

FALL 2010

**STM**

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

**DISCOVER!**  
**MORE**

# Steering the Course of Catholic Education

- Father George Smith  
Appointed Superior General  
of Basilian Fathers
- 22nd Keenan Lecture
- Remembering Ogle Hall
- Q&A with Acting  
President Ken Smith



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Dear Alumni and Friends:

While the calendar still reads 2010, STM College recently leapt into the future. Suddenly, we were placed in a circumstance that wasn't expected until 2013. We knew that sometime in 2013 there would no longer be Basilian Fathers working daily as faculty members or staff – the first time this has occurred since our founding in 1936. But we didn't know that in 2010, Fr. George Smith, C.S.B., would be elected Superior General of the Basilian Fathers and resign his presidency at STM.

The moment of notice of Fr. George's election by the Basilian Council was bittersweet. We are sorry that he is unable to complete his final term as President, but we are elated that the Basilian General Council elected such a great friend and supporter of STM as its earthly and spiritual leader. We had counted on President George Smith leading the College into a new relationship with the Basilian Fathers and the Diocese of Saskatoon, but now that isn't the case. We still, however, are counting on Fr. George, Superior General, to work with us in developing these new, critically important relationships.

The College is searching for a new president and an outstanding committee of our Corporation spearheads this process. They have been working hard inviting stakeholders to suggest the characteristics necessary for a successful presidency and arranging for a wide sweeping, public search for applicants. In the interim, I am delighted to be at the College. With God's blessing and a bit of luck, a new president will be in office to lead the College through the celebration of its 75th Anniversary during 2011-12.

Enrolment this year remains strong and we are particularly pleased to see increasing student interest in our Catholic Studies Minor and in the Community Service Learning programs. One part of our mission reads, "As a Catholic College we are called to share in Christ's service to the people of God." Increased participation in the Community Service programs is one measure of how the College helps people answer that call.

We are ever grateful for the spirit of giving manifest in our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. We are pleased to have been able to recognize the spirit and commitment to service by presenting distinguished alumni awards to two graduates who exemplify lifetimes of extraordinary service. You will read more about them elsewhere in this publication.

To all those reading this message, thanks for sharing in God's work by doing what you do. Particular thanks to the Very Reverend George Smith for his leadership over the last 10 years, which has strengthened the claim that STM College is the leading Catholic liberal arts college federated with a Canadian University.

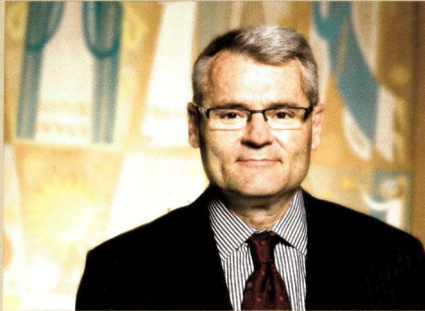
Please stay tuned to upcoming announcements about the 75th Anniversary and about the College's progress in creating an Endowed Academic Position in Catholic Studies.



Yours truly,

Dr. Ken Smith

## Father George Smith Appointed Superior General of Basilian Fathers



Very Reverend  
George Smith, C.S.B.

Father George Smith, C.S.B., has been elected Superior General of the Congregation of St. Basil (Basilian Fathers). His appointment was effective immediately and Fr. Smith stepped down as President of St. Thomas More College on September 30 to lead the Basilian Fathers for the next four years.

“It’s with mixed emotions that I leave my friends and colleagues at St. Thomas More College and the University of Saskatchewan,” says Fr. Smith. “However, I am excited by the possibilities of responding to this new calling in ways that allow me to build upon my experiences here at STM, while supporting and advancing the Mission of the Basilian Fathers.”

Since his appointment as President of STM in 2000, Fr. Smith successfully led the College in the design and implementation of successive strategic plans, directed one of its most significant capital campaigns, championed major changes in governance that resulted in the restructuring of STM’s Board of Governors, and advocated for an ambitious faculty renewal program that significantly increased the number of tenured faculty within the College. He also worked to establish the Community Service Learning program at STM, which was the first of its kind at the U of S.

## Welcome to Dr. Ken Smith, Acting President



Dr. Ken Smith

Dr. Ken Smith took the reins as Acting President of STM College beginning October 1, 2010.

Dr. Smith graduated from The Johns Hopkins University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Economy. He went on to complete a Masters and PhD in Business Administration from the University of Rochester and Georgia State University, respectively. In 1968, Dr. Smith came to the University of Saskatchewan to teach Marketing and Management in the Edwards School of Business (formerly the College of Commerce). He later served as the College’s Associate Dean, and subsequently became the University’s Registrar, a position he held until his retirement.

In addition to his professional work, Dr. Smith has been an engaged and active community member. He has served on various community boards, including the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, the Saskatoon Roman Catholic Diocesan Finance Committee, the Saskatoon Riverside Rotary Club and Jubilee Residences Inc. Dr. Smith has also faithfully and actively served the St. Thomas More College community as a member of the College’s Corporation and as member and Chair of its Board of Governors. In 2008, Dr. Smith was presented with the St. Thomas More Medal in recognition of the care, integrity and faith that characterize his many contributions to community and public life.

## Faculty Renewal

We are pleased to report that **Dr. Patti McDougall** was reappointed Associate Dean of St. Thomas More College.

We are continuing our faculty renewal efforts through the recruitment of new faculty and through the collegial processes by which faculty earn tenure and are promoted through the ranks.

**Dr. Charles Smith** joins us from York University where he graduated with his PhD in 2009, with a thesis in the areas of political economy, labour law, historical institutionalism and Canadian politics. He brings with him the interesting experiences of having worked for a member of Provincial Parliament (Ontario) as well as having taught in a number of Canadian universities, including Brock, York and the University of Toronto.

**Dr. David McGrane** (Political Studies) was granted Renewal of Probation as an Assistant Professor.

**Dr. Sarah Powrie** (English) was granted Renewal of Probation as an Assistant Professor.

**Dr. Gregory Loewen** (Sociology) was granted Tenure as an Assistant Professor.

**Dr. Daniel Regnier** (Philosophy) was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.



Dr. Charles Smith



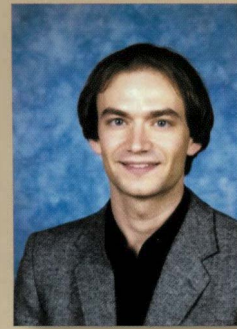
Dr. David McGrane



Dr. Sarah Powrie



Dr. Gregory Loewen



Dr. Daniel Regnier

## New Coordinator for Engaged Learning

Caitlin Ward, our new Engaged Learning Coordinator, brings with her an MA in English and a special expertise in communications (including documentary filmmaking) that we will put to good use as we promote and grow our Community Service Learning Program. Caitlin is a graduate of STM and was herself a participant in community service learning during her student days.



Caitlin Ward

## Distinguished Alumni

Thank you both for your dedication to this College and to the service commitment embedded in our mission.



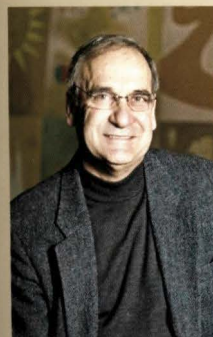
Barb Berscheid

### **Barbara Berscheid – Distinguished Alumna, 2010**

Barb Berscheid was born in Kuroki, Saskatchewan and attended high school in Wadena. Her BA in sociology was earned through Saint Thomas More College. Later, she returned to the University and completed an advanced Certificate in Science. Barb is married to Bruce, a physician, and together they have a son and twin daughters.

Barb has a long record of community service, including service with her parish – St. Anne’s in Saskatoon. Her tenure with St. Anne’s choir is approaching 20 years and she has chaired the pastoral Council and served on the finance committee long enough to see at least three Saskatoon bishops come and go.

Barb has provided considerable service to Saint Thomas More College beginning in 1993 when she was elected to Corporation as a Member at Large. One year later, she was elected to the Board of Governors and served for nine years. She has served on numerous committees of the Board during times when the Saint Thomas More College Act was under revision and the bylaws were under major review. She has served the Board of St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation for five years and has chaired it for the last two. As chair of the Foundation, she also sits on the Hospital Board itself. And for more than 12 years, she has volunteered in the St. Paul’s Palliative Care Unit.



Art Battiste

### **Art Battiste – Distinguished Alumnus, 2010**

Art Battiste was born in Carlsbad, New Mexico. He was raised there and in Saskatoon where he attended St. Paul’s high school. While at STM, Art studied English and Philosophy. During this time, he was deeply involved with Newman, acting as National Convener, then Western Vice-President, and finally the top post, National President. He is a Life Member of the John Henry Newman Honor Society.

Art began his career as a classroom teacher after which he held numerous civil service positions in Saskatchewan, federally and in Nova Scotia. In between handling these many portfolios, he was the Regina Regional Director of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council.

Art came back to his Saskatoon roots in 1995 as Vice-President of a Western Canada consulting and marketing research firm. He has again immersed himself in service to the community including the University of Saskatchewan Research Ethics Board and the United Way. He is the immediate past President of the Saint Thomas More College-Newman Alumni Association and served on the STM Corporation for nine years. And, in each year since returning to Saskatoon, he has participated in Chapel ministries at STM.

Art is married to Angela Hull, herself a graduate of STM. Together they have four children who have earned among them six undergraduate and professional degrees, four of them from the University of Saskatchewan. Art and Angela have been blessed with three grandchildren.

## Steering the Course of Catholic Education



Gertrude Rompré

While Gertrude Rompré likes a good party, she's hoping STM's 75th anniversary celebrations will be about more than just streamers and party favours.

In 2011, the College will celebrate its founding by the Basilian Fathers 75 years ago.

"While our anniversary is certainly a cause for celebration," explains Rompré, a former Campus Minister at STM, "it also marks an important stage in the development of our College; we need to be aware – perhaps now more than ever – of our Catholic identity and Mission."

With only one Basilian Father currently present in the College – down from three after the recent retirement of Fr. Ed Heidt and the appointment of Fr. George Smith as Superior General – STM's ties to the Basilian Fathers were drastically reduced in 2010.

In fact, the last 30 years have seen Catholic colleges and universities

throughout Canada and the United States facing similar challenges; declining numbers within founding and sponsoring religious orders has made it increasingly difficult to recruit priests, brothers, or sisters for academic or pastoral positions within the colleges and universities they founded.

Who, then, are to be the stewards of Catholic identity and mission within these institutions?

"In the vast majority of these situations," says Rompré, "the Boards of these Catholic colleges and universities have set themselves the important task of taking steps to ensure that the unique gifts and mission – the charisms – of the founding or sponsoring religious order are sustained."

According to Rompré, an important part of this process for these institutions is refocusing themselves on their Catholic mission. The contributions of the religious orders need to be celebrated, and their vision for Catholic Higher Education nurtured so that it flourishes well into the future.

In many instances, this has resulted in the development of a new position within senior administrations – one that focuses on Catholic, mission-related issues and activities.

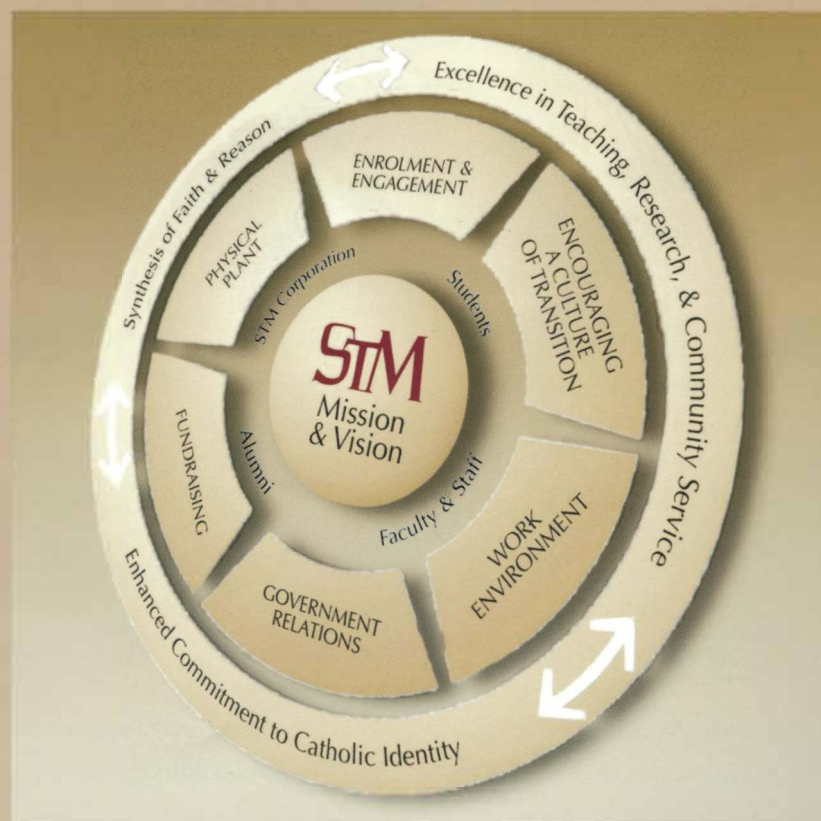
At STM, this new position is called the Special Advisor to the President on Mission Education, and Gertrude Rompré was appointed to it for a two-year term beginning November 1, 2010.

This is the first position of its kind in Canada.

“The challenges facing this position are certainly significant,” says Rompré, “but the chance to contribute so directly to shaping and promoting our Catholic identity and Basilian heritage is an extraordinary opportunity for me. It’s very exciting.”

The Special Advisor to the President will advise STM’s President on all aspects of the College’s life that pertain to its Mission as a Catholic and Basilian college. Rompré will be a resource for the implementation of those areas of the College’s 2010-13 Strategic Plan that relate to Catholic and Basilian identity, and she’ll serve as an important resource for annual events such as the Academic Mass, the Feast of St Thomas More, Basilian Suppers, and Inclusivity Week, which is a new initiative within the 2010-13 Strategic Plan.

“This is a new position,” she says, “so my first job must be to ensure that everyone understands why I am here and why this position is so crucial to STM’s future and to its Mission as we move forward implementing our new strategic plan over the next three years.”



2010-13 Strategic Plan

## Poet Tim Lilburn Delivers 22nd Keenan Lecture at STM



Dr. Tim Lilburn

Award-winning poet Tim Lilburn may live in Victoria, B.C., but his heart's never far from Saskatchewan. "I was born on the prairies," he says, "and the landscape has shaped me both as a writer and human being." A former professor at St. Thomas More College now teaching writing at the University of Victoria, Lilburn delivered the 22nd Keenan Lecture at STM on October 21.

The author of eight books of poetry, Lilburn has been nominated twice for the Governor General's Award in Literature, winning it in 2003 for his book *Kill-site*. "I've come to see poetry as an extension of my formal academic training, and in certain situations it may be more effective than philosophy for reading the world."

Reading the world, he says, relies upon our ability to engage in a meaningful conversation with the land around us. "An important part of this larger conversation, especially in Western Canada, is a full exchange between descendants of settlers and First Nations people, a dialogue now alive largely in aspiration."

Former Saskatchewan poet laureate, Louise Halfe, was also on hand and provided a formal response to the lecture.

Lilburn explored our often complex relationship to land in his Keenan Lecture, which attracted more than 100 people from across campus and the wider community. "Land is us, shaping our language, our thinking, contributing to the formation of our dispositions," he says. "It helps supply whatever wisdom we might be able to claim, but only if we are open to its influences."

The Keenan Lecture honours the memory and achievements of STM's first Dean, Dr. Michael Keenan.

## The Beatification of John Henry Newman



Cardinal John Henry Newman  
(1801 - 1890)

On September 19, 2010, Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801 - 1890) was beatified at an open air mass in Birmingham. Beatification is the final step before canonization. Cardinal Newman will be the first English person who has lived since the 17th century, officially recognized as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

Newman was a Roman Catholic priest and cardinal who converted to Roman Catholicism from Anglicanism in October 1845. Because of his many accomplishments, a group of Saskatoon Catholic laity chose his name to represent their society in 1926. One of the goals of the Newman Society was to establish a Catholic college in Saskatoon. In 1927, Newman Hall ("the white house") was built and the student Newman Club was formed in the fall of 1928.



# Remembering Ogle Hall



STM Students Union Welcome BBQ

Late next June, the ownership of Ogle Hall, located on Seminary Road just northwest of the College of Education, will be transferred from St. Thomas More College to the University of Saskatchewan.

STM's Board of Governors has approved a motion to invest the proceeds from the sale in the College's Inspiring Minds campaign, a fundraising initiative focused on supporting the creation of an Endowed Academic Position in Catholic Studies at the College.



1998 dedication ceremonies

If the walls of Ogle Hall could talk, they'd have a lot to tell us. They'd reminisce about 1966, when the Saskatoon Catholic Diocese hired Tinos-Kortes to design the building. Named St. Pius X Seminary, the building honoured Pope Pius X (1903-1914) and contained a chapel and facilities for 32 seminarians.

They'd tell us about 1996 when the seminary was converted into a student residence operated by STM. The facility was renamed Ogle Hall in honour of the former Rector, Father Bob Ogle, shortly after his death in 1998. Every year, it offered 50 students a quiet place to live and study, as well as close proximity to the academic, social, recreational and cultural facilities and activities of both St. Thomas More College and the university.



Fun and games in the dining room

What else would the walls of Ogle Hall say? They'd tell us about the evolution of technology – the first television, the first computer, the first iPad. And they'd tell us that some things never change, like ping pong tournaments, late-night study sessions and food fights.

A lot of history was made in the comfort of Ogle Hall – and a lot of memories. It's sad to say goodbye, but it's good to know the sale will be used to advance the Catholic mission of the College by creating a position that will steward the College's emerging Catholic Studies program.



Good food - good times



*Inspiring Minds*  
A Campaign for an Endowed Chair in  
Catholic Studies

## Q&A with Acting President Ken Smith



*A former Associate Dean and professor in Marketing and Management at the Edwards School of Business, as well as a U of S Registrar, Dr. Ken Smith took the reins at STM as Acting President on October 1st, 2010. We wanted to get to know him better, so we met with Dr. Smith to find out what it takes to be Acting President of STM.*

**Where are you from and what brought you to Saskatoon?**

Through high school, Catholic schools in Chicago Illinois grounded me both academically and spiritually. I left Chicago to study elsewhere in the States eventually completing doctoral studies in Marketing and Management. I needed some money to complete those studies and a friend had just joined the faculty at what is now the Edwards School of Business at the University of Saskatchewan. He persuaded me to come here to teach, and I promised myself that I would stay for no more than two years. That was over 40 years ago.

**How long have you been involved with STM, and in what capacities?**

The STM chapel was my first place of worship when I arrived in Saskatoon, so my association goes back over 40 years. I am Registrar Emeritus from the University of Saskatchewan and enjoyed a wonderful association with the College during my 15 years in that job. As I was approaching retirement from the University, I was invited to join the STM Corporation and subsequently I was elected to the Board of Governors, serving there until 2007.

**What was your first reaction when you were asked to be Acting President of STM?**

My first reaction was “Why me Lord?” I still don’t have a convincing answer to that question, but the joke around the College is I was asked to serve because they wouldn’t have to change the name on the door. I’m a ‘Smith’ and Fr. George Smith was called from the presidency to be the Superior General of the Basilian Fathers. From the beginning, and now after a couple of months in the College, I can say that I am honoured to be called to service in such a great institution.

**What are the most significant challenges facing the Acting President of STM?**

The College is in great shape. The collaboration of more than 50 people over the last year in the development of a three-year strategic plan and the work of Faculty Council in generating a five-year academic plan provides the necessary vision and milestones to know both where we want to be and whether or not we are making appropriate progress to achieving our goals. My biggest challenge in the next few months is making sure that we compensate for the loss of a full-time Basilian presence in the College. I need to make sure that the Basilian legacy remains alive and is advanced.

How do you plan to ensure this happens?

Fortunately, Fr. George left a great gift for me and the College. He created the new position of Special Advisor to the President on Mission Education, which has been assumed by Gertrude Rompré.

Why is this position such an important one?

I believe that the Mission of STM is brought to life by the whole of the STM Community – students, faculty, staff, worshipping community, alumni and friends. For almost 75 years that community life, that vitality, has been encouraged by the Basilians. They have been the cheerleaders for our Catholic identity. To remain vibrant we need to keep the cheers resounding, and we're counting on the Special Advisor to be our head cheerleader.

In your view, why is STM the best place on campus to work and study?

Right away when you walk into the building you know that this is a great place to be. You know because of the tempting aromas coming from Choices at STM. You know because of the friendly greetings you get in the hallways, classrooms, chapel, library and offices. You feel that enriching the student experience is paramount in the thinking of everyone here. You feel that the people here hold true to the statement within the mission that “we are an inclusive community.” And besides, people here know how to have fun!

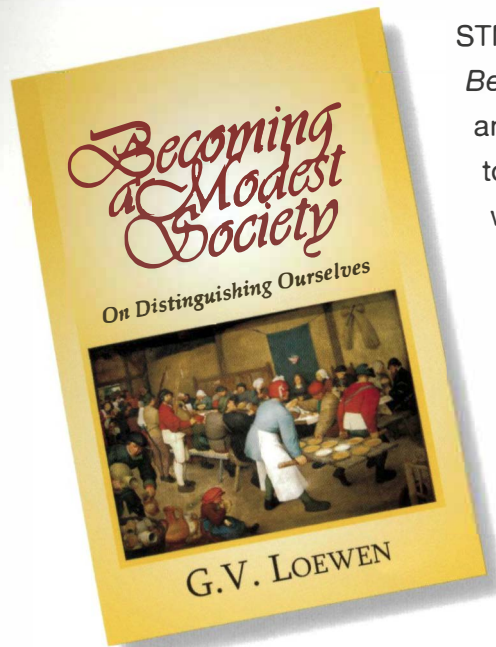
## STM is on Facebook!



Become an STM fan on facebook – it's a great way to stay informed of everything that's happening at STM.

First-time visitors, go to [www.stmcollege.ca](http://www.stmcollege.ca), navigate to “information for current students” and click on the facebook link.

# A "Modest" Accomplishment!



STM's Dr. Gregory V. Loewen has launched a new book entitled *Becoming A Modest Society*. In this sequel to his fascinating analysis of religion and science, *What is God?* Loewen proceeds to ask the major question implicit in this previous work; what then is human? Engaging the reader with both philosophical and personal narrative, *Becoming a Modest Society* is a must read for all those concerned with not only the current state of social relations, but of humanity itself.

To read an interview with Dr. Loewen, visit our website at:

[www.stmcollege.ca](http://www.stmcollege.ca)

## 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

Gédeon Denis  
Ken Dutkiwch  
Bridget Nwarunma Enwerem  
Annette Hamoline (nee Lepage),  
Fr. Leonard Kennedy, C.S.B.  
Lorne Medernach  
Fr. O'Halloran, C.S.B.  
Rabbi Roger Pavey  
Mary Raffey  
Wilma Rozema (nee de Vries)  
Bryan Woods

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 Main Office at (306) 966-8900.

## 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!*

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