

More news

Winter 2026



MAKING THE MOST OF THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

STMSU president Raine Rusaw



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

STM SENIOR ADMINISTRATION



PRESIDENT
Dr. Carl Still, PhD
 cstill@stmcollege.ca



DEAN
Dr. Tammy Marche, PhD
 tmarche@stmcollege.ca



ASSOCIATE DEAN
Dr. Gerry Farthing, PhD
 gfarthing@stmcollege.ca



CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
Derrin Raffey, CPA, CMA, CIA
 draffey@stmcollege.ca



DIRECTOR OF MISSION AND MINISTRY
Dr. Gertrude Rompré, EdD
 grompre@stmcollege.ca



DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING, & STUDENT RECRUITMENT
Jacquie Berg, BComm
 jberg@stmcollege.ca



DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT
Connie Andersen, BA, CFRE
 candersen@stmcollege.ca



COLLEGE SECRETARY & DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
Cameron Choquette BComm, MPA, PSGov.
 cchoquette@stmcollege.ca



ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Kerry Stefaniuk CPHR, MBA, PBDM
 kstefaniuk@stmcollege.ca



St. Thomas More College
 1437 College Drive Saskatoon SK S7N 0W6
 Phone: 1.800.667.2019 or 306.966.8900
 stmcollege.ca

Cover photo by Paul Sinkewicz

ADMINISTRATION



President's Message

The New Year began at STM with a landmark event: we officially launched our *College Plan 2030* on January 8 to an audience that filled the cafeteria. The Minister of Advanced Education, Ken Cheveldayoff, offered greetings on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. We were also joined by new USask president and vice-chancellor Vince Bruni-Bossio and Campion College president Fr. Joseph Riordan, along with a strong turnout from STM's Board, Corporation, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters.

We've called the plan "MORE for U". The double wordplay picks up our namesake, St. Thomas More, while the "U" points to "University" – University students, the University of Saskatchewan, and university education in Saskatchewan. We intend to deliver MORE for university students, the University of Saskatchewan (USask), and the broader university experience in Saskatchewan.

The new Plan builds on new steps taken with our previous plan and seeks to offer MORE for each key constituency:

MORE for students:

We offer the educational experience of a small, Catholic liberal arts college fully integrated into one of the leading universities in Canada. In the Catholic intellectual tradition, and as a federated college, we always prefer a "both-and" approach to an "either-or". So, in the Vital Liberal Arts priority of this Plan, we commit both to developing students' liberal arts skills and to preparing them for future careers.

We've already taken a first step by embedding career readiness counselling into academic advis-

ing at STM. Now, through our Holistic Community priority, we commit to enhancing opportunities for students to learn and grow both in the classroom through our courses and programs, outside the classroom through Engaged Learning, and beyond graduation by expanding career readiness and placement services.

MORE for USask:

We offer over 217 credit courses across 20 academic programs in the humanities and social sciences – all in partnership with the College of Arts and Science at USask. In the current academic year, that means we are contributing to the education of almost 5,800 students pursuing USask degrees and certificates.

We're also an active partner with USask in the work of Indigenizing the academy, and we will continue to invite Indigenous scholars, Knowledge Keepers, Elders – and the knowledge they bring – into our curriculum and our College. In order to reach the goals of Engaged Indigenization, we are also recruiting two tenure-track Indigenous scholars as well as our first endowed Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation, thanks to the \$5 million gift from Les Filles de la Providence that we celebrated at the Fall Gathering.

MORE for Saskatchewan:

We know that 75% of STM self-declared students are from Saskatchewan. Our academic programs develop in-demand liberal arts skills that prepare students for future careers – many of them right here in Saskatchewan.

We also believe that a college like STM is an ideal place to learn and model dialogue. In re-

affirming Hospitable Catholicism as a top priority, we also commit to hosting informed and respectful dialogues on issues of contemporary interest to Saskatchewan people. In so doing, we will invite diverse perspectives to be heard and acknowledged, with the goal of advancing understanding and bridging divides in our society.

The first year of the Plan coincides with the 90th anniversary of STM as the federated Catholic liberal arts college at the University of Saskatchewan and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Newman Society at USask. While we remain rooted in the Basilian tradition of higher education that shaped our first 75 years, we are also responding to the needs of our times in the priorities named in our Plan: *Vital Liberal Arts; Hospitable Catholicism; Engaged Indigenization; and Holistic Community.*

At a time when Artificial Intelligence is impacting every aspect of our lives, these 2030 College priorities renew our commitment to impart to our students the human skills developed by the humanities and social sciences. The education we offer teaches students how to live well with one another while honing academic and life skills to best prepare for future roles in society. As we enter 2026, we believe that a liberal arts education – with its focus on the whole person, the integration of knowledge, and the cultivation of moral discernment – is more relevant than ever.

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

STM FACULTY DEPARTMENT HEADS 2025-2026



ENGLISH Sarah Powrie	HISTORY Sharon Wright <small>Acting July 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025</small>	HISTORY Zachary Yuzwa	LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & CULTURAL STUDIES Daniel Regnier	PHILOSOPHY Maricarmen Jenkins	RELIGION & CULTURE Alisha Pomazon	RELIGION & CULTURE Chris Hrynkow	ECONOMICS Anna Klimina	POLITICAL STUDIES David McGrane	POLITICAL STUDIES Charles Smith	PSYCHOLOGY Carie Buchanan	SOCIOLOGY Monica Hwang
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DEAN'S MESSAGE



I hope that 2026 is off to a fantastic start for you!

As you'll discover as you read through the news magazine, since my last report in June, we continue to be extremely busy with numerous initiatives and events, all of which have helped realize our strategic plan priorities.

Some of the highlights for me over the past six months include our Scholarship and Awards event in September where we were able to give out 81 student scholarships, valued at more than \$140,000, and our wonderful bursary event in November where we offered 135 awards to 111 students, totaling over \$143,000. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, providing financial supports to our students not only helps them pay tuition, but assists with other costs like rent and groceries that they might not otherwise be able to afford. Souper Tuesdays, which provided free soup and buns to almost 1000 students last term, as well as the Shannon library's snack program, where demand continues to increase, have both been very popular with our students. Finding pathways for students who are experiencing food insecurity is a must if we are to retain them and see them graduate. Thanks to all those involved in these valuable supports and initiatives!

We had many wonderful occasions to come together as a community these past six months. Events like our staff and faculty retreat, Academic Mass, the Michael Keenan Memorial Lecture, and our Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies Lecture, are just a few of the opportunities we had for shared community connection. We also always strive for new ways to engage with friends of the College. For example, the *Irene and Doug Schmeiser Centre*

for Faith, Reason, Peace, and Justice hosted its first Affiliate and Associate monthly luncheon in October, which is such a wonderful way to deepen collaborations with scholars and practitioners in the community.

In addition to the launch of our new College Plan, the news magazine highlights several recent accomplishments by our faculty and staff in teaching, research, and service—achievements that reflect their deep commitment to enriching our students' learning experiences and strengthening the broader STM community. Another result of this unwavering commitment to our students is reflected in the strong enrolment we continue to experience, with our most recent enrolment report indicating that our teaching activity is up almost 2% compared to this time last year. I am deeply appreciative and inspired by the fantastic support that our student leaders, staff, and faculty give to our students to ensure that they receive a high-quality academic experience in a supportive learning environment.

As an update from my last report regarding STM's strategic goal to hire more faculty. The interview process for the tenure-track Brockman Professorship in Psychology has just recently concluded. We are also close to beginning the interview process for two tenure-track faculty positions designated for individuals who identify as Indigenous. Finally, due to the extremely generous donation from Les Filles de la Providence (FDLP) of Saskatchewan, and after consultation with key stakeholders such as Elders and Knowledge Keepers, we will begin a search for the Providence kanawayik-tâkosowin Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation over the next few months. This

marks a truly exciting and forward-moving time for our academic programs and for the College.

All this activity took place amongst a significant personnel change in the Dean's Office. In June we said good-bye to Ms. Kate O'Gorman, the Executive Assistant to the Dean. I sincerely appreciated Kate's dedication and commitment to the College and all that she did to ensure the success of our academic programs during the three years that she served in this role. We were sad to see her go and continue to wish her all the very best in Edmonton. We welcomed Ms. Danette Stang to this role in June. Danette has over a decade of experience supporting senior academic leaders at the University of Saskatchewan. With a deep understanding of academic administration, Danette brings to STM a strong sense of integrity and a commitment to excellence in service. I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to work with these two very special people.

On behalf of all of us in the Dean's Office, thanks to all of you who took the time to join us at our many gatherings, events, and initiatives over the past six months – your presence helps foster and strengthen a vibrant and connected STM community. All the best to our students, staff, and faculty as they finish the academic year.

Take good care everyone.

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



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Faculty Publications, Presentations, Research, and Podcasts Fall 2025

DR. KYLEE-ANNE HINGSTON (PhD)

• Hingston, Kylee-Anne. "Blindness and Irish National Identity in the Textual Afterlife of F. W. Burton's A Blind Girl at a Holy Well." *Victorian Periodicals Review*, vol. 58 no. 2, 2025, p. 138-164. Project MUSE, <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/vpr.2025.a975316>.

DR. MEERA KACHROO (PhD)

• Kachroo, Meera Jo. 2025. "Śrīcakra and its Publics: The Social Life of a Tantric Icon in Contemporary Chennai." *Journal of Dharma Studies*. DOI: 10.1007/s42240-025-00214-2.

• Karunanayake, Chandima P., Charlene Thompson, Meera J. Kachroo, Donna C. Rennie, Warren Seesequasis, Jeremy Seesequasis, James A. Dosman, Mark Fenton, Vivian R. Ramsden, Malcolm King, et al. 2025. "Sleep Patterns, Excessive Daytime Sleepiness, and Sleep Disturbance Among First Nations Children in Saskatchewan" *Clocks & Sleep* 7, no. 2: 21. <https://doi.org/10.3390/clockssleep7020021>.

DR. SARAH KNUDSON (PhD)

• Paul, Lara, and Sarah Knudson. 2026. "Engaging with the Medicine Wheel: A New Path Toward Two-Eyed Seeing and Holistic Financial Literacy." In *Holistic Financial Literacy Education: Laying the Groundwork with Equitable Instructional Strategies* (1st Edition), edited by Thomas Lucey. New York: Routledge.

• Murray, Jonah, and Sarah Knudson. 2025. "Accessibility of Online Information About Student Post-Secondary Physical Health Activities and Initiatives on North American Campuses." *Youth* 5(3), 85. <https://doi.org/10.3390/youth5030085>

• Murray, Jonah, Sarah Knudson and Carie Buchanan. 2025. "Canadian Post-Secondary Student Perspectives on Mental Health: Surveying Treatment, Education, and Access." *University of Toronto Journal of Public Health* 6(1). DOI: 10.33137/ut-jph.v6i1.40761

• Sarah Knudson with Alaafia Plumtre – SSHRC USRA for Black Student Researchers and STM Research Grant, "Using netnographic and semi-structured interview data to identify key challenges in later-life recoupling."

DR. DAVID MCGRANE (PhD)

• New podcast, *Social Democrats of the North*, a Perspectives Journal Podcast Series, published by the Broadbent Institute. <https://perspectivesjournal.ca/category/podcasts/social-democrats-of-the-north/>

DR. SAEED MOSHIRI (PhD)

• Entezarkheir, M. and Moshiri, S. (2025), *Innovation Effects of Information and Communication Technologies: Evidence from Canadian Firms*, *International Journal of Innovation and Technology Management*, Vol 2, issue 2, <https://doi.org/10.1142/S0219877025500105>.

• Moshiri, S., and Pourmand, M. (2025), *The Carbon Tax Policy Effects on Energy Intensity in Canada*, *Journal of Economic Studies*, DOI 10.1108/JES-02-2025-0077.

DR. CYNTHIA WALLACE (PhD)

• "‘grammar of justice, / syntax of mutual aid’: Cross-Disciplinary Pedagogies of Hopeful Action." In *Beneath the Roar and Tumult: Promoting Radical Belonging and Hospitality in College Classrooms*. Edited by Rachel Wheeler and Karen E. Eifler. Liturgical Press, 2025. <https://litpress.org/Products/E8960/Beneath-the-Roar-and-Tumult>

• Online seminar and discussion, "Simone Weil and Literature" for the American Simone Weil Society, November 13, 2025, https://youtu.be/zrk-GXF_E8c?si=AEGtFMENkYJ5S0NT

• "Simone Weil, Hunger, and Samaritan Love." Online Zoom Forum: Simone Weil: the Spiritual, Ethical, and Social Vision in Her Life and Work. Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace. January 21, 2025. <https://eicsp.org/events/event-details/1346-online-zoom-forum-simone-weil-the-spiritual-ethical-and-social-vision-in-her-life-and-work-21-january-2026/>

PUBLICATIONS

Combining Academic Achievement with Personal Growth

by Jacquie Berg

While the main goal of students attending University is for academic achievement, the outcome may often include personal growth as well - as either a welcome bonus, or through purposeful pursuit.

Raine Rusaw left her home community of Martensville to attend the University of Saskatchewan in pursuit of a Psychology degree. Now in her fourth year, Rusaw is considering extending her academic journey to pursue a law degree after her BA.

Rusaw acknowledges her first year was simply "go to classes, go home, go to work." Coming from a smaller community, with just the one high school, to a 26,000-student campus can be intimidating, sometimes leading to a desire to limiting focus on solely studies.

"I was pretty secluded and not fully believing in myself," Rusaw said. "Yet I kept hearing this idea promoted that university and college is what you make it out to be. And that you must put in some amount of effort to get that right."

"I liked the community at STM and I felt like it was very easy to get involved in the College - very accessible." It started as community with instructors, to having a professor put in effort to remember your name or to ask how you are, reflecting their engagement. I first got that in my STM English class, in my first year. It was a pretty small class, and Professor Emily was kind and welcoming. I felt more inclined to go to class because of it."

"When student groups hold events at the College, everybody that attends are usually welcoming, and it's a good atmosphere. The fall festival had the whole student lounge full of people, and it felt like we're all kind of there as one community."

Year two, Rusaw took steps to make more out of her university experience and get more involved. "I saw some promotion for St. Thomas More students' union (STMSU) the student governance group, so I joined as a member at large - attending meetings and helping plan activities." An executive team member stepped down part way through the year, and she was asked to step into the Director of Events role. In her third year Rusaw returned as the Vice President of events. Fast forward to spring 2025, and Rusaw was elected president for the student's union for 2025-2026.

"Having worked with two different STMSU presidents and seeing how they did things, I started to create an idea in my head of how I want to lead if I was in that role," said Rusaw.

"I would like to create the union into a space that helped shape me into who I am today. I want to help more students, even if they are like me and may want to say, no. I want to help encourage them and be there to foster that growth that I've experienced," said Rusaw. With that goal, her STM-SU team has worked hard to increase awareness through social media and poster about their events and available support along with expanded offerings.

As president of the STMSU, Rusaw also attends Faculty Council and serves as the student representative for the College Board of Governors. These additional roles not only allow her insight into the complexities in running the College, but opportunity to share her insight on students' perspectives and experience.

Food insecurity for students still ranks high, and Rusaw and her team have responded to this with an expanded snack program (available from the STMSU office throughout the year), and study bag giveaways (including snacks) pre final exam time. "This year we prepared 150 student study bags, up from 100 the year previous, and they were gone quickly."

In addition to working part time, classes, and her STMSU roles, Rusaw became a STM Peer Health Mentor for students and was selected as a member of the Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Student Council in 2025, allowing her to meet with other students across the province and engage with the Education Board on a variety of topics. Rusaw was also a part of STM's Engaged Learning Program and attended the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) United Nations Student Seminar in New York City this past spring.

"Having a busy schedule has helped me to do well in my courses. It forced me to learn how to budget my time and to structure my days to fit everything in, including studying." Having access to STM student awards has also been a valued benefit for Rusaw. "As somebody who pays for her own tuition, it's why I work so much during the school year," she said. "My involvement in the College, also supported my scholarship opportunities."

"I feel that fellow youth today have high expectations for their futures but are often hesitant to reach out for help or step out of their comfort zone for engagement. I hope that I can support or impact even a couple students to experience the same kind of personal growth that I found with my community involvement here at STM - while pursuing my degree."



St. Thomas More Students' Union



STMSU Executive

L-R: Caterina Eremondi, VP Communications; Suki Xiong, Member of Student Council; Istafa Arraigncourt, VP Academics; Raine Rusaw, STMSU President; Henry Thiessen, VP Operations & Finance; Aidan Twidale, VP Events; Aybree Moffatt, First-Year Representative
Not pictured: Jordie Finnie, Member of Student Council

"I am excited to be moving forward to graduation and investigating next steps with law schools. I am not the person that I was entering university. I am more confident and more sociable. I've gone through a lot of personal growth that I attribute to being involved and pushing myself out of my comfort zone, helping me additionally to excel in classes, and be more open to talking to professors when I need help."

Raine Rusaw



COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

STM Corporation Members gather to review 2024-2025 academic year

The St. Thomas More College (STM) Annual meeting serves as an important component of the College's governance

ANNUAL REPORT

"As a federated College, STM sits in the exciting but challenging space between the University and the Church. Those two relationships – with USask and the Catholic Church, held in creative tension – shape the way we think about, define, and live out the Catholicism of STM." President Carl Still

STM's annual meeting of Corporation was held on Saturday November 1st with over 50 attendees from across Saskatchewan.

Corporation members include tenured faculty members, appointees from each of Saskatchewan's Roman Catholic Diocese and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, as well as members-at-large, students, alumni representatives, and members of the College's senior administrative team.

The meeting included a variety of reports, most notably the 2024-25 annual report that was presented by President Carl Still, Dean Tammy Marche, Chief Operating Officer Derrin Raffey, and Director of Mission & Ministry Gertrude Rompré. They highlighted the College's significant achievements in each of the five College Plan priorities, which demonstrates the hard work of faculty, staff, and students.



'24'25
NOV 01, 2024 - APRIL 02, 2025



Board of Governors January 2026



(L-R) Michelle Blackmon (Chair) • Christopher Boychuk (Vice-Chair) • Melvin Gerspacher (Treasurer) • Michelle Dinter-Lipinski • Christopher Donald, K.C. • Dave Smith • Francois Rivard • Dr. Saeed Moshiri (Faculty member) • Raine Rusaw (STM Student Member) • Dr. Carl Still (President)



Fall Board Retreat

The College's Board of Governors gathered September 12 for its annual retreat to discuss the strategic direction of the College and our role as a leading Catholic liberal arts college in Saskatchewan. We're grateful for their commitment, leadership, and support of the College.

Attendees included Governors Neil Reddekopp, Michelle Blackmon, Melvin Gerspacher, Jason Aebig, Christopher Boychuk, Michelle Dinter-Lipinski, Sr. Anne Lewans, Dr. Saeed Moshiri, Raine Rusaw, and Dr. Carl Still along with Dean Tammy Marche, COO Derrin Raffey, and College Secretary Cameron Choquette.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Governors of St. Thomas More College (STM), University of Saskatchewan, is pleased to announce the following appointments:



MICHELLE BLACKMON, B.ED, BA has been appointed Chair of the Board of Governors effective January 1, 2026

New Governors appointed effective January 1, 2026 :



CHRIS DONALD K.C.
B.A., M.A., LL.B. LL.M.



FRANCOIS RIVARD
B.ED, M.ED.



DAVID SMITH B.Comm
CMC, ACC, CPQC, RPM

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE ACADEMIC MASS

**Beacon
of truth**
Amid war, strife
Bishop charges
Catholic colleges
with mission to
confront difficult
issues of our time

MISSION & MINISTRY

By Paul Sinkewicz

The beginning of the academic year finds us in a frightened and fragmented world, said the Most Rev. Mark Hagemoen, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. These remarks set the context for his homily during the 2025 Academic Mass held at St. Thomas More College on Wednesday, September 17.

Reflecting on the scriptural readings, he proceeded to trace the unique role of Catholic colleges and universities in responding to multiple crises in our world.

Each year, all facets of the STM community, and their community partners, come together in the Chapel. They implore the Holy Spirit to guide them in their mission to educate the diverse community of students that come through their doors.

Much has happened in the world lately, and higher education is called to a higher task in these times, said Bishop Hagemoen. "Many feel much is unravelling. Not to sound too sensational, when we are supposed to begin on a positive note at the beginning of the year."

He said there is a desire to latch onto some sense of stability, which seems to be increasingly evading us. "All of this, of course, in the midst of terrible wars."

Bishop Hagemoen said the task for Catholic institutions of higher education is to stand firmly in the difficult place between growing polarization, anger, and hate on the one hand, and isolating and suffocating indifference on the other.

"Both are highly problematic. How does St. Thomas More College fulfill all that academic excellence demands, and in doing so be a light of truth and real social and community progress?" He suggested the answer lies in firmly choosing a third way.

"As a Catholic higher learning institution, we take our inspiration from Christ himself. In the words of our Gospel, Jesus confronts, not withdraws, from the difficult issues of our time. He engages."

"He is the Good Shepherd who leaves the safe 99 sheep in the wilderness to seek the one sheep who is lost."

"It seems to me that the task confronting us all is to join with Him in confronting all that prevents human flourishing of individuals and communities and this is, I know, an important and daunting task."

But, he added: "the Spirit is with us. Always."

On that note of hopeful realism, the annual liturgy continued with Dr. Carl Still, President of STM College, leading all assembled in a re-affirmation of St. Thomas More College's mission.

Celebrating the Mass with Bishop Hagemoen were Most Rev. Michael Smolinski, C.Ss.R, Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, as well as Fr. Andre Lalach, Fr. Ron Griffin, CSB, and Fr. Daniel Yasinski.

Deacon Harry Lafond also led the community in a grounding moment centered on the theme of the doors, connecting the Teepee teachings related to the doorway and the importance of the Holy Doors in this Year of Jubilee.

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, friendship, and a renewed resolve to make a fraught and fragile world a better place for all.

"As a Catholic higher learning institution, we take our inspiration from Christ himself. In the words of our Gospel, Jesus confronts, not withdraws, from the difficult issues of our time."

— Bishop Mark Hagemoen



Jubilee Year 2025 – To close the Year of Jubilee celebrations, Bishop Michael Smolinski was the guest speaker at STM Campus Ministry's Theology on Tap in November. Bishop Michael (seen here with the STM Campus Ministry team) was a student leader in his undergrad days at STM. He is pictured here with the award he received from Newman in 1991.



Newman proclaimed a Doctor of the Church

On Saturday, November 1, 2025, in St. Peter's Square during Mass, Pope Leo proclaimed St. John Henry Newman a "Doctor of the Church" and co-patron of the educational mission together with St. Thomas Aquinas.



STM's Newman group is going strong and looking forward to celebrating 100 years in 2026-2027!

In Memoriam

REMEMBERED WARMLY

Lionel Benoit
Sr. Yvonne Billesberger, OSU
Elizabeth Bilson
Gregory Lisle Carr
Jeannette Clavelle
Timothy Connaughty

William de Jong
Sister Josephine Germaine, NDS
Dorothy Irwin
Zackary Klebaum
Claire Kramer
Margaret Irma Little
Leon Mazurek

Marion Penna
Robert Rozon
Donald Stevenson
John Teunissen
Lyla Wright

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.

Faith, Generosity, and Vision Bring a Dream to Reality for STM

Five million dollar gift sets the stage for a unique Canadian chair



By Jacquie Berg

From that first courageous group of six Sisters who arrived in Saskatchewan from France in 1897, Les Filles de la Providence (FDLP) continued to answer God's call to educate the young, care for the sick and the poor, and to carry out all kinds of educational activities at the service of the church.

On a special day at St. Thomas More College (STM) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) on Oct. 4, 2025, individual and cumulative journeys of service, faith, vision, and pursuit of reconciliation, were unveiled including an announcement that will extend the FDLP legacy of education and service in the province.

"In 2016, STM formed an Indigenous Advisory Circle. That group soon discerned the need for an endowed Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation," said STM President Carl Still. "Our dream was to secure a dynamic scholar who will conduct research and teaching activities to advance a cross-disciplinary and multi-cultural study of Indigenous ways of knowing, doing, and being."

A member of the original Indigenous Advisory Circle, Dr. Gordon Martell (PhD) spoke to the inspiration of the chair. "Wisdom listens and understands, values and respects diversity of experiences and ways of knowing, and appreciates that profound learning is of necessity multicultural, multidisciplinary, multidimensional, and relational," he said. "Accepting this assumption may well be the single greatest pathway to reconciliation."

"Faith over the past decade has led us to the gift of the FDLP Sisters of Saskatchewan to the Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation," Martell added.

STM – the Catholic college federated with the

USask – announced a \$5 million gift from Les Filles de la Providence (FDLP) of Saskatchewan – the largest single gift in STM history – breathing life into the Chair for Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation as well as providing financial support for Engaged Learning offerings through the College.

"This transformational \$5 million donation from the FDLP Sisters will allow STM to hire its first Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation," said Still. "The chair's activities will align with the FDLP's respect for Indigenous peoples and their education, establishing STM as a leader within Canada for Indigenous spirituality and reconciliation, making a significant contribution on the journey towards right relationships."

The gift will also support a range of experiential learning programs offered through STM's Engaged Learning department. Based in Catholic social teaching, experiential learning offers students the chance to serve real community needs, gain volunteer experience and, as the FDLP Sisters believe, "have young people put their faith into action and make the world a life-giving place."

The chair is now officially named *Providence Kanawayihtakosowin: Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation*. Deacon Harry Lafond, STM's Scholar on Indigenous Education, led stewardship of protocols and sought inspiration for a name in ceremony. He explained *kanawayihtakosowin* translates as "in the care of God" or "Providence."

"Work in Indigenous knowledge and reconciliation is always in practice here at the St. Thomas More College," Lafond said. "With this

special gift, we will now be able to ensure that the chair is a living entity at STM. We can open the doors to actively invite Indigenous knowledge into the College spirit, curriculum, beliefs, and values for students working to understand the world they live in."

An Elder of the Muskeg Cree Lake First Nation, Lafond led a star blanket ceremony and individually wrapped each of the six FDLP Sisters in attendance with blankets created by Gabrielle Lee, a Cree Métis artisan and student. Allan Bonaise from Little Pine First Nation in Saskatchewan, along with additional drummers, performed a powerful honour song from the auditorium stage.

During the past 128 years in Western Canada, there have been a total of 225 FDLP sisters. They opened schools throughout the province, originally serving in small towns with French Canadian settlers, but quickly expanding to serve those of different religions and ethnicities, including the Indigenous peoples.

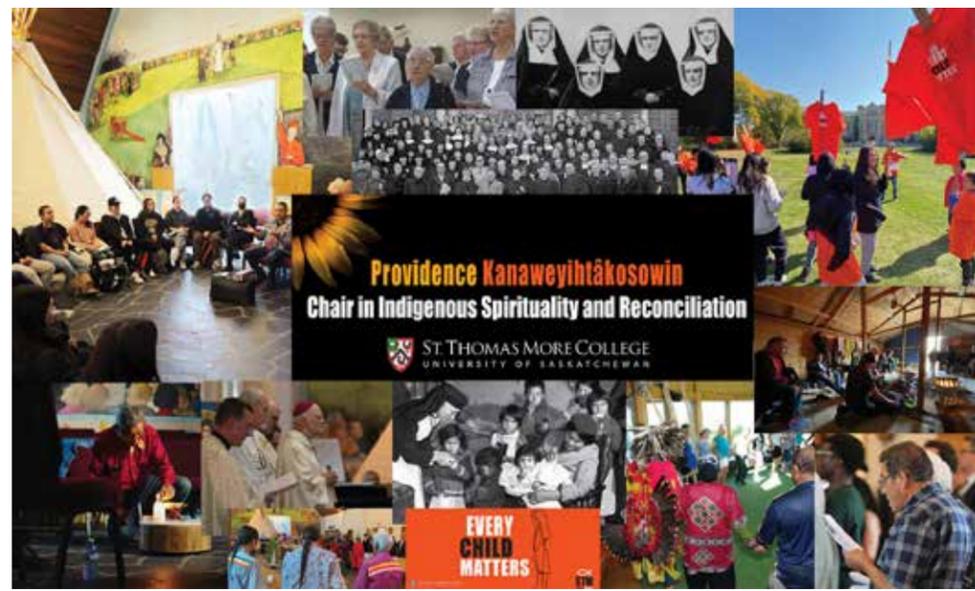
Six of the remaining Saskatchewan FDLP Sisters were in attendance for the College announcement, including Sister Nellie Pozdzik at age 97. Mariette Martineau spoke on behalf of the FDLP Sisters regarding their motivation for the gift and investment in this initiative.

"This gift to STM for the Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation is given on behalf of all the sisters and their ministry companions that have responded to God's call of service. It is given with a deep trust in the providence of God, that God's providence will continue to support and deepen the relationships we have with our First Nations brothers and sisters and enable many students to value the power and beauty of First Nation spirituality and culture.

"It is in a spirit of trust and mutual respect for the work of STM, including the work of Elder Harry Lafond, that has given Les Filles de la Providence great hope and joy in knowing their work in this province will continue through this chair."

"These humble sisters worked alongside Métis and Indigenous peoples and have deep respect for First Nations spirituality and practices," said STM's Director of Advancement Connie Andersen. "Their remarkable gift ensures that the FDLP's values and mission among Indigenous people and other marginalized people will continue as their lasting work of solidarity."

"That dream which we worked toward for almost a decade is now a reality," Still concluded.





STM Just Youth club held a solidarity march as part of the Development and Peace Caritas Canada Turn Debt into Hope campaign fighting for debt relief for developing nations.

Hope for Change

STM students spread awareness while fighting for social justice

By Paul Sinkewicz

When the members of the STM Just Youth group meet, they come ready to tackle the most daunting problems the world faces: poverty, oppression and inequality.

Focused on issues of social justice, the club's efforts take aim at fairness in trade, debt relief for struggling countries, and protection of the environment.

You might think there is not much impact so few voices can have.

After all it's just first-year students Molly Kaufmann and Fala Aldhohayan. What can they do?

And, as smart as she is, what can third-year biomedical science student Anuli Udenze really do to effect change in the world?

But they, along with the other members of the STM Just Youth group are actually not alone.

There are similar clubs at universities and colleges across Canada and the world, and through their connection to Development and Peace Caritas Canada, they have access to resources like research, printed materials and informational websites and videos.

There is also an annual Development and Peace conference in Montreal which a local youth member can attend.

Members can also take part in collaborations like the Mennonite Central Committee Annual Peace Conference in November, where they can get hands-on peacebuilding skills in workshops and listen to presenters from all over Canada and the world.

The Just Youth members have hope that their actions will spread awareness to other university students who will take their degrees, go out into the world, and help make it a better place.

But the key is awareness.

"I don't consider myself a radical who's going to overthrow a system," said club member Sam Medernach, a second-year music student. "While, I call for change, my main objective is to challenge complacency and to challenge apathy."

The club has been growing since the start of the year and has kept very busy.

Medernach took part in the annual Tree Planting with the Meewasin Valley Authority in September and Just Youth members worked to spread the word about the UN International Day of Non-Violence in October before hosting a table promoting fair trade later in the month.

In November the group held a solidarity walk around campus in support of the Turn Debt into Hope campaign against debt crushing developing countries.

In the new year they allied with the Filipino Students' Association to present a film on the humanitarian aid used to empower a community in the face of an environmental tragedy.

With each small effort, awareness grows and hope is nourished.

"The way I see it, I'm a part of a battle that's existed since the beginning of time and will continue to exist way beyond my time," Medernach said. "But it's my role to continue that battle."

The STM Just Youth group meets Mondays at 3:30 pm in STM 160. New members are always welcome.

"I don't consider myself a radical who's going to overthrow a system," said club member Sam Medernach, a second-year music student. "While, I call for change, my main objective is to challenge complacency and to challenge apathy."

— STM student Sam Medernach



Sam Medernach planted trees in September in the Meewasin Valley



STM Just Youth hosted an information table in November about the crushing impact of debt on developing nations



What is happening to our beautiful home? COP30

By Jacquie Berg

Lesya Sabada was once again nominated by the World Council of Churches in Geneva Switzerland to attend a session, this time as an observer of COP30 - the 30th annual UN climate meeting. "This pivotal United Nations global gathering of approximately 42,000 delegates, of which 1600 were fossil fuel lobbyists, took place in Belém, Brazil, from November 10 to November 21st, 2025, with leaders from over 190 countries addressing worsening climate impacts and geopolitical tensions. The focus was on limiting warming to 1.5°C, increasing climate finance, and promoting a just transition from fossil fuels. Brazil emphasized tropical forest conservation, climate justice, and gender equality," said Sabada.

A sessional lecturer at STM (Religious Studies and Critical Per-

spectives on Social Justice and the Common Good), Sabada noted that COP30 was widely seen as a pivotal moment: the 10 year anniversary of the Paris Agreement and the first COP held deep within the Amazon basin. "The results were a mix of progress, frustration, and new initiatives. Despite political challenges, such as for the first time in history United States did not send a delegation, global cooperation remained crucial."

Sabada continued, "As stated by the World Council of Churches quick guide for its delegates, COP30 represented opportunities. Hosting the conference in Belem placed global attention on the Amazon, emphasizing the region's ecological importance and the rights of the Indigenous Peoples. It offered a chance to link the climate and nature agendas,

strengthen global efforts against deforestation, and center Indigenous knowledge and territorial rights as essential elements of climate action and biodiversity conservation. The COP30 Presidency initiated a Global Ethical Stocktake (GES), a platform for dialogue among social, cultural, spiritual, business, scientific, and political leaders. The GES aimed to produce civil society and faith-based contributions to accelerate Paris Agreement implementation."

The World Council of Churches issued the following statement in relation to the event: "More than a political or technological problem, humanity's collective inability or unwillingness to commit to taking the needed action to avert climate catastrophe represents a profound spiritual and ethical crisis, a failure of moral responsibility, a



photos by Albin Hillert

lack of justice and compassion."

Sabada shared the following recommendation to students:

"You come from the land of Shakespeare and Winston Churchill who was known for his courage and personal toughness, famously urging others to "never give in" and embodying the resilience he demanded. Educate yourself about what is happening to our beautiful home. Then act. The environmental crisis can feel overwhelming but remember this: every great turning point in history began with people who refused to look away. You are part of that lineage. The work you do — whether in classrooms, communities, forests, or policy rooms — is not small. It is cumulative. It is connective. It is necessary."





STM continues to foster Student Leadership – Prior to the start of the term, Engaged Learning, Student Services and Campus Ministry hosted a leadership day (participants are pictured here in the Newman Student Lounge). Student leaders represented a number of STM student groups including: The Roost, Service and Justice Project, Newman, Just Youth, St. Thomas More Students Union, In medias Res and STM Peer Health.

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

Students can reach out to the STM Peer Health Mentor program by emailing 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



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.



Career Planning at STM College



Check out our career planning page on the STM website and book an appointment with Academic Advising and Career Readiness Officer, **Sagar Chakraverty**, Monday-Friday, in the afternoon.

stmcollege.ca/study-here/career-planning.php



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

STUDENT LEADERSHIP & SUPPORT

Shannon Library



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.

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, home for special lectures and events, and of course check in for student contests, and snack and beverage offerings!



On the Road Again! STM Recruitment Fall 2025

It was another busy travel season for St. Thomas More College (STM) recruitment. STM Recruitment remains dedicated to helping students by connecting with them in their own schools and hometowns across the province, providing them with the information about STM's offerings, great faculty, and community - accessible as the perfect complement to their university experience on the USask campus.

In the fall term, Michelle Gall, STM's recruitment officer, attended 22 high schools plus 12 larger career fairs spread across Saskatchewan. Some places STM visited this year include Meadow Lake, Regina, Melfort, Saskatoon, Maidstone, Colonsay, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Hafford, Warman, Martensville, Yorkton, Kenaston, Davidson, and Muenster.

Michelle was able to connect with thousands of students right in their high schools and at larger events including *See Your Future* Saskatoon/Regina, *Career Explorations* in Yorkton, and *Opportunities Edge* in Muenster among others.

Pre-professional study is a crucial part of many USask students' post-secondary journeys. This year, STM Recruitment found students were highly motivated to learn about which classes or majors would

be most beneficial for them to take during their pursuit towards professional colleges. STM can help students in this pursuit with approximately 220 additional courses - many approved elective options supporting varied degrees. Speak with our STM advisors or Recruitment for materials and advice to support your career-planning pathways.



In January, STM was pleased to host a group of St. Peter's College students planning to transfer to the USask main campus. Led by STM's recruitment officer, the visiting students learned more about the STM community and its offerings, took a tour of College, met with President Still, and visited some different STM departments, as well as incorporating a highlight tour of the USask campus after lunch.





Participants from across North America taking part in the MCC UN Student Seminar pose outside the General Assembly building in New York

From Classroom to the World: STM Students at the UN STM SEMINAR REFLECTION: "Does the United Nations matter?"

by Paul Sinkewicz

'Inspiring', 'exhilarating', and 'electric' were some of the words six STM College (STM) students used to describe their recent trip to explore the work of the United Nations in New York.

The educational expedition, which ran from Nov. 12-14, was sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and the Engaged Learning program at St. Thomas More College.

The six STM students joined 33 other young adults from colleges and universities across the U.S. and Canada at the 30th Annual MCC UN Student Seminar. It also took place during the 80th anniversary of the founding of the UN in 1945.

The STM contingent was made up of Raine Rusaw, Roman Lalach, Kim Baquiran, Aiden Twidale, Istafa Arraigncourt and Yonas Sbhata.

Over the course of the three days, the participants walked the halls of power and influence in New York, met some of the people striving to make the world a better place, and tackled the question "Does the UN matter?" through discussions on peacebuilding and global citizenship.

Back on campus, the six STM students continued the dialogue at a Lunch & Learn session on Dec. 8, where they shared their reflections and photographs of the trip with STM faculty and staff.

Sbhata, a fourth-year political studies student said the overarching feeling was that while the UN does matter, it needs to change and evolve – especially the Security Council.

He said he had the chance to learn directly from diplomats, ambassadors and UN experts and had the opportunity to see global politics in action beyond the classroom.

"The students returned with thoughtful insights and meaningful perspectives that they were eager to share with the College community," said Tina Zheng, Engaged Learning Operations Coordinator. "We are happy to support opportunities like this in their academic and personal growth as they develop into future leaders."



Fourth-year Political Studies student Yonas Sbhata relates his impressions of the work being done at the United Nations



From left: STM students Yonas Sbhata, Raine Rusaw, Istafa Arraigncourt, Kim Baquiran, Roman Lalach, Aidan Twidale and Engaged Learning Operations Coordinator Tina Zheng

Learning Through Connection and Community – SERVICE AND JUSTICE PROJECT

by Tina Zheng

On October 16, our Service and Justice Project students spent an evening with the L'Arche community, and for many students, it felt less like an event and more like spending time with friends. There was lots of laughter, shared stories, group activities, and simple moments of joy. Students appreciated how welcoming and relaxed the space felt, and many reflected that just being present – listening, talking, and having fun together, helped them better understand what community really means. It was a reminder that learning can happen in small, everyday moments and through genuine connection with others.

Later in the term, on November 20, students came together for the Community Supper with The Mustard Seed. This evening encouraged students to listen and reflect on the realities of homelessness, why it happens, and the kinds of support available in the community. Students shared that the experience helped them see these issues in a more human way and challenged some of their assumptions. What stood out most was learning how important kindness, respect, and dignity are when working alongside others. Together, these experiences helped students grow not only in what they know, but in how they think, feel, and show up in their communities.



Supporting Saskatchewan's Healthcare System HEALTHCARE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (HEART)

by Tina Zheng

The Healthcare Education and Research Experience (HEART) is a collaborative initiative between St. Thomas More College and the College of Medicine that prepares students to engage meaningfully with healthcare system through hands-on, patient-oriented research training. Designed to bridge theory and practice, HEART introduces students to the real-world complexities of healthcare research while centering ethics, empathy, and community engagement.

Through the program, students learn directly from professionals and partners connected to the Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research (SCPOR), the Indigenous Research Engagement Platform, and patient partners with lived experience. These learning moments are often described by students as eye-opening and emotionally impactful, helping them better understand culturally safe, ethical, and community-driven approaches to healthcare and research.

"This was very new to me, and stepping outside of my comfort zone made me a more knowledgeable student and a better-engaged researcher."

"It made me realize the importance of empathy, active listening, and respectful communication when interacting with patients or research participants."

A recurring theme in student reflections is the value of learning directly from patient partners. Students shared how hearing personal stories deepened their understanding of how research outcomes can be shaped, and strengthened by lived experience.

"I learned the importance of being attuned to patients' backgrounds and experiences. Each person's story is shaped by their history, community, and lived reality, and these perspectives are essential to meaningful research."

HEART also broadens students' understanding of the healthcare system itself. Many reported gaining a more holistic view of how healthcare operates in Saskatchewan, seeing the system from multiple, connected perspectives.

"Although I had some insight through my job, I didn't yet have the background knowledge to connect my observations to the larger structures shaping healthcare delivery. HEART introduced me to ethics, privacy, data governance, and the organizational factors that influence care."

"I now see the healthcare system as someone who uses it, works within it, and studies it as a student researcher."

Central to HEART's design is experiential learning. The program emphasizes practical, hands-on activities that allow students to apply lecture content, build confidence, and strengthen critical-thinking skills.

"What stood out most was the practical application. I really liked the peer activities where we critically evaluated scenarios, and my absolute favourite part was the interview practice."

"Hearing from former student researchers helped us understand the real challenges and nuances of engaging with healthcare professionals and patients."

As HEART moves into its second term, students will take their learning further by engaging in advanced skill-building activities and contributing directly to projects that support Saskatchewan's healthcare system. By combining academic learning, community partnership, and experiential practice, HEART empowers students to become thoughtful, ethical, and engaged contributors to the future of healthcare research.

Goals of the STMNAA

- To nurture relationships with current and future alumni and engage them in the life of the College.
- To promote and enhance effective communications between the College and its alumni.
- To coordinate and promote programs and events that instill good will and pride, and provide opportunities for professional growth and social interaction.
- To encourage financial support of the College and the students who attend STM.



STMNAA Executive
 Left to right: Corinne Baumann, Madeleine Blais-Dahlem, Rae-Ann Dyck, Mary Donlevy-Konkin, Veronica Hegglin



We love our STM Volunteers!

It's our pleasure to acknowledge and sincerely thank the STMNAA Advisory Group and 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.

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!

Stay Connected!



stmcollege.ca/alumni/stay-connected.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.php

Recommendations submitted by **May 31, 2026** will be considered by the adjudication committee this summer.

Thank you for submitting!



Georgina Jolibois
 2025 STM Distinguished Alumna

Leading and supporting others through crisis, and building better relations for Indigenous communities.

Born in La Loche, Saskatchewan, Georgina Jolibois received her BA in Political Studies and Native Studies from St. Thomas More College in 1991.

Jolibois served as the Mayor of La Loche from 2003-2015. During that time, along with many achievements, she led her community through moments of crisis, including a major evacuation during wildfire season and painful, personal efforts to counter youth suicide in the community.

Jolibois served on the RCMP "F" Division Aboriginal Advisory Committee for a decade, working to create better relations between the police force and Indigenous communities.

In 2015, Jolibois was elected as the NDP MP for Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchhill River. As a member of Parliament, she became known as an advocate for Indigenous peoples, introducing a private member's bill (Bill C-369) that sought to make National Indigenous Peoples Day a statutory holiday which led to the establishment of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation held on September 30.

In 2023, Jolibois and her mother were present at Lac Ste-Anne during Pope Francis' visit and pilgrimage of repentance.

Today, Jolibois serves as a Claims Helper for Castlemain, a company that serves Indigenous people to bridge capacity and amplify under represented voices while assisting with class action settlements and community development.



Bishop Robert Kasun, CSB **2025 STM Distinguished Alumnus**

"A champion for the poor and disenfranchised people, known for his love of the poor and those on the peripheries of life."

Raised in Cudworth, Saskatchewan, in the former Benedictine Abbey of Muenster, Bob Kasun received his B.A from St. Thomas More College in 1972. A member of the Newman Club, he also sang in the first Newman Sounds production "Songs from Jesus Christ Superstar". After graduation he joined the Congregation of St. Basil in Toronto and completed his M.Div. degree at St. Michael's University College.

Kasun was ordained to the priesthood in his home parish in Cudworth in 1978. He completed his B.Ed. degree, then received his M.Ed. degree from the University of Toronto. Drawn toward ministry with immigrants and marginalized people, he served as pastor in Calgary and Edmonton in inner-city parishes. He was esteemed, admired and loved by his brother priests.

As the Western Representative on the General Council of the Congregation of St. Basil, Bishop Kasun maintained his connection with STM for many years.

Bishop Kasun was named as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Toronto in 2016, overseeing care of the pastoral needs of the Central Pastoral Region, and later as Archbishop's Liaison to the Charismatic Ministry in the Archdiocese. In this role we are told that Bishop Kasun continues to be "a champion for the poor and disenfranchised and is known for his love of the poor and those on the peripheries of life. He is a very strong leader and advocate for the homeless."

STM Fall Gathering celebrates leadership, faith, service, and generosity

Recognizing Distinguished Alumni and the 2025 STM Medal recipient, followed by an announcement of the largest single gift in the College history.

by Jacquie Berg

Awe, gratitude, and respect were pervasive sentiments among the one hundred plus in attendance October 4 for the annual St. Thomas More College (STM) Fall Gathering of Alumni and friends.

"Faith put into action can accomplish great things." That theme of Fr. Ron Griffin's afternoon homily, was indeed appropriate as the College recognized distinguished Alumni and the College's STM Medal recipient, followed by an announcement of the largest single gift in STM's history leaving a legacy in this province to continue through STM's distinctive scholarly initiatives.

Following the celebration of faith in the chapel presided by Distinguished Alumnus, Bishop Bob Kasun, STM's Director of Advancement, Connie Andersen, oversaw the recognition event held in the College's Fr. O'Donnell auditorium, which was followed by a banquet in the cafeteria.

Andersen reminded the audience that the occasion highlighted the very purpose of a Catholic liberal arts college, like STM. "After 89 years as a federated member of the University of Saskatchewan, the heart of our College's mission remains the same: to provide to our students the education and opportunities that will help them develop into the best versions of themselves."

Examples of success in achieving that mission were reflected not only in the many accomplished alumni in attendance that afternoon, but also in the impressive resumés and impactful personal endorsements that accompanied the announcements of the most recent inductees. STM's Director of Mission and Ministry, Dr. Gertrude Rompré introduced the Distinguished Alumna honouree Georgina Jolibois lauded for leading and supporting others through crisis and building better relations for Indigenous communities.

Sr. Teresita Kambeitz, a Distinguished Alumna herself, former STM campus minister and teacher in the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, introduced STM's 2025 Distinguished Alumnus, Bishop Bob Kasun. Bishop Kasun continues to be "a champion for the poor and disenfranchised and is known for his love of the poor and those on the peripheries of life. He is a very strong leader and advocate for the homeless."

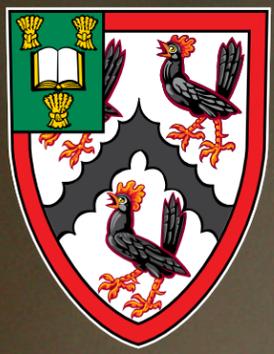
The St. Thomas More Medal is the highest award that the College bestows, honouring individuals, groups, or organizations that embody the outstanding characteristics of the College namesake, Thomas More – distinguished public service, elevated by personal virtues, including care, integrity, and faith. Dr. Carl Still announced Dr. Helen Horsman as the 2025 recipient recognizing her story as one of "perseverance, a passion for continuing education, and a drive to serve that took her to the highest levels of leadership."

President Still announced, "that dream - which we worked towards for almost a decade - is now a reality." With that he introduced the much-anticipated gift announcement to top off the evening. STM received a \$5 million gift from Les Filles de la Providence (FDLP) of Saskatchewan towards the Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation. (More on this gift on page 13.)

This year's STM Fall Gathering was indeed a special day to recognize many individual and cumulative journeys of service, character, faith, and pursuit of reconciliation. The fall evening was filled with inspiration, joy, and peace, in knowing legacies will be fulfilled.



Faith put into action can indeed accomplish great things.



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN



Helen Horsman

2025 *STM Medal* Recipient

Recognized with the STM medal for qualities of care, integrity, and faith, along with contributions to community and public life, Dr. Helen Horsman's story also highlights perseverance and a commitment to lifelong learning.

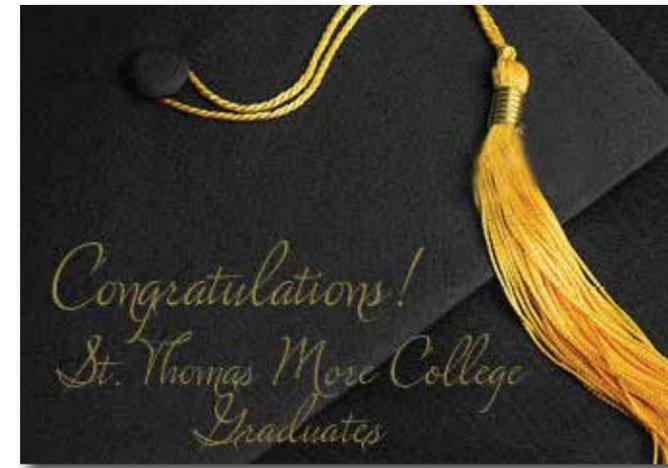
A 1968 teaching start, with two years of teacher training, building a family, then completing a Bachelor of Education in 1984, were followed by Horsman's Post-Graduate Diploma in Curriculum and Instruction/Educational Administration, a Masters of Education, and acquiring her Doctor of Philosophy from USask in 1995.

Horsman taught both at the elementary level and as an instructor at the university level for students in the education faculties at both Saskatchewan universities, along with classes for ITEP, SUNTEP, NORTEP and the Indian Federated College. She received numerous recognition awards for teaching, leadership, and contributions to Catholic education.

In 2004, Dr. Horsman accepted the position of Director of Education for Saskatoon Catholic Schools and in 2007 was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of Learning, a position she held until January, 2011.

A witness to the many benefits in faith-based education, Horsman's involvement with St. Thomas More College (STM) began through professional and family connections, leading to roles on STM's Board of Governors for 6 years, serving as Chair for three years.

Horsman's contributions extend into her community with a commitment to human services integration, and as a board member with Saskatoon Communities for Children, and as Chair of SIAST Provincial Foundation Board.



Fall 2025 STM Graduates

- Herman Aamir, Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science), Biomedical Foundations
- Oluwadamilola Valerie Ajayi, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science
- Aysha Aziz, Certificate, Criminology and Addictions
- Katie Baillie, Bachelor of Arts Honours, Sociology
- Erin Baril, Bachelor of Science Honours, Biology
- Denise Bird, Bachelor of Arts Four-Year, Psychology
- Hannah-Rose Cabana Boucher, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology
- Sarah Carter, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology
- Licia Correa Jomar, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology
- Abigail Dodge, Certificate, Criminology and Addictions
- Christina Duvall, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology
- Deborah Eyo, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology
- Alejandro Galindo Barrones, Bachelor of Arts, Studio Art
- Kaitlyn Hampton, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology
- Stephanie Hanson, Bachelor of Arts, History
- Hergaiye-Rashid Hersi, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science
- Christine Hillis, Bachelor of Arts, History
- Melissa Hitchens, Bachelor of Arts and Science, Interactive Systems Design
- Rachel Hunter, Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science), Cellular, Physiological and Pharmacological Sciences
- Jennifer Johnstone, Bachelor of Art, Psychology
- Hannah Jones, Bachelor of Arts, Art History
- Madison Kennedy, Bachelor of Arts Honours, Sociology
- Aya Kharsa, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology
- Lorne Konotopski, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science
- Alexandra Litster-Paramor, Bachelor of Arts, History
- Deoni Luttig, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science
- Omeisha Lysaith, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology
- Corinne Mathews, Bachelor of Arts, Religion and Culture
- Anna McCullough, Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science), Biomedical Foundations
- Alison McPhee, Bachelor of Arts, English
- Nicole Nienaber, Bachelor of Arts, History
- Mikailie Ann Nuesca, Bachelor of Arts, Business Economics
- Joelly Obrigewitch, Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science), Biomedical Foundations
- Oluwatamilola Ojo, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology
- Stephanie Pelly, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology
- Brittany Penner, Bachelor of Arts Honours, History
- Kantarama Sale, Bachelor of Arts, Economics
- Karishma Sampatlall, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science
- Kristina Saunders, Bachelor of Arts Honours, Psychology
- Megan Schulte, Bachelor of Science, Biology
- Carmen Suchodolski, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology
- Faith Maxine Tesoro, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology
- Sierra Tondevold, Certificate, Criminology and Addictions
- Ashellin Van De Voord, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology
- Yue Wen, Bachelor of Arts, Studio Art
- Brenda Woodley, Bachelor of Arts, History
- Jiahao Zhang, Bachelor of Arts, Business Economics



STM at a Glance

2025-2026 (academic year)

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

19 AREAS OF STUDY

70 FACULTY
(Tenure, tenure-stream, term, sessional)

5788 distinct STUDENTS
(registered in courses through STM)

1280+ STM STUDENTS
(declared STM status)

1143 (3cu) Indigenous STUDENTS
(declared status registered in STM courses)

468 (3cu) International STUDENTS
(declared status registered in STM courses)

\$320,000+ STM Scholarships
& Bursaries available

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

46,700 STM COLLEGE.CA
Website users
May 1, 2025- Feb. 3, 2025



Emily Zbaraschuk is a student of English, as well as Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies, at St. Thomas More College

My name is Emily Zbaraschuk, and I'm in my final year of an English and Classical, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies degree. As I've approached the end of my program, I've been reflecting about the things that have brought me joy these past few years.

I didn't start out my degree as an STM student, but the College happened to be the first building in which I took an in-person class. It was winter 2022, and the pandemic had subsided enough that the university felt comfortable returning to in-person instruction. At first I assumed it was the months of online courses that made this weekly English class seem so special. But as things shifted back towards normalcy, I noticed that it wasn't just class schedules that drew me through the doors of STM.

There was something alive and life-giving in this place that I couldn't find elsewhere on campus.

As the years went on, I became more involved in the STM community and soon declared as an STM student. I joined in medias res (IMR) as the Layout and Design Editor, and I loved working with other students who shared my same passion for writing and art. It was at an IMR painting event where I met some of my best friends. I still remember that day as being the first time I truly felt I was part of a community, not just by virtue of sharing the same space or having the same classes, but because I was seen and valued by others.

At STM, we are so grateful for all our alumni and donors who support student success through gifts toward scholarships and bursaries.

We are happy to share this letter from one of our accomplished students.

I am now the Editor-in-Chief of IMR, and I enjoy leading a team of thoughtful and dedicated students as we create beautiful magazines of student writing and plan events that help students feel connected to others.

What I have found at STM is a community of people who choose to see the humanity of those around them, regardless of differences.

The professors here genuinely care about not only student success but about our well-being. Likewise, the staff seek to guide students through the tumults of student life and finding our way in a world that sometimes seems overwhelming.

I sometimes joke that I can no longer study in the College because I am distracted by other students who stop for a brief hello that never remains brief.

For the past two years, I have been fortunate to receive scholarships from STM that have supported me on my journey. I am so grateful for those who made those scholarships possible, both for my sake but for the students around me who have also received scholarships or bursaries that reduce some of the stresses of affording school. Personally, the scholarships I was given last year have made it so I can start saving for grad school, but they also helped me afford a study abroad course in Hereford this past spring. Working with centuries-old documents and exploring medieval churches and castles was an experience I will never forget.

At the moment, my goal is to be a professor of medieval English literature. I have learned so much from the people at STM — whether staff, faculty, or fellow students — about creating spaces where healthy discussion can flourish and seeking to serve and love those around me. I hope that wherever I end up in the future, I will live out the beautiful lessons that these past few years at STM have taught me.

Emily's success is possible with the generosity of donors like you! The cost of tuition and living expenses continues to outpace students' incomes. While STM strives to give each student with financial need some support, there's more need than we can cover. With your support, more students can focus on their studies and like Emily, participate in the STM community and extracurricular activities that give our students a holistic educational experience.

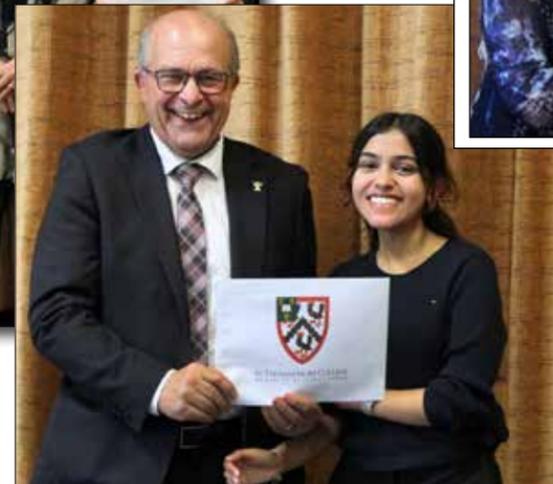
Thank you for being a part of STM's mission to provide a Catholic liberal arts education to our students. Please consider making a gift today to support student success at STM!

Support STM Student scholarships and bursaries by donating online at stmcollege.ca or mail in the donation form on page 39 of this magazine.

STUDENT AWARDS



Top Left: Recipients of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross Renewable Scholarships from Dean Tammy Marche



Above: Norah Jacob accepts the Dick and Donna Batten Scholarship from Associate Dean Gerry Farthing at the annual STM Scholarships Awards Ceremony on Sept. 28;

Top right: Margaret Marche presents the Ezekiel-Marche Scholarship Award to Abtin Safaeian;

Right: Elaine Zakreski tells the story of meeting her husband, Peter Zakreski, an STM alumnus, for whom a student bursary is named, at the STM Bursary Reception on Nov. 20



Awards, bursaries aim to boost student success

More than \$275,000 in scholarships and bursaries were awarded to St. Thomas More College students for the 2025-2026 academic year this fall.

On September 28, 79 scholarships were handed out to deserving STM students at the College's annual scholarship awards ceremony in the Fr. O'Donnell Auditorium.

On November 20, STM's generous bursary donors and the grateful students recipients gath-

ered on for a celebration reception where STM awarded bursaries valued at \$143,250 to 111 students.

"We continue to see significant increases in the number of bursaries and the total number of students benefitting from them," said Dr. Carl Still, President of STM, at the Bursary Awards celebration.

"As tuition fees and the cost of living keep going up, we're also striving to address those increased needs through our bursary program."

Dr. Still thanked the donors who made the financial support of STM students possible. "Every award, if you think about it, has a story behind it, and a person without whose vision and generosity it wouldn't exist."



2025/2026 STM SCHOLARSHIPS

ENGAGED LEARNING SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Les and Irene Dubé Service & Justice Scholarships – Les and Irene Dubé

Zainab Abedi, Joseph Cardenas, Morgan Choponis, Sophie Deobald, Tessy Gasana, Jamilah Lapuz, Braily Lehman, Audrina Nessman, Chase Stone, Anika Tran, Talia Tran, Sabine Wagner, Jace Zidar

St. Thomas More College Award for Excellence in Community Service-Learning (CSL) Writing

– St. Thomas More College Melissa Lu - 100 Level;
Wyatt Pomarenski - Upper Level

2025/2026 STM SCHOLARSHIPS

ENTERING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Wolfe Family General Achievement Entrance Scholarship
– Anonymous Molly Penny

The Kramer Scholarship – Don and Claire Kramer Mehtaab Singh
The Reverend Edwin Kline, CSB Entrance Scholarship
– Basilian Fathers Molly Penny

The Russ and Sharon Aney First Year Scholarship Award
– Russ and Sharon Aney Liliana Waschuk

Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross First Year Scholarships
– Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry Anastasiia Andrushkiv,
Amelia Elder, Jamilah Lapuz, Audrina Nessman, Luka Nestorovic,
Norah Richardson, Sabine Wagner, Arielle Wist

St. Thomas More College First Year Scholarship
– Friends of St. Thomas More College Sophie Deobald,
Gizzla Effah-Donyina, Signy Erickson-Cichon, Chase Stone

Knights of Columbus First Year Scholarship
– Saskatoon Chapter Knights of Columbus Nawal Darya Ahmed,
Ruairidh Martin, Krisha Pangilinan

The Dr. Helen Horseman First Year Student Scholarship
– St. Thomas More College Board of Governors in honour of departing
Board Member Dr. Helen Horseman Mahmuda Jahan

TRANSFER OR RETURNING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

STM Transfer or Returning Student Scholarship
– Friends of St. Thomas More College Vincent Mellesmoen

CONTINUING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Hinz / Teunissen Memorial Scholarship
– Dr. Evelyn and Dr. John Teunissen Elisabeth Bauman

The Henry and Agnes Brockman Scholarship – The Brockman
family, in memory of Henry J. and Agnes Brockman Grant Forrest

Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross Renewable Scholarships – Sis-
ters of St. Joseph of Chambéry Kenzie Demish, Mary Kirkpatrick.
Renewals: Sophie Brown, Jarrod Daunheimer, Emily Zbaraschuk

The Russ and Sharon Aney Continuing Scholarship Award
– Russ and Sharon Aney Ario Safaeian

The Council 1517 George Mackey Foundation Scholarship
– Council 1517 George Mackey Foundation Samuel Medernach

The Doug and Irene Schmeiser Scholarship
– Doug and Irene Schmeiser Caterina Eremondi

The Dick and Donna Batten Scholarship
– Dick and Donna Batten Norah Jacob

The Jeannette Tetreault Scholarship
– Estate of Jeannette Tetreault Andrew Delainey

Evelyn Burkitt Scholarship – Evelyn Burkitt, In memory of Mary
and Joseph Burkitt Raine Rusaw, Esther Thurgood

Christopher Dawson Scholarship – The Fr. Henry Carr
Foundation Jarrod Daunheimer, Matthew Puto

The Thomas Deis '38 Pioneers of Saskatchewan Scholarship
– Thomas Deis, in memory of his parents Henry Thiessen

Thanks to our generous supporters,
in 2025-2026 STM College offered

The Terrence and Margaret Downey Scholarship
– Terrence and Margaret Downey Stacy Kim

The Founding Fathers Scholarship – Newman/STM alumni, in memory
of Basilian Fathers who served between 1926 and 1956 Matt Berry

The Debbie and Keith Hayward Scholarship
– Debbie and Keith Hayward Gillian Skjei

The Wilfrid and Sylvia Hinz Family Scholarship
– Sylvia Hinz Katrina Baudelaire

The Ezekiel-Marche Scholarship Award
– Margaret and Finton Marche Abtin Safaeian

The John and Elizabeth Kaufmann Scholarship
– Martin and Ruth Kaufmann, in memory of John and Elizabeth
Kaufmann Jordan Finnie

Irene Ostitis-Schmeiser Spanish Language Scholarship
– Irene Ostitis-Schmeiser Cassidy Dueck

The Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Studies Scholarship
– Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry Fiona Angela de Lara

The St. Peter's College Continuing Student Scholarship
– Friends of St. Thomas More College Jackson Cockell
St. Thomas More College Leadership Award
– Friends of St. Thomas More College Kim Baquiran, Samuel Meder-
nach, Emily Zbaraschuk

The STM Faculty Union Scholarship
– STM Faculty Union Mellissa Lu

The Cornelius and Rosallie Woloschuk Scholarship
– Children of Rosallie and Cornelius Woloschuk Aidan Twidale

The Wright Scholarship – Dr. Sharon Wright
Sydney Hiebert

Maureen Haynes Catholic Studies Scholarship
– The Haynes Family, in memory of Maureen Haynes
Caterina Eremondi, Charitha Konduru, Taylor Schwab

The Roy E. Lloyd Scholarship – Rose Lloyd, in memory
of Roy E. Lloyd Julia Bourgeois

**Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association/TYC – Steppe Branch
Ukrainian Language Award** – Ukrainian Self-Reliance
Association/TYC – Steppe Branch (114) - Griffin Andreas,
Monika Hardi; (117) - Lucius Bather, Amber Westlake

INDIGENOUS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

STM College Indigenous Entering Student Scholarship
– Friends of St. Thomas More College Signy Erickson-Cichon

Dielschneider Indigenous Scholarship
– Peter Dielschneider Pius Olver

The Sister Irene Poelzer Scholarship
– Family of Sister Irene Poelzer Sherilyn Clarke

2025/2026 BURSARY AWARDS ENGAGED LEARNING BURSARIES

Desirée Steele Bursary
Donor: David and Dorene Steele – 2@ \$1,000

more than \$300,000 in scholarships
and bursaries to our students!

ENTERING STUDENT BURSARIES

Margaret C. Dutli Award Donor: Margaret C. Dutli – 1@ \$500

Matt and Beth Hertz Bursary
Donor: Matthew and Elizabeth Hertz – 4@ \$3,000

Christine Hudek Bursary Donor: Mr. Edward Hudek – 1@ \$500

Jenny Korolewich Bursary
Donor: Descendants of Jenny Korolewich – 1@ \$1,200

Nasser Family Award
Donor: Dr. Kay and Mrs. Dora Nasser – 1@ \$1,000

TRANSFER OR RETURNING STUDENT BURSARIES

STM College Transfer or Returning Student Bursary
Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College – 1@ \$1,000

CONTINUING STUDENT BURSARIES

Auléa Arseneault Bursary
Donor: Estate of Auléa Arseneault – 2@ \$2,000

Robert and Florence Cowan Bursary
Donor: Florence Cowan – 1@ \$2,500

Elizabeth Doktor Engaged Learning Award
Donor: Elizabeth Doktor – 1@ \$1,250

Anne Phelan DeCoteau Bursary Donor: Dr. Earl DeCoteau
and family, in memory of Anne Phelan DeCoteau – 1@ \$2,500

Ted Fortosky Memorial Bursary
Donor: Danielle Fortosky – 1@ \$1,000

GSU (Grain & General Services Union) Bursary
Donor: Grain & General Services Union – 1@ \$2,000

Herb & Carrol (née Ehman) Herauf Memorial Bursary
Donor: Herbert Herauf – 1@ \$1,000

Wilfrid and Sylvia Hinz Family Bursary
Donor: Sylvia Hinz – 1@ \$1,000

McNeill Hunt Bursary Donor: Leonore Hunt – 1@ \$1,500

Knights of Columbus Bursary
Donor: Saskatoon Chapter Knights of Columbus – 4@ \$500

Jenny Korolewich Bursary
Donor: Descendants of Jenny Korolewich – 1@ \$1,200

Jessica Liew Bursary Award Donor: Anonymous – 1@ \$1,000

Mary and Nicholas Lucyshyn Bursary Donor: Lucyshyn family,
in memory and honour of Nick and Mary Lucyshyn – 1@ \$1,000

Rudolph Mazurkewich Bursary
Donor: Barry Mazurkewich – 1@ \$1,000

Nasser Family Award
Donor: Dr. Kay and Mrs. Dora Nasser – 1@ \$1,000

Lorne and Elizabeth Parker Bursary
Donor: Lorne and Elizabeth Parker – 1@ \$5,000

Peter Harold Richlark Bursary
Donor: Wally Richlark – 2@ \$1,000

Anthony and Anita (nee Dobson) Riffel Bursary Award
Donor: Anthony and Anita Riffel – 1@ \$5,000

Herman and Myrna Rolfes Bursary
Donor: Herman and Myrna Rolfes – 1@ \$1,000

**Saskatchewan K of C Charitable Foundation Adrienne
& Mervyn Welter Endowment Bursary** Donor: Saskatchewan
Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation – 3@ \$1,000

Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Studies Bursary
Donor: Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry – 1@ \$1,000

Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross International Student Bursary
Donor: Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry – 1@ \$3,000

STM College Faculty Union Bursary
Donor: STM Faculty Union – 2@ \$1,000

Peter Zakreski Memorial Bursary Award
Donor: 1989 Jeux Canada Games Foundation – 1@ \$1,000

St. Thomas More College Bursary Donor: Friends of St. Thomas
More College – 63 of varying amounts (\$37,000 total)

STM College International Student Bursary
Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College – 1@ \$3,000

Cornelius and Rosallie Woloschuk Memorial Bursary
Donor: Woloschuk Family – 1@ \$600

Wright Bursary Donor: Dr. Sharon Wright – 1@ \$1,000

PART-TIME STUDENT BURSARIES

St. Thomas More College Part-Time Student Bursary
Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College – 2@ \$1,000

INDIGENOUS STUDENT BURSARIES

St. Thomas More College Indigenous Entering Student Bursary
Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College – 1@ \$1,500

STM College Indigenous Continuing Student Bursary
Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College – 11@ \$1,500

Dielschneider Indigenous Bursary
Donor: Peter Dielschneider – 2@ \$1,000

Henry Remai Indigenous Student Bursary
Donor: Henry Remai – 5@ \$1,000

Northern Indigenous Student Access Bursary
Donor: STM Community – 1@ \$1,000

For information on establishing a scholarship or bursary,
please contact Connie Andersen at 306.966.8203
or candersen@stmcollege.ca

Watch for application deadlines for 2026-2027
Scholarships and Bursaries online at:

stmcollege.ca/awards

MORE

for



*For Students
For USask
For Saskatchewan*

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College Plan 2030

College Plan Launch Event Welcomes STM Community and Special Guests

STM faculty, staff, alumni, and donors, were joined by the Minister of Advanced Education along with USask's new president.

By Cameron Choquette

*At a time when the value of post-secondary education is being questioned, St. Thomas More College (STM) released its new College Plan 2030, entitled **More For U**. The "U" reflects the College's commitment to delivering more for university students, the University of Saskatchewan (USask), and the broader university experience in Saskatchewan.*

Education and MLA for Saskatoon Willowgrove, the Honorable Ken Cheveldayoff. In addition to touring the College, Minister Cheveldayoff brought greetings on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan.

"The STM College Plan 2030 is more than a strategic plan—it's a forward-thinking vision that champions student success, reconciliation and community well-being. St. Thomas More has always been an important part of the post-secondary community, and this plan builds on that strong foundation," AE Minister Cheveldayoff stated in his remarks to the audience.

New USask President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Vince Bruni-Bossio was also in attendance, alongside members of the College's Board of Governors and Corporation.

Each of the Plan's four priorities includes three goals. The launch featured four outstanding speakers who articulated the importance of each priority. STM alumna Brette Kristoff (BA'18, MA'23) spoke on the *Vital Liberal Arts*

priority; STM Campus Minister Michael Maclean gave attendees an inside look at how the *Hospitable Catholicism* priority empowers the College to live out its Catholic identity; The *Engaged Indigenization* priority was presented by Associate Professor of Sociology Dr. Sarah Knudson, and Tina Zheng, Engaged Learning Operations Coordinator, highlighted how the Holistic Community priority.

All of the transformational College changes are possible because of the generous support of our students, the Government of Saskatchewan, a strong federated relationship with USask, and the generosity of our donors and alumni.

The new College Plan will guide operations and planning from now until 2030 as we seek to deliver more for university students, the University of Saskatchewan, and the broader university experience in Saskatchewan.

"This new College Plan builds on what we already do and seeks to offer more under four key strategic priorities – Vital Liberal Arts, Hospitable Catholicism, Engaged Indigenization, and Holistic Community," said President Carl Still.

Joining dozens of STM faculty, staff, alumni, and donors, was the Minister of Advanced

STM COLLEGE PLAN 2030 Priorities & Goals

1 VITAL LIBERAL ARTS

The College, rooted in the Basilian tradition of higher education, is committed to preparing students holistically through innovative teaching and research in humanities and social sciences.

2 HOSPITABLE CATHOLICISM

Nourished by our faith, we live out STM's distinctively Catholic identity, mission, and values, advancing the Catholic Intellectual Tradition to foster the integration of faith and reason, promote social justice, and engage diverse worldviews through respectful conversation.

3 ENGAGED INDIGENIZATION

We are a reconciling community inspired by the Cree concept of *wahkohtowin*, which calls us to adopt the ideals of holistic interconnectedness and accountability.

4 HOLISTIC COMMUNITY

The heart of St. Thomas More College lies in its people—the learners, educators, staff, and all who contribute to strengthening the College. We are a diverse, supportive and inclusive community.



MORE for Students for USask for Saskatchewan

Ginging with the Glee Club

It has taken many names over the years, and the music changed from era to era, but the love of singing and the supportive community of Newman glee club remained constant!



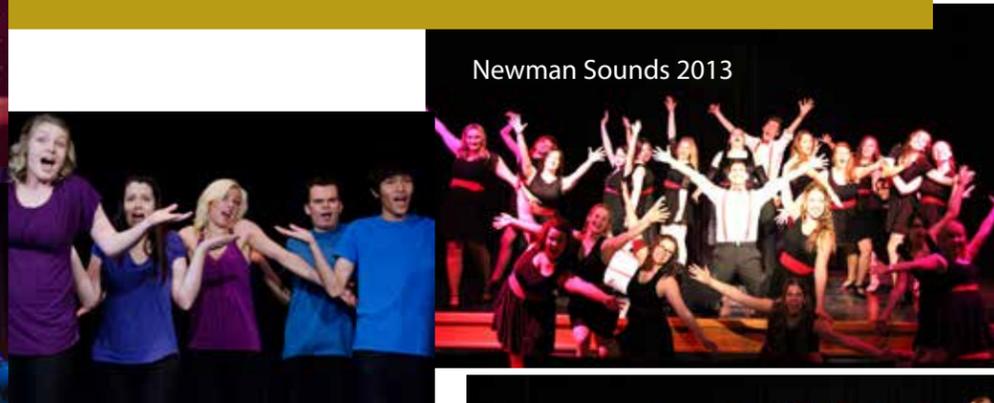
Newman Singers 1957



Newman Singers 1968



Newman Sounds 1971



Newman Sounds 2013



Newman Sounds 2012



Newman Sounds 2016



Glee Club 2018



Newman Choir 2007

newman
CENTRE 100

Celebrating 100 years of Catholic Community on Campus



1926 - 2026

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.

Newman Centre's 100th Anniversary is fast approaching! We are gearing up for an exciting centennial year in 2026-27. Do you have a story, photo or memory that you would like to share?

Would you be interested in being a member of the Newman 100th Anniversary planning committee? Please email candersen@stmcollege.ca to share your photos or memories or learn more about getting involved.

Newman 100 Events – Alumni and Catholic Community Celebrations

The Newman Centre on the USask campus celebrates 100 years in 2026! The Newman Society created a place for the Catholic community and paved the way for the establishment of our College. Inspired by St. John Henry Cardinal Newman, a forward-thinking group of Catholic laity believed that Catholic students belonged on the University of Saskatchewan campus and that we could explore reason and faith here in the context of the liberal arts.

2026

- September 9 Academic Mass and Dean's Installation
- October 2 Newman Coffeehouse and Tour
- October 3 Fall Gathering
- October 4 Mass with Communion Breakfast
- October 4 Book Launch *The Basilians* by Ron Griffin CSB and Michael Hadyen
- October 9 St. John Henry Newman's Feast Day
- October 29/30 Fall Festival
- December 1 Commemoration of the first meeting of the Newman Club at the University Saskatchewan (student/STM)

2027

- January Annual Newman Retreat
- February Moonlight and Roses Dinner Theatre
- March Solidarity and Justice Coffeehouse
- April/May Newman themed Theology on Tap
- June STM Feast Day – marking the end of the Newman 100 Anniversary celebrations

Gave these dates!

Newman Coffeehouse tradition continues

A mood for partying and piracy was in the air at a recent STM Newman Coffeehouse.

It was brought on by a special appearance by Stéphane Gerard – “the Ukelele Guy” – who has become famous around campus for his daily singing sessions near the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre.

Now a doctoral student, Gerard is a former member of the Newman Centre, and was recently featured In The Sheaf, the USask student newspaper.

He brought his musical talents back to St. Thomas More College on Friday,

February 6, regaling the coffeehouse crowd with three songs, including The Last Saskatchewan Pirate -- the Captain Tractor ditty that is a traditional sing-along at Saskatchewan Roughriders games.

Gerard's infectious singing had the crowd plotting to 'steal the wheat and barley and all the other grains!'

The evening featured nine other talented performers, hot drinks, delicious baking and, as always, a rousing good time.

The next Newman Coffeehouse is slated for Friday, March 13 in the STM cafeteria.



Discover Divine Liturgy

By Paul Sinkewicz

The spiritual heart of St. Thomas More College (STM) is its chapel, which hosts a Mass four times a week during the academic year.

That's just what you would expect at a Roman Catholic institution.

But most don't know the chapel also hosts Ukrainian Catholic Divine Liturgy each Wednesday. And many that do know that fact, don't fully understand what it means.

Campus Minister Fr. André Lalach, who celebrated his 20th anniversary of ordination this past July, has been working to demystify the differences between the two Christian traditions with a series of lectures titled *Discover Divine Liturgy*.

"We know that all throughout Christianity there are lots of different ways to see Jesus, to worship Jesus, to understand Jesus. And so, my particular tradition -- the Byzantine Ukrainian Catholic tradition -- is just one way. And there is a lot of history behind that," Lalach said during his first presentation.

"From the Acts of the Apostles we have a pretty good account of what Peter did. He travelled from Jerusalem to Rome and his preaching formed the roots of Christianity that took root in Rome and the Roman Catholic church came to be."

"My question always is: What happened to the other Apostles?"

Well, Thomas' missionary activity had a great impact in what we call India. Mark the Evangelist went to Egypt. The travels of Peter's brother, Andrew, saw him overlooking the Dneiper River in the land of Rus and eventually Scotland. Where they travelled, Christian churches arose.

"The other apostles, they had an encounter with Jesus, a firsthand experience, and something within them compelled them to go and talk about their experiences with Jesus, and as a result we have lots of diversity of different Christian churches -- denominations as we call them today -- right from the very beginning."

"And each of them had a different flavour," said Lalach. "Most of the churches in the East -- like Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem and later Byzantium -- have historically been lumped together as Orthodox Christian and in the West would be the Roman Catholic tradition."

Christianity came to the Slavic world in the year 988, and the version that emerged came from Byzantium, and so was Orthodox.



Bishop Michael Smolinski, C.Ss.R., gives Communion while on a visit to STM

But the Western part of Ukraine experienced a lot more Roman Catholic influence due to its proximity to Poland and the Austrian Empire, and that influence crept into the Byzantine tradition.

By 1596, a number of Ukrainian Orthodox people saw value in reuniting with the Church of Rome. Eventually, 33 articles outlined as conditions for reunification of some Ukrainian Orthodox with the Church of Rome established the Ukrainian Catholic Church. The same sort of scenario happened lots of times in different places, said Lalach.

"And the key aspect being that they would retain their spiritual legacy and tradition, their liturgical heritage, and so in fact, in the 33 articles for reunion and the establishment of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, the first article is that 'we shall not be forced to celebrate the Mass but we will continue to celebrate the Divine Liturgy.'"

The Ukrainian Catholic Church acknowledges the Pope in Rome as the head of the Church, but also has a Patriarch (Sviatoslav Shevchuk) that oversees day to day affairs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church worldwide, a Metropolitan in the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg (Lawrence Huculak) who oversees all the Ukrainian Catholics in Canada, and Bishop Michael Smolinski of the Eparchy (diocese) of Saskatoon, takes care of Saskatchewan.

While both churches share a focus on the Trinity, Lalach noted that in the West there has always been more of an emphasis on the 'Oneness' of the Trinity. In the East, there's a bit more of an empha-

A Happy Twist of Fate

The Ukrainian Catholic Divine Liturgy became an integral part of St. Thomas More College through a simple twist of fate. Or was it Divine Intervention?

Fr. André Lalach was newly ordained in 2005 and working as a chaplain at the nearby Sheptytsky Institute. Plans to also take up posting at a local parish suddenly changed, so he found himself with time to visit STM College, where he would work on his homilies in the library. He got to know the Campus Ministry team that included Gertrude Rompré and Michael MacLean and began attending team meetings.

Later that year, another Campus Minister moved into the Engaged Learning department, and a replacement was needed, so College President George Smith, proposed that Andre officially join the team. More than 20 years later, the fit is still perfect. Lalach serves the College



Fr. Andre Lalach demonstrates the Sign of the Cross in the Ukrainian Catholic tradition

community as a Campus Minister and presides over the weekly Divine Liturgy. He also earned his Master's in Counselling, through Yorkville University, and works at the Student Wellness Centre on campus, as part of a partnership agreement with STM, helping students with their mental health & wellness.

sis on the 'Threeness' of the Trinity.

"And that's always revealed in the way the sign of the Cross is performed. We make the sign of the cross with a very intentional orientation of the fingers on the hand. Two fingers down and three fingers up. The three fingers acknowledge the Trinity -- the Father, Son and Holy Spirit -- and the two fingers acknowledge the two natures of Christ. We believe Jesus Christ is both human and divine. West or East that's a foundational principle for Christians."

Lalach said another way that emphasis on the 'Threeness' of the Trinity is revealed is the fact that in the Ukrainian Catholic worship, they tend to repeat things three times.

Lalach asked: If Jesus returned, would he pick one way over the other to perform the sign of the cross?

"I don't think Jesus would care. However, humans care, and we tend to fight about these things, and in the history of the church, people have lost their lives over all kinds of arguments."

What about the Eucharist? Roman Catholics use

unleavened, flat bread for Holy Communion. In the Byzantine tradition, they use leavened bread.

The bread is brought to the altar, cut up into particles, and the consecrated bread and wine are mixed together and distributed directly into the mouth with a spoon. Whereas in the Roman church, some people receive directly on the tongue and others into their hands.

"So, here again, what do you think Jesus would prefer?" Lalach asked. "Unleavened bread or leavened bread? So, these are things I talk about when I go to visit schools or during opportunities like this, to just really leave in your mind that however Jesus invites you, and what works for you, I think that's a great gift. That you receive that invitation."

"The most important thing is: Don't be afraid. We welcome you come and participate as best you can. If you are a Roman Catholic, when the time comes for Communion, our churches are in communion with each other, so you are eligible to receive the Eucharist in the way that we administer it."

"What we're all about is inclusivity and unity. That's the whole point of our being here as people of faith."

The two panels used during Divine Liturgy in the STM Chapel represent the open doors through which John the Apostle has a vision of heavenly worship in Revelations Chapter 4, Verses 1-11. Worship is directed forward, toward the altar, which represents the throne of God.

On the icons on the doors, Jesus' outer garment is blue to symbolize his humanity. Jesus' red inner garment is symbolic of his divinity. Mary's inner garment is blue, but her outer garment is red. She is not God, in the way Jesus is, but has put on divinity by her saying 'Yes' to God.

36th Annual Michael Keenan Memorial Lecture

A grim new era of warfare

Keenan lecturer speaks on protection of civilians in armed conflict

By Paul Sinkewicz

The changing landscape of war and the fate of civilians was the topic of the 36th Michael Keenan Memorial Lecture, held on October 29, 2025.

Titled *Protecting Civilians in a Turbulent Age*, the talk comes at a time in modern history when civilians in many war-torn countries are caught in the crossfire of warring sides, and are often purposely targeted as part of modern military strategy.

The guest speaker was Dr. Jennifer Welsh, the Canada 150 Research Chair in Global Governance and Security at McGill University and director of the Centre for International Peace and Security Studies at McGill's Max Bell School of Public Policy.

“The violence that’s being experienced by civilians today is reaching levels not seen in many, many decades. And there’s a seeming race to the bottom in terms of the level of restraint that is exercised by conflict parties.

—Dr. Jennifer Welsh

While at McGill, Dr. Welsh has led several collaborative research projects with Canadian and international scholars, built a vibrant community of faculty and students interested in global affairs and Canada’s role in the world, and co-directed a Canada-wide research network on Women, Peace, and Security. She has frequently provided input into policy initiatives for the Canadian government and the United Nations, as well as for international NGOs.

Welsh said the long-held idea that civilians should be protected is under siege. “Every year the UN Secretary General sponsors a report for the UN Security Council on the protection of civilians. And in his last report to the council, he referred to the state of protection of civilians as resoundingly grim,” she said.



Dr. Jennifer Welsh is an internationally renowned expert on conflict management

The year 2023 saw 33,000 recorded civilian deaths in armed conflict, which was a 70% increase from 2022. In 2024 the number grew to 36,000 civilian deaths in 14 armed conflicts.

“And added to this are the statistics on force displacement,” Welsh said. “I’ve been teaching a class on forced migration for the last six years, and when I started in 2019, I said it’s the highest number of people on the move since the Second World War -- and it was 65 million people. In this past year that has almost doubled to 122 million people.”

“So, the violence that’s being experienced by civilians today is reaching levels not seen in many, many decades. And there’s a seeming race to the bottom in terms of the level of restraint that is exercised by conflict parties.”

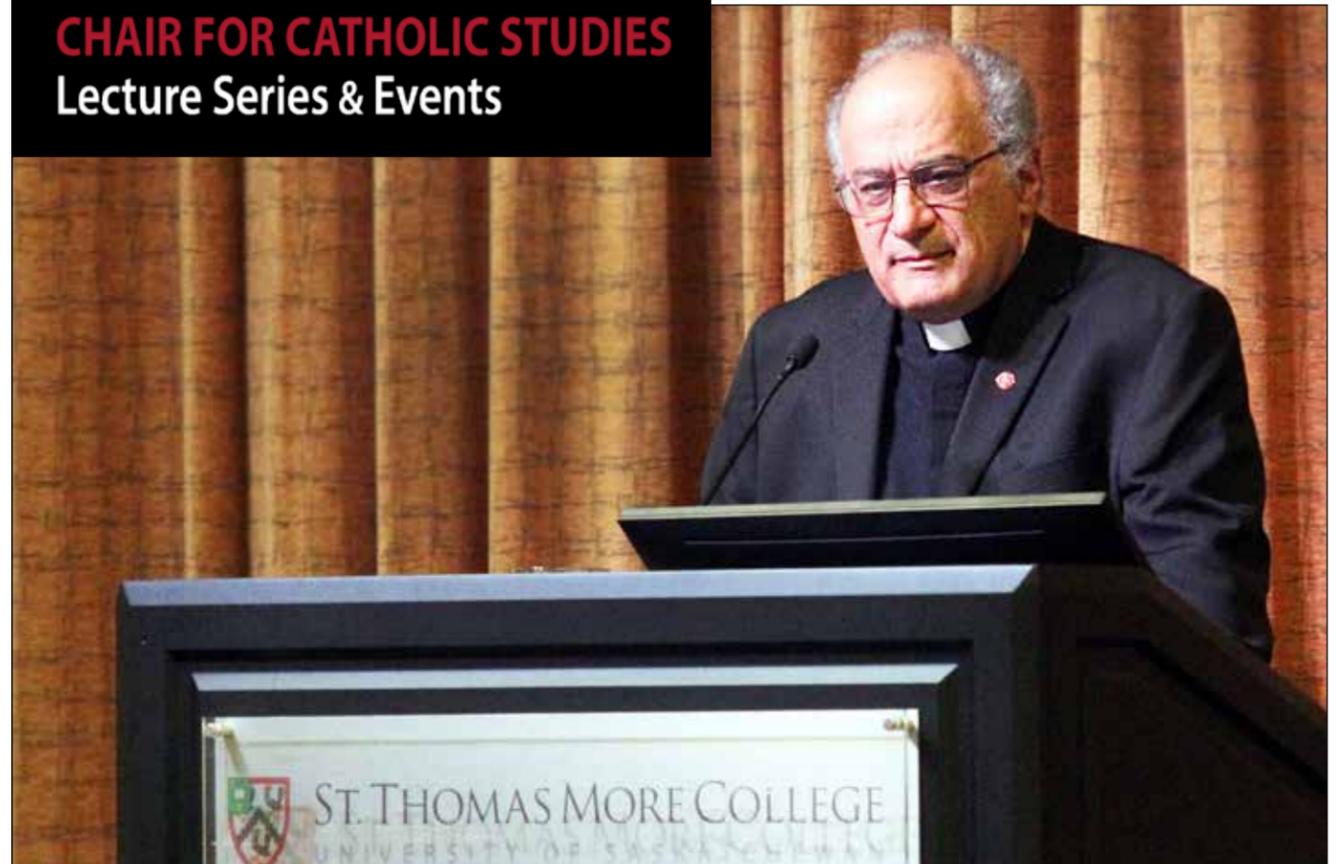
Welsh said the Russian war on Ukraine gives a glimpse of what the future of armed conflict might look like.

She said today’s environment, with regard to protecting civilians, hinges on three main problems: impunity, indifference and the shrinking space for normative agendas like protection.

“It’s important for us to remember that the contemporary laws of war attempt to strike a balance between military necessity and humanitarian considerations,” Welsh said. “We might start to ask whether military necessity is gaining the upper hand.”

The annual Keenan Lecture was established to commemorate the life of Dr. Michael Keenan, the first dean of STM, who served from 1975-1985.

Leslie and Irene Dubé CHAIR FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES Lecture Series & Events



Guest lecturer Fr. Sami Helewa, SJ, was born a refugee of Palestinian heritage, so the themes of migration and belonging have been key parts of his life

Story of Abraham as migrant provides lessons for today

By Paul Sinkewicz

St. Thomas More College welcomed back an old friend for the 2025 Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies Lecture Series.

Fr. Sami Helewa, SJ, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and past President of Campion College, returned from his new home in Ottawa, where he has been working on a sabbatical project related to the evening’s lecture titled *Abraham, The Migrant: Search for Belonging*.

Helewa told the audience that ideas of migration and belonging have been percolating in his mind for a long time, largely due to the news coverage of events around the world, as well as his own personal experiences.

He said we are all affected by migration, whether in our past or present.

“For me, migration and belonging are so interlinked with human development of both the personal and community levels. The question is: Where do we belong? It is embedded in the narrative of many migrants.”

His talk, held in the Fr. O’Donnell Auditorium at STM College on Oct. 9, focused on the Book of Genesis and Abraham’s role as “father of many nations” which made him a frequent migrant and addressed the spiritual complexity of migration in the making of a leader.

The topics of migration and belonging are very close to Fr. Helewa’s heart. He was born stateless, coming from a refugee family of Palestinian origin. That situation heavily influenced the first 24 years of his life, which he says are key, formative years for any human being.

“Belonging, naturally, became a persistent personal issue,” he said.

“We are meant to co-exist as a blessing to one another,” he said. “And I think Abraham’s story is very strong on that. And we need to look at it not just for our personal lives, but also for our institutions.”

The Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies was established in fall 2012 to provide intellectual leadership for STM and the broader Catholic community through the discipline of Catholic Studies.

St. Thomas More College

*"Courageously exploring the riches of Revelation
and of nature so that the united endeavour of
intelligence and faith will enable people to come
to the full measure of their humanity"*

Ex corde ecclesiae, 5

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