Although there have been a few challenges along the way with respect to managing Covid-19, none of our in-person courses have had to permanently pivot to remote delivery, which is definitely something to celebrate. I want to thank all our faculty for continuing to work so very hard to provide our students with excellent in-person and remote learning experiences.

A special thanks to our student leaders for all you are doing this fall to support our students. Our student union and student organizations have also been able to hold both in-person and remote activities for our students over the past few months that keep our students engaged in our STM community and that enhance their mental health and wellbeing.

It has been a busy start to the fall for the Dean's office. I'll highlight just a few of the initiatives, events, and achievements that have taken place since our last More newsletter.

Significant progress is being made with our enrolment and strategic goals. Enrolment is very good again this year and we continue to work on increasing enrolment in our unique 4 offerings such as Religious Studies. The quality

of the teaching of our STM faculty is one of the key reasons why our enrolment remains strong. Surveys completed by both the College and STM's student union have indicated that students continue to be very satisfied with the educational experience they have been receiving at STM during the pandemic.

In terms of the implementation of our College's strategic plan, we saw a very successful first year with much progress being made on each of our five priorities. As Associate Dean, I was the lead for the Holistic Community priority and there are already a number of exciting initiatives underway such as the development of an exit survey for our graduating students, which will provide us with valuable insight as to what students feel is working and what we might change, as well as plans to better prepare students for work and their careers after

One of the other goals for this priority involves improving the mental health, wellness, and life balance of all members of our community. The members of STM's Mental Health and Wellness Committee secured a \$25,000 Bell's Let's Talk Post-Secondary Fund Implementation Grant, which is being used to create an integrated mental health and wellness strategy for the College, to fund a STM Peer Mentor Program and to support faculty and staff professional development in this area.

As Dean, I am responsible for leading the priority on vital liberal arts. The members of this group have been working on language that faculty can use to highlight the human skills outcomes for their courses, determining how to best support distinctive programs and certificates, as well as working to create policies and incentives that support team teaching and cross-disciplinary teaching.

STM's Student Services staff continued to provide support for students over the past several months both virtually and in person. Congratulations, as well, to all our fall graduates and student award winners.

During the next four years, the Engaged Learning Office will be able to support education abroad for students in a unique way, having secured a grant from the federal government improving access for all students to participate in STM's unique education abroad opportunities. You can read more on thie Global Study Opportunity initiative in this Newsletter.



In terms of our academic program, three new certificates in Peace Studies, Ukrainian Studies, and Religious Literacy have recently been approved by the University's Academic Programs Committee of University Council. These certificates provide us with an opportunity to reach more students with subject matter that is at the heart of our mission.

Despite the pandemic and the greater number of hours that faculty have had to devote to teaching, their scholarly work with respect to teaching awards, publications, and research grants continues to be strong. I'm looking forward to working with faculty over the coming months as we review our academic program and determine our faculty complement needs for the next five years. This discussion will also include how best to deliver a Catholic liberal arts education for an increasingly diverse student body.

So the 2021 – 2022 academic year is indeed off to a great start. With the University's announcement last month regarding the winter term vaccination plan and with most of our courses for the winter term slated to be delivered in-person, we have the promise of a much more 'normal' winter term than we experienced the past two years. We are certainly looking forward to continuing the Basilian tradition of student engagement next term as we increase our in-person activity on campus.

All the best to our students and faculty as they finish this term and prepare for, and complete. final exams. On behalf of all of us in the Dean's Office, I wish everyone all the blessings of this season and best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2022.

Tammy Marche

Dr. Tammy Marche, PhD St. Thomas More College



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN



For 85 years, St. Thomas More College (STM) has been a home away from home for students at the University of Saskatchewan. In the fall of 1936, after several years of advocacy, St. Thomas More College was established by the Basilian Fathers of Toronto as a Catholic liberal arts college in federation with the University of Saskatchewan.

In the College's first year, there were 39 students and 4 faculty members. As the student body grew, additions and renovations to the College were needed. In 1954, construction started on a new stone building which included a chapel, Newman clubroom/auditorium, library, office space, and a residence for the Basilian Fathers. Since then, the building has undergone more growth with recent additions to the south end (2014) and the north end (2016).

Today, STM boasts 5200 plus students and close to 80 faculty. As we reflect on this anniversary, and the growth from humble beginnings, we are appreciative of those original believers recognizing the need for the Catholic college, under the patronage of St. Thomas More, along with the many Basilians and other faculty and staff who have served the students of STM over the years. Thank you, as well to the alumni whose continued support ensures the STM legacy remains strong.



Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk



Oksana Dudko

A one-year Petro Jacyk Post-doctoral Fellowship, which was made possible by the Petro Jacyk Foundation and is being administered by the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH), was awarded to Oksana Dudko.

PCUH INTERIM DIRECTOR

The Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH) has announced the appointment of Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk as its Interim Director for the 2021-2022 academic year. The appointment comes following the retirement of Dr. Bohdan Kordan.

Foty-Oneschuk, an affiliate of PCUH since 2009, serves as Chair of the Ukrainian Studies Minor Committee, and has been responsible for Ukranian Language instruction at St. Thomas More College (STM) since 2009. Nadya was recognized twice with USSU campus-wide Teaching Excellence Awards. She has recently taken over the instruction of Ukrainian culture courses through STM. Dr.Foty-Oneschuk's research areas include Ukrainian ritual, ethnography, and Ukrainian Canadian culture.

The Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH) is an academic unit of St. Thomas More College. Created in 1998, the PCUH's mission is to promote the advanced study of various aspects of Ukrainian heritage, culture and life; to co-ordinate and encourage the preservation of primary source materials relevant to such study; and to disseminate results conducted under its auspices. Specific programs and projects aimed at preservation or designed to promote a wider understanding and appreciation of the Ukrainian experience in Canada and abroad are funded by the PCUH.

The PCUH further supports the long and pioneering tradition of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Saskatchewan by providing context for the university's Ukrainian Studies Minor degree program, while also encouraging and guiding the work of graduate students with an interest in Ukrainian Studies

Conceived as a community-university partnership and supported by endowed funds, the Centre is seen as an important link between the University of Saskatchewan, St. Thomas More College, and the Ukrainian-Canadian community.

St. Thomas More College Faculty Department Heads



Cynthia Wallace Sharon Wright





LITERATURES John Liptay & CULTURAL **STUDIES**

Daniel Regnier





CULTURE Chris Hrynkow



Saeed Moshiri



STUDIES



Gerry Farthing



STM Academic Mass and Installation of Dean Marche and Interim Associate Dean Farthing



STM Academic Mass, presided over by the Most Rev. Mark Hagemoen, and Fr. André Lalach





By Jacquie Berg and Paul Sinkewicz

The St. Thomas More College (STM) community came together in person and online Sunday, September 26 to celebrate the annual STM Academic mass. In addition to this liturgical tradition welcoming in the new academic year, on this occasion, the event included the installation of the College's new Dean and Interim Associate Dean. The ceremony was held in person but also livestreamed for those who could not attend, as well as COVID precautions.

The mass was presided over by the Most Rev. Mark Hagemoen, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and Fr. André Lalach of STM Campus Ministry. Dr. Tammy Marche (PhD) was installed as Dean and Dr. Gerry Farthing (PhD) was installed as Interim Associate Dean during the ceremony.

Dr. Marche - STM's seventh Dean - follows in the footsteps of Dr. Arul Kumaran, who is on a one-year sabbatical before returning to teaching, after serving as Dean since 2016. Dr. Farthing assumes on an interim basis the role of Associate Dean, that held since 2017 by Marche

Tammy Marche was on course to complete her degree in mathematics, pursuing long-held plans to become a math teacher, when the impact of a course in psychology and encouragement by a professor, found her completing additional degrees and her doctorate in Psychology - the start of a now distinguished academic career outside of mathematics.

It was 30 years ago that Dr. Marche, a native of Newfoundland and Labrador, first heard of the St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan, as she completed her PhD in psychology.

"The job ad caught my attention because of its focus on teaching, students, and community. I knew from my undergraduate experience at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia that I wanted to be at a place that focused on not just the academic development of students but on their personal growth as well," said Dr. Marche. "I knew I wanted to be in a place that prioritized student success and where I might be able to provide the same type of mentorship to my students."

Marche said that right from her first encounters with members of the STM community she knew she could find a home at the College.

Her insight proved very accurate. Her future teaching colleague, Fr. Ron Griffin, would later serve as the officiant at her wedding ceremony – travelling all the way to the East Coast to do it - and the STM Chapel would be the place her baby daughter would be baptized.

"So, it is especially meaningful for me that in the later stages of my career here at the College, I get this wonderful opportunity to play a role in continuing to make STM a special place for our students, our staff, and our faculty," Marche said.

Having held administrative roles at the College along with many years in a direct teaching role, helped prepare Marche for this next step. "Serving most recently as Associate Dean and being part of the STM Senior Administrative team helped in my decision to take on the Dean's role. I knew the people and support around me. I also felt that with my experience, I might be able to impact a positive legacy for the College."

As for the goals she brings to her term as Dean, Marche outlined a need to prepare the College to serve the needs of the future while ensuring ensuring financial sustainability.

"We need to continue ensuring that our Liberal Arts programs are what students want and need today and five, 10, 15 years from now. As others have argued, like Dr. Arthur Levine an expert in higher education, we know that there are demographic, economic, technological, social, and financial changes occurring that will demand change in higher education."

"So, my vision as Dean involves preparing us for tomorrow, for the challenges and difficult decisions ahead, but also for the wonderful opportunity that we have to re-shape and re-imagine Catholic higher education for the 21st century."

"Starting in my new role during a pandemic year - with all of the unique challenges that entails - has not only upped the workload, a reality for most throughout the College, but additionally advanced many of our individual skills. As a college we are certainly listening to our students and faculty in assessing how we incorporate these new skills and ways to learn and teach, into the post-pandemic post-secondary experience."



Dr. Tammy Marche, Dean

Dr. Tammy Marche received her BSc in Mathematics (1985) and her BSc Honours in Psychology (1986) from St. Francis Xavier University. She then completed her MSc (1988) and PhD (1993) in Experimental Psychology at Memorial University of Newfoundland. She joined STM in 1992 as a Lecturer in the Department of Psychology and was subsequently appointed Assistant Professor in 1993. She was granted tenure and promoted to Associate

Professor in 1996 and then to Professor in 2013.

Dr. Marche has a long and distinguished record of administrative service and leadership at STM. She was Department Head of Psychology from 2003-2004 and 2009-2015 and Acting Department Head of Sociology from 2015-2017. She served as Assistant Dean from 2004-2007 and was appointed Associate Dean in 2017. Over the course of her career, she has served on every major committee at STM and has represented STM on numerous committees at the University of Saskatchewan, especially in the College of Arts and Science.

Dr. Marche received the USSU Teaching Excellence Award in 1999 and the STM Teaching Excellence Award in 2013.

Dr. G.R. Farthing, Interim Associate Dean

Dr. G.R. Farthing attended Campion College at the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus, as it was then called, and obtained an Honors Degree in Psychology in 1970. In 1971, he obtained a master's degree in psychology at the same university. Having received a Canada Council Doctoral Fellowship and a Saskatchewan Government bursary, he travelled to the University of British Columbia where he earned his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 1975.



In 1975 Dr. Farthing was placed at the Swift Current Mental Health clinic to develop psychological

services in the southwest of the province. In 1980 he took a position at the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon where he was part of the developing team for the University Hospital Youth Services Program as well as for the Evening program for outpatients at the McKerracher Center. While working at University Hospital, he became an adjunct Professor at the Department of Psychology and at the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1985, Dr. Farthing joined the faculty at St. Thomas More College (STM). He has taught at STM for over 35 years, during which time he has served several terms as Department Head of Psychology as well as Acting Head of Economics, Acting Head of Sociology, and as a member of numerous STM Faculty Council committees, the Academic Planning Committee, and the STM Board of Governors.



STM Welcomes Fr. Jean Baptiste Murhumwa

By Paul Sinkewicz

This fall, STM College welcomed a new face to the Campus Ministry team.

Fr. Jean-Baptiste Murhumwa has been appointed by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon to help serve the pastoral needs of the College.

He will be offering Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week at 11:30 am in the Chapel and also performs Sunday Mass at 5 pm. Confession is also available by appointment.

"The STM Campus Ministry Team is delighted to welcome Fr. Jean Baptiste to our College community," said Dr. Gertrude Rompré, Director of Mission and Ministry. "His gifts and experience are a blessing to us. We are grateful that, with his presence on campus, we can now, once again, celebrate Sunday Eucharist within the STM Chapel and augment our weekday liturgies."

Fr. Murhumwa's duties are in addition to his already busy schedule of serving the communities of Vonda, Prud'homme and St. Denis, where his command of French has been very welcome in the traditionally Francophone area.

Fr. Murhumwa is originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo in Central Africa. He was born in 1958 in Burhale, on the country's eastern edge, very near Rwanda and Burundi.

"It is a fabulous country, full of many natural and strategic resources that attract the lust of the great powers of the whole world," he says. "And this is the source of the wars waged against the local population in the region. French is the official language of my country where there are four national languages: Swahili, Lingala, Ciluba and Kikongo. Mine is Swahili and I also speak Lingala, having studied at the University in Kinshasa, the capital. In addition, there are more than 450 mother tongues or tribal languages. Mine is the Mashi. This diversity of languages is another wealth of my country. So, I am learning English as my fifth language."

Fr. Murhumwa says he was the third in a family of 13 children, with parents who raised them in an atmosphere of faith in Jesus Christ and love of God and neighbour.

"When I received First Communion around the age of 8, I became very involved in the ministry of Mass servants. And at the same time, I became like the awakener of my siblings in our family.

My parents used to get us together for morning and evening prayers as a family, so my Dad would call me in the morning so I could wake up my brothers and sisters for morning prayer. And after the family prayer, I was getting ready to go to serve at morning Mass and then go to school. Even when it wasn't my turn to serve at the altar, I still went to Mass to pray or possibly replace an absent or latecomer servant. And so was born and grew in me the desire to be a priest. Was this desire God's call? I don't know. That is why God's call to the priestly ministry remains a mystery to me."

In June 2015 Fr. Murhumwa was sent me on a mission to Canada to answer Bishop Don Bolen's call for a French-speaking priest. He was appointed as Pastor of Sts.-Martyrs-Canadiens' Parish in Saskatoon, where he served for six years before Bishop Mark Hagemoen appointed him as Pastor of the Bilingual Community of Trinity (Vonda, Prud'homme and Saint-Denis) and Priest Chaplain at St. Thomas More College.

"The faithful are happy with my presence and my ministry," says Fr. Murhumwa. "The Bishop responded to a real need of the Trinity Community, which had not known a permanent priest for more than 20 years. I myself am happy to serve this community. It's a new experience for me. For this is the first time I have lived alone since I was born.

"Fortunately, I spend the night for four days (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday) in Vonda to serve the Trinity community and three days (Sunday, Monday and Tuesday) at St. Paul's Co-Cathedral in Saskatoon where I can break the loneliness when I come to serve St. Thomas More College."

Fr. Murhumwa says he appreciated the warm welcome given to him by Dr. Carl Still, President of the College, and Dr. Rompré.

"I am happy to serve the entire community with the great Campus Mission and Ministry Team. And it is wonderful to meet people who express their satisfaction with the services rendered to them."

photos: Paul Sinkewicz



Our wonderful volunteer committee!

We wish to express our deep gratitude to the dedicated volunteers who serve on the St. Thomas More Newman Alumni Association (STMNAA) committee. We are proud to celebrate the caring commitment of the following members of the STMNAA committee:



Left to right: Art Battiste (President), Angeline Battiste, Corinne Baumann, Madeleine Blais-Dahlem, Rae-Ann Dyck, Mary Donlevy-Konkin, Jen Duggleby, Veronica Lucas, Sylvia Regnier, Dean Schmidt, Kari Sinkewicz (STM College staff representative)

You are invited join the STMNAA committee today!

The STMNAA committee welcomes other alumni to join this active group of volunteers who work to support and develop creative initiatives that benefit alumni and the College.

This dedicated group of alumni is committed to building a strong social, intellectual, and spiritual community of STM and Newman Alumni by encouraging their lifelong involvement with the College and with each other.

Join today and reconnect with fellow alumni, make new friends and help make a real difference in the lives of STM alumni and students.

For more information on how you can become involved with your alma mater, contact:

Kari Sinkewicz,
Manager of Development and Alumni Relations
ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca
306.262.6818
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A Message From Your STMNAA President

Dear Fellow STM and Newman Alumni,

At the recent meeting of the STM Corporation, I presented the following report:

"For nearly two years, the STMNAA has met virtually to carry out its business as the conduit between the now approximately 10,000 STM alumni and the College, without being able to carry out or participate in events at the College or on campus. This has been an awkward time for the Association and has led it to consideration not only of its structure but also of its mission. The STMNAA has set out three important changes for its future structure and operation: firstly, it is moving from a complex, formal and unwieldly corporate structure to a less formal council that is more dynamic and smaller in size; secondly, it is expanding its recognition of distinguished alumni from one alumnus and one alumna to a number of categories of distinction to be confirmed over the coming few months, as well as pursuing other means of celebrating the achievements of many alumni; and thirdly, it will place more emphasis on the recognition of the contributions of STM and Newman alumni to the College.

In that last, I am pleased and proud to report that the College's alumni this past year have accounted for 85 per cent (more than \$530,000) of all financial donations received by the College.

Alumni associations are, by definition, historical in essence, incorporating in their membership past students of the colleges and schools whose alumni they represent. Ours is of that nature, too, but we are now seeing a tendency toward an active membership of recent graduates, perhaps one of the positive effects of the pandemic-mandated virtual meetings.

The employment of current electronic media has not only enabled more participation, but also the participation of younger and more active alumni. This can be seen in the STMNAA's naming of its new representatives to Corporation, both of whom are recent STM alumni: Corinne Baumann and Veronica Lucas.

Perhaps the best expression of our Association's outlook is captured in the following quote from Thomas Mann, an early leader of the British Socialist Party:

"The future of the world belongs to the youth of the world, and it is from the youth and not from the old that the fire of life will warm and enlighten the world"

Perhaps the major impact on the STMNAA over the past two years has been the College's new Manager of Development and Alumni Relations, Kari Sinkewicz. Kari's unfailing enthusiasm and support for alumni has strengthened communications between the STMNAA and its members. Thank you, STM!

When the pandemic ends, as it surely will, we will be at the opening of a new way of life, for there is no way in which things will ever be the same as they were in pre-COVID-19 times. We look forward to a more active and productive future, following the lifting of the pandemic restrictions. In and through all that is to come, be assured of my prayers for your safety and good health.

.Art Battiste

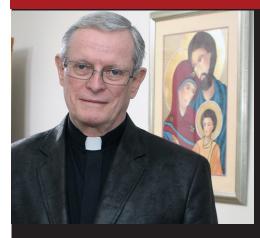
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Keeping your contact info current has never been easier! Follow this link or use your smart phone camera to hover over the QR code and re-connect with your STM community today.



stmcollege.ca/alumni/register.php

2021 STM Distinguished Alumni



Father Joseph Emile Étienne April

Fr. Emile April was born the third of four children to the April family of Peesane -- a hamlet on the road from Tisdale to Hudson Bay -- in northwest central Saskatchewan.

He moved with his family to Zenon Park, where he lived for nine years, and then to Saskatoon, where he attended St. Paul's High School. Following Grade 12, he enrolled in St. Pius X Seminary and in 1964, he became an alumnus of St. Thomas More College, graduating from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy.

"During the years at STM, I lived at St. Pius X Seminary, where, by rule, the seminarians were to have a very limited social connection with STM. So, my connection was during class time," Fr. April said. "We seminarians had some very good teachers and counsellors in the Basilian priests -- mostly for philosophy but also political science and sociology. We also made lifelong friends with some STM students. Both the priests and the students made us feel very welcome and part of the Catholic presence on campus."

Following graduate study in theology in Ottawa, Fr. April was ordained.

Between 1967 and 1972, he served in parishes in Saskatoon and Vonda and taught at Holy Cross High School in Saskatoon.

In 1973, Fr. April left Saskatchewan for Rio de Janeiro to learn Portuguese for his work in the mission of União dos Palmares in Brazil, where he was to spend the next 26 years serving the one city, five towns and 50 rural communities in the mission. Fr. April worked in the formation of Christian communities, evangelization, and baptism preparation, as well as part of a team to help small farmers. In 1989, massive floods swept through rural Brazil, causing destruction in 112 cities, leaving more than 300,000 homeless, and damaging or destroying nearly 7,000 homes. In addition to his pastoral duties, Fr. April spent most of the following three years as part of a team building houses for families who had lost theirs.

In 2001, Fr. April returned to Saskatoon to work as a parish priest in urban and rural parishes for the next 20 years, retiring in August of 2017 at age 75.

Thinking of Christ's service to the people of God and the application of the STM ideals for the good of humanity, Fr. April is truly a distinguished alumnus of STM.

Rita Gillies has been blessed with a happy disposition, a love of learning, and an adventurous spirit.

Born in Saskatoon to a French-Catholic mother and a Scottish-Irish non-practising Protestant father, both French and religion were downplayed in the home. Nevertheless, at age 10, Rita was sent to Prud'homme to learn French. The problem was that everyone wanted to speak English. Her resultant vocabulary came from prayers and reprimands.



Rita Gilles

As to religion, the air was saturated with a religious atmosphere. Sports and fair play were like a quasi-religion for her father, a natural-born athlete. With him as their speed skating coach, Rita and her brother were champions in their elementary years.

School was always a joy for Rita. Early schooling was with only other girls, and with nuns as teachers. Her horizons broadened when she came to co-ed STM with priests as professors. On the University of Saskatchewan campus she earned a BA, a BEd, and an MTS (Master of Theological Studies) through the Lutheran Seminary, due to its proximity.

Her path to STM was due to good fortune. "A \$100 STM bursary saved me from Teachers College, favoured by my cautious Dad, and aided my dream of the glamorous life at university," Gillies said. "When I was in high school my family moved from Saskatoon to North Battleford. So, with a return to Saskatoon, I was on my own to live life on my own terms. STM truly became my 'home away from home' — daily Mass with free toast, jam and coffee, endless free coffee all day, Ulcers (co-op lunch), library, ping-pong, cameraderie, — all this and more untill evening curfew. With graduation in 1955, I was hired as a social worker thanks to the background in liberal arts that STM provided. I went out to the wide world with anticipation, confidence, joy and gratitude to STM.

Gillies became a social worker for Weyburn and District. Later she became a nurse through Kelsey Campus (now Saskatchewan Polytechnic).

However, like the Hound of Heaven, thoughts of religious life became overpowering. She gave in and became Sister Marie Camilla of Sion.

From 1960-1965 she taught French and Religion at Sion Academy and, in 1965, thanks to her French, was sent for a three-year assignment to the Sion Convent, Ecce Homo, in the Old City of Jerusalem.

In 1968, Rita was sent to Montreal to help Sion's efforts to found a Catholic Centre for Jewish Studies. While there, she studied Library Science at McGill University, left the congregation, and returned to Jerusalem as a librarian in the Ecumenical Institute for Advanced Theological Studies.

She studied Hebrew and began studies in the Guide School. One month into the course, the 1973 Yom Kippur War broke out. Gillies says the years of guiding tourists that followed were pure joy. However, in 1985 she returned to Saskatoon to give company to her widowed mother. Fr. Bernard de Margerie took her on staff at the Centre for Ecumenism to give life to the Vatican Document 'Nostra Aetate" for interfaith relations.

Rita helped found Multi-Faith Saskatoon, and became a guide for schools to visit the multi-faith world of Saskatoon. Travel became a passion: her backpacking adventures became PowerPoint presentations at Public Libraries.

Today Rita is involved with refugees and immigrants and also works as a security guard. Thank you Rita for your distinguished service to so many!



Russ and Sharon Aney reconnected with old friends, Art and Angeline Battiste at STM

THE RUSS AND SHARON ANEY **SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

of STM students. They have created two new ongoing scholarships in their names, to help both an entering student and a continuing student each year.

STM College was the centre of their social universe and where they met in 1963. It was Sharon's first year at University of Saskatchewan, and STM was a welcoming place to study, relax and meet new people.

Russ was already working toward his Commerce degree and was one of the students who worked at Newman Club's Ulcers lunch counter. "It was the gathering place between classes for several Commerce students to work on assignments," he said. STM also offered social events where lasting friendships were formed.

ago," said Sharon. "University life is more than studies. Students need us, this happened mostly at Newman Club."

these opportunities. We hope and pray that all students will soon be able to return to what used to be the norm on campus".

While visiting the College this summer, Russ and Sharon reconnected with old friends, Art and Angeline Battiste. The couples walked the halls, studied class pictures, and returned to the STM Chapel. In the Shannon Library they had the chance to peruse Greystone yearbooks of their era, recognizing familiar faces and sharing recollections.

1965 marked a very special milestone. Russ had just graduated and Sharon was between her second and third year of her Bachelor of Arts degree. They were married in St. Mary's Parish at Lanigan that summer.

In 1967 they moved to Wetaskiwin, Alberta, and soon opened their own insurance brokerage.

Sharon and Russ Aney look back fondly on their time at STM College. Now retired, the couple has lived a great life together. They have worked This past summer they returned with a lasting gift for future generations hard, raised a family and offered their service to their community time and again.

> Through the years, Russ volunteered in the community with service clubs, business organizations, their Catholic parish, and with youth sports. He continues actively with the Knights of Columbus and the community theatre board. Sharon has served as a Catholic School trustee, and on the board of the Edmonton Archdiocesan newspaper, The Western Catholic Reporter. She has also been on the board of the local Heritage Museum, and advocates for the Wetaskiwin city archives. In 2000 she was a founding member of the local genealogical society and continues a leadership

Since both have always valued education, and since STM has been close to their hearts from their own student days, it was an easy decision for "STM has been close to our hearts from our student days, 55-plus years Sharon and Russ to give back to the college with the new scholarships.

to take opportunities to connect with people for friendship, support, They hope that future recipients of the Russ and Sharon Aney Scholarleisure, sharing new ideas, enjoying conversation and discussions. For ships -- worth \$2,000 each -- will have the ability to enjoy, participate in and complete their programs with less financial anxiety.

"We are saddened that the current pandemic has curtailed many of "Education is always valuable," said Sharon. "I believe my general education has been of lifelong benefit to me and to my community. It has given me the tools to look beyond the obvious statements and to consider

> "An employer once told me, 'I don't care if you do not have a degree in this field. Your degree shows me that you can think, and I can teach you what you need to know to work here."

> Russ and Sharon have some advice to current STM students: "Volunteer! as a student, and especially after you graduate. Share your talents. The personal benefits you receive are surprising. You will learn so much, you will enjoy successes, and you will develop new circles of acquaintances and friends."

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

STM Alumna led push for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

By Paul Sinkewicz

In 1987 when Georgina Jolibois left home for the first time to begin her studies in Saskatoon, she was already certain about her life's mission; She would somehow play an active role in making things better.

Growing up in La Loche, Jolibois experienced first-hand the challenges of living in a northern

"When I was 16 years old going to high school, there were things even back then that had me thinking 'Things could be better,' "said Jolibois. "My high school didn't have all the classrooms it needed. It didn't have a gymnasium. The elementary school is where the gym was and so for phys-ed class we had to walk there. And then I thought, it could be better. And so, what I thought was that I would run for mayor one day. I wanted to do something, and I was going to do it."

With that goal in mind, Jolibois chose to study at the University of Saskatchewan. She would go on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Political Studies and Native Studies (as it was then called).

Jolibois remembers those early years as a time of much learning -- about growing up, about how to succeed in school, even about learning English. "I was learning everything that I could to make sure that I finished with a degree. And Dene is my first language and my capacity in the English language was a struggle at the time because I wasn't heavily immersed in it living in La Loche."

Jolibois fondly remembers feeling at home when she joined the St. Thomas More College community. During her first week of school, she met Gertrude Rompré, now Director of Mission and Ministry at STM, and they have remained lifelong friends.

"It was really good. I received support on many levels, and because I am Catholic, my connection to the Catholic Church really drew me to St. Thomas More College. It was really easy to make friends that first week. I resonated with the College and I stuck it out."

In 2003 Jolibois realized her dream of becoming mayor of La Loche, and she served in that capacity for 12 years. She then won election to the House of Commons as the NDP MP for the riding of Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River

During that time, she began an effort that would change Canada forever.

September 30 will forever more be a day of both mourning and pride for Jolibois.

In 2017, she first proposed a national statutory holiday for Truth and Reconciliation in a private member's bill. Her bill passed third reading in the House of Commons but didn't get through the Senate before the next federal election.

After 215 unmarked graves were found at the site of a former residential school in Kamloops, B.C., in May 2021 lawmakers were spurred to finish the job.

The legislation established a new statutory holiday to commemorate the victims and survivors of Indigenous residential schools. September 30, 2021 marks the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Jolibois, points to the new holiday as a highlight of her career, so far. "Yes, provincially we have a lot of work to do yet," said Jolibois, "but the work that I did on my private Members' bill in Ottawa is coming to fruition across Canada. Some will disagree with it, but there will be Canadians who are very proud of the holiday." Jolibois said the process of passing legislation in the House of Commons is very lengthy and it requires not just one MP to have a voice. She credits her colleagues for their support.

The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action Recommendation No. 80 reads: We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.



Georgina Jolibois

While the creation of that day has finally come, Jolibois points to the work left to do.

"I'm amazed how Indigenous people still have struggles across Canada and so many barriers still in place. For me, it has to be better. I'm driven in making change for Indigenous youth who want to have a great future."

She would next like to see the day become a statutory holiday in all the provinces and territories. Currently only Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have done so.

"It will be a great day when conservative governments provincially will respect and grant the holiday."

"She is also grateful that many school boards around the province have passed motions to support the holiday, such as both Saskatoon Public Schools and Greater Saskatoon Catholic

Jolibois also noted smaller jurisdictions are showing leadership in respecting the day, as is her home community. She said the everyday people she speaks with in La Loche appreciate the changes they see happening.

"When I speak to them, and what it is, and how I played a role because of my private member's bill, people are very proud. People are very honoured and they are touched that there is now a holiday and Canadians across the country are watching history and are making things better. It's a very proud day."

"Thankfully, the Northern Village of La Loche is not alone," said Jolibois, who is once again serving as mayor. "There are other municipalities that will support and give a holiday municipally. We are doing that here, and I believe other communities are doing the same thing." "So, we are making progress, and from this day forward, since it is a national holiday, it can only grow. And we will grow, and things will get better. Things have to get better."

'Learning how to learn' reaps rewards in challenging oil and gas industry

By Paul Sinkewicz

A corner office in Calgary's bustling, corporate core may seem like a world away from the classrooms of St. Thomas More College, but Eric Spicer credits his liberal arts education, and the influence of several key mentors there, with the success he's had in his business career.

Spicer is the vice-president of two busy oilfield supply and service companies in Alberta. Global Steel Ltd. supplies piping and other materials to oil and gas producers, and Silverstar Oilfield Transportation manages logistics, storage and distribution.

Spicer, 48, remembers when the study of the great philosophers ignited a passion for learning in him.

"I loved it. I didn't know what I was getting into when I took my first Introduction to Philosophy class," he said. "Originally, I was taking geology. My dad is a geological engineer by trade, and I was going to follow his footsteps. I think I got about two years in on that program and then I discovered my passion was philosophy and really threw myself into that."

Spicer became the president of the Philosophy Club in those years, revelling in discussions – sometimes over drinks and nachos - with professors like Carl Still, Michael Poellet and Viola Woodhouse.

"STM was a really good place to cut my teeth in the Arts and Sciences and the humanities because it was such as like a small, tight-knit community of students and professors and you really felt a lot of belonging when you were there, and it just felt like you were being set up for success. It just felt like the professors were more engaged and cared about the students academically and personally and we had smaller class sizes."

Spicer flirted with the idea of a life in academia, but ended up going on from his BA to earn his B. Ed. With that sheepskin, and a young family to support, he went into teaching at an elementary school in Saskatoon, where he said he had some amazing experiences.

When an opportunity came to join Global Steel Ltd. in Calgary, Spicer made the decision to make the jump into the business world.

"I had an opportunity to come up and stretch my entrepreneurial wings in Calgary and it turned out really well and there was no looking back 20 years later."

Aside from his two main companies, Spicer is involved in various venture capital opportunities with other businesses and has some real estate development companies.

Some of Spicer's favourite memories as a university student in the late 1990s involve professors and classes that pushed him the hardest.

"You knew that if you were going to take their classes you were going to learn a lot, but they were going to expect a lot," Spicer said. "So, you probably weren't going to get that 80 or 90 per cent mark in those classes, but you were going to learn a lot more, and you were going to come out of it a better student. I always enjoyed taking those classes because I knew they were going to further me professionally and personally in my growth and development."

Spicer feels there is now a regrettable movement away from the appreciation of a general education as a foundation for professional development.

It's an attitude he does not share.



"In hindsight, and I didn't I didn't necessarily plan it that way, but it just worked out for me that I have a really strong liberal arts and humanities education and then I spring-boarded off **into business**," he said. "These days, with such and emphasis on ROI -- return on investment -- I think a lot of parents and students started looking at how do we specialize? What education program is going to provide our kids with the greatest likelihood of getting a job and providing them with the highest level of salary?"

But Spicer says in the job market of the real world, that doesn't pan out because employees will probably change jobs throughout their lifetime up to 10 times.

"Just the way the world is rapidly changing, you need a staff that's got the foundational skills that a liberal arts degree gives you to cope with the kind of quick pivots, changes and demands of the world. When you're a specialist, you don't have that bedrock and it puts you at a disadvantage, in my opinion."

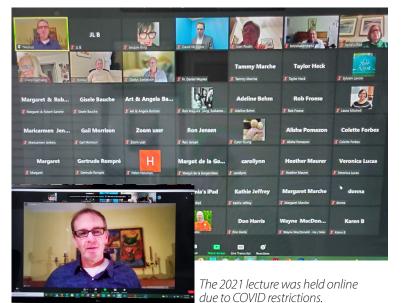
"As a person that's looking to hire people, I want to see somebody that's got that liberal arts background so that I know they've got what I call a really good basic fundamental toolkit that teaches you how to think creatively, critically, helps you communicate, helps you understand different cultural perspectives. It goes on and on. There are so many advantages of that 'learning how to learn' and you don't get that same type of education when you go right into a specialized field."

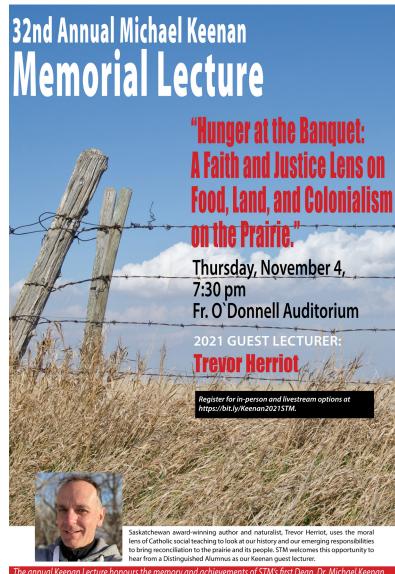
"For the last 20 years or so, I had the privilege -- and it didn't always feel like it all the time - of taking one of my businesses from a really small business and growing it to be quite a large business. Along the way, I probably touched every part of the business, learning how to do accounts receivable, accounts payable, basic accounting and then advanced accounting and then I got into marketing because we bootstrapped the company. It was self-financed. It was important for me to learn all those processes and do them myself."

Eric and Amanda are now living in Vernon, B.C., counting their blessings and appreciating the opportunities life has given them. They have four children together: Jordan (27), Brennan (24), Aiden (12) and Ronan (10), as well as an informally adopted son and friend of Jordan, named Devonte

"I was an only child growing up and I always wanted a big family, so I like it, and thankfully the business opportunities worked out. I feel so blessed because I love my kids. My family is most important thing in the world to me for sure."

32nd Annual Michael Keenan Memorial Lecture









By Paul Sinkewic

The 32nd Annual Michael Keenan Memorial Lecture, held online on Thursday, Noveber 4, 2021, featured one of St. Thomas More College (STM's) own.

Trevor Herriot began his academic career at STM in 1976, and went on to earn his undergraduate and honours degrees. He has since achieved success as a writer, naturalist, columnist, blogger, and radio commentator. He is an advocate for the preservation of nature and honouring those who have made our prairie home what it is today.

Herriot has won numerous literary accolades, including the prestigious Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg Award for Literary Excellence in 2017, and has greatly influenced public conservation and preservation policy.

Herriot was also the 2018 STM College Distinguished Alumnus and in 2021 was the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Letters from University of Saskatchewan.

Titled Hunger at the Banquet: A Faith and Justice Lens on Food, Land, and Colonialism on the Prairie, Herriot's lecture used the moral lens of Catholic social teaching to look at our history and our emerging responsibilities to bring reconciliation to the prairie and its people.

"We don't want to be colonial anymore. Why? Because . . . we recognize at some level that colonizing is hostile to sharing and is more about taking and claiming," said Herriot. "Unfortunately, that recognition seems to be about as far as many Canadians are willing to go in the work of de-colonizing. And if we can't get any further than that, cannot see how sharing the table might actually work, I think it's because we've let our minds and our hearts be colonized."

The Keenan Memorial Lecture commemorates the life of Dr. Michael Keenan, who taught psychology at STM for two years in the mid-1960s and again from 1971 until 1975. In addition to teaching courses in developmental psychology, he served as head of the Psychology Department, and was eventually appointed as the first dean of STM, serving in that role from 1975 to 1985. Dr. Keenan passed away in 1986.

To commemorate Dr. Keenan's close bond with STM, his family members established the annual lecture in 1987. It features leading intellectuals and leaders from various fields, and it's been the mission of this lecture to invite scholars to give presentations that explore the intellectual synthesis of faith and reason.

The 2021 lecture is a fascinating look at values and fairness, and the history of our province as well as what it means – or should mean – to be treaty people. The full video of both the lecture and question and answer discussion afterward can be found through the link on the STM website at stmcollege.ca/news.

STM Engaged Learning Office Global Skills Grant Recipient



A global education just got more accessible.





by Jacquie Berg

The **Engaged Learning Office** is pleased to announce \$267,000 in funding secured for education abroad at St. Thomas More College (STM).

The grant was received through the Government of Canada's *International Education Global Skills Opportunity* initiative, funded by Employment and Social Development Canada, and administered jointly by Colleges and Institutes Canada and Universities Canada. Paul Davidson, President, Universities Canada celebrated the initiative saying, "Global Skills Opportunity is breaking down financial, social and logistical barriers that have prevented too many underrepresented students from participating in global study and work opportunities."

Caitlin Ward, STM's Manager of Engaged & Experiential Learning, says the funding will support new and existing education abroad programs to Ukraine and Latin America over the next four years focusing on ensuring student accessibility, while always prioritizing the health and safety of our students.

"This grant will allow the College to undertake initiatives to make education abroad both more accessible and more meaningful. The funding presents an opportunity for STM's Engaged Learning Office to improve existing programming and relaunch old programming. Recognizing that certain demographics are less likely to be able to participate in education abroad, the federal government earmarked these funds to help universities target underserved student populations, especially students with disabilities, Indigenous students, and students from low-income backgrounds."

Ward also spoke to the allocation of funds received and new initiatives planned. "Much of the grant will go directly to offsetting student program fees and tuition. As part of increasing accessibility, the Engaged Learning Office will pilot a sliding scale fee program, in which students are charged what they can afford, as opposed to what the program costs. Spring Session in Ukraine will receive \$165,000 of this funding, with the remaining funds (\$102,000) allocated to two Latin American education abroad programs. The funding for Latin American programming will be divided between building capacity in the Panama Field School and launching a long-term immersive service-learning program that will be the spiritual successor to the now-defunct Intercordia program."

Ward notes barriers to participation are rarely only financial, so STM's Engaged Learning Office plans to introduce holistic recruitment strategies that make the most of the College's close-knit community. "A portion of the funds will allow the College to develop better supports for students before, during, and after placement. The Engaged Learning Office will also be offering more supports in placement through personalized services and the introduction of in-placement mentors for all education abroad programs."

Denise Amyot, President, Colleges and Institutes Canada echoed benefits from student international experiences. "Study and work abroad programs are invaluable learning experiences that ensure students are culturally literate, resilient, adaptable and ready to succeed in an increasingly globalized world. This is perhaps more important than ever, which is why we are so proud to work with our partners to deliver Global Skills Opportunity. This groundbreaking program will allow more Canadian students to access these opportunities to develop the skills they need to gain a foothold in today's global marketplace."

For more information please contact Caitlin Ward, Manager of Engaged & Experiential Learning cward@stmcollege.ca 306 966 4828

Newman Centre Fall Festival

This fall, the Newman Executive invited STM student groups to help with the Fall Festival held on Friday, Oct. 22nd. In Medias Res staffers served hot chocolate, Campus Ministry screened a TED talk and passed out free gratitude journals, Rachel from Newman Sounds Glee club and STMSU headed up a colouring contest, and Newman sponsored window decorating for the student lounge.



STM Student QUICK LINKS

Classes and Programs: stmcollege.ca/classes

STM Scholarships and Bursaries: stmcollege.ca/awards

Academic Advising: stmcollege.ca/advising

New Students: stmcollege.ca/new

Self-Declare: stmcollege.ca/selfdeclare

Community Service-Learning: stmcollege.ca/csl

STM WELCOMES BACK STUDENTS - FALL 2021



250+ARTS & SCIENCE
COURSE OPTIONS (open to all USask students)

10 AREAS OF STUDY

FACULTY
(Tenure, tenure-stream, term, sessional)

5200 + distinct STUDENTS (registered in courses through STM)

1400+ STM STUDENTS (self-declared STM status)

1157 3CU Indigenous STUDENTS (declared status registered in STM courses)

733 360 International STUDENTS (declared status registered in STM courses)

\$235,000+ STM Scholarships & Bursaries available

10,000+ STM Alumni

(approx. since 1936)

26,800

STMCOLLEGE.CA

Website users (Up 18%)
May 1, 2021 - November 1, 2021



9tudent Groups https://stmcollege.ca/study-here/student-clubs.php

STMSU



St. Thomas More College Students Union stmsu.ca

The St. Thomas More College Students Union (STMSU), is the student governing body within St. Thomas More College, and the students' voice at the College and USask. All students who self-declare as STM students automatically become members of STMSU. STMSU strives to serve STM students through many social, cultural, and recreational activities.

STMSU is independent of the Arts and Science Students' Union (ASSU), and has voting membership on the University Students' Council (USC) and the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) council and several committees at St Thomas More College. For more information or to join as a member at large please contact vpcommunications@stmsu.ca





is a student-led literary magazine at St. Thomas More College, publishing content to reflect the identity of the campus community,

its complexities and diversity. Submissions include fiction, non-fiction, poetry or visual art.

The title, in medias res, describes the experience of university life, in which students, staff and faculty are always caught 'in the middle of things.'The mission of the publication is to be a forum for community expression that showcases the high-quality work of artists in the University of Saskatchewan community

The magazine would not be possible without the work of the students that make up our volunteer editorial board and we greatly appreciate their invaluable contributions!

Editor-in-Chief | Hannah Tran Fiction Editor | Annie Liu Nonfiction Editor | Olivia Kerslake Poetry Editor | Douglas Barclay Visual Art Editor | Aeydan Yee Associate Editor | Jenna Roesch Brand Manager | Kyungsoo Ryu Visual Art Team | Breena Hebron, Namya Jain

Find us on Instagram and Twitter at @inmediasresstm, or on our website at stmcollege.ca/imr.





Alayna



Brittany



Paula



Emily



STM Peer Health Mentors support student wellness on academic journey

Sometimes it just takes a friendly voice and some encouragement to get you through a rough patch. And it always helps to be among welcoming friends and take in a fun group activity.

Thanks to the Peer Health Mentor Program, St. Thomas More College(STM) students now have seven friendly, willing and able volunteers to help their fellow students. Varneet, Alayna, Azwa, Paula, Emily, Jessy and Brittany are the STM Peer Health Mentors for 2021-2022.

The program is providing students one more resource in their toolbox to help them navigate university life. It will be sponsoring group activities and on-line

Michael MacLean, of STM Campus Ministry, oversees the program.

"STM Peer Health Mentors recognize the importance of health in mind, body and spirit and are willing to reach out and engage other university students to build a greater awareness of the value of student well-being," said MacLean. "We want students to feel safe and supported. Peer Health Mentors contribute to the holistic care of fellow students and support them in achieving a sense of belonging in the university community."

Students can reach out to the STM Peer Health Mentor program by emailing peerhealth@stmcollege.ca or finding them on Instagram at stmpeerhealth.

For more information please email Michael MacLean at mmaclean@stmcollege.ca.

Welcome! Muhha ho?a Tawāw Tánishi Tanyan yahipi Bienvenue Вітаємо

This is Us

"Working for Humanity"

The work of the College fosters social justice for the good of humanity.

Our work to discover truth nourishes the lives of our teachers, students, and members of the wider academic and Catholic intellectual community.

"Discovering Truth"

"Welcoming Community"

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE

ERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

St. Thomas More College(STM) is a welcoming community - open to all.

"Learning and Growing"

STM faculty are devoted to a partnership of learning and growth with students which addresses the synthesis of faith and reason in all aspects of the human condition.

"Thinking and Believing"

"The united endeavour of intelligence and faith will enable people to come to the full measure of their humanity" (Ex corde ecclesiae, 5).



Toluwa Adams Brady Alto Janna Bernatsky Keltye-Rae Blais Tanya Brittain Jeniffer Camacho Soto Samantha Carley Maryury Carranza Wendy Corden Dave Angelo Dado

Bryce Doerksen Ryan Domoslai Bailey Doucette Lilian Duong Vo Eraykah Equizabal Sarah Friesen Katherine Frisky Liya Gao Megan Gorsalitz Nathan Harder Miguel Rafael Dela Pena Grant Harris McEwen Anteia Organ

Jodi-Alayne Henares Tracy Highway Luke Karwacki Asif Anjum Khan Laura Kortko Monique Larsen Kristin Loeffelholz Alyssa Mehler Scott Mercer Oluwasanmi Ogunrinde Karley Patenaude Hilary Peterson Hannah Redekop Alyshia Reesor Ronelda Robillard Erick Rosas Rodriguez Gelrene Frances Sanfuego Makda Sengal Susan Shacter Kori Taylor Isha Thakur

Todd Thorsness Nghia Tran Nikol Tretiakov **Edward Utama** Justin Vo Dakota Welch Melanie Wiley Odette Wills KamrynWolverine Kaitlin Wong Valentina Wynia



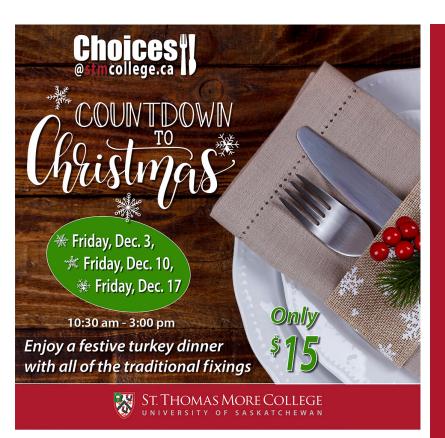
Megan Gorsalitz USask Rose Litman Medal in Humanities



Edward Utama USask Dean's Medal



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE



Take out or Eat in! stmcollege.ca/eat-here



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ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN



Dr. Carl Still, Sr. Anne Lewans and Dr. Gordon Martell

Ursulines support pursuit of reconciliation at STM

It is with sincere gratitude that St. Thomas More College (STM) celebrates the tremendous generosity of the Ursulines of St. Angela's Convent for their donation in support of the STM Endowed Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation.

"This exceptional support enables STM to pursue much more fully the mandate of the Chair to highlight Indigenous spirituality and pursue reconciliation through the study of Indigenous history, culture, traditions, languages and religious and spiritual practices," said Dr. Carl Still, President of STM College.

Ursuline Sister Anne Lewans noted, "In making this donation, the Ursulines wish to continue our mission of 'educating for life' and also make a concrete gesture toward reconciliation and healing with Indigenous people."

"The gift of the Ursulines for the STM Endowed Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation is an act of generosity and an extension of a hand of friendship in a time when we all need to foster critical dialogue and ensure that we are balancing narratives by advantaging Indigenous knowledges and worldviews," said Dr. Gordon Martell, member of the Indigenous Advisory Circle at STM College.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Ursulines of St. Angela's Convent for the commitment to education and reconciliation which is so profoundly expressed through this donation.

St. Thomas More College University of Saskatchewan 1437 College Drive Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W6 Read more about reconciliation initiatives at STM College at:

stmcollege.ca

IN THE NEWS

NEW STM FACULTY

STM welcomed four new faculty in July to one-year term positions. Welcome to Hongbin Zhang (Economics), Sharmi Jaggi (Political Studies), Jeongeun Park (Religion and Culture), and Amanda Devitt (History).

STM FACULTY RESEARCH SUCCESS and Publications



• **Daniel Regnier** received a \$98,352 SSHRC Insight Grant for his project "Music, Soul, Science and Creativity: From Aristoxenus to al-Fârâbî." He is conducting the project with Mark Nyvlt of Dominican University College, and it will run until 2024.

Faculty Publications



• **Heidi Epstein**. "Hypo-Allergenic Musicologies: Brown and Hopps' Unsung, Liberationist Allies," International Journal for the Study of the Christian Church, Volume 20, 2020, Issue 1 (pub. March 19, 2020), pp. 23-37



• Anna Klimina. "When the cultural argument goes too far: the need to limit particularism and welcome convergence on socially progressive goals," in How Social Forces Impact the Economy, edited by Steven Pressman, New York: Routledge, 2020, pp. 118-134.

• Anna Klimina. "Defining and Defending a Progressive Market Square: Bringing Institutionalist Devel-

opment Discourse in Line with the Reality of Post-Soviet Transition Experiences," Journal of Economic Issues, 54:2 (2020): pp. 380-387.



St. Thomas More College (STM) *Mental Health and Wellness Committee* is pleased to announce that it has received a \$25,000 grant from the Bell Let's Talk Post-Secondary Fund. This kickoff grant is offered by Bell to "support Canadian colleges and universities in implementing the National Standard of Canada for Mental Health and Well-Being for Post-Secondary Students" (https://letstalk.bell.ca/en/news/1262/

bell-lets-talk-launches-post-secondary-fund-to-enhance-student-mental-health).

At STM, the funds will be used to 1) create an integrated Mental Health and Wellness Strategy for the College; 2) fund the launch of the STM Peer Mentor program; and 3) support faculty and staff professional development in the area of mental health and wellness. These funds will build capacity at STM and enable us to better respond to the needs of our students, staff, and faculty.

Bell Let's Talk Day is January 28

Bell Let's Talk Day is January 28. Canadians everywhere will join in the global mental health conversation.





STM's Scholar for many years, Saskatchewan writer Guy Vanderhaeghe ("The Englishman's Boy," "The Last Crossing") has a new novel. "One that is a master-class in character and storytelling, revealing

a novelist at the height of his powers. Written in muscular prose with whiplash narrative drive, August into Winter is an epic tale of crime and punishment, the debilitating shadow of war and the redemptive possibility of love against all odds." "Guy Vanderhaeghe's new novel 'August Into Winter' a master-class in character and storytelling' Janet Somerville The star.com



Dr. Paulette Hunter

We Hear You is a project to get people talking about healthcare employee's experiences working through a pandemic. Led by a team of researchers

Saskatchewan Polytechnic, University of Regina, and Dr. Paulette Hunter from STM at the University of Saskatchewan, the project synthesizes research with healthcare employees over the first 15 months of the pandemic into a conversation-starter kit available for use in any healthcare setting.

https://appliedinterprofessionalresearch.com/we-hear-you/



Dr. Jennifer Briere launched a new CIHR funded research study regarding loneliness and social isolation among seniors.

Building Bridges to Positive

Aging Among Seniors

Please contact jbriere@stmcollege.ca for more information or how to participate.



In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Lois Brockman



Lois Brockman

The St. Thomas More College (STM) community honours the memory of Dr. Lois Brockman who passed away August 26, 2021 at the age of 89.

An excerpt from her obituary recounts, "Her academic excellence, evident from a young age, combined with a passion to serve the welfare of the underprivileged, led her to STM at the University of Saskatchewan where she earned a BA in Social Sciences. She truly enioved her time at STM with fond

memories of friends and activities at Newman Centre."

Brockman established an endowment fund to enable annual STM student scholarships for study in the area of child development, psychology and philosophy, with the purpose of supporting and enhancing respect for the developing child.

Brockman also donated generously towards the establishment of an Endowed Professorship in Child Development at STM. The Endowed Professorship supports a scholar whose research and teaching are in the area of Child Development. The Professorship is to be a source of intellectual leadership for STM and for the broader Catholic and local communities, and for the Catholic and secular media through commentary and expertise on Child Development.

President Dr. Carl Still had recently expressed his appreciation for Brockman's support of the College and work towards the Psychology professorship.

"STM is so grateful for your outstanding faithful support, which helps to ensure that our commitment to the Catholic intellectual life, social justice, and the pastoral care of students remains a tradition at St. Thomas More College," said Dr. Still. "In the area of psychology, we look forward to a future when STM will be known across the University of Saskatchewan campus for its expertise in child psychology because of the Professorship you are creating."

In 2004, Brockman's many outstanding accomplishments in her professional and personal life, proved an inspiration to fellow alumni, current students and the community, and as such she was recognized with the St. Thomas More College Distinguished

Dr. Brockman was an inspiring STM Alumna, friend of the College, and generous philanthropist recognizing needs in higher education and expanding scholarship with respect for childhood development.

Denise Nahirney (nee Aschenbrenner)

Denise Cecile Nahirney was a trailblazer and a pioneer of women. She was a private pilot, a businesswoman and community leader. She was recognized with the City of Kelowna Woman of the Year and the Kelowna Arts Council Awards. Most importantly she was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and loyal friend.

Denise's home and heart were always open for others. She was, throughout her lifetime, a leader in the community, a connector of people, a giver to others, a builder of family and home.



Denise Nahirney

More than 30 years ago, in honor and memory of her parents, Denise was born in Anaheim, SK, where her father ran the general store. She excelled in school, skipping a grade and attending Bruno girls school. She moved to Saskatoon where she attended the University of Saskatchewan, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work in 1961 and working around the province in her field. Fr. Finn was Denise's mentor and counselor.

> When Bill Nahirney met Denise at university, he knew she was the girl of his dreams. They married in 1962 and lived in Wisconsin,

> Toronto and Winnipeg before settling in Kelowna in 1969. Their first daughter, Lois arrived in 1963, followed by Douglas in 1966, Patrick in 1967 and Lynnette in 1971. Denise's family was her pride and joy.

> While in Winnipeg, Denise joined Bill in earning her private pilot's licence and was one of the first women in that city and the country to earn her wings. Bill and Denise flew across the country in their different planes over the ensuing decades.

> Denise joined the University Women's Club (CFUW) in the 1980s and was an active member over decades. She was also active with the John Howard Society, Kelowna Arts Council, East Kelowna Irrigation District, SPCA, Probus, Book Club and many more.

> Among some of her life highlights, Denise traveled behind the Iron Curtain to Russia in 1976, climbed Machu Pichu in Peru in 1980. explored her homeland of Germany, and visited her kids in England, Yellowknife, Hawaii and around the world.

> Denise leaves her adoring husband, William, and children Lois (Tom Dielschneider), Douglas (Joanna Nolan), Patrick (Elizabeth Hansen) and Lynnette (Justin MacKay), grandchildren Natalie, Levi, Kailyn, Cairns and Blake, siblings Woody, Charles and Ramona Aschenbrenner, and in-laws Mary, Peter, Leela, Annie, Helen, Leroy, Barb and Gary, along with many wonderful nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

> Denise made a difference in so many people's lives. Her impact on her family and others will remain her legacy.

REMEMBERED WARMLY

Lois Brockman Donald John Egleston Katherine Kozak Jim Lucas

Maureen McGuire Claire Mueller Denise Nahirney Robert Resnick

Lorne E. Richardson Joe Sikora Lawrence Stark Raymond Albert Zurowski

Eternal rest grant onto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Heartwood Tree

St. Thomas More College is like a tree in the fullness of summer, with its life and energy constantly renewed through the women and men who teach, study, work, and worship together as the sapwood of its living community. It is firmly rooted in Christ and the values of the Gospel and has been nourished over the years through its religious, intellectual, and cultural traditions. All of these are interwoven into the heartwood of its history.

By choosing to remember St. Thomas More College in your estate planning, you are ensuring the long-term viability of STM and enabling it to continue to endure and flourish like a strong tree, even in periods of drought, storms, and economic uncertainty, long into the future.

In grateful recognition of those caring donors who have made legacy gifts through their wills, life insurance policies and other methods of planned giving, we have engraved a beautiful leaf on the Heartwood Tree at STM.

If you would like any further information on making a legacy gift to STM, please contact: Kari Sinkewicz Manager of Development and Alumni Relations 306.262.6818 ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca



If you would like

Kari Sinkewicz, Manager of Development

306.262.6818

to make a gift to help

of a student's educational

journey, please contact:

ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca

ensure the success

and Alumni Relations

Thank You!

Please join all members of the St. Thomas More College scholarly community in celebrating the outstanding generosity of every donor who chose to give in response to a request for support from our cherished alumna and friend, Danielle Fortosky.

In 1996, Danielle and her beloved husband Ted received the STM Distinguished Alumni award, celebrating their accomplishments and their faithful commitment to STM. Sadly, Ted passed away October 27, 2017. One of the ways Danielle continues to keep Ted's legacy of generosity and service alive is by supporting futures of STM students through the establishment of the Ted Fortosky Memorial Bursary Fund.

Last November, Danielle reached out to friends and family inviting them to support the bursary and honour Ted's memory in this meaningful way. Danielle's request inspired more than \$9,000 in support of the Ted Fortosky Memorial Bursary Fund to help unlock student potential.

On behalf of all grateful students who will benefit from your heartfelt support, we wish to express our profound gratitude to the many donors who gave generously. You are ensuring that STM students will be supported and encouraged to reach their goals and become the fullest, best expression of themselves. Thank you!

Ted Fortosky Memorial Bursary Fund



2021 Spring Convocation Recognizes Outstanding STM Graduates

St. Thomas More College celebrated 200 new graduates during an online ceremony June 1, 2021. Degrees and certificates were awarded in a wide range of liberal arts disciplines.

The College also presented five prestigious awards to seven noteworthy students during the livestream of the 2021 Spring Convocation Awards Ceremony: Celebrating Excellence and Academic Achievement.

Event occurred after the publication of the spring newsletter.

*Highest average achieved by an STM student in each subject

Afia Alam, Business Economics

Erin Anhorn, Environmental Earth Sciences Erin Anhorn, Global Studies (Certificate)

Tayler Bamford, Indigenous Governance Politics (Certificate)

Erinn Beech, English

Kristy Bieber, Classical Medieval Renaissance Studies

Rachel Cey, Cellular, Physiological and Pharmacological Sciences

Mikhail Chutskoff, Geology

Jay Cowsill, Environment and Society

Roya Emadi, Physiology and Pharmacology

Meagan Fabian, History

Hailey Fountain, Geophysics

Paige Francoeur, Aboriginal Theatre (Certificate)

Paige Francoeur, Drama

Logan Ginther, Philosophy

Romaisa Ismaeel, Toxicology

Beulah Iwezor, International Studies

Clark Kish-Greer, Psychology (BSC)

Jesse Koethler, Music Education

Fraser Krips, Jazz (Certificate)

Aurora Lepe Zepeda, Biotechnology, Microbiology & Immunology

Jerry Li, Biochemistry

Ruby Lindsay, Womens and Gender Studies

Carlos Munoz Pimentel, Political Studies

Navona Muo, Anatomy and Cell Biology

Aqsa Pasha, Bioinformatics

Irina Pitrovski, Environmental Biology

Mario Proulx, Chemistry Grace Rath, Sociology

Alicja Rutkowski, Health Studies

Cassidy Schentag, Regional and Urban Planning

Stephanie Siemens, Religion and Culture

Olena Simko, Microbiology and Immunology

An Smith, Biology

Samara St. Louis, Linguistics

Jeanne Taylor, Anthropology

Alyssa Vibert, Biological Research (Certificate)

Braedan Walker, Statistics

Emma Warkentin, Computer Science

Shayyan Wasim, Psychology (BA)

Xing Si Zhou, Medical Language (Certificate)

Taylor Zimmerman, Classical and Medieval Latin (Certificate) Taylor Zimmerman, Ethics Justice and Law (Certificate)



Right Reverend Monsignor Myroslav Kolodey Memorial Academic Prize

Awarded annually to a graduating 3rd or 4th year St. Thomas More College Student with the highest overall cumulative average.

Roya Emdi

Roya is graduating with a Bachelor of Science Honours in Physiology and Pharmacology, but her educational journey is not over. She has been accepted into Medicine and will continue to pursue her dream of becoming a physician fall 2021.

Thomas Deis '38 Prize in Scho-

lastic Philosophy in Honour of

guished graduating student of

Logan has recently received a

prestigious Canada Graduate

Scholarship from the Social Sci-

ences and Humanities Research

Council to support his pursuit of

a Master's in Philosophy at the

University of Toronto.

Dr. Basil Markle S.T.DAwarded annually to a distin-

St. Thomas More College

majoring in Philosophy.

Logan Ginther

Thomas Deis '38 WWII Memorial Prize

Awarded to a St. Thomas More College Student or Newman Centre member who has demonstrated an all-round excellence or leadership, and/or who has enriched notably the life of STM or Newman Centre.

Stephanie Siemens

Stephanie says she plans to continue her learning journey beyond the

classroom, using her university experience to help inform how she processes what is in front of her, and ask better questions of herself and the world she lives in.

Fr. Henry Carr Award

Awarded to a student who has shown leadership in and/or contributed to the life of the St. Thomas More College.

Grace Rath and Veronica Lucas (joint recipients)

Grace has been accepted into the Masters of Arts thesis-based program in Sociology at USask. **Veronica** plans on continuing her love for social justice by finding projects that need help and plans to continue her education in the college of Social Work.





STM Distinguished Alumni Award Nomination Form

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS June 30.

Required Nomination Documentation and Information:

- 1. A completed nomination form signed by the nominator
- 2. A curriculum vitae, resume or summary of the nominee's achievements that may include the following: career path, titles, awards, publications, honours, accomplishments and contributions Feel free to include newspaper/magazine articles 3. Supporting letter(s) of reference and other relevant supporting documentation
- 4. Your reasons for nominating this alumna/us

Personal Information of Nominee:

Name of nominee:		
Year of graduation:	Degree:	
Nominee's current position / occupation:		
Address:		
City:		
Province:	_ Postal Code:	
Phone number (Daytime):	(Evening):	
Email:		
Does the nominee know that he or she has been nominated for this award?		
Nominator Information:		
Name:		
Address:		
City:	_	
Province:	Postal Code:	
Phone number (Daytime):		
Phone Number (Evening):	Email:	

Selection Criteria:

Nominator Signature: __

The Distinguished Alumni Award honours graduates of St. Thomas More College who have distinguished themselves in either their chosen profession or in their community and who have continued to celebrate their relationship with STM College since graduation. Note: Sitting politicians, current STM faculty, staff, and current members of the Board of Governors and the Alumni Association Council are ineligible for this award.

Date:

- 1. Provide a brief biography of nominee
- 2. Provide a summary of nóminee's professional and /or community achievements
- 3. Provide your reason for nominating this alumna/us

References:

Please provide a letter of reference, no longer than one page. The letter may be provided by the nominator. Additional letters of reference are both welcomed and encouraged.

Anyone may nominate alumni for the awards and there is no limit to the number of times a candidate may be nominated. Candidates must be STM Alumni. You may not nominate someone for a posthumous award.

The selection Committee of Distinguished Alumni of the STM-Newman Alumni Association in consultation with the college president review all the nominations and select the award winner(s) who are then notified of the decision. The nominator(s) of the successful recipient will be advised of the decision. The recipients will be announced during the annual STM Corporation Banquet in

October/November.

Forward completed nomination to:

Kari Sinkewicz, Manager of Development & Alumni Relations

St. Thomas More College

1437 College Drive Saskatoon, SK. S7N 0W6

For more information email ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca or call 306.262.6818



Yes! I wish to support the College, and the students who attend STM, with a gift and receive a charitable donation tax receipt.

I would like to donate a gift of:

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	In support of:
	□ STM Scholarships and Bursaries □ STM Chair in Indigenous □ STM Area of Greatest Need □ STM Campus Ministry □ Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies
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	Address:
	City:
	Province:Postal Code
	Phone:
	Email:
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	☐ Monthly or Pre-Authorized Debit Please contact: Kari Sinkewicz 306.262.6818 or ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca
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stmcollege.ca/donate

Mail to: Kari Sinkewicz, Manager of Development & Alumni Relations STM College -1437 College Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W6



