

# More news

Fall/Winter 2024-25



## JOURNEY OF WISDOM AND HOPE

*STMSU president Henry Thiessen*



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

2024-2025

# Winter term courses at STM

- Anthropology 257.3
- Catholic Studies 200.3
- Classics 104.3
- Classics 220.3
- CMRS 111.3
- CMRS 401.3
- CMRS 402.3
- CMRS 433.3
- (Classical, Medieval, Renaissance Studies)
- CPSJ 112.3
- CPSJ 400.3
- CPSJ 498.3
- (Critical Perspectives on Social Justice)
- DENE 110.3
- Economics 111.3
- Economics 114.3
- Economics 223.3
- Economics 376.3
- Economics 380.3
- Economics 825.3
- English 111.3
- English 112.3
- English 113.3
- English 114.3
- English 215.3
- English 225.3
- English 341.3
- English 496.3
- French 103.3
- French 106.3
- French 125.3
- French 218.3
- French 306.3
- History 115.3
- History 205.3
- History 222.3
- History 309.3
- History 411.3
- INTS 103.3
- (Interdisciplinary Studies)
- Latin 113.3
- Linguistics 821.3
- Literature 110.3
- Philosophy 110.3
- Philosophy 120.3
- Philosophy 121.3
- Philosophy 133.3
- Philosophy 140.3
- Philosophy 202.3
- Philosophy 211.3
- Philosophy 219.3
- Philosophy 231.3
- Philosophy 234.3
- Political Studies 111.3
- Political Studies 112.3
- Political Studies 238.3
- Political Studies 256.3
- Political Studies 303.3
- Political Studies 305.3
- Political Studies 327.3
- Psychology 120.3
- Psychology 121.3
- Psychology 207.3
- Psychology 213.3
- Psychology 214.3
- Psychology 216.3
- Psychology 222.3
- Psychology 223.3
- Psychology 231.3
- Psychology 235.3
- Psychology 253.3
- Psychology 316.3
- Psychology 318.3
- Psychology 418.3
- Religious Studies 111.3
- Religious Studies 112.3
- Religious Studies 217.3
- Religious Studies 219.3
- Religious Studies 227.3
- Religious Studies 241.3
- Religious Studies 261.3
- Religious Studies 282.3
- Religious Studies 283.3
- Religious Studies 412.3
- Sociology 111.3
- Sociology 112.3
- Sociology 203.3
- Sociology 211.3
- Sociology 214.3
- Sociology 224.3
- Sociology 232.3
- Sociology 246.3
- Sociology 360.3
- Spanish 114.3
- Spanish 117.3
- Ukrainian 117.3
- Ukrainian 236.3



Check out the complete list of STM course offerings and descriptions for 2024/2025 [STM.COLLEGE.CA/CLASSES](http://STM.COLLEGE.CA/CLASSES) REGISTER THROUGH PAWS or for more information or academic support, call STM Advisors at 306-966-8900

Cover photo by Michelle Berg

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# More news Fall/Winter 2024-25

## STM SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

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## President's Message

For the past four years much of the activity at STM has been guided by our strategic plan, **College Plan 2025: A Community in Partnership ... Rooted in Spirit.** As a result, we have been focused on strengthening the traditional STM priorities of Vital Liberal Arts, Hospitable Catholicism, and Holistic Community – and developing our competencies in the newer priorities of Authentic Indigenization and the Stewardship of Resources. But as we now enter the fifth and final year of the plan, the time has come to renew our priorities and goals for the next five years.

At a College Town Hall in October, we launched the renewal process, and at the annual STM Corporation meeting just days later, we began the consultation process in breakout sessions that served as our first focus groups. That first discussion will serve as the model that we will repeat throughout the year in in-person focus groups with faculty, staff, students and through surveys with donors, alumni, USask colleagues, and others in the wider STM community.

The consultation process features a few key questions:

- How has our context changed since 2020, when we launched the current plan?
- Are our five priorities still the right ones for STM as we look to the future?
- How can STM continue to be a beacon of hope for our students and the wider community?

The rich input that has already begun to come back from these questions will help us understand the landscape in which we now operate and the opportunities that we need to pursue as we look ahead to 2030.

As we renew the Plan, we will build on the Mission and Vision for the College already in place. But for the first time we have also developed a statement of our Values as the Catholic liberal arts college federated with the University of Saskatchewan, enriched by the Basilian charisms of higher education, and located on Treaty Six territory.

After an extensive consultation process, we have identified six key values for STM:

*"Humility; Human Dignity; Inclusive Community; Respectful Dialogue; Service & Justice; and Truth."*

If these values sound familiar, it is because they are traditional and yet also contemporary, rooted in our Catholic history and ongoing mission, but at the same time accessible in a secularizing context. And once they are approved by the Board, these values will inform our next College Plan.

The renewal of a strategic plan is an opportune moment for any organization to

think about both its mission and its vision for itself – both why it exists and what it hopes to achieve in the foreseeable future. But getting a plan for the future right requires not only soul-searching on the part of an institution, but also a dialogue with all those whom it exists to serve. Only out of that dialogue can we align what we are good at with what we are good for. For this reason, we need to hear from as many members of the STM community as we can, from those who work and study within the college now to those whose life journey has taken them away to other places or into fields quite different from the world of Catholic higher education. The richer the input we receive, the better our new College Plan is likely to be.

In that spirit I invite everyone with an interest in the work of STM to weigh in on the renewal process of our strategic plan. Focus groups and surveys will be incorporated to gather feedback. Please contact the President's office [presidentsoffice@stmcollege.ca](mailto:presidentsoffice@stmcollege.ca) if you want to ensure an opportunity to provide input. With your help we will discern our top priorities for the next five years and set our goals high, both to serve our students and the society of which we are a vital part.



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

# DEAN'S MESSAGE



We have had another terrific start to the academic year, beginning with the staff and faculty retreat in August, and then the Dean's Welcome Back reception and the Academic Mass in September. To our new students, staff, and faculty, welcome to the STM community!

As you'll discover as you read through the newsmagazine, there have been numerous initiatives, events, and achievements that have taken place since my spring report, all of which have helped us realize our strategic plan priorities. Our enrolment continues to remain strong, with our fall census indicating that our teaching activity is up 3% compared to this time last year. We also increased 6% in terms of our Indigenous student enrolment. Unfortunately, this isn't the case for our international students, where we saw a drop in enrolment as a result of the recent changes to federal policies regarding international students (e.g., reducing the intake of international students by 35% for 2024). This policy has not only affected Canada's reputation as a desired place of study (dropping from the first choice to the third) but has also placed financial strain on many post-secondary institutions in Canada, especially for those that rely more heavily on international tuition to support their budgeting. STM is predicting a loss in enrolment income this year because of the fewer number of international students taking our courses.

You'll also see highlighted in the publication, some of the recent achievements of our staff and faculty with respect to teaching, research, and service, which underscore their passion and dedication to enriching the learning experiences of our students as well as our commitment to the wider STM community.

We believe in, and are committed to, creating pathways for student success. Whether pre-

paring students for entry into a professional college or cultivating essential skills necessary to a liberal arts education, STM offers additional career-readiness support and resources for post-graduation preparedness. Likewise, STM's collaborative initiative with USask Student Wellness Centre adds a Campus minister trained in mental health counseling, offering support to all students campus-wide.

Additionally, we have diversified STM experiential learning offerings—a named strategy under the Vital Liberal Arts priority within STM's College Plan—through the development of the H-ELP Program (Health Care Engaged Learning Program). This program gives undergraduate students the opportunity to do graduate-level research training in partnership with the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Last year, students worked primarily with new mothers in a variety of contexts, including those with HIV and those experiencing homelessness or house insecurity. Students involved with the H-ELP program also received a micro-credential through First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv) for research done in collaboration with Indigenous communities. The H-ELP project was nominated for a Saskatchewan Health Authority Innovation Award and shortlisted for an international Uniserviate Award, which globally recognizes solidarity service-learning experiences in Catholic Higher Education. This year, STM has partnered with the College of Medicine to offer additional program offerings. This co-curricular program will offer students hands-on experience that most would not be able to access until they were in graduate school or medical school—another example of how we continue to support and celebrate on-going student success and achievement.

*The Irene and Doug Schmeiser Center for Faith, Reason, Peace, and Justice*, which helped host

the 2024 Prairie Symposium for the Common Good in the spring, will be undergoing a change in directorship in January. Both Dr. Gertrude Rompré and Dr. Christopher Hrynkow, co-directors of the *Irene and Doug Schmeiser Centre for Faith, Reason, Peace, and Justice*, will be finishing their terms at the end of December. I wish to sincerely thank them for their service to the Centre and to the College. The Centre has certainly come a long way under their directorship! At its September 10 meeting, the Advisory Committee for the Centre unanimously and enthusiastically recommended Dr. Cynthia Wallace as its next Director. As Dean, I was very happy to appoint Dr. Wallace as director for the period of January 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027. I would like to thank Dr. Wallace for her willingness to serve as the Centre's next director.

As we enter this new academic year, we recognize the significant challenges facing post-secondary education in Canada. These include student mental health and wellbeing, inclusivity and diversity issues, access and affordability for students, the impact of AI in the classroom, and institutional sustainability. Despite the challenges, I am confident that STM will respond creatively and positively to continue to be a place of academic and personal growth for our students. I look forward to seeing the incredible achievements and contributions that our students, staff, and faculty will make during the coming year.

On behalf of all of us in the Dean's Office, all the best to our students and faculty as they finish this semester, and we wish each one of you the blessings of this Christmas season and best wishes for the New Year.

*Tammy Marche*  
Dr. Tammy Marche, PhD  
Dean, St. Thomas More College



# ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE

## UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

### Faculty Publications Fall 2024

#### Articles and Reviews

**Susanne Guenther Loewen**

Susanne Guenther Loewen. "Breaking the Silences: A Theo-Ethics of Survival and Nonviolent Resistance to Sexual Violence in Rudy Wiebe's *Sweeter than all the World* and Miriam Toews's *Women Talking*." In *The Conrad Grebel Review* (Fall 2024): [Forthcoming].

**Fachrizal Halim**

Halim, Fachrizal. "Rereading the Biblical Story of Sarah and Hagar: A Note for Interfaith Activists." *IJUM Journal of Religion and Civilizational Studies* Vol 7, 1 (2024): 21-31.

Halim, Fachrizal. "Lessons Learned, Resilience Built, and Multipolarism Imagined: The Muslim Experience of the 2019-2022 Pandemic Crisis." *Abdurrauf Journal of Islamic Studies* Vol 3, 2 (2024): 140-157.

**Chris Hrynkow**

Chris Hrynkow. "Help Save the Whales, Help Save Our Selves: The Participatory Confluence of Social and Ecological Salvation as a Voyage Home in *Star Trek IV*," in *Theology and Star Trek*. Edited by Shaun C. Brown and Amanda MacInnis Hackney. Lexington Press/Fortress Academic (2023), 126-147.

**Sarah Knudson**

Sarah Knudson. [Forthcoming.] "Bibliotherapy, Well-Being, and Empowerment: The Emancipatory Possibilities of Self-Help Reading, and How Libraries can Help." In *Knowledge, Reading and Culture: Studies in Information Practice*, edited by Matthew Kelly. Berlin: De Gruyter.

Sarah Knudson. 2023. "Transition Planning and Perceptions of Support in an Autism Spectrum Disorder Resource Program." *Preventing School Failure: Alternative Education for Children and Youth* 68(3): 220-230. DOI: [10.1080/1045988X.2023.2207482](https://doi.org/10.1080/1045988X.2023.2207482)

**Saeed Moshiri**

Moshiri, S., Daneshmand, A. (2024), *Analyzing the Impact of Tax-based vs. Rent-based Funding on the Effectiveness of Environmental Protection Policies*, Resources Policy, forthcoming.

Joshaghani, H., Morovati, M., Moshiri, S. and Rafizadeh, N. (2024), Fuel Subsidies, Smuggling, and Income Inequality. *Journal of Regional Economics*, forthcoming. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jors.12720>

Moshiri, S., Kheirandish, E. (2024), Global Impacts of Oil Price Shocks: The Trade Effect. *Journal of Economic Studies*, 51(1), PP 126, 144. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JES-08-2022-0455>.

#### Announcement:

**Sharon Wright** elected as Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (RHS) in recognition of her contribution to historical scholarship.

### Department Heads 2024-2025



**ENGLISH**  
Sarah Powrie



**HISTORY**  
Zachary Yuzwa



**LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & CULTURAL STUDIES**  
Saeed Moshiri (acting)



**PHILOSOPHY**  
Maricarmen Jenkins



**RELIGION & CULTURE**  
Alisha Pomazon



**ECONOMICS**  
Anna Klimina



**POLITICAL STUDIES**  
David McGrane



**PSYCHOLOGY**  
Carie Buchanan



**SOCIOLOGY**  
Monica Hwang

STMSU



**St. Thomas More  
College  
Students' Union**  
2024-2025 Executive

President - Henry Thiessen  
VP of Operations/Finance - Jarrod Daunheimer  
VP of Academics - Carmela Enriquez  
VP of Communications - Angie Rutkowski  
Director Of Events - Raine Rusaw  
1st Yr Rep - Caterina Eremondi  
MSC - Norah Jacob

*The STMSU is made up of an Executive and members-at-large. STMSU represents STM students and their views to the college and the greater campus community. All STM students are welcome to get involved in their work and attend the social activities hosted.*

*STMSU is independent of the Arts and Science Students' Union (ASSU), and has voting membership on the University Students' Council (USC) and the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) council and several committees at St Thomas More College.*

**For more information or to join as a member at large please contact [vpcommunications@stmsu.ca](mailto:vpcommunications@stmsu.ca)**

## Journey of Wisdom and Hope

by Jacquie Berg

This past spring Henry Thiessen was elected as the new president of St. Thomas More College Students' Union (STMSU).

In a recent interview Thiessen shared some of his journey to date as a student, gathering wisdom and hope through his studies, faith, and life experiences.

Thiessen follows Abbi Cross, who held the role before her graduation this past June.

Henry's path to St. Thomas More College (STM) and his focus of study reflect his appreciation of history, social justice, and hope for the future. Born in Toronto, but with a family move to Saskatoon, Henry graduated from Holy Cross high school, and after a foundation year program at King's College at Dalhousie in Halifax, Thiessen returned to USask and began his STM journey with studies in Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS).

While the CMRS program was the initial draw to the College, Henry states he soon became more invested with STM, joining the student union right away and found as an additional positive, the engagement enabled through smaller STM class sizes and the professors' enthusiasm over their subject matter.

In 2023-'24 Thiessen participated in STM's Service and Justice project - prioritized in his shared family values. Henry's father is the Saskatoon Director for L'Arche and his mother serves as an Anglican priest.

When asked about challenges students face these days Thiessen said, "Students and people my age feel that the world is complex and difficult. I believe that the humanities may offer ways to look at the causes and how we can deal with the challenges. Young people are acutely aware of the myriads of problems facing the world, but perhaps gathering wisdom from the past, young people can focus on transformation and renewal," he said.

With career pathways, also on students' minds, Thiessen shared that he hopes to work towards a profession as a lawyer through continued studies.

As reflected on the STM website, the STMSU is a "student-led, volunteer-run organization that works to support and advocate for STM students on various governance bodies within both STM College and the University of Saskatchewan." In addition to working within student governance they organize and host various activities for students every year, including both social and charitable events.

Thiessen says his goal as leader of the student union is to "preserve and build" a sense of community. He wants to advance awareness of the union - what they do and how they serve fellow students - committing to visiting all the 100 level classes in that effort.

Thiessen feels inspiration with the upcoming Jubilee Year of Hope. "Despite the present challenges and uncertainty, hope represents belief that all things are made good, and that redemption anticipates the return."



*A special Thank You to Leslie and Irene Dubé for their generous friendship, leadership, and commitment to Catholic Higher Learning that has made a notable difference for our students, providing them with practical learning experiences of service and justice that have prepared them for the Common Good, changing their lives, and building a more just and generous society.*

## LESLIE & IRENE DUBÉ SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAM Service & Justice Project

Based in Catholic Social Teaching, STM's Service & Justice Program (SJP) is a co-curricular community service-learning program offering students the opportunity to serve real community needs, gain valuable volunteer experience, and reflect on those experiences in a supportive environment. This student opportunity is made possible through the Leslie and Irene Dubé Service-Learning Program.

The strength of SJP is that students learn how productive work is done in a just and sustainable way. According to Caitlin Ward, Manager of Engaged and Experiential Learning, "STM strives to teach students that any community work they do must honour the dignity, wisdom, and culture of the communities they serve." Since 2006, nearly 400 STM students have contributed over 10,000 hours of volunteer work to 42 community organizations in Saskatoon.

### Student Impact: Stories from Alumni that participated in STM's Service and Justice Program



#### Aimee (Ferré) Carreiro (SJP Award Holder, Participant 2012-15)

"I volunteered with the Saskatoon Open Door Society's after school study program for high school students. As an International Studies major, my experience volunteering brought what I was learning about in the world to my own local community. It took me out of the classroom and into the lived reality of my neighbours. The warm staff at St. Thomas More encouraged and supported me through SJP and through the bursary awarded, this incredible learning experience became even more accessible."

*Aimee Carreiro graduated with a BA in International Studies in 2016. She lives in Calgary, AB with her husband and two boys. She works for the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) as a Project Manager for Corporate Training and International Projects. She volunteers as an English Language Conversation Partner with international students on campus*

#### Dr. Jessica Froehlich (2014 SJ Scholar, SJ Award Holder, Participant 2014-2019)

"I am so grateful for the program — both what it taught me and the incredible people I connected with. Through my service learning with the program, I volunteered with the Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan and L'Arche Saskatoon. I was also connected with both the Intercordia Program and Canadian Roots Exchange which further impacted my journey in understanding social justice and accountability. I came to university with my heart in the right place and a will to serve. Ultimately, what SJP did for me was to help foster that passion throughout my time as an undergraduate student, where those motivations can often be lost to the stresses and pressure of life as a young adult. More importantly, it helped guide my slightly naive and simple understanding of justice into something more thoughtful, empowering, and ethically responsible."

*Jessica Froehlich is completing her family medicine residency in La Ronge, where she began working as a staff physician in July 2024. She practices full scope family medicine, offering hospitalist services, covering the very busy and high acuity emergency department, delivering babies, providing palliative care to those in the later stages of life, offering addictions medicine therapies, providing local clinic services for my patient panel, and flying out to four First Nations and Metis communities to provide clinics on a weekly basis.*

#### Joi Ines (2019 SJ Scholar, SJP Award Holder, Participant 2019-23)

"SJP was instrumental in helping me apply what I learned in the classroom to the world around me. In my time with SJP, I volunteered with the International Women of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Open Door Society to serve newcomers to Canada. Through my volunteer work and reflection sessions with my peers at SJP, I was challenged to critically and compassionately draw connections between the social structures governing our daily lives and their asymmetrical effects on different groups. SJP encouraged me to seek change both on the macro and micro scale. I learned that while zooming out to see the bigger picture of social injustices is essential, it is equally critical to meet people where they are at. These perspectives are foundational to my education as a law student and will continue to be in my future career as a legal professional."

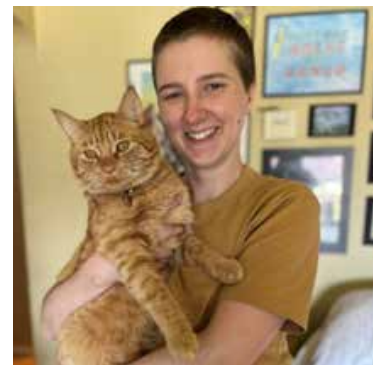
*Joi Ines graduated with a BA in Political Studies (2023). She is a second-year law student, J.D. Candidate 2026, at the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan. She works at Legal Aid Saskatchewan as a Summer Student.*



#### Anson Liski (SJP Award Holder, Participant 2014-16)

"Through CSL I learned the importance of community, a pillar of the unique value of STM. Through SJP I met people who are some of my best friends to this day – together we had some of our most transformative educational experiences through the different CSL programs. SJP's regularity of service, reflection, and meetings allows for the development of direct community service experience and critical thinking about one's course work, giving liberal arts students (and more) the rare opportunity to apply classroom theory and thought to the real world prior to graduation."

*Anson Liski graduated with a BA Honours in Political Studies (2016). He interned at the United Nations before going on to complete an MSc. in International Politics at Trinity College, Dublin. He is currently the Vice President of EnBiorganic Technologies, a Biotech company that has developed a Green/Environmentally friendly technology that uses certified organic and ubiquitous microbes to treat water and wastewater. He lives with his wife Cat in Vancouver, BC. They are expecting their first child.*



#### Ana Meckelborg (2015 SJ Scholar, SJP Award Holder, Participant 2015-19)

"SJP broadened my focus beyond academics, connecting me with individuals committed to community initiatives. Engaging in discussions at SJP suppers, such as on Israel-Palestine relations or child labour, significantly expanded my global perspective. As I took on a mentor role, the program not only developed my leadership skills under staff guidance, but also provided me with a community to lean on during personal challenges. These experiences now inform my work as a speech-language pathologist, where I advocate for patient autonomy and support people in vulnerable situations. SJP taught me the importance of empathetic communication and understanding diverse perspectives. SJP is a testament to how community engagement can profoundly shape personal and professional growth."

*Ana Meckelborg graduated with a BA High Honours in Linguistics in 2019. She is a Speech-Language Pathologist living in Vancouver, BC.*



#### Chibeze Philomena Ojukwu (2008 SJ Scholar, SJP Award Holder, Participant 2008-2014)

"What I learned from SJP is that cycles of action and reflection are necessary to develop meaningful community involvement and to discern my role in the community. The relationship between charity and justice provides context for this role. The weekly time commitment became a reminder that a holistic life involves an attempt to learn and serve out of love, responsibility, and shared dignity."

*Chibeze Philomena Ojukwu graduated with a BA in Political Studies (2014) and a BSN in Nursing (2017). She is a nurse at Glengarda Hospice Centre in Saskatoon, and sits on the board of the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan.*



#### Joshua Smith (2011 SJ Scholar, SJP Award Holder, Participant 2011-2015)

"SJP played an important role in my university education. I was a member of the program for all four years of my undergrad. Through our monthly suppers, I felt part of a vibrant Catholic community and was inspired by a variety of speakers who spoke about their work for the common good. Through monthly discussions I was able to reflect and think critically about how what I was studying could make a positive difference in the real world. This thinking translated into my life. I've spent seven years working alongside people with disabilities at L'Arche Saskatoon. I would also say that the seeds planted in my discussions with SJP have inspired me to pursue decolonization through education as I begin my journey as a teacher by pursuing a Bachelor of Education through SUNTEP in September."

*Joshua Smith is a filmmaker and father. He lives in Saskatoon and is a proud citizen of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. As a member of L'Arche Saskatoon, he has worked alongside people with and without disabilities to tell stories through art. In September, he began a Bachelor of Education through SUNTEP at USask.*

#### Kasia Wicijowski (SJP Award Holder, Participant 2019-2022)

"SJP gave me the opportunity to interact with and aid marginalized populations including inner city youth, immigrants, and the elderly. SJP ignited a passion in me for learning from those with different backgrounds than my own and I know the experiences I had in this program will enable me to be a caring and compassionate physician in my future career."

*Kasia Wicijowski is in her second year of medical school at the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus. She lived in Ile a la Crosse for the summer, volunteering with and learning from the community through the Global Health Program. She applied to this program because she wanted to continue the work she started with SJP, serving underprivileged communities.*



By Paul Sinkewicz

“All are welcome in this place” was the refrain to the opening hymn of the 2024 St. Thomas More College Academic Mass held on September 18.

Sung by the STM Alumni Choir, the message of All are Welcome was apropos of the history and mission of STM College, a place “built of hopes and dreams and visions,” and it inaugurated the 2024-25 academic year perfectly.

Each year, members of the STM community – made up of faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters – come together in the Chapel to look for divine guidance in the mission of educating the College’s students.

Celebrating the Mass were Most Rev. Mark Hagemoen, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, as well as Fr. Andre Lalach, Fr. Ron Griffin CSB and Fr. Daniel Yasinski.

Deacon Harry Lafond, with the Diocese of Prince Albert, and STM’s Scholar in Indigenous Education, shared his thoughts during a Grounding Moment to prepare us to celebrate the liturgy.

Lafond spoke of the tradition of inclusion and welcoming cherished by Indigenous people, and the strength to be found when people share time together in community and celebration and are supportive of each other. It is in prayer at gatherings like the Academic Mass that we connect with each other and those that have come before, he said. The Holy Spirit is present, and no one leaves unchanged.

“We have this hope, that whenever we pray together in this life, those who have gone ahead, our ancestors, pray with us,” said Lafond.

As is tradition at the event, Dr. Tammy Marche, Dean of STM College, led those assembled in the Commissioning of the STM Community with an affirmation of the mission of St. Thomas More College.

After the mass ended, attendees were invited to a reception in the STM Cafeteria, and the start of the academic year was celebrated with food, laughter and friendship.



by Caitlin Ward

## **DESIRÉE STEELE LEGACY FUND** *in support of Student Bursaries*

In the last month of Desirée Hutton's young life, she established a Legacy Fund in her name— a fund that could do some of the things she would not have the time to do. In the establishment of this fund, Desirée created an opportunity for her family and friends to contribute to the better world that she hoped to build. It is with both joy and sadness that STM has become a beneficiary of this remarkable woman's legacy, with the establishment of the Desirée Steele Bursaries. These awards are designed to support first-generation university students who are involved in justice and community work through the Engaged Learning Office. As Desirée was always mindful of the particular challenges certain communities face, the bursaries will give preference to Indigenous students and students from refugee families.

Desirée's connection to the college has deep roots. Her mother, also an alumna of St. Thomas More College, remembers her own time at the college as both supportive and transformative. Like Desirée, Dorene Steele worked in the library and was nourished by the STM community and weekday masses. Dorene's connection to STM continued beyond graduation, later including her husband David. The Steeles' wedding reception was held in the college cafeteria, and Desirée's godfather was an STM professor, President Emeritus Dr. John Thompson. Years before she was the age to enter university, Desirée knew all about the College and what it could offer a Catholic young adult.

“She knew that it was a place of rich spiritual formation,” says Dorene. “And she was very open to receive that.”

When Desirée entered university in 2010, she grabbed onto the experience with both hands. She got involved in everything.

“Probably too much,” her parents' quip.

“But STM really spoke to her on so many levels,” Dorene says. “Intellectually, spiritually, community-wise.”

Indeed, in a 2018 letter to STM donors, Desirée wrote that, “the holistic education and support [she] received through STM helped prepare [her] to participate in open dialogue, engage intelligently, and ask challenging questions.”

Desirée's faith in God was already profound and her sense of community was finely honed before she enrolled at STM. Even at the age of five, she volunteered in long-term care homes, step-dancing and then later playing piano while her older brother James played the fiddle. She took her cues from her parents, who took the corporal works of mercy quite literally throughout Desirée's young life. At the age of nine, she boldly declared that when she grew up, she was going to be “a women's and children's rights fighter!”

It was during her time at STM that she integrated her passion for community and for justice into a career path, pursuing law and eventually working as a Crown prosecutor. She entered university as a Leslie & Irene Dubé Service & Justice Scholar and Greystone Scholar in her first year and continued her involvement in the Service & Justice Project (SJP) throughout her undergraduate degree. SJP, administered through the Engaged Learning Office, offers students the opportunity to cultivate a sense of moral responsiveness that comes from building relationships with marginalized people. For Desirée, this work was second nature. True to her nine-year-old self's ambitions, she gravitated towards working with vulnerable women and marginalized children, volunteering at the Crisis Nursery and St. Maria Goretti Community School, among other community placements.

The Steeles note that Desirée's college experience was made possible in part by the number of scholarships that supported her education, many of which came from STM. It's not surprising, then, that Desirée directed the establishment of bursaries that will allow other students to pursue the same passions that fueled Desirée's soul.

**Eligible students can apply for these bursaries each fall by following the application process published on our website under Student Awards. To contribute to Desirée Steele's Legacy Fund at STM, please go to <https://stmcollege.ca/support-stm/donate-to-stm.php> and indicate that your contribution supports the Desirée Steele Bursaries.**



**ST. THOMAS MORE LAWYERS' GUILD OF SASKATOON GATHER FOR ANNUAL RED MASS AT STM**

Each fall St. Thomas More College (STM) collaborates with members of the St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild, and the wider legal community, to celebrate Red Mass.

The St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild of Saskatoon was incorporated in June 2002 by a group of local Catholic lawyers that seek to highlight integrity and the highest ethical standards in the practice of law, as well as the administration of justice, as exemplified by its namesake St. Thomas More. The Guild gathers to celebrate the Red Mass, as was introduced in England in 1310, during the reign of Edward I. It is celebrated now, as it was then, to invoke the inspiration of the Holy Spirit on behalf of those involved in the administration of justice.

November 14, 2024, marked the 22nd anniversary of this important event. The Eucharistic Liturgy was celebrated in STM's chapel by Most Reverend Mark Hagemoen, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon along with Most Reverend Michael Smolinski CSsR, bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon.

Following Mass, a banquet and program was held in the College. Christopher Donald K.C. served as the master of ceremonies. The guest speaker, Dr. Mary Heilman, Bioethicist for St. Paul's Hospital and the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan, spoke to A Clinical Ethics Perspective on Health, Law & Ethics, a timely and thought-provoking topic.

Attendees included numerous members of the legal community, including the Honorable Mr. Justice Duane Koch and the Honorable Mr. Justice Neil Turcotte, Court of King's Bench, and STM President Dr. Carl Still, liturgical ministers, STM faculty, staff, and alumni. Also, each year members of the Lawyers' Guild generously purchase tickets for students who are either currently enrolled in the College of Law or STM students considering it in their future.

STM Director of Advancement Connie Andersen shared a newly released video presentation featuring STM students who reflected on how the community and support provided them through STM impacted their lives and overall college experience. Their endorsement and sentiments supporting Andersen's commitment to securing financial support for students to enable a post-secondary experience through STM.

**In Memoriam**

**REMEMBERED WARMLY**

Anna Marie Andree  
Joyce Chryski  
Fr. Iheanyi Enwerem, OP  
Lesya Foty  
Thomas Gullason  
Ken Hutchinson

Dr. Walter Klaassen  
Sylvia Lester  
Claire McGettigan  
Alycia Novak  
Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB  
Sr. Theresa Novecosky  
Gabriel Regnier

Robert Louis Stevenson  
William Tapuska  
Frank Strange  
Mackenzie Trottier  
Sr. Joan Weber  
Rosallie Woloschuk  
Geraldyn Yakimoski

*Eternal rest grant onto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

**2024 Spring Convocation: First Peace Studies Certificate Graduates Recognized**

By Mykan Zlipko

The Irene and Doug Schmeiser Centre for Faith, Reason, Peace, and Justice recognizes the academic accomplishments of the first students to receive the Peace Studies Certificate. Shenyce Buhler, Rayyan Haque, and John Pederson-Bradley received the certificate at the 2024 spring convocation. STM's certificate in Peace Studies is the first such program in the province.

Having completed her Bachelor of Arts Honors in Archaeology and Anthropology with a minor in Psychology, Rayyan Haque notes her academic interests aligned with the educational prospects of Peace Studies. The same interests in the fields of Anthropology and Archaeology drew Haque to pursue the Peace Studies certificate. "Throughout my degree, I have learned time and time again that the solutions to the issues we face lie in our collective understanding of each other and openness to every perspective."

Now pursuing a masters in public health at the University of Saskatchewan with hopes of establishing a career in Health Administration, Haque states the impact of her certificate in her new academic journey. "In my Master's in Public Health program, I hope to solidify my understanding that public health is not simply about treating disease, but about creating environments where all people can thrive – physically, mentally and emotionally."

Also completing her Bachelor of Arts in English, Shenyce Buhler states the importance of Peace Studies as an interdisciplinary program to better understand our world by grasping a deeper meaning of peace. "I took out of it a more critical way of thinking when it comes to events taking place in the world but also in everyday things. The program allowed me to take classes that I would not have thought to choose, but in doing so expanded my learning from other subjects like International Studies."

Reflecting on the impact of the Peace Studies program at STM, Buhler and Haque express the importance of our program given current experiences of violence. As Buhler states, the Peace Studies courses teach students about how peacebuilding efforts are taking place worldwide in various ways. The program also addresses how different modes of peace take place to disrupt acts of violence and address social injustices. The importance of this kind of program, according to Buhler, "allows students to look at the world through a different lens, aiding in the way that they think when issues arise."

The program, according to Haque, emphasized the importance of peace education, integrating Peace Studies with a goal of fostering cultures of peace as a foundation of education and existence. While it can be easy to get caught up in the negatives of the world, Haque states that finding the Peace Studies program provided an avenue of hope and positivity. "I wasn't just investing in my education, I was investing in myself and in the world, and for that I am grateful."

For more information: <https://programs.usask.ca/arts-and-science/peace-studies/index.php>



**Irene and Doug Schmeiser  
Centre for Faith, Reason, Peace, and Justice**

**Prairie Symposium for the Common Good 2024 – Incarnating the Common Good in Catholic Institutions**

By James Powell and Mykan Zlipko



The Irene and Doug Schmeiser Centre for Faith, Reason, Peace, and Justice, in partnership with St. Thomas More College (STM) was proud to host the Prairie Symposium for the Common Good from April 29 – May 1, in association with the Jesuit Centre for Catholic Studies at Campion College at the University of Regina, and the Jesuit Centre for Catholic Studies at St. Paul's College at the University of Manitoba. The symposium's theme was "Incarnating the Common Good: Catholic Institutions Engaging Diversities." The goal of the event was to explore the opportunities and tensions that emerge when Catholic institutions actively engage with a pluralistic world.

Introductory remarks from Gordon Wyant, then Minister of Advanced Education, and Bishop Mark Hagemoen began the start of the symposium. Introduced by Gertrude Rompré, Dr. Meghan Clark of

St. John's University (New York) commenced the symposium with the keynote address titled, "Everyone is Needed: Building the Common Good through Dialogue and Friendship." Sponsored by the Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair in Catholic Studies, her presentation unpacked the history and theory behind the concept of solidarity, with a particular focus on Pope Francis' understanding of the term. She stressed that friendship is the foundation upon which solidarity is built, and that solidarity is necessary to address local and global injustices.

For the first day of panel presentations, the symposium shifted to Wanuskewin. Many participants valued the location as it not only gave them the opportunity to explore the land and the museum but also because it helped illustrate the need for discussions about Catholic identity outside Catholic institutions. The day began with a prayer led by Harry Lafond and Celeste Woloschuk. The panels featured presidents and scholars from Catholic colleges from across Canada, as well as STM faculty and staff, including, Gertrude Rompré, Cynthia Wallace, Fachrizal Halim, Sarah Powrie, and James Powell.

The symposium then returned to STM for the Ayotte Lecture on Faith and the Environment delivered by Dr. Dawn M. Nothwehr, OSF, of the Catholic Theological Union (Chicago). Her presentation, titled "Sharing the Creator's Earth: The Meeting of St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan Al-Malik al-Kāmil as a Model of Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples," revealed the history of the colonization of Indigenous Peoples in southern Minnesota, where her motherhouse is located. She then proposed the encounter and mutual respect between St. Francis and Sultan al-Kāmil as a frame for how Catholics today can foster a desire for reconciliation and friendship with Indigenous Peoples. Dr. Nothwehr closed her presentation by sharing how her order continues St. Francis's example by practicing reconciliation in her community.

The final day included presentations from many St. Thomas More faculty including John Liptay, David McGrane, Chris Hrynkow, and Josh Wallace. All in all, the Prairie Symposium for the Common Good provided a space for dialogue about how Catholic institutions can and should encounter diversities.

## Support STM students with a gift this Christmas

My name is Christine Kwon, and I have had the privilege of being a student at St. Thomas More College (STM) since I started my undergraduate degree. From the moment I joined the STM Summer Group in 2021, I was welcomed with open arms as I transitioned from my rural Saskatchewan high school to university life.

Now, as a 4th-year Health Studies Honours student with a minor in Psychology, STM truly feels like my home away from home, a place where I not only study but also grow in faith, compassion, and community service.

The financial pressures of university can be overwhelming, especially with rising tuition, rent, food, and other essential costs. Without family support to help with these expenses, I, like many students, have struggled to balance financial worries with my studies. But thanks to the generosity of donors, I have been fortunate enough to receive scholarships and bursaries that relieve some of that stress and make my education possible.

STM is a community that really cares for its students. Whenever I am uncertain, I know I can reach out for support whether it is from academic advising, campus ministry, or any of the wonderful staff and faculty here.

Sometimes, we students forget to take care of our own well-being, but the free snacks in the library and the biweekly soup and bun brighten our days. I know I can always count on STM support, especially during difficult times. This became incredibly meaningful when my family lost our home in a devastating fire last year.

The emergency bursary provided by STM was a lifeline during that challenging time, and the College's compassion and generosity truly made a difference. Knowing that STM was there for me when I needed it most has deepened my commitment to giving back to this community.

Throughout my time at STM, I have had the opportunity to take several STM courses that have shaped my learning experience. The smaller class sizes and caring professors have encouraged me to think critically and engage deeply with the material. The scholarship I received in my third year was a game changer for me, relieving some financial pressure and allowing me to focus on activities that matter most instead of juggling multiple part-time jobs. That support opened the door for me to invest my time in meaningful activities, like mentoring for the Service and Justice Project, being a member of the Newman Club, volunteering at a care home, participating in the Healthcare Engaged Learning Project, and helping out at STM's welcome events. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to student engagement and ultimately led to my role as this year's representative of STM on Saskatchewan's Post-Secondary Council.

I hope other students can have the same opportunities I have been fortunate to experience, free from the burden of financial pressures.

STM has become a place of belonging, a community where I have shared meals, laughter, and support. From connecting with alumni at events like the STM Fall Gathering and the Keenan Lecture, to finding peace in the chapel, I have felt the warmth, kindness, and encouragement that define STM. This community has supported me through both the good times and the challenges, and I hope to continue giving back, even after I graduate. I will always cherish the memories and support that STM has provided throughout my university journey.

During this special season of giving, I invite you to consider making a Christmas gift to STM student awards. Your generosity has a direct impact on students like me, empowering us to fully embrace our education and give back to the STM community. Now, more than ever, students need your support and are profoundly grateful for your belief in us. This holiday season, please think about making a generous donation to help fund essential student scholarships and bursaries at STM.

Support STM Student scholarships and bursaries by donating online at [stmcollege.ca](http://stmcollege.ca) or mail in the donation form on page 27 of this magazine.



**Christine Kwon, fourth-year student at STM College**

## STM REPS CONNECT WITH GLOBAL CITIZENS...AND POPE FRANCIS!



**Pope Francis greets Alayna Jones**



by Michael MacLean

On September 11th, 2024, two members of the STM community were on a plane bound for La Roche-Sur-Foron, France. STM Newman Exec member Alayna Jones and STM Campus Minister Michael MacLean were invited to attend events organized by the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS-MIEC) Pax Romana, a global Catholic Students Movement. Michael is a member of the Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry Board, and Alayna is on the Executive of the Canadian Catholic Students Association. It was through their work with these national organizations that they were invited to attend, along with one other student delegate from Canada, Mackenzie Neufeld from St. Joseph's College in Edmonton.

The events that the IMCS organized were the Empowerment Summit, the meeting of the IMCS International Council, a visit to the United Nations in Geneva, followed by a private papal audience at the Vatican. The Empowerment Summit in La-Roche-Sur-Foron, France, happened on September 12-15, and brought together student leaders from countries around the world. The dynamic workshop focused on leadership development and cultural exchange. After the International

Council, the week culminated with the Catholic Peace Forum on September 19 and a private audience with Pope Francis in Vatican City on September 20, where delegates received spiritual guidance, blessings, and congratulations from the Pope on over 100 years of IMCS Pax Romana. (IMCS Pax Romana was founded in 1921 and focuses on promoting justice, peace and solidarity among Catholic students.)

When asked to comment on her experience, Alayna replied, "We started with the Empowerment Summit and International Council in La-Roche-Sur-Foron, France where we participated in a 4-day workshop and one day council meeting. This is where leaders from six global regions focused on strategic planning for the next couple years, experienced cultural exchange and gained leadership development to bring back to our home countries. During the council we validated plans for the future, assessed the activities that had been carried out during the past two years and revised global structures and action plans for the next three years. While in La-Roche-Sur-Foron we also got to explore the small town near the Swiss border, attending mass with the local Parish where we

experienced mass in French and stopped at a local bakery quite frequently."

Jones also added, "After the council, before we flew to Rome, we went to Geneva, Switzerland to attend the Human Rights Council at the United Nations. This was a surreal experience where we got to sit in on the discussions between many countries' representatives. We also explored Geneva, taking in all the beautiful sites, and visiting lots of churches around the city."

The participants flew from France to Rome, Italy for the Catholic Peace Forum and finally the private audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican. The peace forum was a joint event with Pax Christi, and it was to promote youth leadership and to participate in peace-building as well as the culture of peace and non-violence according to Catholic Social Teaching. Alayna described the Pax Catholica Forum by saying, "We had multiple talks, discussions, panelists and learned about various ways to promote peace in our home countries." One of the talks included an invitation for all participants to attend World Youth Day 2027 in South Korea.

Alayna described the day of the private papal audience with Pope

Francis as surreal. She said, "We went to Vatican City and received spiritual guidance and blessings from His Holiness Pope Francis. It highlighted the spiritual renewal and commitment of IMCS Pax Romana to its mission and values." After the Pope's address to the IMCS Pax Romana contingent, each participant was invited to meet Pope Francis and shake his hand. People from 32 countries were represented in the delegation.

After this very full ten-day whirlwind trip, Alayna was asked for a final comment. She was happy to say, "This trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I loved every second of it. I learned so much about myself and how to bring a stronger Catholic presence to Canada as well as my home campus. I am beyond grateful that I was able to attend this event and look forward to future opportunities with IMCS Pax Romana as I have found friends for life through this organization."

The next event on Alayna and Michael's travel calendar is to head to Montreal in January 2025 to attend the CCSA National conference, this year hosted by the McGill Newman Centre, where they will share their experiences with students from across Canada.



# SUPPORTING STM STUDENTS

## STM PEER HEALTH MENTORS

"STM Peer Health Mentors recognize the importance of health in mind, body and spirit and are willing to reach out and engage other university students to build a greater awareness of the value of student well-being." Michael MacLean



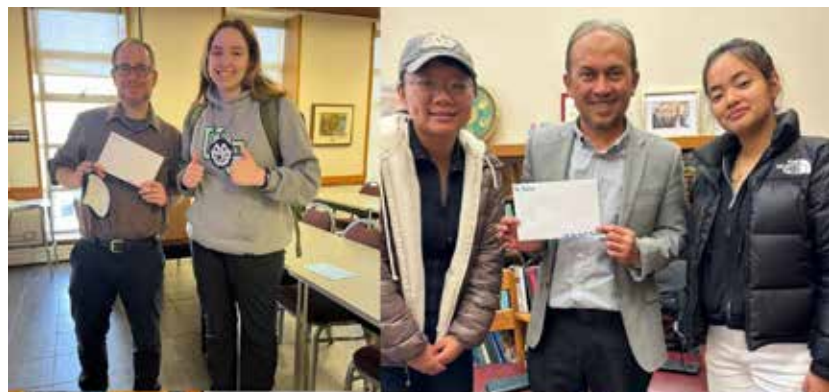
L-R: Reagen, Aknoor, Runli, Raine, Kamsi, Roshmita, Carly Jo, and in the front row, Chinaza. (Missing-Genevieve and Thea)

The STM Peer Health Mentors kicked off the academic year with a joint training session including them, the Peer mentors from "The Roost" and the Service and Justice Peer Mentors. As a team they also attended STM Campus Minister Fr. Andre Lalach's session of "The Inquiring Mind".

This term the Peer Health Mentors have been working on a number of community-building activities, including interviewing students in the bowl and around campus, attending College events like the Student Leadership Council meetings, the STM Open House, and Reconciliation events like Orange Shirt Day.



In October, they recognized World Mental Health Day by having a table in the STM Lobby where they could take a positive affirmation, or leave one for another student. Take one or Make one!



On World Teachers' Day, October 5th, STM Peer Health Mentors launched a special initiative inviting students to name STM professors who have made a significant impact on their academic and personal growth. The nomination period concluded on October 15th, with professors receiving certificates and thank you awards for their outstanding contributions. This initiative was designed to express gratitude to the dedicated professors at STM, who share their passion and patience tirelessly. Students were encouraged to nominate their favorite professors and share their inspiring stories.

One student remarked about Dr. John Liptay. "He is an inspiration to me as an aspiring Philosopher." Another said about Dr. Celene Sidloski "Her enthusiasm for teaching linguistics is infectious! It's the reason I pursued the field." Other comments complimented STM faculty on being compassionate, gentle, inspirational, and passionate about their subject areas.

STM Peer Health Mentors gave a number of thank you cards to STM faculty members, including Josh Wallace, Fachrizal Halim, Daniel Krahn, Celine Sidloski, and Zachary Yuzwa.

Among the honored, Professor Wayne Schlapkohl was highlighted for his unique approach to teaching. One student described his impact, saying, "Dr. Schlapkohl treats his class like his own children, blending academic rigor with personal care. His passion for psychology makes every lecture a journey of discovery and enjoyment."



Students can reach out to the STM Peer Health Mentor program by emailing [peerhealth@stmcollege.ca](mailto:peerhealth@stmcollege.ca) or finding them on Instagram at [stmpeerhealth](https://www.instagram.com/stmpeerhealth). Anyone with questions about the program is invited to email Michael MacLean at [mmaclean@stmcollege.ca](mailto:mmaclean@stmcollege.ca)



St. Thomas More College is often referred to as a home for students, so what better name for a first-year program at a college with a rooster mascot than The Roost. The Roost, designed to support students as they embark on their academic journey, launched this year combining online preparatory mini lessons about university and peer support through the fall semester. Led by upper year students, the groups work through learning modules that focus on cultural competency, a vital skill in our diverse world. By fostering connections and providing resources, The Roost ensures a strong foundation for academic success and promotes an inclusive campus community.

Linda Berry, BA(Hon)  
Student Advising and Career Readiness Officer

### Kayhan Yazdani

Being a Peer Health Mentor with The Roost at STM has been a deeply rewarding journey, one rooted in connection, support, and shared growth. Every two weeks, I meet with a small group of first-year students, and together we delve into themes like self-awareness, culture, and personal values. These conversations go far beyond academics, creating a safe and supportive environment where each person can share openly, reflect deeply, and feel truly heard. The Roost is dedicated to a holistic approach to well-being, equipping students with life skills that empower them to navigate personal and academic transitions with confidence and clarity. The impact of mentorship shines through in each session. These students bring diverse perspectives, making every conversation an enriching, two-way experience. Through discussions on topics ranging from self-discovery to mental wellness, I see them grow more comfortable in their own skin and more prepared to embrace challenges. It's a privilege to witness these shifts; every small moment of growth and understanding reminds me how much a community of support and empathy can transform our paths, especially during these pivotal years. For me, this experience has been equally transformative. The connections we build aren't just meaningful in the short term—they foster a sense of belonging that extends throughout the STM community, creating a lasting foundation for both students and mentors alike. The Roost is more than a mentorship program; it's a network of support and a testament to the strength of a community that cares deeply about each person's journey toward self-discovery and well-being.

### Noemie N'Diaye

Being a peer mentor for the Roost gives me the opportunity to connect with other STM students and learn more about them. I get to listen to their stories and have meaningful conversations with the students in our Coop Troop! I enjoy being part of the Roost because it allows me to create a space where the students feel heard and where they can share how they are truly feeling. University can be an extremely stressful environment at times. There are labs, homework, midterms, finals, and so much more. It can be easy to start feeling overwhelmed and lost. Meeting with the students and discussing topics like culture, identity, and understanding those around us is a much-needed break from all the stress of university! Being a peer mentor is a good way for me to share my knowledge with students and also engage in conversations that encourage individual growth. Even as the peer mentor, I leave each session with an even broader perspective on the world around me.

## Shannon Library

Visit Shannon Library at STM for the resources (includes over 57,000 volumes and 150 journals and magazines), great study space, computer access, helpful staff, and of course check in for student contests, and snack and beverage offerings!



Hours of Operation  
**May - August:**  
 Mon-Fri 10:00am-2:00pm,  
 closed weekends  
**September - April:**  
 Monday to Thursday:  
 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
 Friday:  
 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 Saturday and Sunday:  
 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## INTERPRETATIONS IN ABSTRACT

Jan Corcoran  
Bridget Aitken  
Sandra Ledingham

Oct. 20, 2024 - Jan. 11, 2025  
**St. Thomas More Gallery**  
 1437 College Drive

Opening Reception  
 Sunday, Oct. 27, 1-4 pm





**DR. LESYA SABADA** represented the World Council of Churches (WCC) at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP16).

The World Council of Churches (WCC) participated in the 16th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (COP16) which was held in Cali, Colombia, from October 21 to November 1, 2024. The conference had the theme, "Peace with Nature" and drew 23,000 participants from 196 countries.

The WCC delegation to COP16 comprised 10 participants representing the WCC Commission on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development, WCC Commission on International Affairs, WCC Ecumenical Indigenous Peoples Reference Group and local churches and ecumenical organizations.

Sabada also presented as a member of WCC - *Peace with Nature, Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Spirituality*.

## Advisory member elected as new City Councillor

**Congratulations SENOS TIMON** elected to Saskatoon City Council November 13, representing Ward 2. Timon is a member of STM's Advisory Circle for the Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation in which members work to fulfill the mission of a Catholic college as "a reconciled community" through humble and innovative collaboration. The StarPhoenix notes that Timon made history by becoming the first visible minority elected to city council.



As shared through Timon's official biography, he was born and raised in South Sudan, and "is passionate about community-building, fighting for marginalized communities, reconciliation with Indigenous people in Canada, and a just and equitable society for all."

Timon is the founder and Executive Director of The People Bridge Advocacy Inc., formerly South Sudan Humanitarian Action Development Agency Inc.

## STM Annual Report recognized with IABC Award



International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Saskatchewan - Awards for Communications Excellence (ACE) presented **Jacquie Berg**, STM's Director of Marketing, Communications, and Student Recruitment with the Award for Communication Excellence - Publications category - for the St. Thomas More College 2022-'23 Annual Report.

The Awards ceremony was held during the (IABC) conference this past fall.

Berg is the designer, contributor, and editor of the annual publication.

## King Charles Medal Recipients Honoured



September 10, two dozen Saskatchewan residents were presented with the King Charles III Coronation Medal by Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty in Saskatoon. "As His Majesty's representative in Saskatchewan, I am honoured to recognize these Coronation Medal recipients for their inspiring service to their community and province," Mirasty said. "I am grateful for their tremendous examples of dedication, leadership and generosity."

St. Thomas More College (STM) community would like to congratulate recipients recognized on September 10 and specifically acknowledge the worthy recognition of Jason Aebig (Chair, STM Board of Governors), Mary Donlevy-Konkin (STM Corporation member, former STM Board member), and Chief Justice Martel D. Popescul (STM Lawyers Guild).

## ACCUC gather in Ottawa



STM'S president Carl Still chaired the annual fall meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities Canada (ACCUC) presidents, along with the president of the ACCU Donna Carroll, gathered this October at Saint Paul University in Ottawa.

## Living moral life requires recognition, vulnerability: Keenan Lecturer

### 35TH EDITION OF ANNUAL ACADEMIC LECTURE

By Paul Sinkewicz

Now in its 35th year, the annual Keenan Lecture was held on October 24 at St. Thomas More College (STM).

The lecture is the signature academic event at STM and was established to commemorate the life of Dr. Michael Keenan, the first dean of the College, who served from 1975-1985. It features leading intellectuals and leaders in various fields.

The 2024 lecture featured a distinguished theologian with the same surname, although unrelated. Rev. James F. Keenan, S.J., is a moral theologian, and bioethicist, is a prodigious writer and editor and the Canisius Chair, Director of the Jesuit Institute and Vice Provost of Global Engagement at Boston College. He has been a Jesuit priest since 1982 and received a licentiate and a doctorate from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

In 2023 Georgetown University Press published *The Moral Life*, his D'Arcy Memorial Lectures given at the University of Oxford in 2022.

In his lecture, titled *Unfolding the Moral Life*, Fr. Keenan said he has been doing work on vulnerability and recognition through discussions about grief.

"I'm really interested in this question: We teach people what they should know, but whether they are going to do anything is another issue."

He said unless people are vulnerable – meaning being open to another to the point of being capable of being wounded – they won't know how to respond to others.

"How do Catholic institutions really promote vulnerability and what I would call the skill of recognizing what needs to be done?"

Rev. Keenan said recognition is the first true act of vulnerable people.

He pointed to the protests that began in Minneapolis on May 26, 2020, the day after a black man named George Floyd was killed while being arrested by police. A few days later, on June 6, an estimated 500,000 people joined protests in 550 places across the United States.

"The people in the march were recognizing that black lives matter and that George Floyd mattered and horrendously that ... thousands of others who have been killed or murdered matter, though often they are overlooked."

He said the marchers were grieving the profound racial inequity that marks the U.S., and in their grief, they revealed their vulnerability and demanded that we recognize the legitimacy of their lament and the lack of our recognition.

"In the past four years there has been much grief and much vulnerability and it's about time, then, that we heed the Spirit and begin the process of recognition," he said. "Indeed, if we cannot see the Spirit calling us to recognition in the marches of Minneapolis after the killing of George Floyd that black lives matter, then we are never going to understand the Spirit who led the disciples."

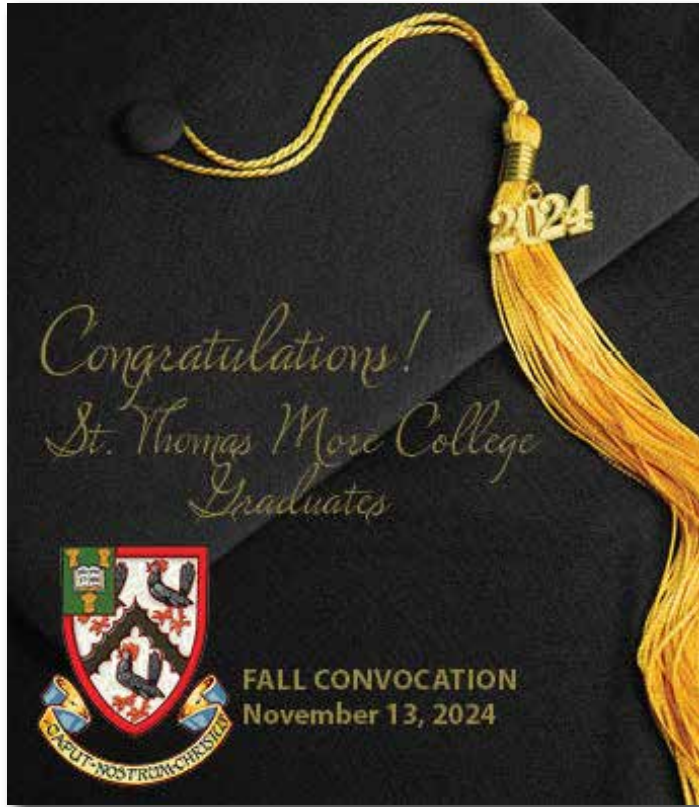


Rev. James F. Keenan, S.J.

## KEENAN LECTURES 1987 - 2024

- 2024 James F. Keenan, S.J., *Unfolding the Moral Life*
- 2023 Michele Dillon, *Can Postsecular Society Rekindle the Common Good?*
- 2022 Hon. Graydon Nicholas, *Reflections on the Papal Visit: When does the Reconciliation Journey begin? and with Whom?*
- 2021 Trevor Herriot, *Hunger at the Banquet: A Faith and Justice Lens on Food, Land and Colonialism on the Prairie*
- 2019 Margaret S. Archer, *The Self, Agents and Actors; a Realist Conception of the Human Person*
- 2018 Fr. James L. Heft, *The Open Circle: Catholic Universities Building Bridges*
- 2017 Dr. Eric McLuhan, *Catholicism and Communication: The Sensus Communis, Synesthesia, and the Soul*
- 2016 Margaret Somerville, *The Song of Death, the Lyrics of Euthanasia versus The Song of Life, the Lyrics of Love and Hope*
- 2015 Maria Campbell, OC, *Reconsidering Reconciliation*
- 2014 Russell Hittinger, *The Crisis of Modern Times: The [ongoing] Legacy of John Paul II*
- 2013 Guy Vanderhaeghe, *Apprehending the Past: History versus the Historical Novel*
- 2012 Patrick McCormick, *Reading the Bible as a Parable of Nonviolence*
- 2011 Fr. James McConica, C.S.B., *Is There a Catholic Humanism?*
- 2010 Tim Lilburn, *The Larger Conversation: The Ethical Significance of the Human Relationship to Place*
- 2008 C. John Sommerville, *No Faith in Education: The Decline of the Secular University*
- 2007 Kieran Flanagan, *What's in a name? The fate of sociology in theology*
- 2006 Harold G. Koenig, *Religion, spirituality and health*
- 2004 Sue McGregor, *Consumerism and peace*
- 2003 J.R. (Jim) Miller, *Compact, contract, covenant: Canada's treaty-making tradition*
- 2002 André Braën, *Language rights in Canada: Democracy in question*
- 2001 Bartha Knoppers, *Bio-technology, ethics and public policy*
- 2000 David Livingstone, *Liberal arts education in a technocratic era: Accessibility responsibility and utility*
- 1999 Roy Culpeper, *Governing global markets: Rights, responsibilities & rules*
- 1998 Louis Dupré, *Spiritual life at the beginning of a new millennium*
- 1997 William F. Ryan SJ, *Culture, spirituality, and economic development: Opening a dialogue*
- 1996 Sharon Daloz Parks, *The crucible of the new commons and the power of metaphor: The formation of commitment to the common good in a complex world*
- 1995 Ewert Cousins, *Religions on the eve of the 21st century: The emergency of global consciousness*
- 1994 Martin E. Marty, *The letter of fundamentalisms and the spirit of Catholicities*
- 1993 Parker Palmer, *The violence of our knowledge: Toward a spirituality of higher education*
- 1992 Noel O'Donoghue ODC, *The Rediscovery of imagination in theology*
- 1991 Ralph McInerney, *The quarrel between the philosopher and the poet*
- 1990 Douglas Roche, *Peace with our planet*
- 1989 Kathleen Feeley SSND, *Creating the future in catholic liberal arts colleges*
- 1988 Michael Higgins, *Making & remaking: The many masks of Thomas Merton*
- 1987 Kurt Danziger, *Psychology for whom?*

# CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Joseph Naytowhow led guests in an Honour Song at the STM fall 2024 graduation reception.



Linda Berry, STM Student Advising and Career Readiness Officer

## CAREER-READINESS SUPPORT THROUGH ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE

STM is pleased to offer students new support through our Student Services office. *The Student Advising and Career Readiness Officer* works directly with students to provide career-readiness support through a wide range of services and activities. Linda Berry will provide direction on academic programming to help students make career-based decisions as well as work in conjunction with USask Career Services for career assessment, individual career counseling or coaching, on-campus interviews, job postings, resumé writing, and cover letter writing support. She will also continue hosting career-related events featuring speakers with liberal arts backgrounds and provide opportunities to create employer connections. Future projects include web resources, developing internship opportunities, and building a database of internship resources.

- Briana Adrian: BA Psychology
- Alisha Aktar: B.Sc. Cell Physio Pharmacol Sciences
- Angela Alindogan: BA Economics
- Angel Andrade Rodriguez: BA & Sc. Interactive Systems Design
- Hudson Brooks: BA Psychology
- Carl Steve Cayago: BA Economics
- Chun Nam Chung: Cert. Urban Design
- Bree Cockx: BA Archaeology and Anthropology
- Geordie Cowan: Cert. Indigenous Storytelling; BA Linguistics
- Madison DeCorby: B.Sc. Geology
- Jocelyn D'Eon: BA Anthropology; Cert. Spanish
- Anna Folk: BA Political Studies
- Tasneem Fyroos: B.Sc. Computer Science; Cert. Computing
- Ruby Hamilton: BA Psychology
- Lucas Hilderman: B.Sc. Computer Science
- Abubakar Jeilani: BA Sociology
- Benjamin Kmiech: BA History; BA Linguistics
- Shayleen Lewis: BA Sociology
- Kirsten Lumberjack: BA Sociology
- Tori Maddox: Cert. Criminology and Addictions
- Michelle Manabat: BA English
- Kathleen Marie Matias: B.Sc.(BMSC) Blochem, Micro and Immunology
- Taylor Miller: BA Psychology
- Allison Murphy: BA Psychology
- Katherine Nicks: B.Sc. Computer Science
- Ryland Patterson: BA Psychology
- Julia Ramsay: Cert. Criminology and Addictions; BA Psychology
- Jenna Retzlaff: Cert. Criminology and Addictions; BA Sociology
- Junrey Sabandal: B.Sc. Physiology and Pharmacology
- Quintin Sackmann: BA Psychology; BSc. Health Studies
- Sarah Schmaus: BA Sociology
- Sierra Tondevoid: BA Sociology
- Julian Yang: Cert. Ethics Justice and Law; BA History
- Pascale Yee: BA History

## SASKATCHEWAN POST-SECONDARY STUDENT COUNCIL



Christine Kwon



Raine Rusaw

**Congratulations** to STM students Christine Kwon and Raine Rusaw selected for the Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Student Council. The Council gives selected post-secondary students from across the province an opportunity to engage with the Ministry of Advanced Education on a variety of topics related to post-secondary education. The students are from different backgrounds, geographic locations, areas of study and credential levels. Each student will serve on the council for a one-year term.

## STM PARTNERS WITH USASK STUDENT WELLNESS CENTRE TO SUPPORT STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH.



by Fr. Andre Lalach

August of 2020 was a strange time in my life, as it was for so many. Despite social distancing, our family was able to make our annual trek to Gimli, Manitoba to visit my wife's family and enjoy some vacation time. During those days, as I pondered what the new academic year would be like that fall, and the likelihood that I would have a lot more time on my hands free of church meetings and special events, the possibility of doing some further study came into view. Mystically, later that day, an ad for the online Master's in Counselling Psychology Program at Yorkville University emerged in my Facebook feed! Within weeks, I was admitted to the program and commenced my first course that September.

In a way, this development addressed a need that I was seeing in my ministry with students in Campus Ministry. Very often, spiritual direction sessions would reveal a deeper mental health issue for a student, who I would then refer to professionals on campus or in the wider community. I saw this professional development as a means of serving the needs of students. Personally, my counselling studies unearthed a passion that has been professionally and pastorally exhilarating!

As I neared the completion of my coursework, the time came to seek out a site

where I would complete the practicum requirement of the degree. With some trepidation, I reached out to the USask Student Wellness Centre (SWC), unsure if my status as an ordained Catholic priest would be compatible with the vision of the Centre. Thankfully, the SWC leadership recognized my skill set, therapeutic orientation, and spiritual background to be an asset to their team, and I began my practicum at the SWC in September 2022.

The relationships forged during that year were very positive, so much so that in Spring 2023 a dialogue between STM (i.e., my Campus Ministry supervisor Gertrude Rompré) and the leadership of SWC (i.e., Jocelyn Orb and Terri Peterson) commenced to consider a partnership between the College and USask Student Wellness. The terms of the partnership involved me spending one day per week as part of my Campus Ministry duties working at SWC, using SWC office space to provide clinical support to STM and non-STM students and work on mental health programming for students. From STM's perspective, this partnership was seen as a way of affirming the College's commitment to mental health and wellness among our students. For the SWC, the partnership has enhanced its capacity to address the burgeoning caseload of students seeking counselling support on campus.

Contact USask Wellness Centre  
966-5678  
for Student Mental Health and Wellness Support.



# STM at a Glance

2023-2024 (academic year)

**225** ARTS & SCIENCE CREDIT COURSE OPTIONS (open to all USask students)

**19** AREAS OF STUDY

**71** FACULTY (Tenure, tenure-stream, term, sessional)

**5457** distinct STUDENTS (registered in courses through STM)

**1280+** STM STUDENTS (declared STM status)

**1067** (3cu) Indigenous STUDENTS (declared status registered in STM courses)

**504** (3cu) International STUDENTS (declared status registered in STM courses)

**\$320,000+** STM Scholarships & Bursaries available

**10,000+** STM Alumni (approx. since 1936)

**26,000** STM COLLEGE.CA Website users May 1, 2024 - Nov. 8, 2024



**Advisory Circle members:**  
Jennifer Briere, AJ Felix, Patricia Felix, Harry Lafond, Gordon Martell, Sherry Richert, Gertrude Rompré, Rhonda Smallchild, Carl Still, Senos Timon and Rosalie Tsannie-Burseth.

The Advisory Circle gathers for two annual meetings. The fall 2024 meeting included discussions on the STM Values Statement, an update on the Campaign for the Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation, and Future Knowledge Keepers.



### WHY IS THERE A TEEPEE IN THE CHAPEL?

by Dr. Gertrude Rompré

*A few weeks ago, I ran into an STM alumna who asked me a fair question: "Why is there a teepee in the STM Chapel?" Fortunately, we were in the STM Chapel, and I was able to invite her into the teepee to share the story. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the STM Chapel recently, here is the teepee's origin story.*

The teepee was installed in the chapel on March 1, 2022, by Elders AJ and Patricia Felix of Sturgeon Lake First Nation, and other members of their family. Elders AJ and Patricia – who constructed the teepee themselves – are part of STM's Indigenous Advisory Circle. For years, the Advisory Circle has been recommending that we create, within STM, a visibly Indigenous space for prayer. After a careful discernment process, over a number of months and in consultation with the wider community, it was decided to locate the teepee within the STM Chapel, uniting the sacred spaces represented by both the current chapel architecture and the traditional teepee structure.

The teepee is a place of hospitality.

The teepee is set in a prominent place within the chapel, signaling that this is a place of belonging for Indigenous students, staff, faculty, and other visitors. Its backdrop is the Kurelek mural which, in itself, sends a similar message. Kurelek's art showcases many peoples – predominantly settlers – coming together toward Christ on the prairie landscape. Foregrounding the teepee reminds us of the original inhabitants of this land whose hospitality makes possible our being here on Treaty 6 territory and the homelands of the Métis.

The teepee is a place of learning.

While the teepee is the traditional dwelling of Indigenous peoples on the prairies, it is important to understand this it is also the bearer of Sacred Teepee Teachings. The teepee allows us to invite Elders to share these teachings with us and help us understand the points of connection between traditional Indigenous Spiritualities and Christianity.

The teepee teaches the importance of relatedness with family, community, creation, and the Creator. Its orientation harkens to the four directions and represents a holistic view of the human person within creation. The rhythms of the natural world – the four seasons – also guide the teachings shared by Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

The teepee is a place of prayer.

The teepee is recognized as a place of solitude and prayer, its soft walls conveying a sense of safety and protection. It is a place to connect with God, our Creator. It is also a place where we meet to pray in a circle, listening to Elders' teachings, and respectfully engage in Indigenous ceremonies. Since the teepee is located within the wider STM Chapel, we learn how these moments of prayer resonate with the liturgical life of our community as well.

The teepee represents a commitment.

We are continually reminded by the Indigenous Advisory Circle that to live well, we must

set our eyes first on the Creator. This teaching finds purchase in the ethos and commitments of a Catholic, liberal arts college like STM. Responding to both the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and to the teaching of Pope Francis during his pilgrimage to Canada in 2022, STM continues on its journey to be in right relationship with Indigenous peoples. The teepee is part of this process.

During his address to the members of Sacred Heart Parish in Edmonton, Pope Francis spoke directly of the teepee's significance: This teepee has deep biblical symbolism. When Israel journeyed in the desert, God dwelt in a tent that was set up every time that the people stopped and camped: it was the Tent of Meeting. The teepee reminds us that God accompanies us on our journey and loves to meet us together, in assembly, in council. And when he became man, the Gospel tells us, he liter-

ally "pitched his tent among us" (cf. Jn 1:14). God is a God of closeness, and in Jesus he teaches us the language of compassion and tender love. That is what we should call to mind every time that we enter a church, where Jesus is present in the tabernacle, a word that itself originally meant "tent". Therefore, God has placed his tent in our midst; he accompanies us through our deserts. He does not dwell in heavenly mansions, but in our Church, which he wants to be a house of reconciliation. (July 25, 2022)

May we continue to grow in our understanding of the teepee significance within the STM Chapel. May its presence there serve as an invitation to enter sacred spaces of encounter with God and with each other. The gift of the teepee is one best experienced firsthand. If you would like to visit, please know that you are always welcome!

## Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH) Prairie Ukrainian Film Festival (PUFF) 2024

The second annual Prairie Ukrainian Film Festival (PUFF) was held on June 13-16th 2024 to rave reviews. Co-hosted by the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage, the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, the Remai Modern, and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress of Saskatchewan, the 3.5-day festival welcomed over 500 guests, each arriving eager and curious, and leaving with a greater appreciation of Ukrainian film. This year's festival, curated by PCUH's Interim Director Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk, featured seven acclaimed contemporary Ukrainian films which explored many aspects of Ukraine's history and present-day, each shown at the state-of-the-art SaskTel Theatre in the Remai Modern. New this year was the PUFFchik Children's Feature, showcasing the new animated film Mavka; The Forest Song. This film was screened twice, both publicly and during a private school screening for children from Westmount Community School and Bishop Filievich Ukrainian Bilingual School and provided a wonderful opportunity for cross-cultural and cross-curricular learning.



PUFF aims to educate, inspire, and invite our audiences to discover the multiplicity of Ukrainian voices and stories, so that we may better understand this place. By sharing the stories of Ukrainian filmmakers' half-way around the world, we are – in our own small way – forming or reforming the public's perception of Ukraine and Ukrainian voices.

## 95th Anniversary of Ukrainian student activity at USask



The 2024-25 academic year marks a remarkable milestone for Ukrainian students at USask. It was in the fall of 1929 that the Alpha Omega Students' Association was founded, one of the first Ukrainian student groups at a Canadian university. Though the organization has gone by the name University of Saskatchewan Ukrainian Students' Association since the mid-1970s, this student activity was on-going throughout, highlighting an incredible legacy of student activism, cultural learning, and community camaraderie. This auspicious occasion was celebrated with a dinner and dance at Marquis Hall on November 2nd, where 150 people gathered representing various generations of students and the community groups who have supported this activity. Organized by the current executive of the USUSA under the very capable leadership of co-presidents Jasmyn Rebeyka and Alexa Hyra, the celebration included video messages from former members, a trivia contest, various speeches highlighting the past 95 years, and energetic performances by Saskatoon's two premiere Ukrainian dance groups, the Yevshan Ukrainian Folk Ballet Ensemble and the Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble.

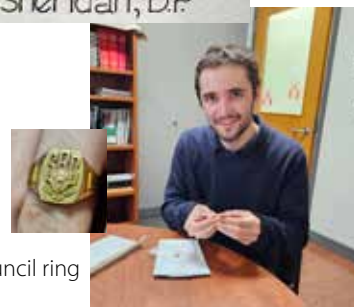
Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk, Interim Director of the PCUH and long-time faculty advisor for the USUSA, brought greetings and congratulations to the students and spoke of the incredible history of student involvement in Ukrainian Studies over the last 95 years. As a former president of USUSA herself, she proudly shared how crucial Ukrainian student activity was in the eventual offering of Canada's first ever university course in Ukrainian Studies at the U of S in 1943, among many other notable achievements in the decades since. Such a legacy in this field is rare, and one which will continue to be encouraged and supported for years to come.

## Ring and Pin: gifts from one STMSA President to another

In September 2024, STM alumnus Dr. Don Sheridan, class of 1968, dropped by STM late on a Friday for a quick visit, on a mission. This was no ordinary trip: Dr. Sheridan lives in Auckland, New Zealand. While in Canada to visit family in Alberta, he made sure to save time to pass through Saskatoon to visit his alma mater. He left an envelope addressed to Henry Thiessen, the current President of the STM Student Union.

The envelope contained a treasure: the Student Representative Council ring and the STM Crest pin from 1968! As a history student, in STM's Classical Medieval and Renaissance Studies program, Henry has a deep appreciation of STM's history and received these amazing gifts with wonder and joy.

In some professions, such as engineering and nursing, graduates are granted a ring or a pin, as an induction into the ethics of their profession. With this gift, Dr. Sheridan places his trust in our current generation of student leaders and encourages them to carry STM's traditions forward. Henry has promised that the ring and pin will remain in the STMSU office as important historical insignia of the office of the STMSU President, to be passed on to his successor.



1968 Student Representative Council ring gifted to 2024 STMSU president

## New Faces



**Shirley Cuschieri**  
Executive Assistant to the President

Shirley Cuschieri began the role of Executive Assistant to the President October 2024. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (with Great Distinction) from USask and has over 20 years of experience in executive support, office management, and project work.

After beginning her career in retail and working as an executive assistant for BMO Capital Markets in Toronto, Cuschieri joined the University of Saskatchewan (USask) in 2018. At USask she worked first as an administrative assistant in Institutional Planning and Assessment (IPA) and subsequently as an executive assistant first to the Deputy Provost and most recently to the University Secretary and Chief Governance Officer.



## YOUR LEGACY Through Planned Giving

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.

*Reflecting our past Renewing our commitment Building our future*

St. Thomas More College is profoundly grateful for the foresight and generosity of **Michael Hepp** in remembering STM College in his estate plans. During his years on campus pursuing an Education degree, Mr. Hepp was a Newman Centre member. He served the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools as a teacher, a principal and a district administrator, and cared deeply about the formation of young people. Because of the generosity of donors like Mr. Hepp, our students will be equipped to accomplish their personal and professional goals, engage in their communities, contribute to a more just society, and grow to reach the full measure of their humanity. Thank you, Michael!



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 contact: **Connie Andersen, Director of Advancement** 306.966.8203 or [candersen@stmcollege.ca](mailto:candersen@stmcollege.ca)



**newman**  
COR AD COR LOQUITUR

*The Catholic student club on campus seeking to fulfill the social and spiritual needs of its members through coffeehouses, retreats, ecumenical suppers, dances, and other various events. Everyone is welcome, regardless of religious affiliation.*

Ahh, remember the old days? The memory from this particular picture is from 1986! Newman Centre's 100th anniversary is approaching, and we are looking for YOUR memories! Do you have a story, photo or memory that you would like to share? Please get in touch with us by emailing [candersen@stmcollege.ca](mailto:candersen@stmcollege.ca)

*Would you be interested in being a member of the Newman 100th Anniversary planning committee? Please email [candersen@stmcollege.ca](mailto:candersen@stmcollege.ca) to learn more about getting involved.*

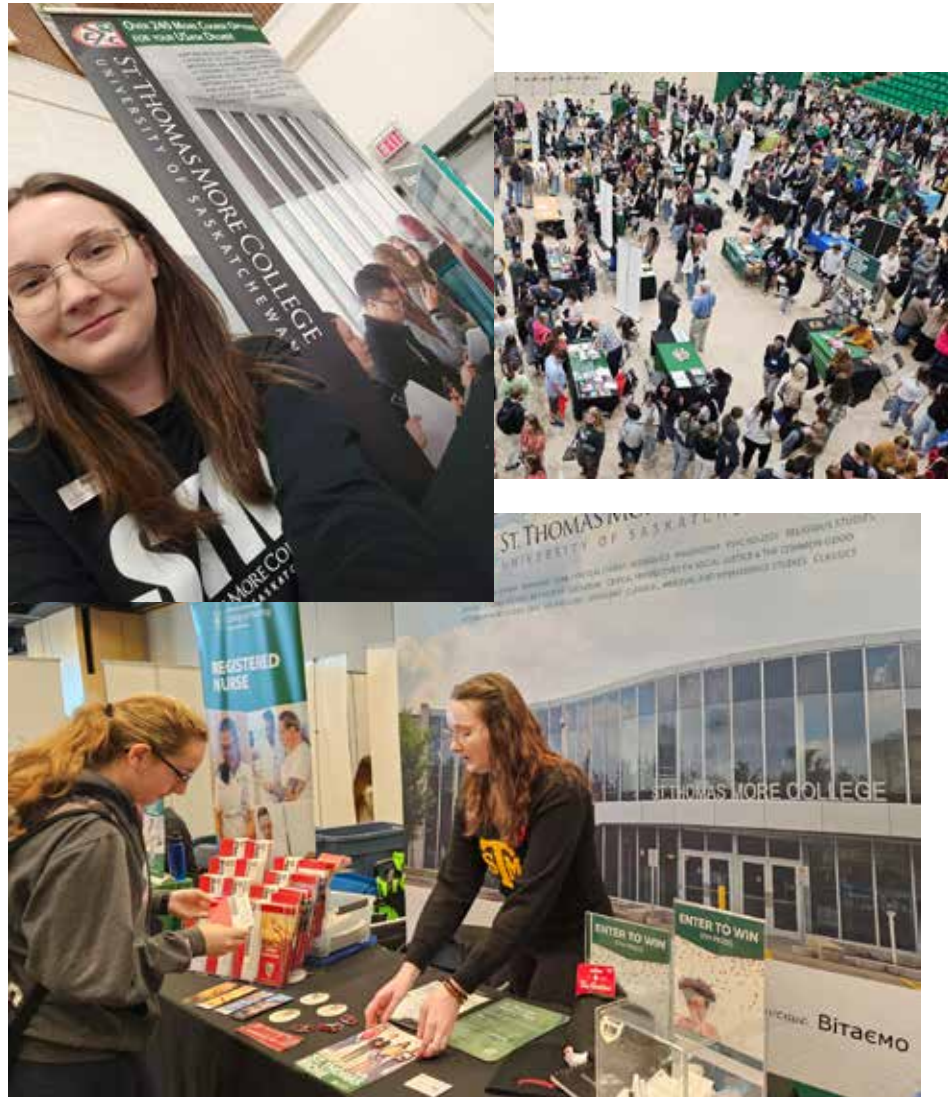


# Getting to know you! STM fall Recruitment Initiatives

by Michelle Gall

During the fall season, St. Thomas More College (STM) recruitment has represented the College and all its offerings both on campus through Welcome Week events, the Campus Open House, Counsellor Fair, and other opportunities, in addition to attending career fairs and post-graduation events across Saskatchewan, connecting with and informing prospective students about STM. So far this fall, I connected with students from over 70 Saskatchewan high schools, and attended six large career fairs including *See Your Future* Saskatoon/Regina, *Opportunities Edge* (hosted by St. Peter's College in Muenster), Melfort Career Fair, and *BOWLT Forward* (hosted by Saskatoon high schools, Tommy Douglas and Bethlehem). I had the opportunity to speak with hundreds of students about how STM works in partnership with the College of Arts and Science providing students with over 220 more credit course options as well as the benefits of declaring as an STM student—those being, more scholarships/bursaries for them to apply for, access to more student service supports, and more opportunities to be part of a welcoming and inclusive college community.

Recruitment travel not only allows me to share STM's values and benefits as a college with prospective students, but to also learn from the students themselves. When I attend different fairs or high school post-secondary events, I have the opportunity to learn what concerns students about post-secondary education, what services they need in a college to be successful in their studies, and what attributes or offerings we can provide to students to make their experience at university and in our college a positive one. As a college, we aim to grow with our students and to provide them with the tools and services they need to be successful in all aspects of their university experience—connecting with students through recruitment travel is one step we take in committing to hearing our students' needs and working to fulfill them.



## STM Soup and Bun Lunch

Organized by the STM Student Experience Team, between October through December, students were invited to a free lunch every two weeks - held in the North lobby.

Watch for dates and details of this offering on the website event calendar and College posters for the second term.



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

## 2024 STM MEDAL RECIPIENT

### Dan Perrins

Following his graduation from St. Thomas More College in 1966, and later from the University of Regina School of Social Work, Dan Perrins commenced a uniquely distinguished career in the Public Service of Saskatchewan over the course of 36 years. He started as a frontline social worker and progressed through a number of increasingly senior positions, including Associate Deputy Minister of Health, Deputy Minister of Education, Deputy Minister of Postsecondary Education and Skills Training, and Deputy Minister of Social Services. In February 2001, he was appointed Deputy to the Premier and Head of the Public Services, the top public servant position in the Province of Saskatchewan and held this position until 2007. Subsequently, Dan was appointed as an Executive in Residence and Director of Outreach and Training at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, a joint school at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina. He has lectured extensively on public administration, social policy, machinery of government, and governance in the public and not for profit sectors. He has been awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal, The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal, and the Public Administration of Canada's Lieutenant Governor General's Medal for Distinguished Public Service. Dan has remained active in the community, sharing his time, knowledge and advice generously on boards.

### Perrin's remarks on receiving the 2024 STM Medal:

"As a career civil servant, it is an honour to receive an award that is named after St. Thomas More and equally an honour to receive an award that is presented by St. Thomas More College.

This evening is an opportunity for me to share the impact St. Thomas More College has had on my life and career. However, as a student educated by Catholic educators it would be remiss of me if I didn't thank those other teachers who influenced my learning experience. First Sister Edeltrude of the Sisters of Sion. When I came to Canada, I wasn't a



Some examples include, always read the original text, not only commentators, study opposite points of view, respect others ideas (you might be surprised what you learn).

While these practical lessons are important, they are not the foundational elements of what STM contributed to my life. As I got older, I realized there was much more. This insight was affirmed by the privilege of being on the Board of Governor's for STM. As I was thinking about this in preparation for this evening I was reminded of a chapter in Jane Philpott's book, *Health for All*. It is an interesting book and made all the more interesting by the fact that a clinician dedicated a chapter to spiritual well-being.

Dr. Philpott shares four core elements that were first shared with her by the First Nations Wellness Continuum. I think these four elements represent part of the spiritual journey of STM.

very good student. Sister would say to me, "you can be a good student". Then Sister started saying, "you will be a good student". If you knew Sister Edeltrude that was a directive not to be ignored."

At St. Paul's High School. I had the great opportunity to be taught by teachers from the Diocese of Saskatoon. It was important to me that two of my former teachers, Father Bernard de Margerie and Father Andre Poilievre had also been awarded the St. Thomas More Medal. St. Paul's was also my first opportunity to be taught by teachers from the Order of St. Basil.

I thought my mind was opened to learning at St. Paul's but what an experience was waiting for me at STM. I was introduced to the world of philosophy, history, politics, critical thinking and communicating ideas. At the same time, I received a greater understanding of the gospel messages and the importance of liturgy and community. It was an exciting time, ideas, dialogue, liturgy and Bible studies.

Looking back there was also much practical learning that served me well in my career as a civil servant, particularly at the senior level.

The first is hope which she says is about the future. It is the expectation that good things await. Hope is a patient and optimistic anticipation about the days to come. Hope sustains us.

The second is belonging. Belonging means connectedness. It is about knowing who you are. It offers security to be who you are. Belonging is the assurance of a place or people to which or to whom you can always return.

The third is meaning. Dr. Philpott struggles to define meaning but essentially shares that it is the ability to make sense of your surroundings and experience, your joy, your pain, your history and your apparent future. It is the explanations you assemble from your perspective on life, both rational and intuitive.

The fourth is purpose which means that you understand you are not in the world by mistake. You have deliberate choices to make and that these choices have impact.

On reflection, hope, belonging, meaning and purpose were the foundational elements that STM helped to shape in my life.

Once again, thank you for the honour!

## STM College enjoys enduring connection with graduates, young and old



## 2024 Annual Fall Gathering includes presentation of honours

By Paul Sinkewicz

The halls of St. Thomas More College (STM) were once again filled with the best kinds of sounds on Saturday, Oct. 5 – animated conversation and joyful laughter.

It was the third annual edition of the St. Thomas College Annual Fall Gathering of Alumni and Friends. The evening is dedicated to welcoming back alumni and supporters and celebrating the newest additions to the list of Distinguished Alumni as well as celebrating the STM Medal recipient.

Ashley Smith, K.C., was named Distinguished Alumna and Dr. Robert Audette was honored as the Distinguished Alumnus, while Dan Perrins was feted for a lifetime of public service with the STM Medal.



Fr. Ron Griffin, (centre), welcomes Margaret and Dr. Terrence Downey back to STM

The evening began with a celebration of faith in the STM Chapel, with Fr. Ron Griffin officiating.

Guests were invited to tour the College and take in the current exhibit in the STM Gallery before gathering in the cafeteria for a delicious dinner and the official awards program.

Attendees included past recipients of Distinguished Alumni awards, STM Medal, as well as other dignitaries.

There was also a wide range of alumni, from the days of pencil and paper, brick and mortar, to those more familiar with glass and steel and computers.

Spanning all of those eras, four STM Presidents met to reminisce. Dr. John Thompson, Dr. Ken Smith, Dr. Terrence Downey and Dr. Carl Still shared memories and laughs after the dinner.

Veronica Lucas represented the St. Thomas More Newman Alumni Association during the awards part of the evening, introducing the Distinguished Alumni, while Dr. Still introduced the STM Medal honouree, Dan Perrins, who was joining in remotely from his home in B.C.

“Tonight, we honour three outstanding graduates of St. Thomas More College, whose time at the College span from the 1960s to the early 2000s. Their stories attest to how our graduates have been going out into the world and providing leadership informed by faith, reason and justice while also generously serving others in their own professions and according to their God-given gifts,” said Dr. Still.

“These accolades put the spotlight on individuals who have lived out the mission and values of St. Thomas More College in exceptional ways and with major public impact.”



Veronica Lucas, of the St. Thomas More Newman Alumni Association, stands with 2024 alumni honourees Dr. Robert Audette, Ashley Smith, K.C., and Dr. Carl Still, President of the STM College, holding the STM Medal



ABOVE: Four STM Presidents met to reminisce and share laughs at the 2024 Fall Gathering of Alumni and Friends. Dr. John Thompson (from left), Dr. Terrence Downey, Dr. Carl Still, and Dr. Ken Smith.

LEFT: Ashley Smith, K.C., and family enjoy a chat before dinner.

SAVE  
THE  
DATE!

*Annual Fall Gathering of alumni and friends*

Featuring: **Celebration of Distinguished Alumni**

Saturday, October 4, 2025 Watch for details @ [stmcollege.ca](http://stmcollege.ca)

## 2024 STM DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

### Dr. Robert J. Audette

Dr. Robert J. Audette has made a sustained and lasting impact on the world that resonates with the College's Mission of creative discovery of truth and its open dissemination leading to the betterment of all. Following his graduation from STM in 1967 (BSc Honours, Chemistry), he completed a PhD in Chemistry at USask, completed a Postdoctoral fellowship at McMaster and completed a year as an Assistant Professor in USask Chemistry, before settling in Edmonton in 1973.

His career has included work as a Forensic Chemist in the RCMP National Forensic Lab, Provincial Analyst, Alberta Agriculture, and appointments at the in the Dept. of Laboratory Medicine & Pathology, University of Alberta Hospital and as an Associate Clinical Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, at the University of Alberta.

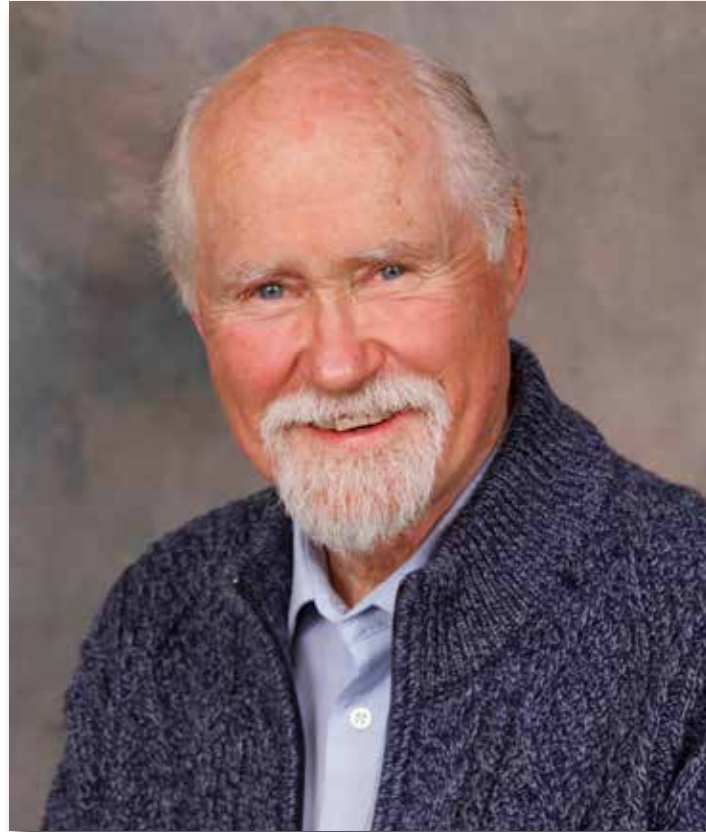
Retiring in 2001, Robert continued his energetic contributions to the science community through his company, Audette Consulting, where he continued his efforts into promotion of excellent science and quality management systems through the Standards Council of Canada, the International Organization for Standardization, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

Robert, with his wife Marjolyn, raised a family of three children (and now 4 grandchildren), and made contributions to his community in St. Albert, AB, while promoting the values STM College instilled in him.

#### **Remarks of Dr. Robert J. Audette on receiving the 2024 STM Distinguished Alumnus Award:**

President Still, Distinguished guests, current STM Faculty and Students, fellow STM Alumni and friends. Thank you, I am deeply honored to receive this 2024 STM Distinguished Alumnus Award.

My STM journey actually started in Regina at Campion College. I was extremely fortunate to have the support, encouragement and advice from an incredible mentor, Campion College's Dean, Fr. Gerald Francis Lahey. He helped me understand that even though my studies were in science it was very important to broaden my interests to include those in the social sciences as well. When I transferred to Saskatoon for my second year, Dr. Lahey suggested that I register at STM as it was an independent liberal-arts college in the Catholic tradition. He made such an impact on my life, and the direction of my scientific career, that my wife and I named our 1st son after Fr. Lahey.



You may think it odd that a person going into science at USask would register through STM. I'll admit that in 1964, I was in the minority there. But it was a privilege to be educated through STM.

During my 1st year at STM I chose "Introductory Philosophy", with Fr. Thomas Stokes. It was interesting, because a natural scientist has certain ways of thinking. Philosophy involves creative thinking in a completely different way. And I struggled mightily in making the leap in my own thought processes.

I have fond memories of countless conversations around the STM cafeteria lunch table with friends in both the natural and social sciences. Numerous STM professors including Fr. Stokes took an interest in helping us succeed.

It turns out that STM philosophy course, and those lunch time discussions, broadened the elasticity in my thinking, and opened my horizons to take other perspectives into consideration. It guided my scientific career and helped shape me as an educator.

I was able to jump paradigms and take cutting edge scientific ideas and instrumentation from other scientific disciplines and other parts of the world.

To the current STM students: I believe it's even more important than ever that "life sciences" students enroll in STM alongside your "humanities" colleagues and all of you have a healthy exchange of ideas – scientific, philosophical, psychological & sociological.

I'm a great example of never being able to predict the path your education can take you. It takes courage to be authentic, be true to yourself and to create your own unique path in the creative discovery of truth and our knowledge of complex issues.

It comes back to "philosophy" - opening one's mind and thinking about the gifts that we can give to humanity from our education and life experiences. I can't think of a better place to have trained and been exposed to that than through STM.

## 2024 STM DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

### Ashley Smith, K.C.

Ashley Smith's connection with St. Thomas More College dates to the early 2000s when she entered the Pre-Law track as an STM student.

She was, even then, a very involved student leader, serving as a mentor for the STM Pre-Law Club; STMSU President; Member of University Council; STMSU Representative on Faculty Council, the Scholarship Committee, and the Student Appeals Board; and as a participant in the STM Service and Justice Program.

She used her gifts as a soloist to support Newman Players, most notably in the role of Mary Magdalene in Jesus Christ Superstar.

That same talent was used to support the work of Campus Ministry, particularly during the early iterations of the Red Mass. She is still an active member of the St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild.

Ashley continues her support of St. Thomas More College. She served on the STM Board of Governors from 2014-2020, taking on the role of Chair from 2016-2019.

She also made significant contributions to the College during her time on Corporation, using her legal skills to serve on the Bylaws Committee and Standing Committee for the Appointment of the President.

Ashley has established a distinguished legal career and was recently appointed to King's Council and continues to serve as the Director Legal Services for the Saskatoon Police Service. In her varied roles, she is a beacon of ethical leadership - a gracious presence who charts a path forward through complex situations.

STM's mission statement states, in part: "As a Catholic college we are called to share in Christ's service to the people of God. Thus, the work of our college is not an end in itself, but must find application for the good of humanity." Ms. Smith has taken the STM mission to heart and lives it fully in the service of our community.

#### **Ashley Smith, K.C. remarks on receiving the 2024 STM Distinguished Alumna Award:**

"Looking at the list of past recipients this is a very humbling experience to be welcomed into the same category as people who have accomplished so many amazing things.

I've always said the STM felt like a second home, and I think many in



this room can relate to that. I know that even walking the halls of the College every time I stop by it always feels like coming home.

And so, I'm very grateful for the memories that I have of STM and for the incredible friendships and relationships that I built here over the years.

During my times in Arts & Science I pretty much lived here, I was either in the student lounge or singing with Newman Players or doing STM-SU work or working in the library.

Even once I got into law school I still would continually come back.

I have fond memories of working in the library, even when I was in law school.

The College was always a welcoming place, and I think that was one of the things that made it most attractive to me because whether you were Catholic or not, wherever you came

from, whether you were from Saskatoon or not, it was a welcoming place to land.

Coming onto campus was an incredibly intimidating experience as a new student, but I knew that I could always come here.

I'm also incredibly grateful because so many people on the faculty and the administration supported me in my journey as a student, as I started my career as a lawyer and even to this day.

There were so many doors that were open to me because of the support of the faculty and the administration.

It was a huge honour to serve on Corporation and particularly the board of governors.

I want to thank president emeritus Dr. Terrence Downey and President Dr. Carl Still, because you provided extraordinary mentorship and support to me. I was fairly early in my career to be in that role, and I can't thank you enough for the support during that time.

I also want to thank Cheryl Yuzwa for her support as the College Secretary.

This is very meaningful to me, and I can't thank STM enough.



# New award donors share their reasons to give

## Herb and Carrol (née Ehman) Herauf Memorial Bursary \$1,000 annually

Herb Herauf shared the story about what inspired him to establish the Herb and Carrol (née Ehman) Herauf Memorial Bursary for students who are members of Newman Club.

For me, the Newman Club and STM were my 'Home Away from Home', which I recall was a motto of the Club. I took only a sociology course offered by St. Thomas More College (STM). However, when I was not attending Commerce classes, much of my time was spent at STM and the Newman Club. Most weeks started with the Sunday events in Newman Club and during the week I likely could be found at STM. Lunch usually consisted of buying a sandwich and drink at the student run "Ulcers" cafeteria. I was one of the many students who took turns making the sandwiches. The latter part of most weekday afternoons was spent socializing at the Club or, often, getting involved in a game of table tennis in the auditorium.

On Wednesday evenings I would be at a Glee Club rehearsal. At least once a month on a Sunday morning we would have breakfast with a guest speaker. I played on several intramural sports teams with the College of Commerce teams, but other



sionally attended the regular Sunday evening activities at the Newman Club, which included attending a benediction service followed by an event staged by a social committee and culminating with a dance.

Carrol was not a student at the University of Saskatchewan while I was a student there. However, I met her a few times through her sister, Deanna, who was a student at STM and with whom I was a close friend. When I graduated from Commerce in 1960, I remained in Saskatoon to work for a firm of chartered accountants while preparing to get my CA. In the summer of 1962 I phoned Carrol's sister, Deanna, to ask her to go to

a movie with me. Deanna was studying in Toronto at that time. I talked Carrol into going to the movie with me and the rest is history. We were married on July 4, 1964, in Saskatoon.

Carrol attended Teacher's College in Saskatoon and taught elementary school. After we moved to Dundas, Ontario, in 1971, following my graduate studies at the University of Michigan, she spent many years teaching English as a Second Language to new arrivals in Canada.

For many years Carrol and I had been making annual contributions to the College. The motivation came primarily from me because of my experiences with STM and particularly the Newman Club while I was a student registered in the College of Commerce from 1957 through 1960. After Carrol died on Dec. 25, 2022, following a yearlong battle with breast cancer, I decided that creation of the bursary would be a fitting way to honour her memory and to reflect my fondness for STM and the Newman Club.

Carrol always had a strong attachment to Saskatoon. She still has three sisters and many other relatives living there. So, I decided, given her fondness for Saskatoon and my attachment to STM and the Newman Club, that a bursary at STM would be most appropriate.

## Debbie and Keith Hayward Scholarship \$1,000 Annually

Hello, our names are Debbie and Keith Hayward. We are alumni of the University of Saskatchewan, Debbie with a BA (English) and Keith with an MSc (Agricultural Economics).

We value the goal of liberal Catholic education, and greatly admire and applaud the amazing atmosphere of St. Thomas More College. There is an air of peace, respect, and 'home' in the College halls.

What do we see when we visit? Students relaxed and comfortable in a safe setting that is warm and welcoming; students chatting with their professors as they stroll down the hallways; a wonderful library where students can study, kick their shoes off and curl up in comfy chairs, just like home; a fine cafeteria, bubbling with delicious food and lively conversation; a peaceful chapel to stop and pray or rest a student's soul for a few minutes; an air of appreciation for beauty with amazing artwork at every turn.

We view all this with great admiration and wistfulness, wondering if these students realize how blessed they are to be part of STM? We wish we had more time there.

Debbie was in Saskatoon for only one year of her degree, taking the remaining three years at night at St. Joseph's College in Yorkton. In her year in Saskatoon, she spent all her time at STM, finding it a friendly and welcoming haven on the busy campus. The smaller college was such a blessing and comfort.

Keith took all his studies in Saskatoon through the College of Agriculture but had limited contact with STM until he and Debbie became part of the STM alumni family after they were married.

But the STM ties go back several decades, as both of Debbie's sisters called STM their 'home away from home' in the 1960's, and spoke with great fondness of the College, the many activities they enjoyed, working at "Ulcers", and friendships made that lasted a lifetime.

Because of all these things, Keith suggested to Debbie that they



continue the family connection to STM with a scholarship in Debbie's major, English.

We are honored to be able to assist a worthy student to continue their studies at STM, knowing that they will graduate with more than their degree: a solid academic education. Plus, a strong and sure compass of lasting friendships, respect, integrity and spirituality for their exciting new futures. STM is a place of knowledge, of prayer, of friendship. Students are treated with welcome, respect, kindness, decency, acceptance.

Our prayer for every STM student is that they savor this special time as students, work hard to achieve all that God wants them to be, realize their dreams, and hold close to their hearts the atmosphere that STM provides.

It is a truly special atmosphere that comes along only once in a student's life. We feel truly grateful to have been among those lucky enough to call STM our academic and spiritual home at the University of Saskatchewan campus.

For more information on STM Scholarship and Bursary opportunities, see <https://stmcollege.ca/support-stm/support-student-awards>

## Wright Fund Scholarship \$500 annually Bursary \$500 annually



Dr. Sharon Wright and Lyla Wright

Dr. Sharon Wright, Professor, History; Director, Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance, says the Wright Scholarship and Bursary were established in honour of her mother, Lyla Wright, for her 90th birthday. She's currently 91.

My mother has always been a champion of the liberal arts, although her career was nursing. She grew up on a farm near Rosetown, SK, in the 1930s and 40s, and there were not many career options for women at that time, so she studied nursing in Saskatoon, eventually moving to Ontario where she worked at Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto. She loved nursing, and specialized in pediatric care, eventually she became a college professor of nursing at St. Claire College in Windsor, Ontario. From childhood she loved literature and grew to become a lover of fine art and a devoted follower of ballet and modern dance, classical music, and the Opera.

My mother was my most important role model and my biggest supporter. Because she worked with young patients and also taught young nursing students, she had so much compassion for young people's life journeys; she saw every day how hard it could be to get through school, especially in underfunded programs. So, this scholarship and bursary awards are in her honour and in celebration of all the support she has given to students.



## Ted Fortosky Memorial Bursary \$1000 annually

During 2020, when the pandemic's impacts on education were severe, Danielle Fortosky was inspired to make a positive difference by establishing the Ted Fortosky Memorial Bursary in memory of her husband who passed away in October 2017. She established this bursary to honour Ted's memory and to celebrate his contributions to his family, the College, and the wider community. The inaugural award was presented this fall by Ted's nephew Tom Fortosky.

Ted completed his BA in 1960, and his B.Ed in 1964. He was active in Newman Players, excelling in the role of Hamlet under the direction of the esteemed Shakespearean, Fr. Joseph O'Donnell. Ted helped direct Macbeth and the Tempest. As a proud STM alumnus, Ted was a strong supporter of the College. He was the President of the STM Newman Alumni Association 1976-77, served on the STM Board of Governors from 1982-86, and as a member of the STM Corporation from 2005-2011. In 1996, the College honoured both Ted and Danielle as recipients of the STM Distinguished Alumni Award.

Ted served as a principal in the Saskatoon Catholic Schools for almost 35 years and taught evening classes in the College of Education. His commitment to education was his calling and he devoted his adult life to working with young people. This call to public service in education lives on in his nephews Tom, who is the Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association, and Owen who was elected this fall as a trustee of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Board of Trustees.

Ted and Danielle met at STM on the stage in the Fr. O'Donnell Auditorium. Fr. Montague, who was casting for the play, "A Man For All Seasons" asked Ted (who was known for playing Hamlet), to read for the role of Thomas More. He accepted the part and Danielle Tiphane played his daughter, Margaret. "That casting session was the first time I had ever laid eyes, on Ted Fortosky – just one look - that's all it took! The rest is history," said Danielle.

Danielle felt strongly that a bursary in Ted's name would honour Ted's commitment to education by helping students who require financial support to enroll at University through STM, find community in the College as they did, and reach their full potential.

On behalf of students at St. Thomas More College, thank you, Danielle and Ted.

## We love our STM Volunteers!

It's our pleasure to acknowledge and sincerely thank the many generous, caring STM volunteers who strengthen our community, care deeply about supporting students, bring light and joy to our work, and who inspire others to give in their own way.

We wish to express our deep gratitude to the dedicated volunteers who serve on the St. Thomas More Newman Alumni Association (STMNAA) committee. We are proud to celebrate the caring commitment of the members of the STMNAA committee.



From left to right: Corinne Baumann, Madeleine Blais-Dahlem, Mary Donley-Konkin, Rae-Ann Dyck, Veronica Lucas, Sylvia Regnier, Dean Schmidt

## Anniversary will be outreach opportunity for STMNAA

We are honoured that the STM College Plan 2025 mentions the STMNAA in two of the five main priorities: developing a holistic community and stewardship of resources. Our alumni association has been trying to build and strengthen our presence while remaining faithful to these two priorities.

In the last few years we have been focussing more strongly on the development of a holistic community. The College Plan states: "We will strengthen bonds among students, faculty, staff and alumni through shared projects and shared life, seeking to care for the whole person."

In 2023 we continued the work begun a few years ago to bring STM and Newman Alumni together in celebration and remembrance. First, our Distinguished Alumni Adjudication Committee provided recommendations to the President of the College for the annual Distinguished Alumni awards. The recipients of these awards were then honoured at the Second Annual STM Annual Fall Gathering which took place on October 14, 2023. Our gathering began with a celebration of faith in the STM chapel, followed by a reception (held in the STM Shannon Library) honouring our Distinguished Alumni. And, in 2023, we were very excited that President Still presented the STM Medal at the STM Annual Fall Gathering as well. Once again, we are proud to have hosted this successful event, and we are very grateful that the College has been so willing to partner with us in order to make these community building initiatives successful. We, as members of the STMNAA, are very aware of limited resources and appreciate the investment (of both time and funds) that the College has provided to support STMNAA initiatives.

During this past year, we have also been trying to find clear ways that we, as alumni, can

build genuine connections with the College. We have had discussions within our alumni committee and are very grateful for the strong and ongoing support of the President of STM, Dr. Carl Still. We have spent time trying to ascertain ways to build a connected and active alumni base. This has proven difficult however, as there has been no successful precedent for this in our past. Many of our alumni still have close, vital social connections with each other, but trying to connect these groups back to STM carries a variety of difficulties, partly because alumni vary greatly in age and interests. We are aware that the first step to creating such an active and cohesive group is communication, so the work of trying to reconnect with our less involved alumni continues. But we are still not in contact with a vast number of alumni, so please continue to encourage people to reconnect with the College. We are also hopeful that the upcoming Newman 100th Anniversary and the accompanying celebrations will bring many more alumni back into connection with the Newman Centre and STM. Planning these events will give alumni a shared purpose and attending these events will provide a way for alumni to reconnect with students, faculty and staff, and help to strengthen those bonds which lead to the development of a holistic community and will help build a culture of philanthropy.

We are aware that one of the ways in which alumni can be involved with STM is through donating to and fundraising for the STM community. The College Plan states, "We will strengthen our College's position and adaptability by reinvigorating our fundraising", and the first goal under this priority is to "Increase revenue capacity through a renewed focus on philanthropy and alumni engagement". With this priority in mind, the College has added another staff member to work with fundraising - Connie Andersen, Director of Advancement. Connie has a great deal of practical experience and restructured the 2024 STM Annual Fall Gathering to include a more explicit fundraising component.

We are aware that creating and maintaining vital alumni relations requires a lot of resources - both human and financial. We are very grateful to the College for providing us with a budget for our Fall Gathering and to the staff members who stepped up to help us cheerfully and wholeheartedly. We hope that our continued efforts to expand the alumni association and to plan meaningful events along with the College will provide us with new and creative opportunities to involve faculty and staff and to be good stewards of all of these resources.

Submitted by Corinne Baumann

### MANY WAYS TO STAY ENGAGED WITH STM!

- **Volunteer** at STM College events throughout the year, including Orientation Week and on the STM Fall Gathering.
- **Mentor** an undergrad student or be available to chat with a member of an STM student group.
- **Become an active member** of the STM/Newman Alumni Association.
- **Take part** in surveys to guide the future direction of the College.
- **Be an advocate** and get involved in fundraising for the College! Contact Connie at candersen@stmcollege.ca

### Quick connect



stmcollege.ca/alumni/register.php

# Help STM recognize Distinguished Alumni

## Let's celebrate their story!

The STM Distinguished Alumni Award is awarded annually to individuals whose life and commitment reflect the values and benefits of the education they received while interacting with the College. They exemplify Saint John Henry Newman's motto as people whose "heart speaks to heart." Up to four awards will be presented annually.

### Characteristics of a nominee

- makes a significant contribution to their community
- continues to celebrate their relationship with St. Thomas More College
- their life resonates with the mission of the College
- courageously applies their gifts for the good of humanity

### Eligibility:

- Arts and Science USask Undergraduate degree/certificate holders who were declared as STM as students at the time of Graduation, and/or
- Any USask Undergraduate degree/certificate holders who were active in Newman Programs or another recognized STM student organization during their undergraduate studies as USask.

The honour can now be awarded posthumously. Alumni who are current STM faculty, staff, Alumni Association Committee Members, and past members of the Board of Governors are eligible for this award.

Those who are **ineligible** include:

- Sitting Politicians
- Members of the Distinguished Alumni Award Committee
- Current members of the STM Board of Governors

### Nomination process

**Stage 1:** Nominators should provide the name, contact information, and a few points that will help us understand why an individual should be recognized. Their name will be added to the list of potential candidates and nominators may be contacted for more information.

**Stage 2:** Based on the information received, the STM Distinguished Alumni Adjudication Committee will identify which candidates will be officially nominated. These nominees will be presented to the St. Thomas More Newman Alumni Association Committee for approval and then recommended to the STM College President.

To download a nomination form, please visit the STM College website at: [stmcollege.ca/alumni/distinguished-alumni](http://stmcollege.ca/alumni/distinguished-alumni)

Recommendations submitted by **May 31, 2025** will be considered by the adjudication committee this summer.

Thank you for submitting!

Your Gift means so much!

Yes! I wish to support the College, and the students who attend STM, with a gift and receive a charitable donation tax receipt.

I would like to donate a gift of:

- \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1000 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

In support of:

- STM Scholarships and Bursaries  STM Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation  
 STM Area of Greatest Need  
 STM Campus Ministry  
 Irene and Doug Schmeiser Centre for Faith, Reason, Peace, and Justice  Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies  
 Area of my choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate by:

- Cheque enclosed**  
Please make payable to *St. Thomas More College*

**By Credit card**

- Visa  MasterCard  American Express

\_\_\_\_\_

Card Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (month/year) CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as Shown on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

- I do not wish to have my name published regarding this gift.

You can also donate online at:  
[stmcollege.ca/donate](http://stmcollege.ca/donate)



Thank you for your support!

Mail to: Connie Andersen, Director of Advancement  
STM College -1437 College Drive,  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W6  
306.966.8203, candersen@stmcollege.ca



STM Christmas Mass 

Thursday, December 19  
11:30am STM Chapel

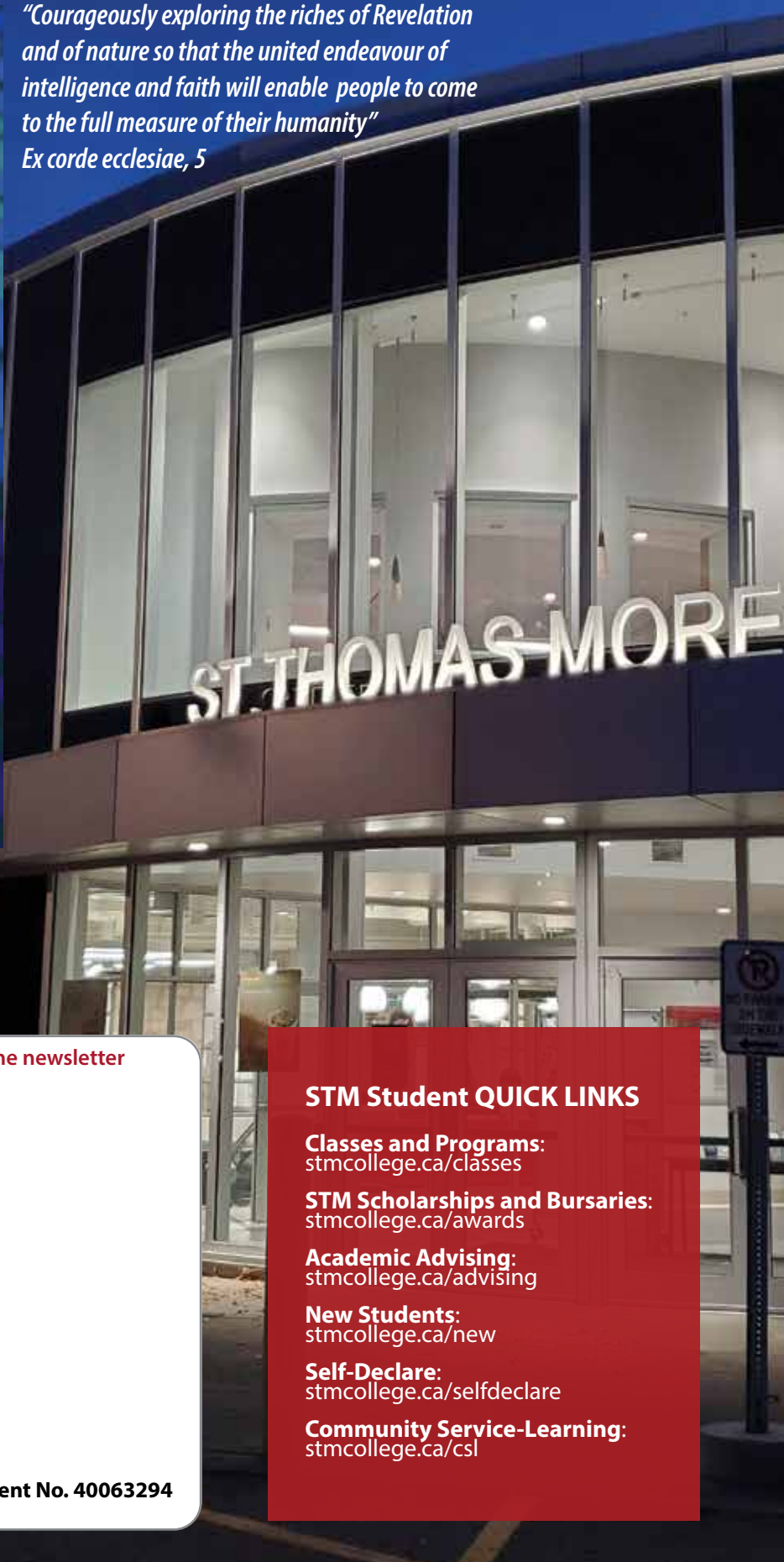
*Everyone Welcome*

 ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

## 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*



If you would prefer to receive an electronic version of the newsletter please contact [candersen@stmcollege.ca](mailto:candersen@stmcollege.ca)

Publication Agreement No. 40063294

### STM Student QUICK LINKS

**Classes and Programs:**  
[stmcollege.ca/classes](http://stmcollege.ca/classes)

**STM Scholarships and Bursaries:**  
[stmcollege.ca/awards](http://stmcollege.ca/awards)

**Academic Advising:**  
[stmcollege.ca/advising](http://stmcollege.ca/advising)

**New Students:**  
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**Self-Declare:**  
[stmcollege.ca/selfdeclare](http://stmcollege.ca/selfdeclare)

**Community Service-Learning:**  
[stmcollege.ca/csl](http://stmcollege.ca/csl)

**Alumni** keep in touch! To provide a change of address, please contact Connie Andersen - [candersen@stmcollege.ca](mailto:candersen@stmcollege.ca) or 306-966.8203

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