

SPRING 2010

**STM**

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

**DISCOVER!**  
**MORE**

# Enriching Catholic Education

## Dr. John Liptay Talks About STM's New Minor in Catholic Studies

- **Aboriginal Achievement Week**
- **Improving Saskatoon's Health**
- **Discovering Career and Vocation Paths**

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# From the STM President's Office



Dear Honoured Alumni and Friends,

For several years now we have been giving a great deal of thought at STM to how we would honour the Basilian contribution in the years leading up to and following 2013, when we will be in a new relationship with the Basilian Fathers and the Diocese of Saskatoon.

The best way to continue the Basilian tradition at STM is to ask, "What have the Basilian Fathers given to STM during the last 75 years?" For many, when they think of the Basilian Fathers, they think of individual Basilians – priests oftentimes diverse in background and perspective, who have impacted their education, and even their lives, in a variety of ways.

But as different as individual Basilians may be from one another, those that have served at STM over these many years have all had a common purpose: to bring about educational encounters between students and the richness of the Catholic intellectual tradition through the disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. Every Basilian who has ever served at STM, whether on the faculty or staff, has dedicated himself to this mission.

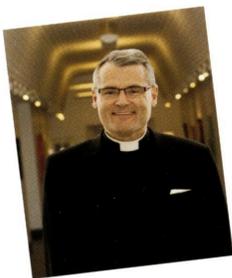
If I was approached by someone with the question, "What is Catholic Studies at STM?", I would be ready with a quick and brief response: it is an academic program designed to bring about educational encounters between students and the richness of the Catholic intellectual tradition through the humanities and the social sciences. You may have noticed a similarity between my response to this question and my description of the Basilian contribution to STM over the last 75 years. In fact, they are the same, word for word.

That is why I think the best way for us to preserve and honour the very best of the Basilian contribution to STM over the years is by the development of our Catholic Studies program, and the full endowment of a tenured academic position in Catholic Studies through our *Inspiring Minds* campaign.

I am thrilled to say that our academic program for a Minor in Catholic Studies has been fully approved by the University of Saskatchewan's University Council, a landmark achievement in our College's history. When we succeed in our *Inspiring Minds* campaign, we will have created a permanent legacy to the Basilian Fathers at STM.

If you are interested in how you might honour the Basilian tradition at STM, I invite you to visit our *Inspiring Minds* webpage at [www.stmcollege.ca/inspiringminds](http://www.stmcollege.ca/inspiringminds).

Yours Truly,



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'George Smith'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Fr. George Smith, C.S.B.

## STM Celebrates Aboriginal Achievement Week



Members of Buffalo Boy Productions perform in the Fr. O'Donnell Auditorium as part of Aboriginal Achievement Week.

*Aboriginal Achievement Week* was celebrated across campus from March 1 to 5. A pipe ceremony sponsored by the Multi-Faith Chaplains Association kicked off the week, followed by a welcome breakfast hosted by STM Student Services. *The Spirit of Annie Mae*, a film about Anna Marie Pictou-Aquash, a leading Native political activist, was shown and several guest speakers, including Wanda McCaslin and Marilyn Poitras, gave presentations throughout the week. An on-campus employer career fair featured entertainment by the Mykal Gambul Band. The annual celebration of Aboriginal achievement and culture culminated with Metis and First Nations dance performances in the Fr. O'Donnell Auditorium.

## Coordinated Fundraisers Improve Saskatoon's Health

Several student organizations at St. Thomas More College coordinated their fundraising efforts in 2009-2010 to support the Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health (SWITCH). Through Valentine's Day flower sales, a steak night, a pub, and sales of "helping hens," the Newman Centre, STMSU and STM Knights of Columbus raised over \$1,000.

Inspired by the student's initiative, the STM Social Committee and the College administration added another \$1,000, bringing the total to \$2,155. SWITCH is a community service-learning partner of STM and it operates an interdisciplinary student-run health clinic, in conjunction with health professionals and community partners, to serve clients in Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods.



Megan Clark, a member of SWITCH, receives a cheque for \$2,155 at the Newman Coffeehouse on March 19.

# STM Helps Students Discover Career and Vocation Paths

STM's *Plan Your Career Week* was held from February 8 to 12 in collaboration with the College's Career and Vocational Centre (CVC) and its External Relations unit. It was designed to encourage students to examine their career paths and explore their vocations through a series of conversations with peers, professionals and mentors.



Newman Centre Co-Presidents Jasm'ine Lisaka and Kayla Derksen hand out Career Week literature.

The week started with a presentation from the U of S Student Employment and Career Centre and a reception catered by *Choices at STM*. Three events followed that allowed students direct access to alumni mentors, as well as opportunities to consider the notion of vocation in more detail.

The Careers in Education Panel, sponsored by the St. Thomas More/Newman Alumni Association, provided a unique mentoring opportunity for anyone with an interest in becoming a teacher. It gave them a chance to learn more about the profession from educators in the public and Catholic school systems. Special guests were alumni Nadine Cannell, Jason Cody, Cynthia Sprung and Reanne Lajeunesse. Dr. Egan Chernoff, from the College of Education, also joined the panel.

The Basilian Supper featured Father Ron Griffin, C.S.B., who shared stories about his call to sociology, priesthood, and religious life in the Congregation of Saint Basil.

The Pre-Law Symposium concluded the week's activities, and provided the forum for a panel-style discussion centering on the rewards and challenges associated with the profession of Law. Panel participants included Michelle Ouellette, Amanda Dodge, Bob Kirkpatrick, David Stack and Craig Neely. Stephen Bagwell, a member of the STM Pre-Law Club, served as Moderator.

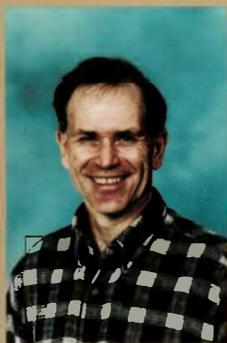
## STM is on Facebook!



*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.

## Fond Farewells



Father Ed Heidt, C.S.B.

**Rev. Edward R. Heidt, C.S.B. (BA'69, MSc'72, MDiv'75, PhD'89)**

This June, Father Heidt will leave STM and move to the Basilian Fathers' parish in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Father Heidt has been a sessional lecturer in English at STM for 18 years, and distinguished himself as an actor in various Newman Players productions and fringe festivals. Highlights include *Holding a Mirror to the Mountain*, a one-man show he toured to five Fringe Festivals in 1995; the 2003 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*; and his Shakespeare trilogy – *Shakespeare's Fools* (1997), *Shakespeare's Women* (1999) and *Shakespeare's Teacher* (2000) – which he wrote and produced with John Cieslinski. This fall, he will participate in a 100-day renewal program at the Sangre de Cristo retreat center.



Margaret Sanche

**Margaret Sanche (BA'84, MA'89)**

After 26 years, most of them as archivist/historian, Margaret will leave St. Thomas More College in June 2010. She began working at STM in 1984 on the Anglin Collection of Canadian Catholic History. In 1986, her book *Heartwood: A History of St. Thomas More College and Newman Centre at the University of Saskatchewan* was published and, in 1989, she completed her MA thesis on the pre-history of the college. In addition to her STM work, Margaret has served since 1993 as archivist/historian of the Diocese of Saskatoon and the Oblates of St. Mary's Province.

Discover More! is available online.

Just e-mail [lmuller@stmcollege.ca](mailto:lmuller@stmcollege.ca) and we'll add you to the e-list.



# Enriching Catholic Education

Calling the new program in Catholic Studies at St. Thomas More College a 'Minor' is somewhat of a misnomer; its impact on Catholic education at the University of Saskatchewan is likely to be significant.

"This is a major accomplishment for STM College," says Dr. Carl Still, Dean of the College since 2006. "Implementing our new Minor in Catholic Studies not only significantly differentiates our College, but emphasizes our commitment both to our students and our Catholic mission."

This new interdisciplinary Minor, which is now available through STM in conjunction with the College of Arts and Science at the U of S, can be completed alongside other arts and science three-year, four-year or Honours degrees.

In January, 15 students registered in Catholic Studies 200.3, the first course offered by STM toward the fulfillment of the 18-credit units required to complete the Minor.



Dr. John Liptay began teaching the first class toward the Minor in Catholic Studies in January.

"The students manifested a lively and enthusiastic interest in the subject matter," says Dr. John Liptay, who was the STM professor who taught the course.

Liptay, who joined the STM Philosophy department in 2005, believes that part of the program's appeal is its highly interdisciplinary approach.

"The students were genuinely excited to learn about the influence and reach of Catholicism, and the opportunity to do work across a range of disciplines proved both interesting and challenging to them."

"The new Minor in Catholic Studies is certainly a great way for our students to supplement their major program area of study," he adds.

## But what exactly is Catholic Studies?

Broadly speaking, Catholic Studies explores how Catholicism has influenced and contributed to various forms and patterns of thought and cultural expression. It accordingly provides an interdisciplinary approach to the academic study of Catholicism, one that encourages students to investigate its history, its artistic and literary culture, and its engagement with modern science, philosophy, and theology.

"While the Minor will be of special interest to those students who are of the Catholic faith," says Liptay, "the opportunity to learn about the mutually enriching relationship



The first class toward the Minor in Catholic Studies was offered in January 2010.

that Catholicism has had with thought and culture should have broad appeal, perhaps even extending beyond the College to the community level.”

The College recently committed publicly to the success of its emerging Catholic Studies program through the launch of the *Inspiring Minds* fundraising campaign, which is focused on establishing an *Endowed Academic Position in Catholic Studies* at STM.

The *Endowed Academic Position*, which will be a prestigious academic post within the College, will distinguish STM as a preeminent source of Catholic education.

It will be funded through the support of STM’s most committed alumni and friends, as well as by those from the wider Catholic community who support the College’s educational mission.

Liptay believes that the establishment of the *Endowed Academic Position* is crucial to the success of Catholic Studies at STM.

“The person who assumes this position will play a key role in fostering, promoting, and developing the Catholic Studies program at STM. This will likely involve the design and creation of new courses and perhaps even an internal development of the program to include a Major.”

For more information on Catholic Studies at STM or on the *Inspiring Minds* campaign, please visit [www.stmcollege.ca/inspiringminds](http://www.stmcollege.ca/inspiringminds) or call 966-2955.



*Inspiring Minds*

A Campaign for an Endowed Chair in  
Catholic Studies

# STM panel discussion

- article previously published in *The Prairie Messenger*

By Andréa Ledding

David Peacock, STM Engaged Learning Coordinator, spoke about the importance of papal encyclicals in providing discussion, direction, and engagement in applying sound theological practice to present-day situations and informing Catholic social thought in today's individualistic society.

*"We need to critically examine our own lifestyle," Peacock summarized, noting in particular unregulated development and the effect it has on the marginalization of the poor and damage to the environment. "Rich nations need to lower their consumerism and live sustainably.*

*The poor are impacted directly by environmental destruction and the consumerism of the rich."*



Participants in a recent panel discussion at St. Thomas More College on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon were (left to right) Ryan Topping, David McCrane and David Peacock.

He cited CHEP's Good Food Box program – which distributes healthy and locally grown food close to cost, as a way to provide a market to growers and a healthy source of food for the community as an example of what Pope Benedict is calling for in wealthier nations.

*"There is only charity with justice – love is the ultimate for Benedict," Peacock said, adding this would degenerate into mere sentimentality without truth and justice – the feet of direct service and advocacy. "Justice is inseparable from charity, and intrinsic to it."*

Referring to Marxist criticism about the Church, he emphasized the need to change social structure, but not to err with Marxism in ruling out a spiritual end to this process.

*"The truth of the human person is that we are created, and loved, by God," Peacock noted, adding this extends to caring for creation on the entire planet – a spiritual as well as political task.*

Dr. David McGrane, a political studies professor, addressed the politics and public policy of the papal document, noting that it is the basic mission of STM to become a synthesis of faith and reason with Christ's love.

*"We need to become instruments of grace – to pour faith, justice, and love onto others the way God loves us," noted McGrane. "Charity is justice and the common good – if we love others with charity, we are just towards them."*

Speaking of an earthly duty to create a world that prefigures the undivided City of God, he emphasized that the mission is not about pity or random kindness but an authentic love for others which is embedded and manifested in public policy. The encyclical's timing – released during a global economic crisis – was no accident, he said. Profit for a few rich elites cannot be an exclusive goal while environmental and wealth disparities exist, nor can the market regulate itself.

*“What our government does, has moral effects – there is a certain ideology that created it,” said McGrane, noting that investments in alternative energy, environmental protection, and people friendly policies needed to be enacted. “But it is also important not only at the governmental, but the corporate and personal level.”*

Citizens and consumers need to improve and lead society justly, towards the common good of all, he added.

*“Good government policies will actually show our love for each other,”*

*said McGrane. “There is a moral dimension to economic and political decisions we’ve made.”*

SASKATOON - Pope Benedict XVI's recent encyclical *“Caritas in Veritate”* – Charity in Truth – was addressed by a well-attended St. Thomas More College (STM) panel presentation Nov. 18, 2009, moderated by STM president Rev. George Smith, C.S.B.

Dr. Ryan Topping, an STM Post-Doctoral Fellow in Catholic Studies, spoke about the tripartite soul of Plato's classical world – reason, will, and desire.

*“The cardinal virtues are fundamental – reason perfected becomes wisdom, which includes prudence, will perfected becomes courage... and moderation and temperance come from perfected desire,” he explained. “Justice orders all these things, which agrees with Plato and Aristotle.”*

The theological realm builds on the natural world, and hope perfects courage, while love and charity assist in creating moderation and justice. Pope Benedict's teachings reflect these notions – that love is the highest of the theological virtues.

*Topping also spoke about the net negative effect of aid in Africa, when done wrongly. “Aid has caused a decrease in economic output – while those who have refused aid have grown,” he said, noting the importance of choosing gifts that empower rather than disable, and open communication and consultation between parties. “Truth is necessary to charity.”*

# Singing and Swinging - The 2010 President's Gala with Kenny Colman

# PRESIDENT'S GALA

The 2010 President's Gala began in the newly remodeled Shannon library with STM staff and student volunteers greeting more than 130 STM alumni and friends. After an hour of mingling and viewing the paintings by artist Jessica Shurr, guests were escorted to *Choices at STM* where they experienced the innovative cooking of Executive Chef Amy Frank and her staff. The four-course menu consisted of ornamented roots, shoots and fruits; chestnut velouté; purifying lemon and anise; AAA Angus beef; and silky custard.

Following dinner and dessert, guests proceeded to the Father O'Donnell auditorium where they were entertained by internationally acclaimed jazz vocalist Kenny Colman. Colman is a fixture on the international club circuit, from Monte Carlo to New York's famed Tavern on the Green. His impressive list of admirers includes Grammy-winning producer David Foster, producer/composer Johnny Mandel and his long-time friend and mentor, Frank Sinatra. Accompanying Colman was a 13-piece band that consisted of members from both Vancouver and Saskatoon. After an evening of "Vegas style" entertainment, guests had the opportunity to visit with Colman about his experiences as a musician, along with a chance to get his autograph.

Thank you to all our STM gala supporters for making the 2010 President's Gala a success. It is because of your financial support and continued commitment to St. Thomas More College that we are able to continue to provide students with much-needed financial support through scholarships and bursaries. To our guests, volunteers and corporate sponsors, we thank you for your kindness and generosity.

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St. Thomas More College

# President's Gala

02-06-10



## Reunion Weekend 2010

St Thomas More College is pleased to welcome back all of its honoured-year graduates from 1970, 1965, 1960, 1955, and 1950 and earlier to...

University of Saskatchewan's 2010 Alumni Honoured-Years Reunion  
June 17-19, 2010  
Delta Bessborough Hotel  
Saskatoon, SK

STM honoured-year alumni are invited to a special college breakfast to celebrate your Reunion 2010. Join us on Friday, June 18 at 9:00 a.m. in *Choices at STM* for a special complimentary breakfast at STM in recognition of your honoured-year reunion.

If you are an honoured-year graduate and are not attending the Reunion, but wish to attend ONLY the breakfast, please RSVP to Luke Muller at 306-966-8918. To register for all Reunion 2010 activities, visit [www.usask.ca/alumni/reunion](http://www.usask.ca/alumni/reunion).

**CONGRATULATIONS and enjoy Reunion 2010!**



DISCOVER REUNION 2010, JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup>

# Remembering STM Past President Reverend Kennedy



St. Thomas More College honours the memory of Reverend Leonard Kennedy, C.S.B., past President of the College, who died peacefully on April 1, 2010, at the age of 87.

Father Kennedy's association with STM began shortly after he was ordained in 1947. He taught Philosophy and Psychology at STM until 1952, when he left to continue his graduate studies in Philosophy. He returned to STM, first to receive a PhD in 1958, then to serve as STM President from 1977 to 1982.

An advocate of scholarship and academia, and a true servant to his faith, Father Kennedy's career led him across Canada and beyond. He taught and served at St. Michael's College in Toronto, Assumption University in Windsor, the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Brescia University College and St. Peter's Seminary, both in London, Ontario, and Saint Lucia College in the West Indies. In 2006, Father Leonard retired to Anglin House in the Cardinal Flahiff Basilian Centre, Toronto.

The book *Heartwood*, by STM Archivist Margaret Sanche, points to Father Kennedy's deep commitment to Catholic education in the Basilian tradition: "During his three periods at St. Thomas More College between 1948 and 1982, Kennedy had become noted not only for his administrative work, but also for his scholarship in Philosophy, and his congenial relationships with the students and other members of the College community over the years."

## 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

Marie Therese LeClaire, BA'41

F. Borstmayer, BA'61

Denis Joseph Rolheiser, BA'63

Denis Favreau, BA'63

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](mailto: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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