

STM grads called to make the world a better place

We are Michelle Dinter-Lipinski and Norman Lipinski. We bring greetings from the St. Thomas More Newman Alumni Association (STMNAA). Welcome to the club!

STM is a place that holds many good memories for us. We met here at the college in 1980. Michelle was an Education student and Norman was in Agriculture. Even though STM was not our primary college, we both took STM classes and quickly found a home here. The College, the STM Students' Association and the Newman club gave us a common space to study, play and pray - not necessarily in that order! We met students from all over the province, many of whom are still friends today.

STM has seen a lot of changes since we attended in the 1980s, but one thing that has not changed, we hope, is the experience that you, the new graduates, will take with you as you leave move forward in your lives. Some of you have careers lined up while others are still trying to figure out your next step. Some will be leaving the city or the province. For others, Saskatoon will become home. It is a time of transition that carries both excitement and trepidation.

The goal of the College has been to give you 'More' with a capital M.

More than just a place to take classes, the mission statement of the College says STM is a "partnership of learning and growth with our students which addresses the synthesis of faith and reason in all aspects of the human condition". This partnership attempts to give you the tools you need to make sense of a changing world and face it with strength and integrity.

STM has certainly done that for us. Our time in the College opened our eyes to social justice and the need to see others as children of God who have a right to all that we take for granted as privileged members of society. We both became teachers and tried to bring this perspective to our students.

As the years passed we were drawn to get involved in Development and Peace/Caritas Canada. This increased our awareness of the structures and



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*Michelle Dinter-Lipinski
and Norman Lipinski*

policies which negatively impact the people of the Global South. Our education has continued in the last number of the years as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission here in Canada has made the historical discrimination against our Indigenous brothers and sisters more visible to the average Canadian. We applaud St. Thomas More College on its efforts towards reconciliation. We hope that you, too, may move forward with a perspective that honours ALL people.

At this special time, we congratulate you on your accomplishments. We also ask you to remember who supported you and brought you to this point; your family and friends, your teachers and everyone who has touched your life so far. Thank them and maybe give them a hug. We also challenge you to remember the words of the College mission statement that "the work of our college is not an end in itself but must find application for the good of humanity." In other words, make the world a better place because you are in it.

Finally, we not only greet you on behalf of the STM Newman Alumni, but we invite you to become an active part of that community. Please stay in touch both with fellow alumni and with the College.

The QR code included in this message will let you register to be part of the STM Newman community.

We would love to see you at College presentations and events, even as a virtual attendee. And, if ever you are in a position to donate, that would, of course, also be welcomed.

The community of St. Thomas More College and the Newman Club were important to us in our days at university and they continue to be so today. Please consider remaining part of that community, wherever your life's journey takes you.

Bonne chance!

Sincerely,

*Michelle Dinter-Lipinski (class of 1983)
Norman Lipinski (class of 1982)*