

More news

Spring/Summer 2020

The Dëne Way :
Life, history and culture
Anthropology 298 STM
Elder Allan Adam



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

SUMMER IS IN SESSION

2020 STM Spring and Summer Courses

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SPRING TERM 2020	SUMMER TERM 2020
Quarter 1 May 6 - May 27	Quarter 3 July 2 - July 22
Quarter 2 June 2 - June 23	

Q1

- ENG 226.3 Fantasy and Speculative Fiction LEC
- INITS 103.3 Writing for Academic Success LEC
- RLST 112.3 Western Religions in Society and Culture WEB
- POLS 112.3 Justice and Injustice in Politics and Law LEC
- SOC 211.3 Families Gender Relations and Social Inequality LEC

Q2

- CLAS 111.3 Roman Civilization LEC
- ECON 114.3 Introductory Macroeconomics LEC
- ENG 215.3 Life Writing LEC
- PHIL 231.3 Moral Problems LEC
- PSY 253.3 Cognitive Psychology LEC

Q3

- CTST 200.3 WS2 Introduction to Catholic Studies WEB
- ECON 214.3 Intermediate Macroeconomics LEC
- ENG 225.3 Shakespeare Tragedy and Romance LEC
- RLST 111.3 62 Asian Religions LEC

Register through PAWS. For assistance, call 306-966-8900 to speak with an academic advisor.



Cover Photo, David Stobbe

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More news

Spring/Summer 2020

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle famously remarks that we cannot judge whether a human life has been happy until it is complete. A change of fortune could come at any time, even near the end of a life, and mar the happiness that had been achieved by disciplined and virtuous living. This observation is no less true of a year in our lives. We knew from the beginning that the past academic year at STM was not going to be an easy one, but it has turned out to be a productive one – as you will appreciate from perusing the pages of this issue of *More News*. We spent much of the year confronting our financial challenges head-on and diligently planning for our future, and our efforts were paying off. A challenging year was shaping up to be a good year, with achievements well worth celebrating. We reached a new and historic academic and financial agreement with the University of Saskatchewan and were well on our way to creating a new strategic plan for the college.

But in March life changed suddenly for us and everyone else in Saskatchewan. The new coronavirus that was first discovered in China made its way here, with the first case announced in Saskatchewan on March 12. With less than four weeks until the end of the winter term, our year was dramatically interrupted. For our faculty, this meant converting all their existing courses to remote delivery in the span of three days. For our students, it meant completing the term without the supports provided by in-person classes. For our staff, it meant moving out of the building and beginning to work from home. It is a tribute to their professionalism and dedication that they did all this not only in an astonishingly short timeframe, but with a minimum of disruption. The most persistent concern in the air was: how we can deliver high quality instruction to our students when the mode of delivery has changed so quickly?

Since that time, we have been through six weeks of constant adaptation to unusual and unpredictable circumstances. As we are all discovering, the abnormal can become normal, or at least normalized, when it is repeated every day. With the release of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan, we can now anticipate a slow return to a life of fuller activity. But it won't be a straight line, and the five phases of the plan do not yet address what will happen with schools and universities. We will know soon whether the Fall term will be delivered remotely, like Spring and Summer sessions, or whether there will be some limited in-person classes. But we can already say that it will not look like Fall term did last year; the virus will still be with us, and we will be balancing every day between observing public health restrictions and carrying on the work of higher education the STM way. We have learned to teach online and to deliver courses to students at a distance, but in-person instruction remains our paradigm, for the simple reason that education is fundamentally relational.

This year will long be remembered as the year of the coronavirus and the COVID-19 illness. But while the coronavirus interrupted our year, it did not end it. Everyone at STM adapted to the new challenge and continued with the work required to finish the term and complete final exams. The College issued an appeal for donations to the STM Student Emergency Bursary Fund, and the response in the first three weeks doubled the balance in that fund. We have already begun to respond to applications for assistance and will continue to do so for as long as our resources allow. For those who may wish to support students in need through this fund, we have included a donation form near the end of this newsletter.

While we don't yet know how long the coronavirus will be with us or what its final toll will be in human or financial terms, we are confi-



dent that we will emerge from this crisis. And when we do, we will discover what previous generations have: that we are stronger for the challenges we have gone through. We have been powerfully reminded not to cling to what we think of as "normal" when it is taken away from us. For a Christian community that has just journeyed from Lent into the Easter season, that message should resonate especially with us. Only by going through the trauma of losing Christ to death did the first Christians experience resurrection. The past is not erased – Christ still bore the wounds inflicted on him during his suffering – but a new life becomes possible by letting go of the comfortable existence that once seemed "normal". When we come through the pandemic, we will not be unscathed, and we will face greater challenges next year than we did last year. But we will build on the hard-won achievements of the unprecedented year we have just lived through, and we will commit ourselves again to meeting whatever challenges lie ahead of us. We will need not only the virtues the ancient Greeks extolled, like courage and practical wisdom, but the faith, hope, and self-giving love that belong to the Christian life. It will be a tall order, but the communities we serve – beginning with our students – require no less of us.

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

DEAN'S MESSAGE



This is the end of another academic year, and what an extraordinary year this has been!

As we approached the middle of March, we were eyeing the finish line to another successful academic year at STM. Our first term ended well, the College was humming along, and our enrolment, which had started sluggishly last summer, had picked up considerably and almost caught up to 2018 - 2019 record levels by the second term. Work on our new strategic College Plan began right from the beginning of 2019-2020, and became a key consultative and planning focus of this academic year.

Then COVID-19 hit.

Literally overnight, we had to change our entire way of teaching and interacting with our students and had to re-cast ourselves in new and different and challenging ways. All this without much precedent! Our beloved academic, student, and spiritual spaces were devoid of life from the middle of March, and the building completely shut down soon after, unmooring us from this safe anchor we all call STM! Remotely self-isolating, confined to our homes and basements, now communicating solely through our cell phones and laptop monitors, living like it's the end of times!

We then shifted our whole operation online. Classes, assignments, exams, consultations, meetings, advising... all remote delivery! Is this a glimpse into the future? I sincerely hope not. As we came to the end of this weird winter term, I am sure we still had a sense of a job well done, a satisfaction that we have delivered a full term despite being so rudely interrupted. This sense of fulfilment is fully justified, and I want to thank you for rising to the occasion so well.

Because of COVID-19, our 'normal' way of life at STM has been seriously disrupted. And even as the world is itching to get back to normal and slowly lifting restrictions, it is likely that remote delivery of classes will continue into this fall and perhaps into 2021. STM doesn't merely transmit knowledge through digital media; we are a community and thrive with inperson academic discourse and student engagement.

Fall 2020 Plans

As we move forward toward the 2020-21 academic year, working with USask, STM will continue to consult and collaborate in determining the best blend of course delivery for this fall, ensuring that we maximize the learning experience for all students who take STM courses, while also maintaining a safe environment in our college building in this ever-changing environment of the global pandemic through consultation with public health and Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer.

USask's May 12 announcement <https://updates.usask.ca> indicates a plan for primarily remote delivery. STM adapted quickly and smoothly to such delivery when the pandemic hit us in March, and since then, we have been working on improving our pedagogical and technological abilities to meet just such a contingency. The College is committed to providing students the same high quality of education that we, and USask, are known for. We emphasize our commitment to our students, our mission, and to liberal arts education for which STM is so well known.

Important highlights of 2019-20:

The College Plan 2025

As I said earlier, the College Plan 2025 gained considerable momentum in 2019 and has reached a happy place at this moment in Spring 2020. We moved from Discovery to Planning and are now on the verge of approving the Plan. 2019-20 was characterized by great consultations: Faculty, staff, students, senior leaders, board members, alumni, and other stakeholders were all consulted in great numbers and detail. The way the community of STM came together during these consultations was itself a great achievement; the Plan these consultations have produced will, no doubt, be a great one, too.

Academic Achievements

STM faculty members Saeed Moshiri and David McGrane rose to the rank of full professor, Alisha Pomazon achieved tenure, and Tania Duclos was granted renewal of probation.

Academic and Financial Partnership Agreement

The Academic and Financial Partnership Agreement between STM and USask has finally been approved by the Boards of both the USask and STM. This has been a long time coming, and we are glad that this agreement is in place at last. The new agreement promises to redefine our relationship with the College of Arts and Science in important and perhaps fundamental ways. I want to thank our team (Carl, Derin, Tammy, Daniel, and Kerry) who have been at this negotiation for well over three years. I would also like to acknowledge the negotiating teams from the University and the College of Arts and Science for their unfailing graciousness throughout this process.

Retirements

We are going to suffer an unusually high number of retirements this year: Mary Ann Beavis of Religion and Culture and Shelley Coggins of Economics are retiring after more than twenty years of experience each; Natalia Khanenko-Friesen of Anthropology has accepted a position at the University of Alberta and is leaving us in July; and Donna Brockmeyer, our long time librarian at Shannon, is retiring this summer. (Donna's write up will be featured in the Fall More News). We haven't been able to say proper good by to these beloved colleagues of ours in these difficulty times, but I promise that once we are able to gather in our building, one of the first things we do will be to celebrate their service to STM. The College won't be the same without them, and I would like to offer them my deep appreciation and gratitude for their dedication to this college and their profession.

Finally, I wish you all a pleasant, restful, and productive summer! These are uncertain times, true, but at least the weather is nice and summers are beautiful in Saskatchewan!

Arul Kumaran, PhD
Dean, St. Thomas More College



New STM course uses history, culture to teach Dene language

by Paul Sinkewicz

In January, a small group of St. Thomas More College (STM) students embarked on a journey into the quiet, dark northern boreal forest to lay traps; also, onto the wide waters of Lake Athabasca to fish for Whitefish and Arctic Grayling; and into caribou-skin teepees on the coldest winter evenings to gather around the fire and hear stories told by elders.

No, those things didn't happen literally, but the students involved were given a chance to experience the Dene way of life, history and culture. Sharing the everyday life of the Dene people of Saskatchewan was the focus for Elder Allan Adam every time he stepped into his classroom to teach one of the newest classes offered at STM - **Anthropology 298, Dene Language and Culture: An Introduction.**

"Probably one of the biggest challenges is to have the class done in an interesting way that engages students," said Adam. "I have taught this class in the past, and I always try to instill the process of what it feels like to be Dene. I feel that students need to be a part of the class in that way to better understand who the Dene are, where they come from and how their language sounds."

Adam is originally from the Fond du Lac Denesuline Nation, and when he is not busy teaching at STM or serving on the USask Board of Governors, he resides near Prince Albert at Paddockwood. His long, varied career includes stints as a firefighter in the north, working for the CBC and establishing his own recruitment company to staff joint ventures with Indigenous employees. He has served as chief of his band, and as Dene Vice-Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. He now spends time at the Victoria General in Prince Albert as a cultural support worker and at Saskatchewan Penitentiary working with inmates.

A few years ago, Adam came to STM to do a workshop on the Dene language, and found there was enough interest to warrant an exploration into mounting a new class at the college. Support from Dr. Arul Kumaran, Dean of STM, and others, helped propel it along. An outline was created, and the class was accepted in time for the winter session.

"Our goals and objectives were to introduce Dene from an historical perspective and then introduce Dene language as part of it," said Adam. "We had a few people help with developing the class. Mandy Fehr helped put the class outline together and that was vetted through the system and accepted last August. We had our first class in early January."

In Saskatchewan, like everywhere else in Canada, there has been a loss of knowledge of culture and language about, and among, Indigenous peoples. Adam has spent a large part of his life working to share the knowledge that has been in danger of being lost.

"The history of loss has been hard on our communities. Many influences such as residential schools, colonization and many other things have created situations where language was on the decrease over the past century or so. Students need to be taught about these influences and how it affected language, cultural and spiritual loss in the Dene community.

"There was a point in my life where I feared Dene would not be spoken anymore," said Adam. "I made it my life-long effort to ensure that would not happen. Now, we are on a resurgence of sorts. STM and the university understand this and are helping to do something about it. Reconciliation is needed and I support that very much. Things will get better, and Dene is a part of life and must always be."

Check out the complete list of STM course offerings and descriptions for 2020-21 [STMCOLLEGE.CA/CLASSES](https://stmcollege.ca/classes) REGISTER THROUGH PAWS or for more information or academic support, call STM Advisors at 306-966-8900

St. Thomas More College Faculty Department Heads



ENGLISH
Michael Cichon



HISTORY
Sharon Wright



LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & CULTURAL STUDIES
Daniel Regnier



PHILOSOPHY
John Liptay



RELIGION & CULTURE
Chris Hrynkow



ECONOMICS
Saeed Moshiri



POLITICAL STUDIES
Charles Smith



PSYCHOLOGY
Gerry Farthing



SOCIOLOGY
Sarah Knudson (Acting)

FACULTY RESEARCH SUCCESS AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Books

Mary Ann Beavis and Ally Kateusz, eds. *Rediscovering the Marys: Maria, Mariamne, Miriam*. London: T. & T. Clark, 2020. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/rediscovering-the-marys-9780567683458/>

Sarah Knudson and Denise Fuchs, eds. *Committing Sociology: Critical Perspectives on our Social World*. Pearson, 2020.

Bohdan S. Kordan and Mitchell C.G. Dowie. *Canada and the Ukrainian Crisis*. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2020 (forthcoming). https://www.mqup.ca/canada-and-the-ukrainian-crisis-products-9780228001355.php?page_id=73&



Articles

Jennifer Briere:

Kevin Cosford, Jennifer Briere, Barbara Ambros, Shannon Beazley, Carolyn Cartwright. "Effect of Instructional Format on Veterinary Students' Task Performance and Emotional State during a Simulation-Based Canine Endotracheal Intubation Laboratory: Handout versus Video." *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education* (2019). <https://doi.org/10.3138/jvme.0618-077r1>

Tracey Carr and Brian Chartier:

"Healing from Residential School Experiences: Support Workers and Elders on Healing and the Role of Mental Health Professionals." In *Pathways of Reconciliation: Indigenous and Settler Approaches to Implementing the TRC's Calls to Action*, edited by Aimée Craft and Paulette Regan. University of Manitoba Press, 2020.

Saeed Moshiri:

Saeed Moshiri and Arian Daneshmand. "How Effective is Government Spending on Environmental Protection in a Developing Country?" *Journal of Economic Studies* (2020), forthcoming.

Saeed Moshiri. "Consumer Responses to Price and Non-Price Gasoline Price Policies." *Energy Policy* 137 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2019.111078>

Saeed Moshiri, Gry Østenstad, Wessel N. Vermeulen. "Manufacturing in a Natural Resource Based Economy: Evidence from Canadian Plants, Oxford Center for the Analysis of Resource Rich Economies." *OxCARRE* (Oxford Centre for the Analysis of Resource Rich Economies) working paper. Department of Economics, University of Oxford, February 2019. (<https://www.economics.ox.ac.uk/oxcarre-papers/manufacturing-in-a-natural-resource-based-economy-evidence-from-canadian-plants>).

Cynthia Wallace:

"Attention, Representation, and Unsettling in Katherena Vermette's *The Break*, or, Teaching and (Re)Learning the Ethics of Reading." *Humanities* 8, no. 4 (2019): 164. <https://doi.org/10.3390/h8040164>

Faculty Research Success

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Catalyst Grant: Patient Oriented Research:

Jennifer Briere (co-Investigator), "Addressing Loneliness and Social Isolation: Building Bridges in Seniors' Housing." 2020-2021. With Dr. Donna Goodridge (Principal Investigator, University of Saskatchewan), Kerstin Roger, University of Manitoba (Co-Investigator); J. Dziad; K. Hails; W. Hails; J. Lidington; J. Newman; E. PausJenssen; I. Poulin; K. Roger; and C. Skrapek (Collaborators). \$99,236

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) Collaborative Innovation Development Grant:

Paulette Hunter, "Using video-assisted patient education to support discussions about palliative care in long-term care." 2020-2021. \$50,000

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD U OF S STUDENTS' UNION (USSU)

The USSU Teaching Excellence Awards recognize professors and Teaching Assistants who demonstrate teaching excellence at the University of Saskatchewan. An excellent teacher not only gives us access to knowledge but also gives us the tools with which to turn that knowledge into wisdom. Students evaluate teachers and their environment in a number of ways; three important areas include enthusiasm, organization, and fairness of evaluation. The culmination of these aspects leads to an environment where students feel free to explore, critique, grow, and become leaders.

Selected by students, the Teaching Excellence Award recognizes those who have demonstrated enthusiasm, organization, and fairness in evaluation, providing exceptional commitment and support to their classrooms. The 2019-20 STM faculty recipients included:



MARICARMEN JENKINS
Department of
Philosophy



JOHN LIPTAY
Department of
Philosophy



CYNTHIA WALLACE
Department of
English

STM FACULTY NEWS

• **Dr. Bohdan Kordan** - has been contracted to work as a historical consultant to Historica Canada on its newest project - a 60 second vignette on WWI internment that will be produced as 'Heritage Minute'. The 'Heritage Minute' is a nationally syndicated television production series used to promote publically an understanding of Canada's history. The pre-production phase is almost complete. Filming will commence this summer.

• **Dr. Tina Greenfield** - several recent media announcements on new research she and her colleagues have been conducting in southern Iraq over the past few field seasons. Archaeology is the premiere journal/magazine for archaeology globally: <https://www.archaeology.org/news/8558-200331-iraq-mesopotamia-girsu>

• **Dr. Lesya Sabada** - was the visiting professor in the Department of Peace and Conflict at the United Nations University for Peace (UPEACE) in Costa Rica. The name of the course was Religious Peacebuilding and the Ecological Crisis.



• **Dr. David McGrane** - *Back to Blakeney: Revitalizing the Democratic State* by David McGrane, John Whyte, Roy Romanow, Russell Isinger, (eds.) (University of Regina Press) was short-listed in the SK Book Awards - under University of Regina Faculty of Arts/University of Saskatchewan College of Arts & Science Jennifer Welsh Scholarly Writing Award

• McGrane's book titled *The New NDP* has been shortlisted for the Donald Smiley Prizes awarded by the Canadian Political Science Association.

STM FACULTY RETIREMENTS 2020

by Laura Mitchell

SHELLEY COGGINS



Shelley Coggins received her B.Comm from the University of Saskatchewan in 1984 and her MA in Economics from Queen's University in 1985.

In 1987 Coggins was hired as a sessional lecturer to teach the introductory and intermediate theory courses in the St. Thomas More College (STM) Economics department, and it was at a welcome party that fall hosted by then Dean, Tom Deutscher and his wife Marci, that she met her future husband, Jack Coggins - who taught in the History department.

Coggins returned to STM as a term lecturer in 1994 and later received a permanent appointment as a special lecturer. Her research areas focused on international trade, the World Trade Organization, and trade disputes. Her teaching covered introductory and intermediate courses on microeconomics and macroeconomics.



MARY ANN BEAVIS

Dr. Mary Ann Beavis (PhD) received a BEd and MA from the University of Manitoba before going on to an MA from the University of Notre Dame and a PhD from the Divinity School of Cambridge University in 1987. She held a number of positions at Cambridge University and the University of Winnipeg before joining St. Thomas More College as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies in 1998.

Dr. Beavis served as the Department Head of Religion and Culture twice and served on numerous committees in the college. She taught undergraduate and graduate courses on topics including Biblical studies, Christian origins, and women in religion. Beavis has published multiple books including most recently, *Rediscovering the Marys: Maria, Mariamne, Miriam*, edited with Ally Kateusz.

Thank you, Shelley and Mary Ann, for your years of service to STM!



Over the next few pages, members of the STM community invite us in to their new normal - sharing how they are adjusting in a remote setting to complete their studies, fulfill their work responsibilities, teach courses and engage students, and remain connected in worship with our faith community.

I transitioned to working remotely from my basement home office March 19. Strategic initiatives and planning continued with my recruitment officer to support students either entering or completing degrees; marketing, design and communications support for all units took on modified weighted approaches related to medium selection to most effectively engage our audiences social distancing. The numerous committee project meetings and senior leadership discussions moved to the virtual board room.

Plenty of work continues over the summer as we welcome our summer students remotely and promote 2020 fall enrolment in preparation for the return of students in what may be a very unique new normal for STM!

What have I personally missed most in the first eight weeks of working remotely and required social distancing? Lack of natural light in my work space, and most importantly, embracing, laughing and simply enjoying the presence of my children and grandchildren. While technology helps us to continue to see and hear friends and family, the deep emotional and physical response to human contact cannot yet be replicated virtually!

Jacquie Berg is STM's Director of Communications, Marketing and Student Recruitment

Pope Francis has called for all Christians to respond to the coronavirus pandemic "with the universality of prayer, of compassion, of tenderness" adding, "Let us remain united. Let us make our closeness felt toward those persons who are the most lonely and tried".

Keeping the Faith

By Jacquie Berg

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." – Matthew 18:20

This spring, the world is facing a new enemy: COVID-19. The life-threatening pandemic has brought people together with communal resolve, seeking strength and support from family, friends, community, and their faith.

St. Thomas More College (STM), the Catholic college at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), erected its stone chapel 70 years ago. It has served as a gathering place for students, faculty, staff, and the worshipping community, in prayer, liturgical celebrations, concerts and lectures. But on March 15, in a historic decision, the chapel doors at STM were closed for the first time, ending daily mass, weekly youth group gatherings and access for prayer and reflection, while adhering to provincial guidelines to restrict the spread of the COVID-19 virus, which was quickly taking lives worldwide.

While COVID-19 restrictions resulted in suspending gathering in physical spaces, new doors have opened with creativity and resourcefulness, to redefine the ways the faithful can safely maintain community and facilitate gatherings in a virtual space.

Dr. Gertrude Rompré (EdD), director of mission and ministry for STM, finds hope and positivity have risen from these dark times.

"We've come to see each other as community in a new way. The strength of our relationships has been revealed. We also have developed new skills to connect, strengthened our resiliency and been witness to numerous examples of compassionate service to others in need."

STM's Campus Ministry Team is adapting their roles to this new normal by providing resources, caring for each other, and checking in – functioning as a community although not physically present.

"We have a sense of still being connected as a community although we're not in the same space," said Rompré.

"Our team continues to reflect on new ways to help students, build community and deepen faith, as well as engaging with students in acts of justice, service and charity, while maintaining physical distancing. Physical distancing does not



Jacquie Berg

have to mean social or spiritual distancing. Indeed, this is a time to strengthen our social and spiritual connections."

Technology today has enabled numerous opportunities to gather and minister remotely. Beyond email and texting, a reliance on remote learning, virtual team meetings, social media and videos are now normal communication and socialization vehicles. Mass and other liturgical activities are now functioning in a remote setup.

"We are trying to incorporate video and use the actual chapel to remind how we would gather or use that space" said Rompré.

Leading up to Easter, STM campus ministers shared videos from within the chapel, reflecting changes in the altar, linens and symbols, along with accompanying recorded reflections and song.

STM's worshipping community receives an electronic bulletin, and is provided the link to other parishes in the diocese who are live-streaming mass. Providing inspiration and spiritual leadership, the college shared Easter reflections from Fr. Ron Griffin, CSB, Basilian priest, past STM faculty member and current College chaplain.

With a focus on pastoral care, some of the varied initiatives the team has developed to remain engaged and supportive include maintaining 'jeans for justice' Share Lent initiatives; video and meditation techniques for centering prayer to reduce anxiety; sending out weekly inspirational messages; an interfaith virtual prayer service, along with prayer and reflections. STM Campus Ministry also offered an online Lenten retreat which attracted more than 90 participants.

Mandated social distancing adds to levels of anxiety during what is already a very stressful time in the

academic year and there are still limits to virtual community. Not all students and community members have access to the same level of technology, and many struggle without personal contact.

Rompré worries about those isolated.

"We don't know who is being missed," she said. "If we don't have a way to connect, we may not know they are in need."

As social distancing restrictions extended into Easter, Rompré draws some comparison to freedoms lost due to pandemic re-

strictions to a type of 'fasting' from liturgical life – missing it makes it more precious to us.

"In this moment, in a most profound way, we are living out the mystery that we celebrate each Easter: the darkness of Good Friday that gives way to hope and new life on Easter morning!"

Gertrude Rompré

A Day in the Life: by Dr. Cynthia Wallace (PhD)



I wake up with an alarm at 6:30, maybe push snooze once or twice, relishing two things: one, I'm about to take my first sip of hot, milky black tea, and two, I don't have to pack any lunches. We are taking our joys where we find them these days.

The house is quiet for a while, but eventually my husband Josh and I hear small feet on the stairs. Pilgram, who is three, will have found his glasses and come toting his blue blankie for a snuggle. Miriam, at six, often sleeps later because she stays up later, reading by the glow of a light-up unicorn toy she holds like a lantern. I'm an English prof: it's hard for me to enforce bedtime if it interrupts a good book. So we count sleeping in as another blessing of this season.

Josh has been perfecting his sourdough over the last few years, so breakfast is often peanut butter toast. At some point I walk on the basement treadmill while scrolling social media. I'm a recent exercise convert mostly for its stress-relieving properties. Sometimes Pilgram finds me downstairs and builds an obstacle course using all the random basement stuff while I walk. These creations take approximately ten times longer to clean up than they take to build.

I try to work in the mornings, when my brain is fresh and caffeinated. I work at the little desk upstairs in our bedroom, where the light is good and the door locks. While I prep lecture slides, answer emails, check message boards, and grade online writing assignments, Josh holds circle time in the living room, complete with themed show and tell, to appease the preschooler's sorrow at missing class. Miri misses first grade too, mostly her friends and the routine and the spelling tests. We are far from full-on homeschooling—just trying to enrich their minds and honor their curiosity and creativity. We read a lot of books each day. We make a lot of art and tape it to the windows. In the afternoon I often work on the couch with a human building Lego creations next to me. The videos I record for classes have background music of voices debating over Play Doh. There's a lot of toggling back and forth.

Some days are harder than others: some days I face a wall of overwhelm and spend hours reading a novel, trying to resist the pull to obsessively check the news. It helps to get dressed, to take vitamin D, to chat with friends, to keep normal mealtimes.

I have simplified teaching materials and expectations as much as I can, extended assignment deadlines, thought very carefully about essential course objectives and let go of the rest. In Life Writing, I offered my students an option for partial credit on their final exams if they keep a regular journal. Some of them share these journals with me, or send me emails, and I realize how tenuous everything feels for them, how my own mental fog is a widely shared experience. They are doing the best they can.

I want my students to feel accompanied through this season, unprecedented in all of our experiences. I want the same for my children, my husband, my far-away family, my friends around the world. In the evenings, my children sit on my lap and lean on my shoulder as we read aloud or watch cooking shows. They newly need us to sit upstairs, near them, as they fall asleep, and so we do, a quiet presence in the dark. We can hear each other's breathing.

Sometimes I sit there with my laptop, reading assignments or answering emails in the screen's glow. I know that many of my students are also parents, or caregivers for other family members, or home again with younger siblings. Sitting on my son's floor reading their writing, I feel keenly how much we share.

Some days I feel like my fears need their own storage unit, they're such a disorderly pile (and let's not mention the parallel situation of my house). Writing it out helps—I take my own journaling assignment to heart—and talking with friends, creating order where I can. I try to find glimpses of beauty each day, or kindness, or relief. My research is about empathy and attention, and again I try to take my own advice. The philosopher-mystic Simone Weil said that the magic of attention is in asking another person, "What are you going through?" I'm trying to do this, to extend my care beyond my own four walls. Looking for the good each day gives me the grace to hold other people's fear and sorrow alongside my own.

And still, I miss things: an extremely hot latte; hallway banter; church hugs; all the free-wheeling freedoms we took for granted a month ago. More than anything else, though, I miss the classroom. I miss the communities we create out of conversation. I miss my students' voices, their faces, the way their comments build on each other in real space, real time. We can approximate these exchanges on the internet, but there's no replacement for their embodied presence.

My classes are notoriously interactive: I want to tell my students stuff I know about the books we read, yes, but I also want to hear about their experiences of reading, their thoughts, their questions. I want to see their eyes light up with new understanding. I want to overhear their group discussions of a poem. What a gift it is, what a miracle, this understanding we create together with words! The community we forge in a classroom is something set apart, which is another way of saying it is holy.

I miss it most of all.

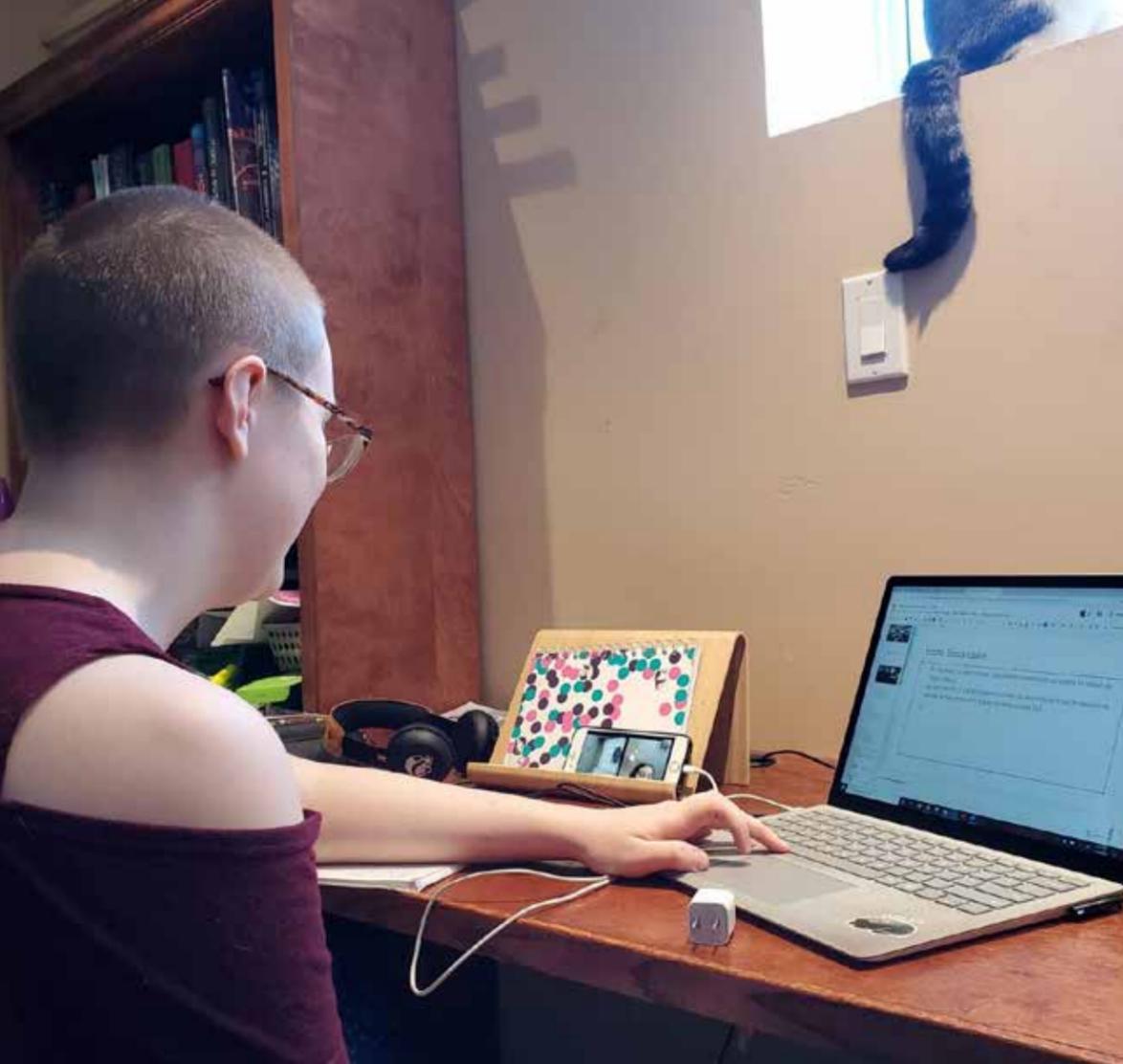
I can't say I'm counting down the days until we can share space together again, because no one knows how many days it will be. What I can say is that I am holding out hope for it. The writer Rebecca Solnit reminds us that while both optimism and pessimism are risky and limited, presuming we can know how things will turn out, hope lives in the space of the unknown. We don't know what will happen, and this gives us extraordinary room to imagine and to work for a better outcome.

So: I am hoping. I am inviting my students into that hope with each note I send, each online post, each lecture prepped with a child underfoot. We may be working and learning and living apart for now, but we get to hope together.

Cynthia Wallace is an Associate Professor in STM's department of English.



Keeping close to mom "where the light is good."



Remote Learning

by Rowan Hollinger

Taking classes remotely has been a challenge, but something university has us well-prepared for: managing our time in a way that works for us and still lets us get everything done.

One of my classes has a group project which has been tricky to do remotely, but using FaceTime is effective and helps with the isolation. Also, when your group members are living alone, they greatly appreciate the distraction of a cat on the screen. Her name is Penny.

The “best” part of doing school remotely is that professors have been (mostly) posting lectures ahead of schedule, so as students we can work at our own pace (and we have more school work to do when we are bored). I’m not entirely looking forward to finals because two of my classes are still having three hour finals (and one had to increase the weight by 20%) but I think it’ll be okay. I’m one of the ones who has lots of time to study!

Rowan Hollinger is a 2nd year STM student



In-class lecture pre COVID restrictions



Using technology to facilitate remote course delivery

Teaching and Learning in the Time of Pandemic

by Dr. Celene Sidloski(PhD)

A sense of panic descended upon the university six weeks ago, a panic generated by a virus primarily, but a panic that generated questions about university learning itself. That we would continue to teach our students was never in doubt, but how and why we would finish the term were open questions. If professors and students were now forbidden to meet to complete their courses, then how would we proceed? What, many asked, do we owe to the students we can no longer see face to face, and how can we fulfill that debt we owe? What do our students now owe to us? What do we owe to the disciplines we teach, and their respective works? Is university learning an endeavor of sufficient seriousness that we dare pursue it under a vast shadow of uncertainty—as the invisible threat of illness and its unruly cohort of thuglike privations—of employment, income, and even liberty—hang over us?

In his famous sermon “Learning in Wartime,” written in the Autumn of 1939, C. S. Lewis provided, under conditions of uncertainty not so different from our own, a compelling answer to the last question. He proposed that our seemingly unique external crises, these great threats to the fabric of social order and routine, are really nothing new, that they have been played and replayed all throughout history: “The war creates no absolutely new situation; it simply aggravates the permanent human situation so that we can no longer ignore it. Human life has always been lived on the edge of a precipice . . . If [people] had postponed the search for knowledge and beauty until they were secure, the search would never have begun . . . Life has never been normal.”

Considering that the shadow of our mortality has been newly cast before us, a reminder of the unfailing truth of human life that was there all along, we must reach even more deliberately for that which is worthy of a human soul: the good, the beautiful, and the true, whether these are manifest in Greek tragedy or Shakespearean comedy, in formal logic or Plato’s dialogues, in the study of Spanish grammar or differential calculus. The human mind has a tendency to attach itself to whatever looms large in our direct field of vision; the more important it is, then, that we continue to provide it with an object that comports with its health rather than its dis-ease. Again, Lewis notes, “The war [we might read, “the virus”] will fail to absorb our whole attention because it is a finite object and, therefore, intrinsically unfitted to support the whole attention of a human soul.” Lewis did not live in the age of the internet and the 24-hour news cycle, but he is right nonetheless. The virus cannot and does

not absorb our whole attention, even as our existential space has been cleared of certain daily routines and concerns; if it could so take up all our mental space, binge-watching Netflix would not have become for many a daily ritual. And so we continue to teach, and (hopefully) our students to learn.

Teaching virtually has been for me an imperfect accommodation, a breakage of the single act of teaching and learning that occurs when a professor and students take together that mysterious journey toward knowledge in shared time and space. However, this journey cannot end, even as the hearts and minds of our students do not now fall beneath our eyes. There is one special blessing that may come as an indirect result of this separation from our students, and from our mutual sequestration from the normal routine of classroom learning: one may discover—or rediscover—the act of contemplation that awakens the soul, giving us more unimpeded access to the written thoughts of others, and to our own burgeoning thoughts. If nothing else, we might find ways to encourage each other in contemplation, in private thought and reflection. In *The Wind in the Willows*, Mole, in deep sympathy for the existential suffering of the depressed Rat, brings his friend back to life first by poetically describing the homely routines of nature and daily autumn life in the fields outside his hole, then by nudging Rat into his own poetic world:

“It’s quite a long time since you did any poetry,” he remarked. “You might have a try at it this evening, instead of—well, brooding over things so much. I’ve an idea that you’ll feel a lot better when you’ve got something jotted down—if it’s only just the rhymes.”

The Rat pushed the paper away from him wearily, but the discreet Mole took occasion to leave the room, and when he peeped in again some time later, the Rat was absorbed and dead to the world; alternately scribbling and sucking the top of his pencil . . . it was joy to the Mole to know that the cure had at least begun.”

It is possible that our encounter with this virus will initiate just such a cure. God willing.

Celene Sidloski is a sessional lecturer in STM’s department of English.

Executive Assistance from the Home Office

by Gail Morrison

As we work through COVID-19, I have converted my dining room into my office as I continue to work remotely from home. Each day I go into my office and find my dog sitting on my office chair anxiously waiting for the workday to begin. Two weeks ago, the start of my workday would have looked very different.

My day begins as usual with checking the Dean’s calendar and responding to numerous emails. Now instead of faculty and co-workers stopping by my office with questions or conversation, I am now distracted with a barking dog or husband dealing with his clients from his work space in the kitchen.

Much of my time is meeting scheduling. The difference now is that none are held in boardrooms or offices, but rather meeting virtually through Microsoft Teams or Teleconference. While there are a few hiccups, both work well for the most part. I will say that this “old dog” has learned a lot of new tricks learning to work remotely. It is business as usual though. Planning agendas, attending meetings, and taking notes. The upcoming months will be busy planning the new academic year with advertising for instructors, setting dates for various committees, and beginning processes for tenure and promotion.

I cross my fingers that we will be watching the Riders come summer, walking the dog with no distancing, and when everything goes back to normal, we can once again work alongside each other.

Gail Morrison is Executive Assistant to the Dean





Dr. Alisha Pomazon, STM President Dr. Carl Still, Dr. Henri Biah, Dr. Christopher Hrynkow, Dr. Gertrude Rompré, Caitlin Ward and more were interviewed for the 'Celebrating Saints' Newman weekend retreat

NEWMAN RETREAT CELEBRATES SAINTS

by Michael MacLean

For over 40 years, STM students, staff and faculty, as well as Newman members from across the University of Saskatchewan campus have gathered at St. Peter's Abbey for the Annual Newman Retreat. This year, the retreat was held on Jan. 31st-Feb. 2nd with the theme, "Celebrating Saints".

This year's theme was incredibly apt, as the patron of Newman Centres all around the world, John Henry Cardinal Newman was canonized a saint in October 2019. The weekend was an exploration of what makes a saint, who are some of the saints, and what is the process to become one. In the process, participants got to hear about Newman, St. Thomas More, and the stories of many other saints. They also were able to watch a video presentation of STM faculty and staff talking about their favourite saints. The weekend included prayer, a screening of "A Man for All Seasons", socializing and games, a photo scavenger hunt, All Saints Jeopardy and music throughout the weekend led by STM Campus Ministry's own Celeste Woloschuk. Friday's evening prayer was led by Fr. Andre Lalach, and was an Akathist to Blessed Vasyl Velychkovsky, C.Ss.R., who was a Bishop and Martyr.

A highlight of the weekend for many was the pilgrimage walk to St. Peter's Cathedral in Muenster, where Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB, and Fr. Demetrius Wasyluniuk, OSB, talked about all the saints and the art in the church by Count Berthold von Imhoff, an artist known for his religious murals and paintings. The Newman Exec is responsible for planning the retreat with the guidance of their STM Staff Mentor Michael MacLean. Michael made sure to include a remembrance of long-time Newman Retreat attendee and well-loved STM Faculty member Dr. Alan Reese, who passed away in June of 2019.

The weekend wrapped up with Sunday mass with the monks of St. Peter's. Abbot Peter Novocosky, OSB, presided, and spoke in his homily of the saints and those in the world that inspire us by their perseverance and dedication. There was a positive spirit amongst the retreatants, and they commented on their evaluations expressing gratitude for this special weekend away.

To keep up with the Newman exec, please follow their Facebook page, found here: <https://www.facebook.com/Newman-CentreUOfs/>

PSY 207 DEATH CAFÉ EVENT

March 11, 2020 two death café facilitators were brought in to coordinate an open-ended, group-based forum for discussing experiences and questions around death and dying for students in STM's Psychology 207.

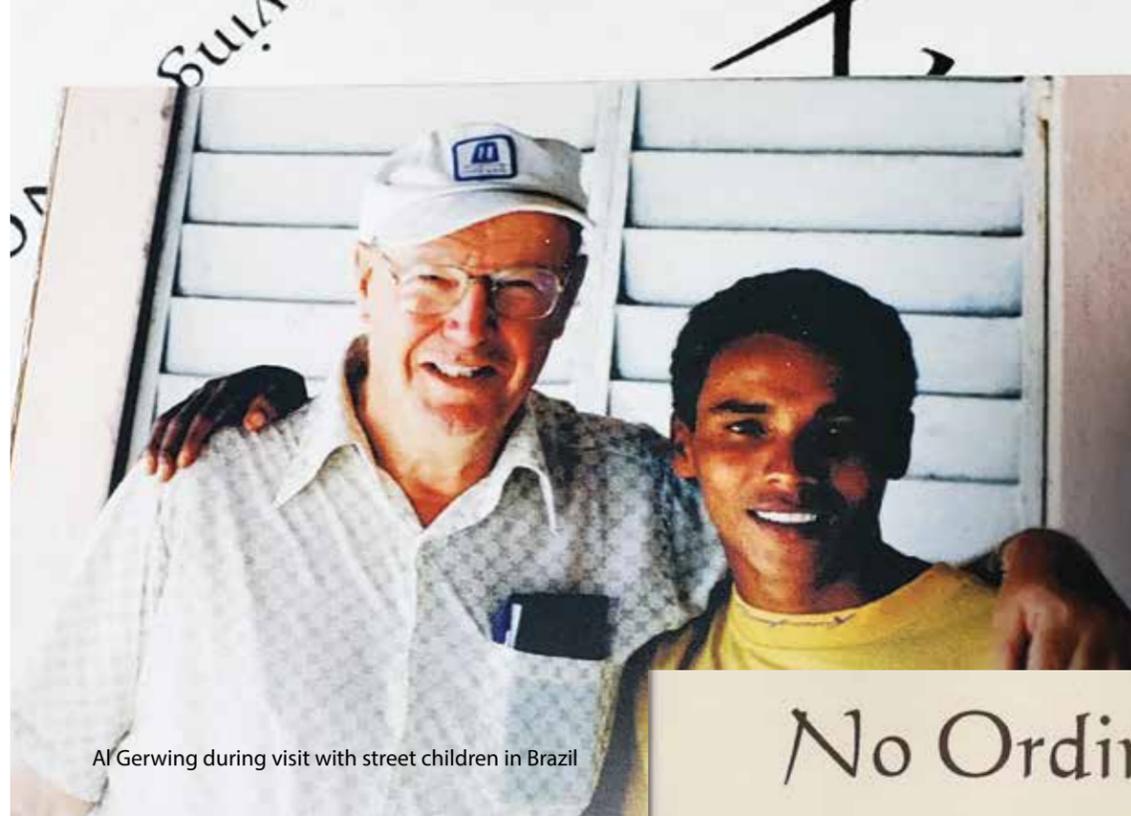


by Dr. Chad Hammond, PhD

I realize there was more to this event than I had intended, coming as it did just prior to the sweeping public health responses to Covid-19 in Saskatchewan and Canada. These types of events always take on a life of their own that you can't premeditate, but more so when pressing current events enters into the conversations. I heard the phrase "existential dread" more than once during the café. That said, it was in-part the uncertain outcomes of a death café that can make it so transformative for people. Having open conversations about death and dying goes against so many taboos in daily discourse; going into such a situation is anything but predictable.

I had decided on a death café early in developing the course because of the learning objectives set out. Learning and retaining content on the psychology of death and dying represented 1 of 4 quadrants in my matrix of learning objectives. The other three were related to: students' personal emotional responses to death and dying; their valuations and assumptions around how we (should) die and how we (should) grieve; and their skills development in critical thinking and personal reflection on death and dying within their own lives. The event was meant to be an opportunity to tap into those other three quadrants, in a safe and respectful setting, where students get to share a bit of themselves as well as learn from the experiences of others. In my prior work promoting advance care planning with the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, I learned a lot about death cafes as an effective strategy for rolling back the stigma of speaking about death. I was determined to create an opportunity for students to experience--in an interactive, participatory way--what happens when we sit down for two hours and speak through the stigma.

As I'm grading the students' reflective essays-inspired by their conversations at the death café - I'm starting to see some of the positive impacts both acute and hopefully long-term that the event had on their course experience. But the death café was just a spark, a brief flash of light when hard truth rubs against rigid norms. I am hopeful that this event will make it easier for the students to reenter that space of humility and openness as they encounter loss in the future, including the losses we are collectively living under the cloud of Covid-19.



Al Gerwing during visit with street children in Brazil

Reminiscing about STM, Al would recall how Fr. Joe McGahey taught him a love of literature and Fr. Robert Finn taught him how to think. It was together with Fr. Finn that Al started the STM chorus. Al always spoke of STM in reverential terms and had the fondest memories of the time he spent there.

Al Gerwing grew up on a farm near Lake Lenore and, for a few years, in Nebraska, USA. From early on, Al showed an aptitude for learning and for music. He became a teacher and taught for close to 50 years. In the early 1960's, Al volunteered to become a monk at St. Peter's College in order to free a priest to go to the Brazil missions. When Al finally retired from teaching, he decided to go to Brazil to see the mission for himself. He immediately fell in love with the Brazilian people, especially the "poorest of the poor" in northeast Brazil.

For the last third of his life Al worked feverishly to raise money for projects he agreed to support in the impoverished sertao in Brazil. He organized countless concerts and musicals throughout western Canada and even in Germany, with all proceeds sent to Brazil. He donated his teacher's pension as well and was able to improve the lives of many youth and women.

How appropriate it is that *The Alfonse Gerwing Foundation*, a foundation begun by Al's nieces and nephews in order to continue Al's work with the poor is now able to make a contribution to STM in support of scholarships for foreign students. Al (who passed away in 2007) would be proud.

If you would like to find out more about the Alfonse Gerwing Foundation, you can visit <http://thealgerwingfoundation.com/>. The website includes information on ordering copies of Al's biography, mentioned earlier, as well as how to support the projects that Al began by donating to the Foundation named for him.

ALPHONSE GERWING

A life of Service; continuing to give back.

by Steve Buttinger

Alfonse Gerwing had a great love of Saint Thomas More and of St. Thomas More College (STM).

Al spent two years attending STM in the 1940's and they left him with indelible memories, shared in his book entitled, "No Ordinary Man: the Memoirs of Alfonse Gerwing".

No Ordinary Man

The Memoirs of Alfonse Gerwing



Alfonse Gerwing with Connie Gerwing



Hello, STM-Newman Alumni

Just a couple of months ago, this message would have been full of congratulatory notes, notes about convocation, about final examinations, about Spring on the way, about Lenten observances and Easter celebrations.

Hello, COVID-19! As I write this today, classes are now online, the USask campus is shut down, casinos, bars, leisure centres, gyms, even student residences and churches are shut down...indefinitely! Is there anyone who can remember when Sunday Mass was not offered in churches?

All these have been replaced by "social distancing", "self-isolation", and "self-quarantining". So, what room does that leave for a greeting from the STM-Newman Alumni Association to its more than 10,000 members? What message of inspiration can come from a pandemic? How do we replace, for the time being, all those things we used to do?

I know that this is normally the time that many of us flee the cold and stormy months of February and March to warmer and gentler climates, extending our stay-away times even through the late spring and early summer months. This year, it is more important that we stay at home... to keep ourselves safe and, especially, to keep our families, friends, and communities safe.

We must of course make certain that basic needs are looked after: food, primarily, and health and sanitation supplies. And, not only for ourselves but also for family members, and for friends and neighbors who are not able to manage for themselves. The Christopher Movement has, as its slogan, as its mission, "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness". Community acts of kindness are the candle that will make the world shine at this time of social upheaval and stress. Use this time for reflection. The years that most of us spent at STM or involved in Newman Club when we were on campus ought to provide an enormous amount of memories for us to recall and to savor. Who we were, who our friends were, what we experienced, made us who and what we are today. Let us remember and be thankful.

The call for physical distancing has also reminded many of us of our fundamental need for connection. We are proud of the community that exists at STM, where we have always been able to find smiles and encouragement, vibrant discussions and supporting words of faith and hope. We always find time to quickly say hello or catch up on work, challenges and most importantly, the news of our lives.

Let's not become too isolated. I am suggesting that the STM community stay connected through photo sharing, stories about how you spent the winter, how are the children, the grandchildren, the pets? We can still connect with each other through positive messaging, social media invites, blogs, creative ideas for individuals and families to remain healthy and active, and, of course, humor! Share your achievements memories, your hopes and dreams for the future with us, your STM-Newman family.

Almost all the world's leaders use the phrase "We will get through this", or words to that effect. This ought also to be a time to think about the future, to envision a changed world, to plan for life after COVID-19. Our Christian faith is built not only on the past (He came) and the present (He is with us), but also on the future (He will return). We believe the truth of the past and the present, and we hope for the future. This is not in many respects different from the fundament of most religions and faiths. It is this hope for a future free of illness and strife that inspires us to continue to plan and to work to ensure it will come.

And so, colleagues and friends, I encourage you to accept these challenges as opportunities and face them with courage and prepare for the future with hope. Use your time wisely; be community-minded; love the important people in your life; pray often for all, and especially for those who suffer most in this trying time.

Above all, stay safe and healthy! God bless you all. by Art Battiste



STMNAA President Art Battiste

THE STMNAA IS NOW INVITING NOMINATIONS for the 2020 Distinguished Alumni awards.

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL JUNE 30, 2020.

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 community leaders who are committed to social justice and the common good.

We are rightfully proud of our alumni.

The STM Distinguished Alumni Award is awarded each year to 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 celebrate their relationship with STM.

This award recognizes truly outstanding STM graduates whose endeavours have distinguished them in their chosen profession and community.

We encourage you to nominate an STM Alumnae today!

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

Thank you for your continued support!

We'd love to hear from you. What have you been up to since your graduation? Please be in touch to share your story.

Have you moved or changed your name? Would you prefer to receive your correspondence electronically?

Please send us your updated contact information.

PLANNED GIVING AT STM



*Reflecting our past
 Renewing our commitment
 Building our future*

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 possibility 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 Today:** such as publicly traded securities that include stocks, bonds, GIC's or royalties, can be donated providing immediate benefit to STM with direct tax relief to you.

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.

Long term funding is required to support: STM scholarships and bursaries, the Les and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies, the Basilian Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation, and building renewal and expansion.

For more information about Planned Giving, please contact

Kari Sinkewicz 306.262.6818
ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca

ELIZABETH DOKTOR ENGAGED LEARNING AWARD

STM gratefully acknowledges Alumna Elizabeth Doktor for her thoughtful generosity in creating this award.

By Karen Massett

In honor of the Congregation of St. Basil who founded and sponsored St. Thomas More College (STM), and recognizing the value of Catholic intellectual tradition, STM alumna Elizabeth Doktor has established the Elizabeth Doktor Engaged Learning Award to provide financial support for STM students. To qualify for the award students must be participating in the STM Engaged Learning and Study Abroad Program. Preference will be given to students majoring in any subject offered by STM and the award will be presented for the first time in the 2020 -21 academic year.

STM offers a variety of experiential learning opportunities for students to engage with the larger community both locally and internationally. The Elizabeth Doktor Engaged Learning Award will provide much needed financial support for students participating in programs such as Community Service-Learning, the Service and Justice Project, and the Panama Field Study.

Elizabeth began her studies in the STM "White House" and has many fond memories of the Basilian Fathers as well as the Newman Club, during the 1950s and 60s. We were delighted to welcome her back to the College for the 2019 Christmas Reception where she enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship with the STM community, while reconnecting with fellow alumni, and her cherished friends Rita Gillies and Sister Phyllis Kapuscinski.

STM is so grateful to have Elizabeth's continued dedication and support. It is a heart-warming testament to this alumna's kind and generous spirit, her deep appreciation of the Basilian education experience, and her faithful commitment to the College and the well-being of students who attend STM.

Thank you for making a difference Elizabeth!



Elizabeth enjoyed reconnecting with fellow alumni at the STM Development Christmas Reception: Left to Right, Elizabeth Doktor, Margaret and Robert Sanche, Helen Horsman and Sister Phyllis Kapuscinski

Red Mass supports STM student awards

A very special thank you to the St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild!



Members of the legal profession in Saskatchewan enter STM Chapel to take part in the Red Mass on Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019

St. Thomas More College would like to thank the St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild of Saskatoon and our community of donors.

The St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild of Saskatoon hosted a Red Mass celebration on Thursday November 28, 2019 at St. Thomas More College. Red Mass is an annual celebration to invoke the inspiration of the Holy Spirit on those of all faiths involved in the administration of justice in our community.

After Mass, guests gathered for a special dinner reception with special guest Most Reverend Mark Hagemoen, Roman Catholic Bishop of Saskatoon and guest speaker The Hon. Chief Justice Robert G. Richards, Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the donors who have supported STM Scholarships and Bursaries in response to the request at our 2019 Red Mass dinner reception, including a very generous gift from St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild of Saskatoon. More than \$3,800 was raised by friends of College at the 2019 St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild Red Mass.

As our world changes at a rapid pace, the value of the Catholic intellectual tradition becomes increasingly important. It is our goal to provide an educational experience that inspires, challenges and transforms our students. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, our students are well equipped to accomplish their personal and professional aspirations, engage in their communities, contribute to a more just society and grow to reach the full measure of their humanity.

The St. Thomas More scholarly community is grateful for this dedicated support.

2019/2020 STM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Thanks to our generous donors \$200,000 in STM student awards available annually!



Dr. Carl Still (left), President of STM College, and Dr. Arul Kumaran (right), Dean of STM, present the Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross First Year Scholarship at the Nov. 23, 2019 awards ceremony

ENTERING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Reverend Edwin Kline CSB Entrance Scholarship

Jenna Roesch

Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross First Year Scholarships

Elisabeth Bauman, Hannah Berezitzky, Saman Chughtai, Joi Nicole Ines, Nicholas Kane, Tessa Koeberlin, Hao Tian Luo, Yen (Kim) Ma

Knights of Columbus First Year Scholarships

Kajsa Felstrom, Jocelyn Lalach, Julia Visentini

STM College First Year Scholarships

Terryn Bateman, Abbi Cross, Zandra Nicole Cruz, Chelsey Torres

Maia Gibb First Year Student Scholarship

Anna Wolitzki

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CONTINUING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Wolfe Family General Achievement Scholarship (1st Renewal)

Liam Kerr

Hinz/Teunissen Memorial Scholarship

Michelle Kent

Henry and Agnes Brockman Scholarship

Temi Akinola

Rose Semko Hrynchuk Scholarship

Tiana Kirstein

Doug and Irene Schmeiser Scholarship

Emily Sinkewicz

Jeannette Tetreault Scholarship

Sophie Chatlain

Evelyn Burkitt Scholarship

Rachel Kay

Council 1517 George Mackey Foundation Scholarship

Shawn Vereschagin

Batten Scholarship

Arielle McKay

Christopher Dawson Scholarships

Brittany Penner
Taylor Zimmerman

Thomas Deis '38 Pioneers of Saskatchewan Scholarship

Alyssa McCullough

Dielschneider Aboriginal Scholarship

Calista Fendelet

Terrence and Margaret Downey Scholarship

Paul Jones

Founding Fathers Scholarship

Brittany Marche-Shears

Wilfrid and Sylvia Hinz Family Award

Jeniffer Camacho

Sister Irene Poelzer Scholarship

Bailee Brewster

St. Peter's College Continuing Student Scholarship

Joel Zimroz

STM College Creative Writing Scholarship

Brandon Fick

STM College Leadership Award

Rowan Hollinger, Veronica Lucas, Alyssa McCullough, Emily Roberts, Mylan Zlipko

STM Faculty Union Scholarship

Stephanie Siemens

Cornelius and Rosallie Woloschuk Scholarship

Antoine Labrecque

Maureen Haynes Catholic Studies Scholarships

Celine Beaulieu, Noel Durand, Philip George

John and Elizabeth Kaufmann Scholarship

Emilie Moellenbeck, Stephanie Siemens

Roy E. Lloyd Scholarship

Afia Alam

Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association/TYC – Steppe Branch Ukrainian Language Awards

Marta Krueger – 114, Jennifer Krets – 114
Natalya Shevchuk – 117, Kaitlyn Bletsky – 117
Azaria Antosh – 214, Azaria Antosh – 217

2019/2020 BURSARIES

St. Thomas More College depends on the generosity of our alumni and friends to help us in our mission. 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 following bursaries provided to STM students are instrumental in helping them pursue their course of studies. **THANK YOU DONORS!**

ENTERING STUDENT BURSARIES

Matt and Beth Hertz Bursary
STM Aboriginal Entering Student Bursary
Jenny Korolewicz Bursary
Nasser Family Award
Margaret C. Dutli Award
Christine Hudek Bursary

CONTINUING STUDENT BURSARIES

Henry Remai Aboriginal Student Bursary
Robert and Florence Cowan Bursary

GSU (Grain & General Services Union) Bursary
STM Aboriginal Continuing Student Bursary
Jenny Korolewicz Bursary
McNeill/Hunt Bursary
Aulea Arsenault Bursary
Anne Phelan Decoteau Bursary
Dielschneider Aboriginal Bursary
Wilfrid and Sylvia Hinz Family Bursary
Saskatchewan K of C Charitable Foundation
Adrienne & Mervyn Welter Endowment Bursary
Mary and Nicholas Lucyshyn Bursary

Nasser Family Award
Northern Indigenous Student Access Bursary
Lorne and Elizabeth Parker Bursary
Peter Harold Richlark Bursary
Herman and Myrna Rolfes Bursary
STM Faculty Union Bursary
Knights of Columbus Bursary
Louis J. Vizer Bursary
STM Student Bursary



Richard Medernach (centre), Manager of Student Experience and Enrolment, presents St. Thomas More College Leadership Award at the November 23, 2019 awards ceremony

ENGAGED LEARNING SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Les and Irene Dubé Service & Justice Scholarships

Erin Baril, Marian Angeline De Los Reyes, Madison DeCorby, Joi Nicole Ines, Courtney Johnson, Nicholas Kane, Jocelyn Lalach, Yen (Kim) Ma, Kennedy Topott

St. Thomas More College Service & Justice Award

Robyn Beatty, Zandra Nicole Cruz,

Jayden Bissky, Jessica Collins, Jenna Daly, Madalyn Kanak, Marta Krueger, Emanuel Lado, Veronica Lucas, Katherine Luneng, Elizabeth McKay, Shalom Ogoh, Jocelyn Serke, Sierra Tondevold

St. Thomas More College Awards for Excellence in CSL Writing

Rachel Cey (100 level), Mikael Steponchev (senior level)

STUDENTS - Scholarships and bursary applications available online at stmcollege.ca/student-awards

Three for the show!



Kristen Raney demonstrating the perfect glee club hair whip in 2015 (photo by Mike Vanderkoo)

get even five students. Everything seemed pretty hopeless. But slowly, I found more students by travelling and networking, and I got a job at STM filling in for the lady at the front desk (Dorothy Bittner). That's when Richard asked me if I'd like to re-start the Glee Club," recalled Raney in an email to the glee club.

The rebirth of the glee club was an exciting adventure but not without some growing pains.

"The first year was tough. I felt like I didn't know what I was doing and that the kids didn't respect me. I went to every rehearsal nervous and left every rehearsal wanting to cry. But I was determined. I knew I had something good in this choir and I just had to figure out how to get everyone to work together and want to work hard," she added.

Fast-forward nearly a decade, and the

number of students who count Newman Sounds Glee Club as a highlight of their university experience is truly impressive. That is in large part due to Kristen's skill and dedication to the group. A few years ago, Kristen was seriously ill and could not attend the concert so she had the students set a cell phone on a music stand in her

usual place in front of the stage so she could watch and give notes by video conference. Her dedication was not only evident to the club members but also to audiences as Kristen has more than once directed a show with her baby strapped to her in a snuggli!

It is in fact, her growing family that has brought Raney to her retirement from the glee club. Kristen and her husband Michael are expecting their third child this year. Their oldest, Dominic, 8, has grown up with the glee club, and much the same as his sister Aulaire, 13 months, he first heard the glee club from within the womb.



Ian Elliott at the keyboard

Dedicated trio leaves legacy of success with resurrected Newman Sounds

By Richard Medernach

We have all suffered some form of loss or at least disruption at the hands of the Coronavirus pandemic. For the Newman Sounds Glee Club, that loss included their concert planned for March 27 and 28. After two and a half months of hard work on vocals and choreography, the canceled concert was a heavy dose of disappointment for all involved. The sting was made all the greater because the concert was no ordinary show; it was supposed to mark the end of an era for Newman Sounds Glee Club. The production was to be the last show directed by Kristen Raney, accompanied by Ian Elliott, and choreographed by Shana Yates.

Kristen Raney (B.Mus., M.Mus.) has been directing the Newman Sounds Glee Club since its resurrection in 2011. Having returned to Saskatoon from London, Ont., where she had just completed her master's degree in music, she was struggling to rebuild her studio and find students.

"When I had left Saskatoon, I had a busy studio with 40 students. Now I was struggling to

For more information on auditioning or other ways to get involved with Newman Players or Newman Sounds

| Richard Medernach | rmedernach@stmcollege.ca | 306-966-8900 |

Shana Yates as soloist in 2016 (photo by Mike Vanderkoo)



The newest little Raney will no doubt be in the audience for the next show. It will quite surely be a bit weird and emotional, but hopefully deeply satisfying for Kristen to simply enjoy future Newman Sounds' concerts as a member of the audience. She may do so in full confidence that she has laid an excellent foundation for years to come. It has been my pleasure to work with Kristen and watch her grow as a person and a professional.

Mr. Ian Elliott (B.A., M.A., B.Ed.) is also retiring as the long-serving accompanist for Newman Sounds. Ian is a remarkable talent on piano with the rare gift to move between genres of music with ease. It was commonplace for Ian to play jazzy Broadway show-tunes, pop and rock hits, and orchestral pieces, even within a single show. As a middle-years teacher who lives in Humboldt, he will not likely miss the drive every Wednesday night, but the glee club will certainly miss his calm demeanor, fast fingers, and invisible smile. I am truly grateful for Ian's talent and commitment and I am glad that we will continue to work together on Newman Players projects.

I would also like to take an opportunity to express my gratitude to Shana Yates who is retiring as the choreographer for Newman Sounds. Having spent five years as a student in the glee club, Shana transitioned to the choreographer role after graduating with her Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology in 2016. Her years as a member of the glee club helped her easily relate to the students and her love of music and dance shone through in every performance.

The show must go on, and it will one day when public health officials tell us it is safe to do so. From modest beginnings, the newest version of glee club has become a mainstay at the College. It is a home and safe space for many students, and it keeps alive the decades old tradition of choral clubs at STM. I am truly grateful to Kristen, Ian, and Shana who have made Newman Sounds such a positive experience for so many students. Although it won't be the same without them, we will carry on in the grand tradition that they helped build.

Side Gig: In addition to being a busy mom and choral director, Kristen writes a popular gardening blog. <https://www.shiftingroots.com/>

Vintage Hitchcock: A live Radio Play Postponed until the Fall



newman
PLAYERS

There will come a time when we can once again gather to enjoy some live theatre. Newman Players has postponed their production of *Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play* (by Joe Landry) until the fall. Plans are still in place for special reception for alumni and friends of the College to be connected to the play. Dates and details cannot yet be determined but directors Ian Elliott and Richard Medernach are committed to reviving the project once it is safe. www.stmcollege.ca/newmanplayers www.facebook.com/NewmanPlayers



One new and many returning faces for STMSU executive

By Richard Medernach

For the last three years it has been my pleasure to work with the St. Thomas More Students' Union as a staff advisor. All of the elected students but one were on the STMSU Executive last year, and the one new member served as a student-at-large on STMSU Council. This continuity of student leadership is valuable in a time of upheaval such as this. The students' union continues to represent STM students on various committees and governance bodies as well as providing social opportunities and academic support.

2020-21 STMSU Executive:

- Tay Spock, President
- Abbi Cross, V-P Operations and Finance
- Terryn Bateman, V-P Academic
- Alicja Rutkowski, V-P Communications
- Emily Klassen, Director of Events
- Ryan O'Connell, Member of Student Council for St. Thomas More College



Tay Spock



Abbi Cross



Terryn Bateman



Alicja Rutkowski



Emily Klassen



Ryan O'Connell

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by Linda Huard, BA(Hon)
STM Student Recruitment Officer & Academic Advisor

Extending the Invitation: STM Recruitment

Thinking back to the beginning of the school year, it feels as though it happened longer than 8 months ago. Almost another lifetime. The campus was full of students and I was busy traveling across the province, interacting face to face with thousands of high school students, present at over 80 recruitment events over the fall season alone.

Now, as I work remotely from home reflecting on the work of the past year, I think of the positives: a productive fall, the growth of the professor presentation initiative with two new professors, Dr. Charles Smith and Dr. Kylee-Anne Hingston, joining my roster, and the numerous opportunities I had to introduce students to the College. I'm also glad to still be supporting students, in my role as Academic Advisor, helping them to prepare for university, albeit through a screen.

With both the university and high school academic year cut short, many of our plans must remain undone. In particular, I will miss our annual GSCS Student Art Exhibit, the grade 12 retreats hosted by STM, and the canceled student events that so many looked forward to. For the province's grade 12 students, I empathize with their disappointment in missing graduation, a chance to wrap up this chapter of their lives and celebrate an important milestone.

It is not all disappointment, though. I am continually inspired by the resilience of the young adults I work with as their lives are disrupted in this unprecedented way. I also believe that the College's growing use of technology will help us to reach and support students like never before. Seeing the College come together in this strange time, I am reaffirmed in my belief that the work we do is fundamentally important.



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Community Partnerships: growing and working together
by Caitlin Ward

St. Mary's, a Catholic elementary school in Pleasant Hill, offers a unique model of education for students who live in or near this Saskatoon core neighbourhood. It is a model of education that Psychology professor Dr. Jennifer Briere(PhD) wanted her students to see firsthand, and so she reached out to the Engaged Learning Office at STM. Together, they coordinated tours for Dr. Briere's Child Development students, who visited St. Mary's to learn what the school has to offer the community and how it came into being.

Students arrived early on one Monday morning of the term to participate in St. Mary's weekly school assembly. STM students smudged with St. Mary's staff and students, and Principal Owen Fortosky then took STM students on a tour of the building. STM students saw firsthand how St. Mary's integrates Catholic education and Indigenous ways of knowing into their K-to-8 curriculum, while also offering opportunities for continuing education and upgrading for adults. Most significantly, St. Mary's Wellness & Education Centre brings consistent health care access to the community, with a

medical clinic integrated right into the building, and partnerships from the health region and the university bringing health care providers to this underserved community. The school was built in consultation with the wider community in order to serve that wider community, as well as the majority-Indigenous student population who attend St. Mary's.

Both Dr. Briere and members of the Engaged Learning Office Caitlin Ward and Cooper Muirhead wanted to show their appreciation to St. Mary's students and staff for the work they put into the tour, and so they invited St. Mary's students to come on to main campus to have a tour of their own. Reaching out to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, the Geology Department at the University of Saskatchewan, the College of Kinesiology, and STM's own English Department, Dr. Briere, Ward, and Muirhead spearheaded a December campus tour for St. Mary's Grades 3-4 and 7-8 classes.

St. Mary's students met with Indigenous students and professors at Vet Med and Geology,



STM students honoured at Indigenous Students Achievement Awards
by Paul Sinkewicz

A group of exceptional Indigenous students from across the University of Saskatchewan were honoured Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020 at a ceremony to recognize their academic excellence, leadership, research endeavours or community engagement.

It was the fourth annual incarnation of the awards, and drew the largest crowd yet, with friends and family packed into the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre to celebrate their achievements.

Dr. Tammy Marche, Associate Dean of St. Thomas More College, presented awards to two exemplary STM students.

Sarah Blom received a Leadership Award in the Métis student category. She is a fifth-year history honour student who plans to pursue an education degree. She is involved with the Newman Sounds Glee Club and the Newman Centre executive. Her citation notes that her leadership has noticeably enriched the life of the St. Thomas More College community.

Bailee Brewster received an Academic Excellence Award, also in the Métis student category. The third-year Arts and Science student has plans to pursue a law degree after completing her degree in psychology. Bailee excels academically, having obtained the highest average among the St. Thomas More College Indigenous student body.

"Sarah and Bailee are both very deserving of the recognition they received this afternoon and we are very proud that they are part of our STM community," said Marche.

learned about animals both alive and ancient, and ate a Christmas dinner specially prepared for them by STM's Choices. Dr. Michael Cichon (Department of English) taught the students about Viking armour and practices, and even dressed up the St. Mary's principal in chainmail!

At the end of the day, St. Mary's students went to the Physical Activity Complex; older students climbed the rock wall, and younger students learned how to do gymnastics from volunteer kinesiology students.

In bringing STM students to St. Mary's, the aim was not only to help our students understand the challenges that some elementary-age students

In Medias Res 25

by Linda Huard



This year, In Medias Res (IMR) chose the theme of 'revival' for the liberal arts journal's next issue. An appropriate theme as the only returning member of the board, editor-in-chief Chelaine Kirsch, had to stoke embers to get the club back up to an operational size. Through her indomitable passion and the support of a new editorial board, the group hosted two events, attended a concert, and will be publishing an issue later in the year. The first event was a well-attended spoken word poetry night hosted in the student lounge, featuring special guests *Write Out Loud* - a Saskatoon based group that celebrates and promotes spoken word. Further supporting local creatives, the group's annual cultural event was attending a Pistolwhips concert at Amigos. The final event was a writing salon, giving the writing community a chance to hone their work in a supportive environment. Although now faced with the challenge of bringing the publication to life during the most unusual ending to a semester, IMR will continue past its 25th year. A launch party is tentatively planned for fall 2020.

STM at a Glance

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IN MEMORIAM

STM REMEMBERS

Mrs. Mariette Vanderham	1926-2016
Mr. Julian Michayluk	1933-2018
Mrs. Dolores Gradish	1935-2019
Mrs. Mary Lucyshyn	1932-2019
Mr. Bohdan Pidlisecky	2019
Mrs. Irene Turton	1923-2019
Judge Peter Dielschneider	1928-2020
Mr. Harold G James McGinn	1922-2020
Mr. Peter Zakreski	1939-2020
Mr. Frank Roy	1932-2020



Peter Zakreski

"We are grateful for the exemplary service that Peter modelled throughout his life, very much in the spirit of St. Thomas More," Dr. Gertrude Rompré

"We are grateful for the exemplary service that Peter modelled throughout his life, very much in the spirit of St. Thomas More," noted St. Thomas More College (STM) Director of Mission and Ministry, Dr. Gertrude Rompré, in sharing the news of his passing with the College.

Peter Zakreski attended St. Paul's High School in Saskatoon and graduated with the STM class of '61 with a Bachelor of Arts. He was both a prominent member of the community, well known for his love of 'seeing the world' and a life-long friend of STM. He and his wife Elaine founded Hope for Malawi Foundation Inc., a non-profit charity whose hope is to "make a difference in the lives of those who live in the challenging lands and times that is today's Africa." Hope for Malawi Foundation Inc. The foundation support has enabled schools to be built, a medical clinic, bridges, wells and two churches in Malawi.

Remaining engaged with STM's mission as a Catholic college, Peter served on STM Corporation as an Alumni representative from 2012 to 2014.

In 2006, Peter was recognized with the STM Distinguished Alumnus award. This award recognizes the truly outstanding achievements of an STM graduate whose endeavours have distinguished them in their chosen profession or community. Peter Zakreski most certainly met and exceeded that criteria.

Recognizing his level of philanthropy and community involvement, Zakreski received the Order of Canada in 2002. Other notable achievements include being named Saskatoon's CFQC Citizen of the Year, awarded B'Nai Brith's 'We are Proud of You Award'; recipient of the USask Alumni Humanitarian Award, induction into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame as a builder, recipient of the Saskatchewan's 100th Anniversary Medal Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee Medal and recognized by the Saskatchewan Red Cross with the Humanitarian Award for his and Elaine's charitable work in Malawi.

The Honorable Justice Peter Dielschneider

A man of integrity, justice, and kindness.



The STM College community mourns the loss of Justice Peter Dielschneider. He will be missed.

As a student, Peter Dielschneider was involved early on with the STM College community, serving as president of Newman Centre, and assisting with the student food cooperative. Dielschneider obtained his Bachelor of Arts through STM and law degree in 1953 from the University of Saskatchewan. Dielschneider returned to the College serving on St. Thomas More College Corporation, College Council, and the STM Board of Governors, from 1969 – 1972. He also served on STM Corporation as a Member-at-large in January of 1979, followed by various committee positions in the years to follow.

A great friend of St. Thomas More College and student advocate, in 2011, the College recognized Justice Dielschneider's outstanding achievements, exemplary service and community contributions, in naming him STM's Distinguished Alumnus. In addition to years of community service, and a committed focus on faith and family, his professional achievements post-graduation were also lauded. Dielschneider practiced law and became Mayor of Melville and was later appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench where he served as a judge of that court until his 75th birthday.

Justice Dielschneider's legacy at STM continues through the Dielschneider Aboriginal Scholarship and Bursary awards established in 2007, supporting Catholic Aboriginal students, celebrating their academic endeavours and achievement. Reflecting his commitment to youth and education, he was enthusiastic in celebration and always took time to engage with the student recipients at the award events at the College.



J. Frank Roy

Distinguished Alumnus J. Frank Roy fondly remembered by the STM community for his impact on education and appreciation of nature and the environment.

J. Frank Roy (BA'48, BEd'53, MA'68) was the recipient of the St. Thomas More College (STM) Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1992.

Roy noted at the time, that superb teaching at St. Thomas More College broke down traditional notions of looking at things and forced one to think for oneself. Formative influences from Father O'Donnell, Father Carr and Father Cullinane nurtured not only intellectual and spiritual growth, but character. For Roy, STM was the place that instilled in him the genuine notion of Christian charity and generated in him the development of a social conscience. Roy said, "As we move into the next century, our two most important resources are our environment and our children". This statement captures the dedication of his professional and personal life in pursuing his two great loves: teaching and observing the beauty and serenity of the natural environment. Frank contributed generously and successfully to his students and the broader community for generations as a caring, compassionate soul with a warm sense of humor.

In addition to publication "Birds of Elbow" and "Birds of Saskatchewan", Frank Roy was proud to be co-editor of the acclaimed book "Birds of Saskatchewan" published in 2019, the result of more than ten years of work and several lifetimes of observation, research, and writing. STM is proud to have a signed copy of this book in the STM Shannon Library, donated and dedicated to Roy in his honor.

St. Thomas More College Christmas Reception

*A celebration of your kindness of heart
and generosity of spirit*

Thursday, December 5, 2019

The holiday season is a wonderful time to re-connect with cherished friends and loved ones.

That blissful feeling was in the air on Dec. 5, when the STM Development office hosted a Christmas Reception for friends of the College. More than 60 special friends gathered in the Shannon Library including many loyal alumni, donors and community friends, as well as staff, faculty and students. Everyone enjoyed the delicious fare prepared by Chef Chris Daniels Jones and the Choices staff, and the enchanting music provided by harpist Chris Lindgren.

Our good friends Patty and John Thompson joined the celebration and commented, "A wonderful spirit of fellowship filled the room and it was a joy to connect with old friends, students and our STM family."

Thanks to all our cherished friends who joined in celebrating the joy of the Christmas season on this special evening!



**Desirée Steele visits with Karen Massett,
Director of Development**



**Sylvia Regnier, Sister Teresita Kambeitz
and Joyce MacLean enjoy refreshments**



**Pat and Karen Pitka and Helen
Horsman chat with Kari Sinkewicz,
STM Development Assistant**



**John
Thompson
and Desirée
Steele**



**Patty Thompson
and Les Dubé share
a laugh together**



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Congratulations 2020 Grads!



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.



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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

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Alumni keep in touch! To provide a change of address, please contact Kari Sinkewicz - ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca or 306-966-8900
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