A New Vehicle for Recruitment

STM Recruitment Officer and Academic Advisor

Linda Huard
We have embarked on a new academic year that will be unlike any other in the history of our college. At seven and a half months into the coronavirus pandemic, every institution in our society has had to adapt to the disruptions of Covid-19. With a second wave of the virus now affecting Canada, and no vaccine ready for widespread inoculation, there is no end in sight yet of the restrictions that currently govern our lives and our work.

At STM we are delivering all our courses remotely, which is to say that there is no in-person instruction taking place in our college this semester. And following the decision of the University of Saskatchewan, we will continue in this mode for the winter term as well. This has had the enormous benefit of preventing the outbreaks that we have seen on other university campuses that chose to resume in-person instruction. But it has challenged us in every aspect of our functioning and continues to do so. With winter now upon us in Saskatchewan, the toughest part of living through the pandemic is probably still to come.

And yet we have already surmounted the major technical challenges of delivering instruction remotely. The first phase of this occurred last spring with the radical shift from classroom instruction to online delivery in the space of three days. This was followed over the summer by extensive upgrades to the Wi-Fi throughout our building, after which we transitioned to a new learning management system known as Canvas. With the reopening of the building to employees in September, all faculty and most staff have now training other staff and students. Post-Secondary course and is...

Our Mental Health and Wellness Committee continues to distribute information on a regular basis to the whole college community, and we will be joining the Healthy Campus Saskatchewan initiative, which will soon receive funding from the provincial government. And, finally, STM alumus Henry Rema generously donated $100,000 to create a Student Emergency Bursary Fund in his name, which you can read more about in this issue of More News.

The pandemic has changed how we do what we do, but it has not changed what we do or why we do it. If anything, our strong sense of community and of mission has driven the creativity and resilience that are evident in every aspect of our functioning and continues to do so. With winter now upon us in Saskatchewan, the toughest part of living through the pandemic is probably still to come. We do what we do, but it has.

Add to that the clear priorities of our new College Plan, and we have abundant inspiration to guide us through the winter months ahead. If every challenge is an opportunity, we intend not only to weather the pandemic, but to come out of it stronger and more focused on our mission than ever.
Dean’s Message

What a year this has been. We’re going to talk about this summer and fall for a long time to come as a time of great anxiety, ferment, and upheaval, but also as one of change. Covid-19 has dragged us ten years into the future in a few short months as far as integration of technology into education and workplace is concerned. I don’t know if this is a good thing.

Will “campus life” ever come back, I anxi­ously ask myself? As I walk around the empty building devoid of students and faculty, looking at our usually busy cafeteria now looking forlorn, the only people in our chapel those painted in the Kuretek mural, our atrium cheerful with well­lit plants but otherwise empty, and the Shannon Library’s elegantly arched ceiling now filled with lifeless silence, I long for an STM as it was before March this year and all the years before: a lively, living building, a place of knowledge, a meeting place of promising youth and nurturing experience. A place that felt like home. When will this exile end?

But life, such as it is, goes on even in these reduced circumstances. Our faculty and staff have responded magnificently as the challenge of delivering courses remotely. Our enrolments have been very healthy so far this year:

- Covid Response Team and Ad Hoc Committee for Remote Delivery
  - I want to take this opportunity to record my gratitude to the members of Covid­19 Response Team and the Ad Hoc Committee for Remote Delivery. They worked throughout this summer to ensure that the College was ready, both physically and academically, for the re­turn of remote teaching and learning this term. The fact that we have negotiated the fall term without any problems is a testament to our preparedness and that, of course, is a credit to all of our faculty, staff, and students. The Team and the Committee played a large role in getting us all to that level of preparedness. Thank you.

Teaching Excellence and Margaret Dutli Award Winners

Congratulations to Bohdan Kordan for being awarded the Margaret Dutli Award and to Zach Yuzwa for winning the Teaching Excellence Award for the academic year 2019­20.

Thank you for your wonderful service to the College and the community.

College Plan 2025

We have launched our College Plan 2025 and embarked on a new chapter in our history. The whole STM community came together and, through consultations and suggestions, made this a great exercise. I think we have a great plan and am confident that its implementa­tion over the next five years will be as fruitful and exciting as the crafting of it over the last two. I would like especially to thank our repre­sentatives on the Steering Committee for their support, commitment, and countless hours. Our faculty members, Daniel Regnier and Cindy Wallace, our STM Indigenous Scholar, Harry Lafond, staff members Linda Huard and Marie Koop, STM student Veronica Lucas, along with Denis Raffay and Jacquie Berg. I would also like to thank my co­chair of the Steering Committee, Gertrude Rompert, for the way she has led and completed this wonderful exercise.

Centre for Faith, Reason, and Justice

Finally, after so many years in the making, the Centre for Faith, Reason, and Justice is going to be launched in January this year. The Advisory Committee for the Centre has met a couple of times this term, and all is ready for the launch.

Catholic Studies Certificate

After several years of planning and hard work, the Catholic Studies Certificate program has been approved by the USAS Academic Program Committee. This certificate provides us with an opportunity to reach more students with a subject matter that is at the heart of our mission. Thanks are due to many people, especially: David Parkinson (A&S English), Cindy Wallace, (English), Zach Yuzwa (History) Susanna Barnes (A&S Anthropology), Alexis Dahl (Director of the Programs Office, A&S) and Laura Mitchell (Academic Admin Assistant).

Enrolment Management Strategic Plan

Our current STM Strategic Enrolment Management Plan has come to a close. I can say without any hesitation that it’s been a great success. We have seen strong increases in enrolment over the last five years. I want to thank everyone involved in drafting that plan and implementing it. Preparations for the next plan are underway. The College community will have a chance to offer advice and suggestions to the Enrolment Management Committee, the body responsible for this task.

Things to look for in Winter Term and Spring and Summer 2021

- How our enrolment holds up in the second term. Even as the promise of new vaccines is in the air, remote delivery continues, at least in the winter term. How will it affect student morale?
- Plan 2025: We do have an implementation plan and an Implementation Committee, but if we are not in the building, how do we go about managing it?
- Spring and Summer 2021: in­class or continuation of remote delivery?
- Will the vaccines bring back our old way of campus life?

As we march on under the weight of an unrelenting pandemic and this coming winter, let us remember: We have seen many winters, and there’s always spring at the end of each winter!

Dr. Zachary Yuzwa, PhD
St. Thomas More College Teaching Excellence Award

Engaging and inspiring students, while strengthening the offerings of his depart­ment while advancing his own research goals has made him an important and distinguished for Dr. Zach Yuzwa, assistant professor in the Department of History at St. Thomas More College.

Dr. Yuzwa has been named the recipient of the 2019-2020 St. Thomas More College Teaching Excellence Award. The award was established to recognize the STM instructors who make outstanding contributions to the learning and working environment at the College. The goal of the award is to recognize excellence in teaching, as demonstrated through the instructor’s knowledge of the field, the quality of student learning, and the instructor’s positive interac­tion and rapport with students. The award also recognizes both administrative service and scholarship of teaching and learning, which contribute to teaching practices within the academic community. Nominations are made by students, STM instructors, or STM alumni, and is adjudicated by the members of the STM Teaching Committee.

In announcing the honour, Dr. David McGane, Chair of the Teaching Committee, noted Dr. Yuzwa’s exemplary dedication to his students. “Professor Yuzwa has made a special effort to provide excellent teaching to students in history and the classics. He excels at creating dynamic discussions in both large and small classes,” McGane said.

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Dr. Bohdan Kordan, PhD
Margaret Dutli Professional and Community Service Award

Dr. Bohdan Kordan, a professor in the Political Studies department at STM, works on issues related to nationalism, Canadian foreign policy, the historical cartography of Eastern Europe, and contemporary Ukraine.

Dr. Kordan’s work in the community – both locally and internationally – has had a significant and long-lasting impact.

Dr. Kordan’s work shows a lifetime dedicated to advancing the interests of the Ukrainian community in Canada and addressing issues around internment. He played a key role in the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) National Redress Committee that negotiated a $10 million settle­ment with the Government of Canada for ethno-cultural communi­ties impacted by WWII internment. He has worked with local partners to create a public memorial and a permanent museum display about the internments to teach about tolerance and rights.

One of Dr. Kordan’s most longstanding projects has been the Prairie Centre for Ukrainian History (PCUH). He was its founding director in 1995 and has served as director multiple times in the years following.

His work with PCUH has included creating a partner institute for Canadian Studies in Ukraine, the Mohyla Lecture Series, Heritage Press, and countless other conferences and lectures. For his contributions, Dr. Kordan has the Shevchenko Medal from the UCC, the Nation Builders’ Award from the UCC-Sask Provincial Council, and the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal.

Dr. Kordan’s work has left an indelible mark on STM, the Ukrainian com­munity in Saskatchewan and Canada, and beyond and it is for that rea­son the Professional Community Service Committee (PCSC) is pleased to be able to honour Dr. Kordan with the Margaret Dutli Professional and Community Service Award.

St. Thomas More College Faculty Department Heads

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St. Thomas More College Teaching Excellence Award

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St. Thomas More College Faculty Department Heads

Michael Cichan
St. Thomas More College

HISTORY

Sharon Wright
St. Thomas More College

LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & CULTURAL STUDIES

John Liptay
St. Thomas More College

PHILOSOPHY

Chris Hryniew
St. Thomas More College

RELIGION & STUDIES

Gerry Farthing
St. Thomas More College

ECONOMICS

Sarah Knudson
St. Thomas More College

POLITICAL STUDIES

Charles Smith
St. Thomas More College

PSYCHOLOGY

Gerry Farthing
St. Thomas More College

SOCIOLOGY

Sarah Knudson (Acting)
Academic Mass celebrates another year of studies at STM

While the STM Chapel is usually filled with STM professors in their academic robes, as well as students, staff and friends of the college, this year’s Academic Mass only allowed for 15 masked attendees strategically separated for safety. The new measures were put in place to protect against the spread of the COVID-19 virus. But while a mass in the pandemic era has a decidedly different feel, the spirit of celebration remains intact. The traditional handshake that accompanies the sign of peace is absent, but other gestures of good will are nevertheless apparent. An act of spiritual communion connects both in person and virtual worshippers.

Pandemic protocols alter delivery, but spirit of service to mission of Catholic higher education remains the same.

By Paul Sinkewicz The Most Reverend Mark Hagemoen, Roman Catholic Bishop of Saskatoon, presided over the annual St. Thomas More College Academic Mass on Wednesday with Fr. Andre Lalach co-presiding.

The number of people who could attend the live ceremony was small, but the college has taken steps to ensure all who wish to are able to participate virtually. Visit the STM College website to link in electronically:

email us to set a time when we can meet
Send the team a note on Facebook or Instagram
Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends can connect on-line at www.stmcollege.ca and via multiple social media platforms:

On Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/campusministry.stm/ On Twitter: @stm_ministry
On Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/stm_campusministry/

STM Campus Ministry Weekly Programming

MONDAY 10:00 am - Centering Prayer**
TUESDAY 11:30 am - Liturgy of the Word Live* WEDNESDAY 12 Noon - The Good Lunch*** 3:00 pm - Bible Study Live!*
THURSDAY 11:00 am - Catholic Current* 4:00 pm - Self Care Video Series**
FRIDAY 11:30 am - Divine Liturgy Live!* 4:00 pm - The Inquiring Mind** 5:00 pm - STM Campus Ministry Team are still available to journey with you during this time of stress and anxiety.
Send the team a note on Facebook or email us to set a time when we can meet electronically:

Michael - mmaclean@stmcollege.ca
Celeste - cwoloschuk@stmcollege.ca
Fr. Andre - alalach@stmcollege.ca
Gertrude - grompre@stmcollege.ca

PASTORAL CARE Caring for the whole person is a hallmark of St. Thomas More College. Campus ministry takes this to heart by attending to a wide array of student needs including a pastoral concern for student mental health and wellness. Fr. André has been certified as a trainer for The Inquiring Mind (TIM) – Post Secondary. If you haven’t heard of it, TIM is geared towards an undergraduate student audience, and aims to increase awareness of mental health, reduce the stigma of mental illnesses, and offer resources to maintain positive mental health and increase resiliency. The program was originally designed to be presented in-person, but as a result of COVID, it has been adapted for online delivery. Fr. André will offer TIM to STM students over the course of this academic year.

On October 9th, the Catholic Church celebrates the feast day of one of its newest saints, St. John Henry Newman. A giant of intellect and faith, St. John has shaped our very idea of what it means to be a university as well as the practice of pastoral care within Catholic colleges and universities worldwide. His motto, “heart speaks to heart” has been particularly poignant during the pandemic. How do we, as a learning and believing community, continue to stay connected - “heart speaking to heart” – in a physically isolated, virtual world? The work of the STM Campus Ministry Team since the onset of COVID-19 has been about doing just that. We have responded to the pandemic through prayer, ongoing pastoral care, and engaging in creative programming on new and varied platforms.

PRAYER Working to bring liturgies to life during a pandemic is a nuanced challenge. Liturgy (and really any kind of public prayer) is meant to be lived and experienced physically together as a community. However, as we have all come to know during this pandemic, gathering in such a way poses a serious risk to each person present and even beyond. This has called us to be innovative in our approach to liturgy. Our first experiment came with our Academic Mass, celebrated September 20th and delivered virtually for the first time. Presided by Bishop Mark Hagemoen, it was a wonderful experience graced by collaborative support from our colleagues and enthusiastic participation from the whole STM community. The return of weekly Divine Liturgies led by Fr. André Lalach, and a weekday Liturgy of the Word, both live-streamed from our Chapel, have marked our most recent steps on the journey of the return of liturgy to STM. Looking forward, we are discerning how to bring back the Mass, in the safest, most effective way, and how we will approach the eventual return of a congregation in our Chapel.

PROGRAMS AND PLATFORMS In March, in the span of a few weeks, St. Thomas More Campus Ministry went virtual. This approach to ministry has continued this fall, concentrating on reaching out to students via email and the Internet. The Campus Ministry Team offers a full array of weekly programming online, including Bible Study, Centering Prayer, and Catholic Current (in collaboration with King’s University). Campus ministers also stay connected to our student groups. Indeed, this virtual world has allowed even greater connections between student groups like Newman at STM with other Newman Centres across the country!

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends can connect on-line at www.stmcollege.ca and via multiple social media platforms:

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On Twitter: @stm_ministry
On Instagram: stm_campusministry

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Heart Speaks to Heart…Even in the midst of a pandemic, heart speaks to heart in new and creative ways. In February, we could not have imagined ministry that cuts through the barriers of time and space.

On Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/campusministry.stm/

On Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/stm_campusministry/

On Twitter: @stm_ministry

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Campus ministers invite students in need of spiritual support to contact them anytime:

Celeste at cwoloschuk@stmcollege.ca
Fr. André at alalach@stmcollege.ca
Michael at mmaclean@stmcollege.ca
Congratulations!

View the complete list of spring STM graduates at stmcollege.ca


These STM graduates were asked to share their future plans as well as perceived benefits to having studied at St. Thomas More College.

Right Reverend Monsignor Myroslav Kolodye Memorial Academic Prize
Awarded annually to a graduating, 3rd or 4th-year St. Thomas More College Student with the highest overall cumulative average.

Nancy (Shuang) Cai
I have thoroughly enjoyed my four years of undergraduate life at the University of Saskatchewan. Having been recently accepted into the College of Medicine, I am elated that I get to spend four more years here on this beautiful campus with all my friends and mentors. To become a doctor has been my aspiration ever since I knew the meaning of the profession, and now I am closer to achieving my dream ever than ever before. Although I am not yet certain of the specific medical division I would enter, emergency medicine, surgical medicine and endocrinology all greatly interest me. I will continue to work hard to not only become a doctor, but to serve this profession with all my passion until the end my life.

The college of St. Thomas More provided me with a valuable sense of community throughout my four years of undergraduate degree, allowing my university life, which could have been intimidating and aloof, so much more rooted and friendly. The STM college has been a place of many indelible memories - I made roots and friends. The STM college has been a place of many indelible memories - I made roots and friends. The professors and staff at STM always carry a friendly and warm sentiment that make up the ever welcoming ambience of the college, which would leave me in a relaxed state of mind and a pleasant mood no matter how my day had been. I am thankful to have STM as a part of my university life.

Thomas Des’38 Prize in Scholastic Philosophy in Honour of Dr. Basil Markle
Awarded annually to a distinguished graduating student at St. Thomas More College mapping in philosophy.

Joshua Brand
I plan to continue pursuing my studies in Philosophy and have been accepted to the University of Edinburgh, Trinity College in Dublin, and the University of St. Andrews for their programmes of a Masters in Philosophy. As the current global situation has disrupted the course methods for the upcoming academic term, I am currently weighing my options as to which university I will choose. That being said, I am honoured that I will be studying at one of these prestigious universities and I must give thanks to the Philosophy department at STM as I would not have these opportunities without their excellent teaching and guidance.

There are numerous benefits to having studied at STM. The small classroom sizes, the many departments offering excellent course options, and the easier access to professors and staff is something I know all students like myself have immensely appreciated. On a more personal level, the Philosophy professors, as well as the French faculty (my other major), always provided a classroom that was full of thoughtful discussions which upheld a learning environment encouraging me to continually go above and beyond. I was also frequently provided with many growing opportunities that helped me participate in academia that happened beyond the course syllabus. I will always be grateful to the STM faculty and am looking forward to keeping in touch with them during my graduate studies as I am certain that their intelligence and insight will continue in guiding me through Philosophy.

Ft. Henry Carr Award
Awarded to a student who has shown leadership in and/or contributed to the Life of St. Thomas More College.

Mykan Zlipko
In September, I will begin a masters’ program in Religion and Culture at the University of Saskatchewan, with the intent to analyze the memorialization and commemoration of the Euromaidan within the Ukrainian Canadian diaspora through the use of virtual reality technology.

My experience at STM began with the intention of taking Ukrainian language classes which I accomplished, with the addition of taking the Spring Session in Ukraine program. These classes extended to my involvement with the University of Saskatchewan Ukrainian Students’ Association (USUSA), affording me the opportunity to strengthen my relationships with students, faculty and administration.

My involvement within the USUSA afforded the opportunity of leadership under the guidance of STM faculty and administration, for which I am thankful.

Each of the relationships that have evolved at STM has led me to understand and appreciate the benefit of a college where everyone has the opportunity to learn, to experience successes and to develop relationships with faculty and administration.

Alya McCullough
I have been accepted into the School of Optometry and Vision Science at the University of Waterloo and will begin in the fall of 2020. My ultimate goal is to become an optometrist and open my own private practice.

Although most of my courses were not in STM, I spent lots of my free time studying and being involved with student groups there. I was very involved in the STM Just Youth Club. I was a member my first year, and then a co-president for my next two years of university. I was also involved in the Student Leadership Council and helped with organizing college events. I met and reconnected with many friends at STM who helped make university fun. I also loved their cafeteria!

Previous STM Awards:
2017-18 St. Thomas More College Entering Student Book Award
2018-19 Founders’ Fathers Scholarship
2019-20 Thomas Des’38 Tribute to the Pioneers of Saskatchewan Scholarship
2019-20 St. Thomas More College Leadership Award

Previous STM Awards:
2018-19 St. Thomas More College Leadership Award

Thomas Deis’38 WWII Memorial Prize
Awarded to a St. Thomas More College Student(s) or Newman Centre member(s) who have demonstrated an all-rounded excellence in leadership, and/or who has enriched notably the life of STM or Newman Centre.

Andrea Pottle
In December 2019, I successfully completed my Bachelor of Education degree. In September 2019, I was accepted into the Practical and Applied Arts Certificate Program through the College of Education. I hope to complete this Certificate Program in the next academic year. After completing the Certificate Program, my goal is to pursue a teaching position in the Home Economics subject area. I hope to inspire young people in the subject of Home Economics and help them build life-long skills.

During my first year of attending the University of Saskatchewan, I was welcomed by the staff and students of STM and quickly built a community network. I had the opportunity to enhance my time during my academic experience through my involvement with the Newman Centre. I was inspired by the mission and shared values of the Newman Centre and became an Executive Member. In turn, I welcomed other students into activities hosted by the Newman Centre. The highlight of my University experience was to attend the annual Newman Centre retreats and practice my faith with other students and faculty. These retreats and other Newman Centre events have created a community in which I feel welcomed and accepted. My goal is to continue to be involved in Newman Centre and STM to create a welcoming environment for all students.

Previous STM Awards:
2018-19 STM College Leadership Award

2020 Spring Convocation Award-winning STM graduates
Dear Fellow St. Thomas More College and Newman Alumni,

Fall is here, as I write you this message in October. The leaves are turning to shades of red and gold and covering the earth, the evenings are frosty, the mornings crisp, and the afternoons generally pleasant.

It has been a remarkable summer, sometimes really wet, other times very hot, but mostly comfortable. For many of us, perhaps most of us, the pandemic restrictions that have kept us away from work, away from friends, away from school, and for many of us away from recreation have also given us time to reflect, to dream, to plan.

My reflections often include images of St. Thomas More College, of the years I spent there before the library, the auditorium, and the atrium were even planned. Those were great times, generally happy times, and I credit them for most of the successes I have had in my life and, especially, for my family. For it was at STM that I met my future wife, Angela Hull. I remember the skits, the Shakespearean plays, the Sunday Night Socials, the Music Room, Ucers Inc., and most of all the Basilians.

It was impossible to be anywhere at STM without running into a Basillian friend. There were more than a dozen of them living in the college building, including four who taught at St. Paul’s High School in Saskatchewan (my alma mater), and those who taught in the university programs spent most of their free time roaming STM’s corridors. They shared advice and inspiration and, more often than not, shoulders to lean on.

There was early Mass every morning, followed by free toast and coffee, finishing just in time to get to 8:30 am class (usually Fr. O’Donnell’s Shakespeare). Just remembering the days/years you spent at STM will be a blessing, and the best blessings are those that are shared. I invite you to participate in the new online alumni survey or write to us and share your memories.

Six months ago, many of us were looking forward to a vigorous CFL season, but we are still with us and, so long as it persists there will be no CFL, or college or high school athletics for most of us.

But the pandemic has not prevented schools from re-opening, either actually or virtually. The University of Saskatchewan and St. Thomas More College are experiencing their highest levels of enrolment ever, even though nearly all courses are being delivered online. And at least in Saskatchewen, thousands of high school and elementary school students have enrolled for online learning.

For those of us who work or who did work prior to the pandemic-induced shutdown of person-to-person interactions across the country, there has been some financial support from governments and from some generous employers. The larger retailers and chain stores have mostly remained open for business, albeit on a somewhat limited scale. Many smaller retail and service businesses were closed for much of the past several months, and many of those might not re-open.

There is little most of us can do to stop the spread and the recurrence of COVID-19. But, if we remember to follow the simple rules of protecting ourselves from contact with the virus, looking after ourselves, and protecting others from it (“loving our neighbours as ourselves”), we will be doing much to help. And, more than ever, let’s not forget to pray and pray often for all who are affected by the virus.

Keep in touch with each other (keeping in mind the ‘social distancing’ rules) and watch for the launching of our new STM Newman Alumni Association Facebook page! We will keep you posted.

God bless you all and keep you safe and well.

Art Battiste

Manager of Development and Alumni Relations

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Kari Sinkewicz as STM’s Manager of Development and Alumni Relations.

Reporting directly to the President, the Manager of Development and Alumni Relations is responsible for the development and implementation of fundraising strategies; implementation and coordination of donor recognition and stewardship programs; building alumni relationships; internal and external communication relating to development and alumni relations initiatives.

Kari joined STM in November of 2018, supporting the College in the role of Development Assistant. In that time, she has become an enthusiastic member of the STM family and forged strong relationships with staff, faculty, alumni and stakeholders.

Kari brings to the role experience in stewardship, special event planning, communication, and direct mail knowledge, along with valuable donor relations and fundraising management. Her most recent role prior to joining STM was as Manager of Annual Giving for St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation.

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

Kari Sinkewicz
Manager of Development and Alumni Relations

STM is profoundly thankful to our dear friends John Francis Roy and Lilian Patricia Tzotzos for choosing to support the vitality of the College and with the hope that the legacy of Catholic intellectual tradition at STM will carry on for generations to come through a planned gift in their estates.

Thank you John and Lilian!

Kari Sinkewicz
Manager of Development & Alumni Relations

306.262.6818 or ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca

Through STM’s Planned Giving program you have the opportunity to make a special gift—a lifetime gift. For STM, a Planned Gift offers long-term stability which in turn allows us to plan into the future, ensuring the Catholic intellectual tradition will carry on in our hallways through future generations. Making a Planned Gift to STM allows you the opportunity to establish your legacy or create a legacy for your loved ones, while also maximizing taxation benefits. And you can feel confident knowing that you are contributing to the vitality and growth of the College.

There are many opportunities to establish a Planned Gift including:

A Gift for the Future: through a bequest in your will, a life insurance policy, a gift of annuity or charitable remainder trust, you can help secure STM’s financial health for the future, while benefiting from substantial tax incentives.

A Gift of Real Estate: you can provide a gift of real estate, free of all taxes, while creating a lifetime income opportunity for yourself or your beneficiaries.

A Gift of Life Insurance: a gift of your life insurance policy offers an opportunity for you to create a legacy that will endure, while avoiding the potential of double taxation.

A Gift of a Percentage of Investment Account: you can help secure STM’s financial health for the future, while benefiting from substantial tax incentives.

Please give serious consideration to making a Planned Gift to STM. If you would like any further information or would like to discuss the various ways you can make a donation to STM part of your legacy, please feel free to contact:

Kari Sinkewicz, Manager of Development & Alumni Relations
306.262.6818 or ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca

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11

Reflecting our past Renewing our commitment Building our future

Through Planned Giving

“Perhaps the greatest duty laid upon each generation is to preserve intact the great heritage it has received, to develop and expand it and to transmit it to the generation that follows.”

Fr. Henry Carr, CSB

It is with grateful hearts that St. Thomas More College (STM) acknowledges and celebrates the commitment of the members of the St. Thomas More Newman Alumni Association (STMNA) committee members. We deeply appreciate this gift of service in our community.

STMNAA President Art Battiste

2019 STM Distinguished Alumnus

Reflecting our past Renewing our commitment Building our future

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Mary M. Donlevy-Konkin, Q.C.

by Art Battiste

Mary M. Donlevy-Konkin, Q.C., convocated in 1982, earning her Bachelor of Arts degree. This was followed by a Bachelor of Law in 1985. Mary has faithfully served St. Thomas More College and has served in key roles, generously providing her valuable perspective on STM Corporation from 2002-2007 as a member at large; as a representative on Corporation from 2014 to the present, and on the Standing Committee for the Appointment of the President since 2014. From January 2005 to December 2007 Mary served on the STM Board of Governors and on the Negotiating Committee from 2005-2007 and then the Organization and Membership Committee in 2007.

Mary is Senior Counsel in the Saskatoon office of McKercher LLP with experience in estate administration as well as navigating areas of public advocacy and government relations. She returned to McKercher LLP after serving for more than seven years in the Government of Saskatchewan. She was honored with a Queen’s Counsel appointment in 2014.

In her past roles with the provincial government, she served as the Chief of Staff to the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration, Minister of Labour, Minister responsible for Sask Power, Innovation Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation, Saskatchewan Research Council and the Status of Women Office. Mary also served as the Chief of Staff to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General and the minister responsible for SaskBuilds, Priority Saskatchewan and the Financial Consumer Affairs Authority. Her experience in government includes initiatives such as the development of the provincial immigration strategy, the Global Food Security Institute, the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation, establishment of Innovation Saskatchewan, construction of the Transition Shelter in Meelfort, creation of the Office of Counsel for Children, changes in the Code regarding transgender persons, and Kate’s Place, a supportive residence for women who are attending Regina Drug Treatment Court. Mary also assisted with the negotiations for Saskatchewan’s participation in the Cooperative Capital Markets Regulatory System.

Mary provides leadership to an initiative at McKercher LLP aimed at entrepreneurs in our province, and which benefits women entrepreneurs, in particular. She is a founding member of Seeds for Dreams, an initiative that offers women-led businesses early stage financial support. Her personal experience as a member of a family of entrepreneurs provides guidance to a focused group of lawyers dedicated to assisting start-ups with some of the challenges they face.

Currently, Mary sits as vice-chair of Emmanuel Health, as a board member of Emmanuel Care (Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan), former vice-chair of the United Way of Saskatoon and as Director of Protein Industries Canada, one of Canada’s 5 Innovation Superclusters. Mary has also served on the boards of Crossroads International and the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation.

Richard Lucas

by Jennie Mann

Richard (Rick) Lucas attended St. Thomas More College from 1986 until he convocated in 1989. He was a member of the Newman Club and served in key roles, generously providing his valuable perspective on STM Corporation from 2002-2007 as a member at large; as a representative on Corporation from 2014 to the present, and on the Standing Committee for the Appointment of the President since 2014. From January 2005 to December 2007 Mary served on the STM Board of Governors and on the Negotiating Committee from 2005-2007 and then the Organization and Membership Committee in 2007.

Rick moved to Lloydminster and joined the Lloydminster Catholic School Division in August of 1990 as an educator at Holy Rosary High School. Over the years Rick taught many subjects: History, Social Studies, English, Commercial Cooking and Christian Ethics, just to name a few. He was a part of the Lloydminster Catholic Faith Mentorship program, served as a teacher consultant in the Grade 9-12 Christian Ethics curriculum renewal and led many other Division initiatives. Rick’s top priorities are his family and his faith in God. This love and genuine drive to never stop learning led him to pursue a Master’s in Religious Education in 2010. He convocated in 2014, completing the degree while working full time.

Rick spent countless hours with students in a variety of extra-curricular activities. He was a teacher advisor/co-advisor for the Student Leadership Council and led the HHHS Key Club with passion. The Key Club is a social justice group that in recent years raised over $30,000 for the Our Village Uganda program in Africa, built and planted a community garden at Onion Lake Mission and often hosted a Senior’s Gala event in Lloydminster around Christmas. He could be found leading a kitchen crew to make a Christmas meal for hundreds and you could always pick his voice out of the choir at masses and prayer services. During Easter, Rick could often be found leading students groups through Europe and Asia, broadening student perspectives and showing them the wonders of our world.

It is safe to say that being at STM deeply impacted the course of Rick’s life. While Rick is now an officially retired teacher, he continues to live his passion on all he has worked toward over the last 30-plus years and we wish him all the best as a new chapter begins with his ordination to the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Prince Albert.

ST M Distinguished Alumni

The STM Distinguished Alumni Award is awarded annually to both a female and a male graduate of St. Thomas More College(STM) whose lifetime accomplishments and achievements have been outstanding, who have made a significant contribution to their community, and who have continued to celebrate their relationship with STM since their graduation.

Past recipients:
1992 J. Frank Roy and Mary Louis Long
1993 ManKay Falby and Alphonse Gervin
1994 Bernard Daly and Mae Daly
1995 Vivian Maxwell and Grant Maxwell
1996 Ted Fortosky and Danielle Fortosky
1997 Margaret Mahoney and Herman Rolles
1998 Kevin Murphy and Dorothy Murphy
1999 Margaret Dutli and Kenneth Schmitz
2000 No recognition
2001 Dr. W. Thomas Molloy and Mildred Kerr
2002 Betty Farrell and Dr. Michael Krochak
2003 Henry Kloppenborg and Kay Feenan
2004 Dr. Lois Brockman and Joseph Bellefeur
2005 Dr. Dr. Scott Pohl and Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald
2006 Elaine Shein and Peter Zakreski
2007 No recognition
2008 Bill Zerebysky and Sr. Kay MacDonald, NDS
2009 Mary Jo DeCoteau and Dr. Douglas Schmesser
2010 Art Battiste and Barbara Berscheid
2011 Mary Jo Ledyd and Hon. Peter Dietschneider
2012 Archbishop Sylvain Laviole and St. Teresita Kambeitz
2013 Geri Hall and Dr. W. Earle DeCoteau
2014 Hon. Otto Lang and Margaret Sanche
2015 Sr. Irene Poelzer and Dr. Jim Dosman
2016 Dennis Gruending and Madeleine Blais-Dahlem
2017 Eloise Ophlem and Dr. Michael Duggan
2018 Trevor Herrit and Rhonda Gough
2019 Jennifer Duggleby and Roger Trotter
2020 Mary Donlevy-Konkin and Richard Lucas

ST M Distinguished Alumni Award

We encourage you to nominate an STM Alumnus today.

The STMNAA welcomes your nominations for the Distinguished Alumni award.

The St. Thomas More College (STM) community wishes to honour and remember our cherished, departed alumni.

Bruce Gordon ’83

While Bruce may have graduated in the eighties, he and his wife Deb maintained an ongoing connection to STM through their participation in the STM Worshiping Community. They were also very involved to participate in STM liturgies where Bruce volunteered as the ministry coordinator. Bruce was a true leader in the community as he coordinated, trained, and invited people into the ministry. Most of all, he was a beacon of hospitality to all who encountered him at the chapel doors.

Bruce was a Registered Doctoral Psychologist and an active member of the communities of Saskatchewan and Regina until his death on May 29, 2020. After practicing as a psychologist in Saskatchewan for many years, Bruce relocated to Regina, where he worked at Randall Kimship Centre and Child & Youth Services. In recent years, along with Tara, Myrna Willick, and Rose Roberts, Bruce co-led a number of talking circles for the psychology communities of Saskatchewan and Regina. These circles helped to promote understanding of cultural diversity and to redress, through relationship and community-building, the long history of racism affecting Indigenous peoples in Saskatchewan. Bruce was generous with his time, resources, and kindness, including providing a place of hospitality and Stall retreat.

Bruce will be greatly missed by the psychology community, the STM Worshiping Community and by all of the communities he built and contributed to.

The STMNAA welcomes your nominations for the Distinguished Alumni awards.

St. Thomas More College(STM) has been around since 1936, offering its students a well-rounded liberal arts education with a focus on personal growth, leadership, and the Catholic intellectual tradition. The college was founded to provide opportunities for students to grow intellectually as well as spiritually, and our graduates are the community leaders who are committed to social justice and the common good.

Help us celebrate your fellow alumni.

The STM Distinguished Alumni Award is awarded annually each November to each a female and a male graduate of St. Thomas More College whose lifetime accomplishments and achievements have been outstanding, who have made a significant contribution to their community, and who have continued to celebrate their relationship with St. Thomas More College since their graduation.

This award recognizes the truly outstanding achievements of an STM graduate whose endeavours have distinguished them in their chosen profession or community.

We encourage you to nominate an STM Alumnus today.

Nomination information and form available at the back of the magazine.

Stay CONNECTED WITH STM

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

URL: https://stmcollege.ca/alumni/register.php

We encourage you to scanned the QR code below and hover over the QR code and re-connect with your STM community today.
Remai is investing in the bright futures of students at STM through a generous gift of $100,000 to establish the Henry Remai Emergency Student Bursary Endowment.

Kari Sinkewicz, Manager of Development & Alumni Relations at STM, said Remai will be passing along best wishes to each new recipient, with the reminder to “Remember that all is possible with God’s help so persevere in following your dreams.”

“His long career as a dedicated high school teacher imbued Remai with an appreciation for the value of an education. He doesn’t want to see anyone left behind. "The great motivation is to help these students that are in need – sometimes desperate need." 

"It’s rather tragic if a student has to drop out near the end of term because of a lack of funds after spending a great deal of time, energy and money to get to that point. And if they have to drop out they lose everything in the process," he said.

Henry Remai does not like to see an empty chair.
**STM TO HOST NATIONAL CATHOLIC STUDENTS**

by Michael MacLean, Adam Eichorst

The STM Student Association planned for the first time to host a national conference. This year, the Canadian Catholic Students Association (CCSA) conference, which is titled "Heart Speaks to Heart," will be held at the University of Saskatchewan in one of our more challenging months of the year, but that was before COVID. Since the pandemic, and announcements across the country that campuses would be shifting into distance learning mode, the CCSA decided it too would make the on-line shift and host and announce events across the country. The conference will be held from January 21-24, 2021.

The CCSA conference will have three speakers throughout the weekend. On Friday, Fr. Ray Lafontaine from Montreal will be giving a talk on St. John Henry Cardinal Newman, as we prepare to celebrate naming the newly renovated student lounge at STM after Newman. Saturday morning will have Métis education and former CCSA President Ava MacLean, from Saskatoon, presenting on living your Catholic faith in the community and the world. And Saturday afternoon will have Dr. Kevin Ahern from New York, former President of the International Movement of Catholic Students (MCS) presenting on small faith communities on campus and beyond. Along with an AGM and some fun social activities, this weekend is packed full of interesting talks and fun activities in which students from across the country can partake.

The conference will wrap up on Sunday with a live-streamed mass, the introduction to the newly elected CCSA executive board, and a real-time tally for available space can be found on the strmcg.ca homepage.

**Virtual Conference**

The conference organization is a joint effort between the CCSA Executive, the Student Association (CCSA) planned to descend upon Saskatoon and gather at St. Thomas More College in one of our more interesting talks and fun activities in which students from across the country can partake.

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One of the biggest challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic to educators like Dr. Saeed Moshiri has been the loss of face-to-face interactions between students. The oxygen of the social sciences is the free flow of ideas by people connecting with each other. And for the St. Thomas More economics professor, the decisions, motivations and behaviors of his students are vital to teaching the concepts of his second-year class, Economics of the Environment (ECN 277.3).

To overcome the isolation forced by remote learning, Moshiri has enlisted the help of the MobLab online learning platform. MobLab provides games that help students engage in the course material online.

It allows students in social sciences like economics to do experiments to discover how their individual or group behavior affects social outcomes. Students are organized in groups and participate in the experiments while interacting with each other. They choose the best strategies to achieve their objectives given their selfish or group strategies. The key concept is to show how seeking private profits in certain cases like environmental quality would lead to social problems.

Moshiri is head of the Economics Department at STM College and has been teaching the class for six years. It is an introduction to the economic analysis of environmental issues, and includes analyses of environmental quality, benefit-cost analysis, and evaluation of different environmental policies and their application such as carbon taxes.

In the past he has conducted some experiments in class manually, but the online computer program means his students can play in their own free time in the safety of their homes, while enjoying an online connection to their classmates. The three game themes students play are called Tragedy of the Commons, Externalities, and Public Good. They play as a group, against each other, or against the computer program.

In other games, students choose between clean and dirty factories to maximize their profit and see the individual and social outcome at the end. They also participate in a public good production experiment where they are asked to contribute to a water purification project based on their willingness to pay. They see that the project will not be materialized even though everybody is interested in it.

After repeating this process, they see the result, are able to analyze the result and get some feedback related to the objectives of the course.

“The games are fun, they enjoy playing while learning the concepts.”

Moshiri said his students will be able to relate some of the concepts learned through these games to our current condition of being in a pandemic.

“The issue of individual freedom (not wearing masks or going to public gatherings and parties) when having a negative impact on others (spreading virus and infecting more vulnerable individuals) is just like a game. Policies might help balance between the personal and social costs/benefits.”

**ECN 277 Game Changer**

by Paul Sinkiewicz

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Jessica Froehlich

When STM alumnus Jessica Froehlich talks about winning a Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (CMHF) award, there’s something about her response that feels characteristically STM.

“It’s a humbling opportunity to reflect on my mentors in the College of Medicine and in the community,” she says. “It makes me think of the support I’ve received from my fellow students, many of whom could have gotten the award instead of me.”

The CMHF award is given to students who “show outstanding potential as future leaders and innovators of health care in Canada.” For Froehlich, it’s confirmation that the path she set for herself as a teenager is still the right one. She entered the College of Medicine before she graduated high school. Back then, her ambitions were very simple and now, she thinks, a bit naïve.

“I thought if I loved hard enough [and] worked hard enough I could change the world,” Froehlich says. “I thought if I loved hard enough [and] worked hard enough I could change the world. I don’t get into medical school on my first try.”

The anxiety didn’t disappear, but it helped Froehlich realize why she wanted to do medicine in the first place. As it happens, she did get into medical school on her first try. She has been an incredible asset to the College of Medicine, focusing on community engagement and public health. Now in her third year of medicine, her ambitions are much the same as they were when she left high school.

The difference is that she recognizes nuance and complexity in a way that she would not have without the voices of the people that she serves to help. In essence, she is working hard enough to change the world.

As a participant and later a mentor in the Service & Justice Project, she learned to look at society through a critical lens that has allowed her to focus on working towards justice in a way that respects the dignity of all. The program focuses on solidarity and subsidiarity and has informed how she does research in the College of Medicine, and with whom she chooses to work.

Working Hard to Change the World
by Caitlin Ward, Manager of Engaged & Experiential Learning

Jessica characterizes her experience at Beardy’s as a journey from head to heart. She had taken Indigenous Studies in high school and “knew the textbook backwards and forwards” but spending time with the Cree community at Beardy’s shifted how she understood what she had been taught. Community members shared their stories, traditions, and taught the aspiring doctor about their traditional medicines. Froehlich had the opportunity to step beyond the textbook history of conquest and colonization to experience a living culture. Building relationships with the community and its members gave her a deeper, if somewhat more painful understanding of what she had learned in class. It was no longer academic; it was also personal.

“Before I went to Beardy’s, I knew [the history],” she says. “There, I started to feel it.” Froehlich is quick to point out that she will never truly understand what it’s like to be Indigenous in Canada, but this experience began an ongoing journey to understand her place in this land’s history as a non-Indigenous person born and raised in Treaty 4 territory.

Froehlich credits STMs unique program and course offerings for teaching her how to make such profound connections between the academic and the personal. In her second year, she participated in the STM Interidisciplinary program. It invited her to live and learn from a community in the highlands of the Dominican Republic. She spent eight weeks living with a campesino (farm worker) family and working at a coffee nursery—with virtually no Spanish language skills.

From an academic perspective she learned about Canada’s part in creating global inequities, and from a personal perspective she learned the importance of humility and the benefits of allowing oneself to be vulnerable. These tools were invaluable first at Beardy’s, and later during her medical degree when she spent a summer working in the town of Dillon as part of the College of Medicine’s Making the Links program.

Froehlich also credits her time at STM with teaching her how to think critically in a way that a pure science degree might not have allowed. Although her undergraduate degree is in Anatomy and Cell Biology, Froehlich opted for the Critical Approaches to Understanding Justice & the Common Good minor, as well. She notes that the minor’s introductory course, Culture & Social Justice, taught her about the roles and the humanities play in teaching us about ourselves and contemporary issues in an honest and critical way.

STMs Ukrainian Studies enhance education, curriculum vitae and career options
by Paul Sinkiewicz

Connor Moen is a former St. Thomas More College (STM) student and served as president of the University of Saskatchewan Ukrainian Students’ Association. Since his graduation he has gone on to become executive assistant to the chief of staff at Natural Resources Canada in Ottawa.

Moen recently participated in a round table discussion on promoting the Ukrainian Studies program in which he participated while at STM. The program is the only one in the province and is hosted at STM. When asked why students might want to pursue Ukrainian Studies, he said Saskatchewan is unique because of the large number of the population identifies as Ukrainian.

“Now that I live in Ontario, I truly understand how present Ukrainian culture is in Saskatchewan. Ukrainian culture is Saskatchewan culture,” Moen said. “Typically, those with Ukrainian extraction have a connection to this area of study. I loved it because I felt close to home and connected with my culture and language.”

St. Thomas More College is the only college at USask that offers Ukrainian Studies. Students can achieve a minor in Ukrainian Studies or study the second language requirement for their BA in Arts and Sciences. There is also an intensive, five-week Spring Session in Ukraine program that offers real world experience with the culture and language of Ukraine.

The study of second languages is fundamental to an education in the liberal arts, to citizenship in a multicultural nation, and to understanding an increasingly close-knit world. Ukrainian language courses can be used towards satisfying the Language Requirement in Linguistics, Modern Languages or a minor in the aforementioned Ukrainian Studies.

For Moen, participating in Ukrainian Studies proved advantageous early in his career in making connections and compiling valuable experiences.

“The content is relevant and interesting and applied to so many concepts like history anthropology and such,” Moen said. "If you participate in this program you open yourself to many doors. This program was a huge advantage for me. I was given the opportunity to speak at the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) and Ukrainian Canadian Students’ Union (SUSK) to really build my resume, and now I work on Parliament Hill. I may not be directly related to anything Ukrainian, but I still credit my success to my experiences with Ukrainian Studies.”

Nowko King is a former Ukrainian Studies student and a participant in the Spring Session in Ukraine (SSU) program. King said she was able to use Ukrainian Studies as an area of specialisation within her degree in International Studies.

“It helped with making connections because I had my eyes set on a job with immigration and law. One of my summer employment positions was with the Ukrainian community. I was able to tap into the alumni community and network and I knew then a whole community supporting me. Having this experience, you look adaptable on a resume, which employers love. I still talk about how I had to adjust to a whole new environment with SSU in my job interviews.”

Students who participate in the SSU program can earn up to nine credit units in just 5-6 weeks, all while studying abroad and experiencing another culture on a deep level.

Students of Ukrainian culture, history and language can find further support through the work of the Prairies Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH).

At the level of research and scholarship, PCUH provides individual support; disseminates the results of research conducted under its auspices; organizes symposia, conferences and exhibitions; promotes dialogue between various disciplines, perspectives, and communities; and encourages young scholars specializing in the area by providing scholarships at the graduate level. The Heritage Press serves as the publishing arm of the PCUH. The PCUH also has an important outreach component in its programming mandate, working with the community on special projects and events. All programming at the PCUH is supported by endowments as well as individual contributions.
The show must go on: Supporting students during the pandemic

by Richard Medenich, Manager of Student Experience and Enrolment

The familiar showbiz maxim aptly applies to the work of the Student Experience Team at St. Thomas More College. That most of our students are not physically present in the College is a real challenge for staff in Student Services, Engaged Learning, Shamion Library, and Campus Ministry. We did not get into this line of work because we like to sit in quiet offices.

But it is not about us. It has always been about the students, and they need support while they learn remotely. Perhaps now more than ever. The people working in various student support functions at the College know that it is written on our hearts like any good vocation ought to be. These conditions are not ideal for most students nor faculty members, and we are all learning as we go, but nobody can fault the Student Experience Team for lack of compassion, creativity, skill, and effort.

Like pretty much everything else, our work has moved online. Students can still get an academic advising appointment within two days, Dean Schmidt, Linda Huard, and I are available by phone or by online video call. Celeste Woloschuk, Fr. Andre Lalach, and Michael MacLean in campus ministry are also available for spiritual direction or just a friendly chat by phone or online. It is not exactly the same as being in the same room with a student – non-verbal communication is so important when counselling students – but it is the best we can safely do, for now.

So too has the Service and Justice Project moved online. Caitlin Ward is running the laudable and long-running student services, campusthe library, Newman Centre, and Just Youth Group. We are in regular contact with the first-year students. We send them notes by email and we have been focusing on managing isolation, stress, and mental health. This is in addition to all the great work done by our faculty in their classes. In attempt to build virtual community among students, both new and continuing, we have launched two new video series on our YouTube channel to help build community. The Student Skills video series is trying to make up for the hospitality events we normally do. Students could not get free mini donuts during Welcome Week this year, so we have a video of Linda making mini donuts. In lieu of our Student Club Ward week giveaway, I show students how to make their own waffles. Following suit, Gertrude honoured the traditional campus ministry ice cream giveaway by showing students how to make your own chocolate trifles! The Sweet Skills videos have an obvious sweet tooth bent to them but this fall, we will get to the healthy stuff soon enough.

Our second video series allows students an informal way to get to know us a little better, and maybe have some fun too. Between Two Ficsues (loosely based on the popular web series between two fics) features yours truly hosting cheeky interviews with members of the STM community. It is important to show our human side to our students, and these interviews help us better understand each other as colleagues too!

Of course, for all our virtual efforts, there are many things we cannot do these days. There will be no campus-wide programs, no glee club belt out showtunes on stage in the Fr. O’Donnell Auditorium, no Newman coffeehouse in the halls, and no pubs in the student lounge (gasp!). Still, there is no need for despair. Just as surely as absence can make the heart grow fonder, when it is safe for STM to return with renewed vigour. I, along with several other student recruitment officers, run a group known as SUTIL*, which facilitates connections between Saskatchewan high school students and over thirty post-secondary institutions. While coordinating nearly 100 events can be a tricky endeavor, this year was a whole new ball game with a whole new set of rules which were mostly unknown. Over the summer, my team struggled to imagine what recruitment could look like without visits to schools.

Fortunately, SUTIL had just launched a new website which now serves as a comprehensive platform for an entirely virtual recruitment season. Widening our scope like never before, the Post-secondary Education (PSE) collaborative have invited every Public, Catholic, and Tribal Council school in the province to visit customized virtual booths which offer a vast selection of resources. Participants will find my STM introductory video, hear daytime and evening presentations, along with access to one-on-one drop-in question periods, bookable appointments, and curated college specific materials. Counselors and students can now access all the STM information they need from both the SUTIL website and our STM website section dedicated specifically to prospective students.

Is it strange to miss hotels?

For the last four autumns, my life has been filled with long road trips, hundreds of recruitment events, and yes, many hotel stays. My work commitments are punctuated by the seasons. Fall in particular is a busy time for me as I travel across the province speaking to high school students. September through December. Ironically, I’m now in the office more frequently than I typically would be at this time of year, despite working from home three days a week.

While many in the College may know why I’m absent from STM for nearly four months, they may not realize that I am part of the executive that coordinates the fall recruitment circuit. I, along with several other student recruitment officers, run a group known as SUTIL*, which facilitates connections between Saskatchewan high school students and over thirty post-secondary institutions. While coordinating nearly 100 events can be a tricky endeavor, this year was a whole new ball game with a whole new set of rules which were mostly unknown. Over the summer, my team struggled to imagine what recruitment could look like without visits to schools.

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Turnbull and other STM student service related projects this term have pushed me out of my comfort zone. In trying to virtually replicate the community atmosphere that is the hallmark of the STM experience, I’ve been exploring new skills as I put on the hat of video content creator. I’ve been part of the launch of several video series which focus on traditional student experiences and skill-building as well as introducing students to our staff and faculty as we can no longer socialize in the halls of STM.

Creativity for community-building: At the beginning of summer, I reached out to several grade 12 students, starting their first year at USask, who wanted to join the STM community. Through a group chat, virtual meetings, and social media, we’ve kept in touch, discussing our hobbies and pets as well as talking about the unique circumstances brought on by beginning university during a pandemic. (I’m continually impressed by the resilience of our students.) This fall has been challenging, for a lot of reasons. But it has also pushed me to stretch my creative muscles and grow in my role as a Student Recruitment Officer and Academic Advisor. While COVID-19 will continue to challenge us, I know that with the support of my colleagues, recruitment efforts and student supports will grow in innovative and inspiring ways. Although this is a time of great unknowns, I know that I can find strength in the support of my STM community.

*Saskatchewan Universities and Technical Institute Liaison

Virtual Recruitment Travel for 2020/21

by Linda Huard, STM Recruitment Officer and Academic Advisor

Ryan O’Connell, Elisabeth Bauman: Member of USSU Student Council for St. Thomas More College

Abbi Cross, V-P Operations and Finance
Terryn Bateman, V-P Academic
Alicja Rutkowski, V-P Communications
Emily Roberts, Director of Events

2020-21 STMSU Executive:
Tay Spock, President
Abbi Cross, V-P Operations and Finance
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Ryan O’Connell, Elisabeth Bauman: Member of USSU Student Council for St. Thomas More College

The STMSU represents St. Thomas More College (STM) students to the College administration and governance bodies. We advocate for student wellness and we provide events and services to improve the experience of STM students. We are a volunteer-run organization. Although this year events cannot be in person, the STMSU is working towards finding ways to connect the STM student body virtually.

The familiar showbiz maxim aptly applies to the work of the Student Experience Team at St. Thomas More College. That most of our students are not physically present in the College is a real challenge for staff in Student Services, Engaged Learning, Shamion Library, and Campus Ministry. We did not get into this line of work because we like to sit in quiet offices.

But it is not about us. It has always been about the students, and they need support while they learn remotely. Perhaps now more than ever. The people working in various student support functions at the College know that it is written on our hearts like any good vocation ought to be. These conditions are not ideal for most students nor faculty members, and we are all learning as we go, but nobody can fault the Student Experience Team for lack of compassion, creativity, skill, and effort.

Like pretty much everything else, our work has moved online. Students can still get an academic advising appointment within two days, Dean Schmidt, Linda Huard, and I are available by phone or by online video call. Celeste Woloschuk, Fr. Andre Lalach, and Michael MacLean in campus ministry are also available for spiritual direction or just a friendly chat by phone or online. It is not exactly the same as being in the same room with a student – non-verbal communication is so important when counselling students – but it is the best we can safely do, for now.

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Ashley Smith

IACP ‘40 Under 40’

By Jaclyn Bing

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) annual Under 40 award program is designed to recognize law enforcement professionals under the age of 40 from around the world that demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment to their profession.

St. Thomas More College (STM) alumna and former Chair of STM Board of Governors Ashley Smith LLB, LL.M. took her place among 40 international recipients based on demonstration of her values and commitment to law enforcement and recognized capacity for community leadership.

One of just six Canadians recognized, the IACP award web page highlighted Ashley’s accomplishments as Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) Director of Public Affairs.

Ashley has served as president of the Saskatchewan Trial Lawyers Association, created a Police Lawyers of Canada group, and currently teaches criminal justice trial at U of S.

Smith is proud to recognize Ashley Smith as an Alumna of the College and celebrate her continued success. Smith attended STM from the fall of 2002 to 2004, graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in July 2007, and received her law degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 2007.

Recent Grad new UCC parlimentary intern

STM alumna Jason Aebig appointed Chamber CEO

St. Thomas More College (STM) congratulates Jason Aebig on appointment as Greater Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO.

As a College alumnus and present member of STM Board of Governors, we are proud of Jason’s continued leadership and commitment to the success of our community and province.

Aebig is a former owner of the communications and PR strategy firm Creative Fire where he worked closely with many of Saskatchewan’s leading companies, institutions and Catholic organizations. He is an active member of the Canadian Public Relations Society (CPRS) and International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) and currently serves as Board Chair for Sask Arts.

STM political scientist McGrane earns plaudits for publications

It’s been a busy few years for Dr. David McGrane, professor of Political Studies at St. Thomas More College.

On June 3 McGrane was awarded the Donald Smiley Prize at the annual virtual general meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) for The New NDP: Modernization, Modernization, and Political Marketing.

This prestigious prize is awarded by the CPSA to the author of the best book published in English in a field relating to the study of government and politics in Canada.


The award is presented for the best contribution in book form to scholarly work. The submitted book must use high quality research to establish findings that are original and significant and be written in a manner that is accessible to a general reading audience.

“The two awards that I received are quite different,” McGrane said. “The Donald Smiley Prize is given out by the Canadian Political Science Association, so it is really an honour to be recognized by my peers in this manner. It is a bit like the Oscar for best picture for a book on Canadian politics to win the Smiley Prize. I was quite humbled.”

McGrane said the award from the Saskatchewan Book Awards meant the book he helped edit was competing against books from a variety of different fields as opposed to just political science.

“It’s a great feeling to be recognized by the broader community in Saskatchewan in this way. I hope that the award will bring the book to the attention of readers who are thinking about not just past the past of Saskatchewan but the future as well,” he said.

Both projects started in 2014, so it has been six years of effort leading up to the recognitions, McGrane said.

“I am hoping that The New NDP will become a reference for scholars and students who are trying to understand the evolution of social democracy in Canada. Back to Blakeney is an edited collection in honour of Allan Blakeney, the NDP Premier of Saskatchewan from 1971 to 1982, who passed away in 2011. I am sure that Allan would be delighted to know that a book on his legacy could be of such importance and impact the future,” he said.

Selinger will begin his placement with a member of parliament in early 2021, working remotely from home during the pandemic until such time as health regulations allow for him to proceed to Ottawa. The UCC Parliamentary Internship program provides an opportunity for a student to gain firsthand knowledge and experience about the parliamentary process firsthand. 

“Our intern gains experience and knowledge about civ- ic engagement and public policy which allows them to pursue careers in public service,” stated Olka Lucic-Andryjewycz, UCC Vice President.

Selinger is a recent STM/USask graduate with a B.A. in Modern Languages, as well as a B.A. in Political Studies and Ukrainian Studies. In addition to his academic work in Canada and Ukraine, he has been involved with the Ukrainian Students’ Association (CPSA) and Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCSU) at St. Thomas More College, USask Model United Nations, and municipal and provincial campaigns in Saskatchewan. Selinger was appointed STM’s Henry Carr award for leadership at fall convocation in 2019.

Recent STM Faculty Publications

- Cynthia Wallace, “Attention, Representation, and Unequality in Katherena Vermette’s The Bear, or, Teaching (Re)Learning the Ethics of Reading.” Humanities vol 8, no 4, 2019.

STM alumnus Jason Aebig appointed Chamber CEO

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STM student QUICK LINKS

Classes and Programs: stmcollege.ca/classes
STM Scholarships and Bursaries: stmcollege.ca/scholarship
Academic Advising: stmcollege.ca/advising
New Students: stmcollege.ca/new
Self-Declare: stmcollege.ca/selfdeclare
Community Service Learning: stmcollege.ca/csl

STM at a Glance

Spring/Summer 2020

255+ ARTS & SCIENCE COURSE OPTIONS (open to all USask students)
19 AREAS OF STUDY
70+ FACULTY
10,000+ STM Alumni
(registered in courses through STM)
5500+ distinct STUDENTS
(registered in courses through STM)
$220,000 in STM Scholarships & Bursaries available
23,100 STM College Website Visitors: May 2020 - November 2020
Dr. Donna Brockmeyer received her BA from the University of Saskatchewan, her Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Alberta, and her Doctor of Education Leadership and Policy from the University of British Columbia. Brockmeyer held positions at the University of Alberta and University of Saskatchewan libraries before joining STM’s Shannon Library in 2000 as its director.

In her 20 years at STM, Dr. Brockmeyer was always a strong supporter of College events and initiatives. She oversaw many changes and improvements at the Shannon Library including a computer lab addition in 2000, the donation and ongoing curation of the Nin Literary Collection starting in 2004, the library website development and the recent renovation and expansion of the Shannon Library for which the library received a Saskatchewan Municipal Heritage Award, Sensitive Addition. Thank you Donna for all of your contributions to the STM legacy!

Dr. Paulette Hunter

Long Term Care (LTC) Network goals amid COVID-19 crisis

Dr. Paulette Hunter and members of the new Saskatchewan Long Term Care (LTC) Network recently received a $10,000 SHRF COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant for their project titled “Establishing a patient-oriented research network to support knowledge mobilization during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Hunter is an associate professor in the Psychology Department at St. Thomas More College, with a vast body of research to her credit. The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic in long-term care (LTC), including the high mortality rate, problems associated with resource limitations, and separation from family members (who were not permitted to enter LTC for more than four months) has resulted in calls for redesign and change. In this context, the Saskatchewan LTC Network emerged as a family-engaged, province-wide collaborative dedicated to relying on guidance from families and healthcare providers to inform activities including research, knowledge mobilization, and supporting decision makers on policy and practice issues. The overall aim of this active collaborative is to support Saskatchewan long-term care residents and their communities to achieve optimal wellbeing both during the pandemic and beyond.

STM Faculty Retirement

Dr. Donna Brockmeyer,.EdD

Dr. Donna Brockmeyer received her BA from the University of Saskatchewan, her Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Alberta, and her Doctor of Education Leadership and Policy from the University of British Columbia. Brockmeyer held positions at the University of Alberta and University of Saskatchewan libraries before joining STM’s Shannon Library in 2000 as its director. In her 20 years at STM, Dr. Brockmeyer was always a strong supporter of College events and initiatives. She oversaw many changes and improvements at the Shannon Library including a computer lab addition in 2000, the donation and ongoing curation of the Nin Literary Collection starting in 2004, the library website development and the recent renovation and expansion of the Shannon Library for which the library received a Saskatchewan Municipal Heritage Award, Sensitive Addition. Thank you Donna for all of your contributions to the STM legacy!

Statement of commitment to Indigenous peoples

The St. Thomas More College (STM) community stands with Indigenous students, faculty, and staff at the University of Saskatchewan and with the wider Indigenous community against racism, violence and inequitable treatment of Indigenous peoples and minorities in our society. As a Catholic institution, we affirm the intrinsic dignity of every human person and embrace active peace-building as an alternative to violence.

As an educational institution on Treaty 6 Territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis, we resolve to work towards reconciliation and to provide anti-racist education. In our College Plan 2025, we name Authentic Indigenization as one of our strategic priorities and commit to a number of actions, among them:

- Providing opportunities for all faculty and staff to become further educated about Indigenous histories, cultures, and traditions
- Creating a home for Indigenous students looking for a safe and welcoming space on campus
- Strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities and groups, including units at the University of Saskatchewan and partners in the local and provincial community
- Supporting ecological justice and environmental movements led by Indigenous communities
- Integrating Indigenous ceremony, with the guidance of the STM Indigenous Advisory Circle, into College processes and ceremonies

We yearn to be part of a peaceful, reconciled community in which every member is respected, valued, and enabled to live a full human life. As a diverse and inclusive community, we recommit ourselves to taking action every day to realize that aspiration, in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan and all those in our society working towards social justice and reconciliation.

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

STM Alumnus Wins 2020 J.W. Dafoe Book Prize

Brendan Kelly (BA 08) has felt the influence of St. Thomas More College for his entire life.

“The most obvious STM influence on my career is my parents, Patrick and Darlene Kelly, who were longtime English professors at the college, having taught there from 1980 to their recent retirement,” said the STM alumnus.

Their connection to the college played a role in the path of his early education in French, and later for his passion for history.

Those early STM influences eventually resulted in Kelly being awarded the 2020 John Wesley Dafoe Book Prize for The Good Fight: Marcel Cadieux and Canadian Diplomacy, published by UBC Press. The J.W. Dafoe Book Prize, worth $10,000, is awarded to the best book on Canada, Canadians, and/or Canada’s place in the world published in the previous calendar year.

The Good Fight: Marcel Cadieux and Canadian Diplomacy explores the career of the most influential francophone diplomat and public servant in Canadian history and the way his story illuminates larger issues relating to Canada at home and in the world.

“My book was the biography of a francophone diplomat (Marcel Cadieux) and so an advanced knowledge of French was required to research it,” said Kelly. “In an indirect way, Prof. Wilfred Denis — now retired — was a key influence. When I was little, he convinced my mother, who he knew was francophone, to send me to l’École canadienne-française (ECF), a francophone school that had just opened. This was a big decision since there was a good English-language school within three minutes of our house in Forest Grove, but it was the right one. I stayed at ECF from Grade 1 to Grade 12. Well before I graduated, I could speak, read, and write in French with ease. This would open all sorts of doors, including making my biography of Marcel Cadieux possible.”

He added that when he came to university, he was able to perfect his French language skills thanks to two very talented STM French professors.

“I took Prof. Cheryl Soulodre’s French grammar classes. She had a unique ability to make French grammar fun. I also took Prof. Michael Tobin’s masterpieces of French literature course, which was itself a masterpiece,” said Kelly.

Two more STM professors would ignite an intense interest in Canadian history: in Kelly, and launch him on a scholarly path that would lead to a role influencing Canada’s relationship with the rest of the world.

“It was thanks to Prof. Tom Deutscher that I decided to major in History. He gave in the Father O’Donnell Auditorium, and it sparked my interest in the discipline. His handling of the material was solid and informed by a wicked sense of humour.”

“The next year I took Professor Jack Coggins’ Europe in the 20th Century piece,” said Kelly. “He gave in the Father O’Donnell Auditorium, and it sparked my interest in the discipline. His handling of the material was solid and informed by a wicked sense of humour.”

“Most importantly, on April 16th of this year, I accepted a lifelong position as a father when my wife, Michelle Chen, and I welcomed into our lives our daughter, Amelia Felicity.”

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Dr. Carl Still, PhD
President
St. Thomas More College
New Faces

SHERRY RICHERT
Administrative Assistant in the Office of the President

Sherry joined STM this past September having worked at the College of Educa-
tion since 2014 serving as Assistant to the Graduate Chair and
Department Head and most recently the Executive Assistant to
Department Heads in Educational Psychology and Special
Education Graduate Departments.

Prior to her time at USask, Sherry worked for the Provincial Gov-
ernment in various sectors including, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of
Labour, and Corrections, Public, Safety and Policing.

Sherry recently completed her Certificate in Business Adminis-
tration from Edwards School of Business. She is a current
executive member of the Board of Directors with Catholic
Family Services and previously served as a member of the
Board of Directors for Uchee Saskatoon.

As Administrative Assistant in the President’s Office, Sherry will
provide confidential administrative and clerical support to the
College Secretary and Executive Assistant to the President and
the Human Resources Manager, as well as provide support
when required to the Chief Financial Officer, the Director of
Mission and Ministry and the Manager of Development and
Alumni Relations.

St. Thomas More College Student Emergency Bursary Fund

It is with sincere gratitude that St. Thomas More College celebrates our community of
donors who supported the St. Thomas More College Student Emergency Bursary
Fund. Through the generosity of loyal friends of STM, $19,370 was raised to help
students at STM College.

Together we are making a difference in the lives of students today. You are helping
the College remain true to our pastoral mission of caring for students experiencing
financial and personal crises, as many now are because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
It is heartwarming to know there are committed, caring people like you who will help
us come through this present crisis and keep our students on track to complete their
studies and navigate the challenging months that lie ahead. Your faithful support
means so much to STM students, staff, and faculty.

The collective commitment to helping students reach their full potential has been the
hallmark of St. Thomas More College for generations, and your generosity illustrates
how deeply you value this tradition. On behalf of all the students who will benefit from
your gift, we sincerely thank you for this much-needed financial support.

Thank you!

If you would like to make a gift to help ensure the success of a student’s educational
journey, please contact:
Kari Sinkewicz,
Manager of Development
and Alumni Relations
ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca
306-262-6818

Order online for convenient takeout: stmcollege.ca/eat-here/take-out.php
Dine in option for faculty/staff/students subject to room capacity restrictions.

STM Distinguished Alumni Award Nomination Form

Deadline for nominations is June 30, 2021.

Required Nomination Information 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, ac-
complishments 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 alumni/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): __________________________ Phone number (Evening):
Email: __________________________________________

Does the nominee know that he or she has been nominated for this award?

Nomination information:

Name: __________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City: __________________________ Province: __________________________ Postal Code: __________
Phone number (Daytime): __________________________ Phone number (Evening): __________________________ Email:
Nominator signature: __________________________________________ Date: __________

Selection Criteria:

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.

1. Provide a brief biography of nominee
2. A curriculum vitae, resume or summary of the nominee’s achievements
3. Supporting letter(s) of reference and other relevant supporting documentation

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.

Any nominee may nominate 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 recipients will be announced during the annual STM Corporation Banquet in

The nominator(s) of the successful recipient will be advised of the decision.

STM area of greatest need
Area of my choice

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
STM area of greatest need

For more information email ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca or call (306) 262-6818

You can also donate online at: stmcollege.ca/donate

Mail to: Kari Sinkewicz, Manager of Development & Alumni Relations
St. Thomas More College, 1437 College Drive, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 0W6

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You can also donate online at: stmcollege.ca/donate

Thank you for your support!
St. Thomas More College
“Courageously exploring 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

Just the beginning.
Congratulations.
As you continue on your journey, embrace new challenges with intelligence and creativity, attention to justice, and respect for the inherent dignity of each and every person. Never underestimate your ability to make the world a better place.