

STM

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

DISCOVER!

MORE

Our Global Citizens

Choices Welcomes New Chef
Alumni Association Building 101
The Busy Person's Retreat
No Faith in Education
What is God?

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SASKATOON SK S7K 2N8

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CANADA		POSTES
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Postage paid		Port payé
Publications Mail		Poste-publications
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From the STM President's Office



STM President
George T. Smith,
CSB.



Dear Honoured Alumni and Friends,

Earlier this year, on a cold evening in January, a very significant event happened at our College. For some it went unnoticed, and it certainly didn't make headlines in the local press. But for me, it represented the very best of our College living out its Catholic mission: men and women giving of their knowledge and expertise for the benefit of students. To be sure, that happens every day in our College whenever students meet with members of our distinguished faculty. Last January 18th, however, those giving of themselves were alumni of our College – all of them lawyers – and those benefiting from their knowledge and expertise were students enrolled in the College of Law, or students aspiring to be lawyers. Among the lawyers were a Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, lawyers representing the College's solicitors, McKercher LLP, and a lawyer who provides legal counsel to those who could not afford it otherwise. The students listened and learned, asked questions, and wondered how they too might lead fulfilling lives in the service of justice.

What was happening on that winter evening at STM is sometimes called mentoring. In its classic sense, with its origins in Homer's *Odyssey*, mentoring implies a meaningful relationship in which an older, wiser figure assists a novice in learning the ways of life. In her book *Big Questions, Worthy Dreams*, theologian Sharon Daloz Parks, who gave the Keenan Lecture at STM in 1996, writes that "mentoring relationships are most alive when both the mentor and the protégé are working on the edge of knowing and possibility." In other words, mentoring can be, indeed should be an experience of mutual enrichment. Our External Relations office has similar events in mind for the future – an event for aspiring educators, and one for those who wish to pursue a vocation in health care as physicians or nurses. I invite you – our alumni of STM – to give thought to volunteering your time to such an experience. I'm willing to wager that you will benefit as much as our students

Yours Truly,

Fr. George Smith, CSB

**MENTOR AN
STM STUDENT
TODAY!**

If you're interested in mentoring opportunities at STM, please call the External Relations Office at 306-966-8940 or email rantnichuk@stmcollege.ca.

Choices on Campus Welcomes New Chef

Amy Frank, chef and food services manager of Choices on Campus at St. Thomas More College (STM), has earned a reputation for being an accomplished chef and culinary innovator. Frank's commitment to and passion for creating flawless dining experiences earned her the title Iron Chef in the Norwegian Cruise Line culinary competition, where she worked as an executive chef onboard the *Norwegian Dawn* and *Norwegian Spirit*. Frank was responsible for managing a galley team comprised of 250 food and beverage personnel. "I believe my confidence in food preparation, banquets, a la carte operations, buffets and special events has contributed to my successes in the food and beverage culinary industry and my rapid rise to the executive level," she says.

Frank spent an exciting summer creating menus that reflect her international culinary experience. She says, "I want guests at Choices to look forward to a varied, modernized and international menu and service." Frank is also expanding Choices on Campus' catering services.

"I am excited and honoured to work with the students, staff, faculty and visitors of STM and the U of S. STM's call to DISCOVER MORE is consistent with my philosophy of approaching food preparation and presentation with an open and imaginative mind. I am always looking for ways to discover more."



Choices Chef Amy Frank.

Honouring Alumni and Friends

2008 Margaret Dutli Professional Community Service Award

Since her early experiences with the Canada World Youth Program at 18 years of age, Lesya Sabada has been a true global citizen. From her very first teaching job, which she took in the inner city ghettos of Syracuse, New York, to her more recent humanitarian visits to the West Bank in Palestine, Ms. Sabada has devoted herself to the well-being of humanity around the world. Hired by St. Thomas More College in 1993 to teach courses in Eastern Christianity, her passion for educating and uplifting others has also inspired the faithful within her own community. Through her tireless service, she has consistently worked for the betterment of her Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Eastern Christian Community, and in her own way, for the faith and spirits of young people everywhere.



Lesya Sabada.

2008 Distinguished Alumna Award

Sister Kay MacDonald, NDS (BEd 1959, BA 1961) not only devoted much of her life to Catholic education as a teacher and principal in the Catholic school system, but significantly contributed to shaping the life of her alma mater through her nine years of service on its Corporation and six years on its Board of Governors. Highlights of Sister Kay's amazing life in the Church include serving as General Superior of the Sisters of Sion from 1975-86. While serving in Rome in that capacity, she was elected to one of the most important positions that can be held by any woman in the Catholic Church: President of the International Union of Superiors General, a post she held from 1983-86. As a Provincial Leader of the Sisters of Sion while living in Jerusalem from 1990-96, Sister Kay dedicated herself to one of her life's passions—ecumenical ministry, and for that work as well as her other leadership roles she has been internationally recognized including being awarded the Inter-faith Leadership Award by the North American Council of Christian and Jews, and the Order of National Merit by the President of France.



Sister Kay MacDonald.

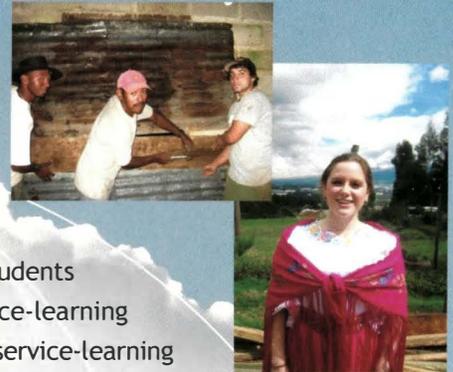
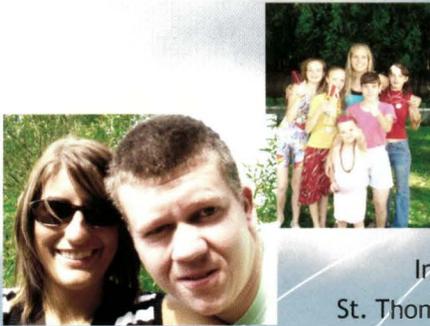
2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award

Bill Zerebesky might be best remembered as the former Social Director of the STMSU and the first paid manager of Ulcers, STM's first cafeteria. Growing up in Wakaw and moving to Saskatoon in the late 1970s to attend the U of S, Mr. Zerebesky made his career at the New Community Credit Union. He remained in close touch with the STM community, serving on its Board of Governors from 2003 to 2008 and volunteering on several committees. He also found time to volunteer with the Shevchenko Foundation, an organization that provides grants to various Ukrainian cultural organizations, and worked to establish the first Credit Unions in Ukraine.



Bill Zerebesky.

Our Global Citizens



In partnership with Intercordia Canada, St. Thomas More College continues to provide students with a three-month, six-credit-unit community service-learning experience abroad. "Intercordia Canada" is a university service-learning program that promotes cross-cultural understanding and moral responsiveness in students, encouraging them to discover a more compassionate world view.

This past year, part one of the program took place in Saskatoon with a course in Social Change and Global Solidarity. The Sociology course offered an examination of global inequality guided by theories of social stratification and social change. Special attention was devoted to the nature, causes and consequences of socio-cultural changes in the contemporary world.

Part two of the program gave students a more international perspective. From mid-May to mid-August, they lived with host families and joined local NGO's in their efforts to advocate for the needs of their communities.

Students worked in schools, health clinics, women's centres, youth centres, local hospitals, community childcare facilities, and communities caring for the intellectually disabled. They were brought face-to-face with people, cultures and struggles for justice. They received hands-on opportunities to meet and discuss current issues with people at an "everyday-life" level. In so doing, they expanded their world view and learned to think critically and concretely about global justice and solidarity.

While abroad, students took "Engaging social change and global solidarity," and completed journals, academic reflection questions and an integrative essay.

Coordinated by Dr. Darrell McLaughlin and David Peacock, Engaged Learning Coordinator, the 2008 Intercordia program involved these students:

Amanda Barton, Katie Billesberger, Michael Bristol, Roanne Kosokowsky, Amber Kotzer, Matthew Kuhling, Brittany Solonenko, Jennifer Viguie and Carolyn Wright.



Welcome Week 2008



L-R: U of S Registrar Kelly McInnes, STM Dean Carl Still, and STM Associate Dean Patti McDougall.

There's something special – almost electric – about campus in the fall, particularly during what's become known as Welcome Week. Each September, first-year students (this year nearly 3000 of them!) descend on the University of Saskatchewan to explore their new home for the coming year.

Welcome Week, which was held September 1-5, gives first-year students an opportunity to gain a firm foothold on the U of S student experience. While this weeklong introduction to campus life was a whirlwind for new students to say the least, it was not without its lighter moments – especially at STM.



Pancake breakfast in the Bowl.

This year, staff and faculty joined STM students for two breakfasts: one, a pancake breakfast in the bowl and the other, a round-table breakfast in the STM's well-known cafeteria, Choices. Later in the week, faculty and staff also enjoyed a game of slow-pitch with students, the outcome of which varies depending on who you ask.

If alumni wish to become involved in STM's Welcome Week activities, please call 306-966-8940 or email rantonichuk@stmcollege.ca.

Fall 2008 Student Phone-a-thon



Student volunteers connect with STM alumni at the annual Phone-a-thon.

The annual fall Phone-a-thon was underway again this year raising money for student scholarships and bursaries. Through the generous support of STM alumni and friends, STM students have access to approximately \$30,000 in scholarships and bursaries annually. For the student callers themselves, the Phone-a-thon represents an informal and fun opportunity to participate in the wider STM College experience by helping their fellow students in need, while connecting with STM alumni around the world.

Holly Cole is coming to St. Thomas More College,
Saturday, February 7, 2009.

It starts with dinner prepared by STM's Executive Chef Amy Frank.
Next, you'll enjoy an intimate performance by jazz singer Holly Cole.
And your evening will end with a nightcap and a chance to
rub shoulders with the world-renowned singer.

Tickets are \$225 (a portion of which is tax deductible). All proceeds are
directed toward supporting student scholarships. For more information
and to reserve your seats,
call Jilliana Steacy @ 966-8940.

STM

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE

St. Thomas More College
President's Gala

proudly presents

HOLLY
COLE



Alumni Association Building 101



The Development Group. L-R: Peter Fenton, Fr. David Tumback, Art Battiste, Adam Day, Mike Carey.

While there's no class that can teach you how to build a thriving Alumni Association, members of what's being called the STM-Newman Alumni Association Development Group are convinced they're on the right track.

After a recent period of stops and starts in the rejuvenation of an official STM-Newman Alumni Association, this newly formed Development Group, along with the support of the College, has recommitted to invigorating an Alumni Association by the spring of 2009. More details on the progress of this group and how alumni can become involved will be available early in the New Year.

For more information, please call 306-966-8918 or email Luke Muller at lmuller@stmcollege.ca.

The Busy Person's Retreat



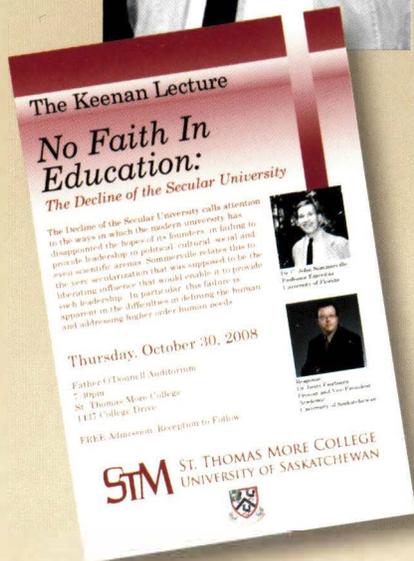
Retreat Coordinator Father Andre Lalach.

The Busy Person's Retreat was held November 18-21, 2008, and offered busy students, staff and faculty an on-campus, guided-prayer retreat within the daily activities of campus life. On the day prior to the retreat, retreatants were introduced to the Scripture passages for the week and matched with a spiritual director. For the next four days, retreatants spent 30 minutes each day reading and meditating on the assigned Scripture passages, and then, for another 30 minutes each day, they met with their director who guided their reading of scripture and their personal prayer.

"It's a retreat where the 'content' isn't a facilitator or guest speaker; it's the Word of God," said Father Andre Lalach, BPR Coordinator. The retreat concluded with a social where retreatants could speak to each other about the week's experience, and fill out evaluations. Evaluations continue to come in with a positive response.

The STM campus ministry team looks forward to offering this retreat again, likely in mid-March 2009. For more information, please contact Father Andre Lalach.

No Faith in Education



Approximately 150 people attended the 21st Keenan Lecture, entitled "No Faith in Education: The Decline of the Secular University," on October 30 in Fr. O'Donnell Auditorium. Presenter C. John Sommerville spoke on the subject of his latest book, *The Decline of the Secular University*.

Dr. Sommerville is the author of numerous books and articles on English cultural and religious history. He is currently working on a general definition of religion or religious, which will work for scholarly, scientific, legal, political, and educational purposes. Dr. Sommerville says, "It is particularly in the area of law and education that this is becoming increasingly problematic in contemporary society. But I believe I have an approach that has not been tried before (using a "nominal" rather than a "real" definition, of the word rather than the thing).

Dr. Sommerville plans to write a book that speaks to the larger problems of life and thought in what he thinks of as our "Post-Secular" world.

To see a complete list of Dr. Sommerville's publications, see www.clas.ufl.edu/users/jsommerv/.

Mark your calendar!

Christmas Mass:

Christmas Eve, December 24
10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, December 25
11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 28
11:00 a.m. only

New Year's Day, January 1
11:00 a.m.

Newman Retreat

January 23-25, 2009

St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, SK

Theme: Taizé Prayer

Presenter:
Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers

Contact Michael MacLean at
mmaclean@stmcollege.ca for
more information.

President's Gala

February 7, 2009

St. Thomas More College

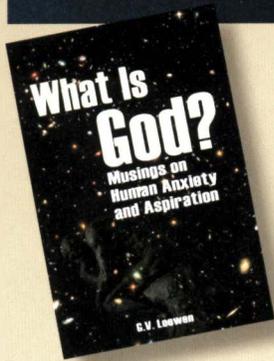
Featuring dinner prepared
by STM's Executive Chef Amy
Frank and entertainment by
jazz singer Holly Cole.

For more information and to
reserve your seats, call Jilliana
Steady at 966-8940.

Don't forget to visit www.stmcollege.ca for updates to our event listings.

What is God?

An Interview with Dr. Gregory V. Loewen



Greg V. Loewen, PhD, is a professor of liberal studies and an interpretation theory specialist in the Department of Philosophy at St. Thomas More College. He has authored six books and taught in the humanities and social sciences for 14 years in the United States and Canada.

Originally written in forty consecutive days of fortunate inspiration, What is God? Musings on Human Anxiety and Aspiration asks some of the most pressing and sobering questions of our times: Why believe, and why this or that belief? What is the relationship between faith and reason, science and religion? How can we explain out of the ordinary events in our lives, and do the sciences provide sufficient interpretation of them? What animates the recently popular scientific critiques of religion and are they reasonable? How do we, in our brief lifespan, give meaning to the history which envelops and is larger than our lives, and yet still shapes us intimately? This book fills a gap in the popular debates surrounding science and religion and situates them and their content in a larger social context.

How long have you been writing?

I have been writing for about 12 years, and am the author of six books. With this book I have attempted to reach a more general audience than the average scholar or academic – scientific and philosophical prose tends to be quite dry and technical. I have written both books of essays and books proper – that is, with a single set of themes. I plan on a sequel to *What is God?* called *A Modest Society*, deliberating on what might make a more humane society.

Where does this book fit in popular discourse?

There was a noticeable gap in popular debates and discourse concerning the relationships between science and religion. Both 'sides', if you will, tended toward polarization – rather dogmatic defenses of religion on the one hand, and equally so of science on the other. Yet religion and science share much, both as human institutions and social organizations, but even in core concepts of cosmos and nature, of origins and the idea of the narrative of our existence and our history. As well, science holds certain ideas to be 'sacred' in a sense, to the task of knowing – from the point of view of this book, those kinds of concepts are religious in nature as much as

they are philosophical. So, I wanted to write something in the middle, as it were, situating the debates in a wider, social, and humanistic context. There is a lot of social science in this book, but not used uncritically. There is a lot of questioning of science in general, but not with any theological axe to grind. It is a book for us as human beings, as I mention in the dedication, who are not content with the world as it is, and perhaps feel that there is more to the world or that there can be more.

What is your next project?

I have taken up the final phase of research for the next book, a sequel of sorts to *What is God?*, to be written next year – it is called *A Modest Society* and is a reflection on and critique of the variety of institutions which shape our day to day lives in North America – media, government, schools, churches, perhaps the legal system – but it is not a demagogic work; rather, it is a combination of dialogue and dialectic, so as not to become overly polemic. It also will contain suggestions for furthering a more just and humane culture, one that is more in touch with global realities at a personal and emotional level, rather than lensed through our economic ideology and local desires.

What are your influences?

Well – too many to mention of course – my favorite philosophical thinker is Hans-Georg Gadamer, the great German master of modern hermeneutics – the art and theory of interpretation and dialogue – but there are so many others, whom wrote little but this or that text stayed with me – I think persons my age, gender, and ethnicity are inevitably drawn towards certain thinkers, especially in our youth – Nietzsche is an obvious candidate here, perhaps Heidegger, Derrida, Marx etc. Genius inspires me of course, but we must situate the radical thoughts of this or that person not only in their times but within the circles of thought itself, so as not to aggrandize the biographical exploits of the one, the artist or thinker, as it were. Those who have had serious stakes in their lives that they have confronted and written through are perhaps the most inspiring, Rosa Luxemburg, Hannah Arendt, for example.

What challenges did you face in writing this book?

Lack of sleep, mostly! And, as I mentioned, at first I did not think I could write such a book – a 'semi-scholarly' or 'semi-popular' text, as they are sometimes called. I had to rethink my field research and my life experience as a private citizen and realize them as versions of the same thing – experiences narrated in the book are from both affairs, but over time one's memory merges the past contexts. History is rewritten by ourselves through living on. My previous books did not point to this one in any obvious way, and now I plan to continue to write in two streams: a dense, scholarly stream which few will read and in another that will reach out and ask questions.

Does your personal experience factor into writing?

This is, in essence, how any book becomes real – how any story, told once to ourselves who are not entirely capable of listening to it, becomes a text which anyone can then attend to in his or her own way. All such experience comes from living on, and for me it was no different. I lived for three years in a culture vastly different from my home, that of Mississippi, the rural deep south. Many things occurred that were both dangerous and exhilarating, but there was a very vivid cultural exchange going on there – it eventually got the better of me and I had to move on – I did not know how to live ‘correctly’ in that culture. I had my own biases, some of which are supported by our more general social organization, and some which are celebrated only in the Northwest or other coastal regions – perhaps these last are more hedonistic and individuated – they are in any case much more internationally diverse and urban. The specific events that made it into the book, well, one can read for those – whether UFOs, ghosts, the magical landscape of the south, the enchantedness of the social relations, the time capsule of the culture, all of these surreal norms left a lasting impression on me – and yet of course this book is hardly about a specific cultural region. It is just that I think the odd confluence of modernity and pre-modernity in the south provoked some immediate thoughts along the lines that the book follows.

In Memoriam

“In death the relationship we have with the world is not abolished, but is rather for the first time completed.”

- Karl Rahner, SJ, theologian

Roland Muir
BComm '56

Martin Kaufmann
BSA '51, MSc '53, PhD '56
(U of Wisconsin)

Bonace Korchinski
BA/BEEd '55, MA '72

Sr. Frances Kosolofski, OSU
BA/BEEd '67, MA '70

If you know of anyone who, in the past year, has departed this world to enter into the Lord's presence, please let us know. Contact the St. Thomas More Development & Alumni Office at (306) 966-2955 or rantonichuk@stmcollege.ca

Our Mission

As the Catholic liberal arts college federated with the University of Saskatchewan, St. Thomas More College courageously explores the “riches of Revelation and of nature so that the united endeavour of intelligence and faith will enable people to come to the full measure of their humanity” (*Ex corde ecclesiae*, 5). We are an inclusive community open to all persons. Through our teaching we are devoted to a partnership of learning and growth with our students which addresses the synthesis of faith and reason in all aspects of the human condition. The creative discovery of truth and its open dissemination nourishes our life as teachers and members of the wider academic and Catholic intellectual community. As a Catholic college we are called to share in Christ's service to the people of God. Thus, the work of our college is not an end in itself, but must find application for the good of humanity.

Our Invitation to You

Contact us with reminiscences, anecdotal college stories, updates on what you're doing now or news from abroad. We'll print it here in *Discover More!* Just get in touch with one of the people listed below:

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Discover More! is a publication of
St. Thomas More Alumni and Development

Mailed under Canada Post
Publication Mail Sales
Agreement No. 40063294

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to
Development St. Thomas More College
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