STUDENT SUPPORT
Maximizing STM students' post-secondary experience while helping them to prepare for the future.

St. Thomas More College
University of Saskatchewan
In my last message, I reflected on the concept of “moral formation” that David Brooks has recently proposed as a response to what he considers the mean-spiritedness of our times. In closing, I asked whether STM provides moral formation of the sort Brooks describes, and whether such moral formation can make a difference to our society. These are large and worthwhile questions that require multiple voices to address them. Our faculty, staff, and students are best placed to address the first question; the second should engage our alumni, donors, and the wider society we serve.

In the meantime, questions about the relevance and value of higher education keep coming up. In March I was invited to speak on the “The Relevance of a Catholic College.” Although speaking to a friendly audience, I tried to imagine how to make the case to those who value the question of the value of Catholic higher education in the liberal arts. How can a Catholic college education be “relevant” in a society that is becoming increasingly secular? What is higher education for, and what does it need to be relevant to? How do we measure its success of a liberal arts education: by graduate students who actively participate in a pluralistic and democratic society? Or transition smoothly into jobs that contribute to the economy? Or find careers that contribute to their sense of meaning and fulfillment in life? Or some combination of all three?

Those are the desired outcomes of university education, let’s consider the approach of Catholic higher education. The Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities: Universitas Ecclesiae – names the essential characteristics of a Catholic university, two of which point to its outward-facing mission:

1. It contributes to human knowledge through its research.
2. It has a commitment to service to the Church (the “people of God”) and humanity (the “human family”).

Thus, Ex Conde sets the objective of a Catholic university very high: to “confront the great problems of society and culture.” It’s hard to imagine being more relevant than that.

Does STM – through its teaching and research activity – contribute to human knowledge, serve the communities that support it, and address the problems of our time? In answer I will cite some recent developments and suggest connections with contemporary issues in society and culture.

In the last two decades STM has created new academic programs that speak to our mission as a Catholic college – Catholic Studies, Critical Perspectives in Social Justice and the Common Good, Peace Studies, and most recently, Labour Studies. We’ve also preserved Religious Studies and Ukrainian Studies through transfer agreements with the university. At a time when there is active war raging between Israel and Palestineans and Palestinian Muslims in Gaza, and another war between Russia and Ukraine, the “relevance” of the latter two programs would seem self-evident. All six of these programs are “unique” programs offered at U of S only by STM, and enrolment in them is growing. STM faculty also continue to create new courses that speak to the issues of our times. A recent example would be the new Political Studies course addressing Global Ideologies in the 21st Century. You can draw a straight line between that course and what is going on in the world geopolitically today. Next January we will collaborate with St. Andrew’s College to offer a new course on Ethical Leadership in the 21st Century, built on a liberal arts foundation.

On the scholarly side, STM faculty continue to receive competitive research grants, including from the federal granting agencies that fund research in the social sciences and the humanities. Nine STM faculty currently have major research grants, seven of which are funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. We have also launched a “Public Scholarship at STM” page on our website, showcasing the public-facing research being done at STM – research that appears in blog posts, op-eds, media interviews, and podcasts. If you take a look there, you will find faculty commenting on the war in Ukraine, problems of society and culture.” It’s hard to imagine being more relevant than that.

Does STM – through its teaching and research activity – contribute to human knowledge, serve the communities that support it, and address the problems of our time? In answer I will cite some recent developments and suggest connections with contemporary issues in society and culture.

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For more information and academic support, call STM Advisors at 306-966-8900.

The St. Thomas More College Board of Governors is proud to announce the following appointments:

- Dr. Carl Still, PhD (Chair)
- Tony Wurtz
- Monica Hwang
- Paul Sinkewicz
- Jacquie Berg
- Michelle Berg

Publication photos by:

- Paul Sinkewicz
- Jacquie Berg
- Michelle Berg

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

stmcollege.ca
As the 2023 – 2024 academic year ends, so does another very successful year for our College. Although I have always appreciated the tremendous amount of work undertaken by our students, staff, and faculty, and their commitment to our mission and vision, as Dean, I get to see this first-hand. I, therefore, want to begin with the sincerest thank-you to all our students, staff, and faculty for everything they do to ensure the success of our academic program.

On April 12th we were able to come together as a community to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of many of our staff and faculty during the past year at our annual President’s Appreciation and Dean’s Year End Reception – this event is one of the highpoints of the year for me. It reminds me of how truly grateful I am to be a part of the STM community and to work with such wonderful people.

Too many achievements, initiatives, and events have taken place since my last message in November to mention them all in this brief message. However, I will highlight a few. Congratulations to Jennifer Briere on her promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. Congratulations to the numerous STM faculty who were nominated for teaching awards this past year. We are grateful for the receptivity and enthusiasm of our students, staff, and faculty during the past year at our annual President’s Appreciation and Dean’s Year End Reception – this event is one of the highpoints of the year for me. It reminds me of how truly grateful I am to be a part of the STM community and to work with such wonderful people.

As part of the 10th anniversary of Rebuilding Catholic Culture, in October of 2023, Celene co-hosted the national Fellowship of Catholic Studies Conference entitled “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Catholic Realism in a Postmodern World.” The conference, with sponsorship assistance from STM and the Diocese of Saskatoon, drew scholars from all across Canada and parts of the United States.

Celine finds teaching to be the most fulfilling part of her work, and says that she is “grateful for the receptivity and enthusiasm of her students, who bring her joy every single day.”

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

Teaching Excellence Awards

USSU Teaching 2024 Award Winner

Celine Sidloski

The USSU Teaching Excellence Awards annually recognize instructors who demonstrate teaching excellence at the University of Saskatchewan and St. Thomas More College. As the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union (USSU) explains, “An excellent teacher not only gives us access to knowledge but also gives us the tools with which to turn that knowledge into wisdom.” Students evaluate teachers and their environment in a number of ways, including important areas such as enthusiasm, organization, and fairness of evaluation. The culmination of these aspects leads to an environment where students feel free to explore, critique, grow, and become leaders.

Congratulations to the numerous STM faculty who were nominated for teaching awards this past year. From STM and the Diocese of Saskatoon, drew scholars from all across Canada and parts of the United States.

2023-2024 USSU Teaching Award Nominees

STM instructors nominated for the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union (USSU) Teaching Award:

Henri Biehl, Carleigh Brady, Jeffrey Klassen, Emily Morris, Sarah Powrie, Lesya Sabada, Charles Smith, Zach Yuzwa, and Hongbin Zhang

STM faculty nominated for the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union (USSU) Teaching Award:

Dr. Celene Sidloski, PhD
B.A., University of Saskatchewan
M.A., University of Saskatchewan
Ph.D., University of Toronto

As part of the 10th anniversary of Rebuilding Catholic Culture, in October of 2023, Celene co-hosted the national Fellowship of Catholic Studies Conference entitled “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Catholic Realism in a Postmodern World.” The conference, with sponsorship assistance from STM and the Diocese of Saskatoon, drew scholars from all across Canada and parts of the United States.

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Dr. Tammy Marché, PhD
Dean, St. Thomas More College
STM’s Teaching Excellence Award (TEA) is given out annually, and it recognizes instructors who have made outstanding contributions to teaching at the College. Students, faculty, and alumni can nominate any instructor teaching in the current year, who is then invited to submit an application package, including student and peer reviews of teaching, a teaching portfolio, and a CV. In recognition of the differing responsibilities and focus of sessional instructors as compared to tenured and tenure-track faculty, the Teaching Committee now selects two distinct award winners: one who is a sessional instructor, and another who is a faculty member.

2023-2024 STM Teaching Excellence Awards

WINNER (Tenure and Tenure-Track):
DR. KYLIE-ANNE HINGSTON (PHD)

The winner of the STM Teaching Award for tenured/tenure-stream faculty is Dr. Kylie-Anne Hingston. Across the board, students identified Kylie-Anne as caring, passionate, and inspirational, and communications from former students were glowing with praise. The committee was very impressed with how much work she devotes toward making her teaching better. Kylie-Anne responds head-on to (reasonable) student criticism and adapts accordingly. The willingness and ability to keep learning and growing is certainly the mark of a really good teacher.

The Committee was very impressed with the syllabi Kylie-Anne builds for her courses—they’re detailed, funny, personable and some of the best we’ve seen. Her scaffolded assignments help the students grow throughout the semester. Her rubrics are crystal clear and painstakingly crafted, and she encourages her students to publish their papers. She’s had success in this and notes that she “gets pleasure from seeing them improve” And this fits with her teaching philosophy: learning is a kind of collaborative craft to be honed across the life of both teacher and student, and Kylie-Anne certainly lives this.

Congratulations Kylie-Anne!

WINNER (Term and Sessional):
DR. FACHRIZAL HALIM (PHD)

The winner of the STM Teaching Award for term and sessional instructors is Dr. Fachrizal Halim. The committee was very impressed by his CV and especially his outside-of-university teaching. Fachrizal puts much effort into developing, revising and updating his course materials and is committed to becoming a better teacher. We noted that the tone of his teaching philosophy is supremely kind and personable. Fachrizal is concerned for his students as whole people and he recognizes that they need to do more than learn; they should be responsible, ethical, compassionate, and wise, and he is helping them to cultivate those qualities.

Congratulations, Fachrizal!

HONOURABLE MENTION (Tenure and Tenure-Track):
DR. HENRI BIAHÉ (PHD)

For the STM Teaching Award for tenured/tenure-track faculty, an honourable mention goes to Dr. Henri Biahé. Dr. Biahé has been a multiple nominee for teaching awards over his years at STM, and the committee was impressed by the sheer volume of work Henri puts into pre-quizzes and pre-tests, as well as the outside-of-class hours that he devotes to his students. The thirty-minute one-on-one appointments he offers each of his students are above and beyond the call of duty, thus it didn’t surprise the committee that in their reviews, students noted they actively seek out classes he teaches.

Henri’s well-developed teaching philosophy stood out to us. In his Statement of Teaching Philosophy, through his invitation to interaction and his belief that good teaching is more than mastery of the subject, he indicates that his classes are guided by humility and relationship. These aren’t mere ideals for Henri; he enacts them by learning student’s names and by investing time outside of class to work one-on-one with students. Congratulations, Henri!

HONOURABLE MENTION (Term and Sessional):
HONGBIN ZHANG

For the STM Term/Sessional Teaching Award, an honourable mention goes to Hongbin Zhang. Hongbin’s teaching philosophy, comprised of various elements including Ip Man legendary teacher of Wing Chun kung fu, is quite engaging, and her student evaluations are very positive and reflect the goals expressed in that teaching philosophy. Hongbin thinks about students in their contexts, as individuals who need empathy and care. One student said that they initially ‘dreaded’ taking the course but ended up loving it and now wants to seek a career in economics.

Congratulations, Hongbin!

Congratulations to all the award winners, honourable mentions and nominees for their fine work as teacher-scholars.
STM FACULTY New Research Success
Saeed Moshiri
- Saeed Moshiri, along with co-applicants Wessel Vermeulen (Newcastle University London) and Gry Østenstad (University College of Southeast Norway), has received a grant from the Partnership Program (which is funded by SSHRC) to support his research on the impact of diversity in workplace innovation: Firms’ Performance in a Natural Resource-based Economy. The purpose of this project is to study the development and behaviour of firms that operate in an economy that is largely based on natural resources. Due to data limitations, research in this area is limited in both the international and Canadian context. The main question this paper seeks to answer is: how are Canadian firms’ sales, levels of employment, wage costs, and export sales affected by a natural resource windfall.
- Saeed is also a co-investigator on a joint project with the College of Engineering, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering that has received a grant from the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture for a project titled “Production of fuel pellets from agricultural residues as bio-coal for conversion to biofuels using gasification and combustion.” The principal investigator is Dr. Ajay K. Dalai.

STM FACULTY New Faculty Publications

BOOKS
Cynthia R. Wallace

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS
Cynthia R. Wallace
- Guest editor, Special Issue: Global Christianities and Global Literatures. Christianity & Literature. 72, no. 4: (2023).

Winnipeg; Dr. Sami Helewa, SJ - President, Campion College, Regina; Most Reverend Stephen Hero - Roman Catholic Bishop of Prince Albert; Most Reverend Donald Bolen - Roman Catholic Archbishop of Regina; Dr. Shawn Flynn - President, St. Joseph’s College, Winnipeg; Dr. Sami Helewa, SJ - President, Campion College, Regina; Most Reverend Stephen Hero - Roman Catholic Bishop of Prince Albert.

Tania Duclas

Fachrzel Halim

Susanne Guenter Loewen

Sarah Knudson

Daniel Krahn

Lesya Sabada

Cynthia Wallace
- Guest editor, Special Issue: Global Christianities and Global Literatures. Christianity & Literature 72, no. 4 (2023).

IN THE NEWS

ACCENT GATHER AT ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
- L - R Most Reverend Michael Smolinski, CSr - Ukrainian Catholic Bishop of Saskatoon; Most Reverend Mark Hagemoen - Roman Catholic Bishop of Saskatoon; Most Reverend Donald Bolten - Roman Catholic Archbishop of Regina; Dr. Shawn Flynn - President, St. Joseph’s College, Edmonton; Dr. Peter Meehan - President, St. Jerome’s University, Waterloo; Dr. Gordon Roxon, SJ - President, Regis College, Toronto; Dr. Patrick Leroux - Rector, Saint Paul University, Ottawa; Dr. Gerry Turcott - President, St. Mark’s - Corpus Christi, Vancouver; Mr. Rob Harasymchuk, President, St. Peter’s College, Muemster; Dr. Jason West - President, Newman Theological College, Edmonton; Dr. Carl Still - President, St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon; Dr. John Cappuccio - President, Assumption University, Windsor; Dr. Chris Adams - Rector, St. Paul’s College, Winnipeg; Dr. Sami Helewa, SJ - President, Campion College, Regina; Most Reverend Stephen Hero - Roman Catholic Bishop of Prince Albert

The gathering included engagement with Saskatchewan Bishops, and opportunity for participation in the Praire Symposium taking place through May 1 at the College.

JASON AEBIG, BA
- has been appointed Chair of the St. Thomas More College (STM) Board of Governors effective January 1, 2024.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

JASON AEBIG, BA
- has been appointed Chair of the St. Thomas More College (STM) Board of Governors effective January 1, 2024.

STM Alumni Jason Aebig is the CEO of the Greater Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. As a former business owner and communications professional, he advised senior leaders in many of Saskatchewan’s Top 100 companies, organizations, SMEs, and charities. In 2017, Aebig was recognized for his significant volunteer and community-service by Leadership Saskatoon. He is a former Board Chair for Saskatchewan United Way, Remai Modern, University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association, and most recently served as Board Chair for Sask Arts.

NEW BISHOP OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF SASKATOON

St. Thomas More College welcomed the Most Rev. Michael Smolinski, CSr, newly ordained Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, Wednesday, Jan. 31. Bishop Smolinski celebrated the Liturgy in the STM Chapel with Fr. Andre Lalach, STM Campus Minister and Ukrainian Catholic Priest, and then greeted well-wishers afterward before joining Dr. Carl Still, President of STM College, for a welcome lunch.

Bishop Smolinski attended Holy Cross High School in Saskatoon and obtained a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1994 before going on to obtain a Master of Divinity degree in 2002 from the University of St. Michael’s College. He was ordained to the priesthood on July 5, 2003. Among his other postings, Smolinski was Rector, St. Thomas More College, 2019-2022.

Bishop Smolinski attended Holy Cross High School in Saskatoon and obtained a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1994 before going on to obtain a Master of Divinity degree in 2002 from the University of St. Michael’s College. He was ordained to the priesthood on July 5, 2003. Among his other postings, Smolinski was Rector, St. Thomas More College, 2019-2022.

Firms’ Performance in a Natural Resource-based Economy.

IN THE NEWS

NEW BISHOP OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF SASKATOON

President Carl Still of St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan was pleased to host presenters from the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in Canada (ACCUC) for their spring meeting in Saskatoon, April 29.

L - R Most Reverend Michael Smolinski, CSr - Ukrainian Catholic Bishop of Saskatoon; Most Reverend Mark Hagemoen - Roman Catholic Bishop of Saskatoon; Most Reverend Donald Bolten - Roman Catholic Archbishop of Regina; Dr. Shawn Flynn - President, St. Joseph’s College, Edmonton; Dr. Peter Meehan - President, St. Jerome’s University, Waterloo; Dr. Gordon Roxon, SJ - President, Regis College, Toronto; Dr. Patrick Leroux - Rector, Saint Paul University, Ottawa; Dr. Gerry Turcott - President, St. Mark’s - Corpus Christi, Vancouver; Mr. Rob Harasymchuk, President, St. Peter’s College, Muemster; Dr. Jason West - President, Newman Theological College, Edmonton; Dr. Carl Still - President, St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon; Dr. John Cappuccio - President, Assumption University, Windsor; Dr. Chris Adams - Rector, St. Paul’s College, Winnipeg; Dr. Sami Helewa, SJ - President, Campion College, Regina; Most Reverend Stephen Hero - Roman Catholic Bishop of Prince Albert

The gathering included engagement with Saskatchewan Bishops, and opportunity for participation in the Praire Symposium taking place through May 1 at the College.
STM mourns passing of Leslie Dubé

“All well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have shown you are trustworthy in small things; I will trust you with greater; come forth! The Concorde Group as well had few city connections to help. The establishment of the Leslie and Irene Dubé Service-Learning Program includes annual scholarships for students, ensuring opportunities to engage in valuable community service-learning – benefiting both students and community partners through this relationship.”

Matthew 25:21

The St. Thomas More College (STM) communityourns the passing of Leslie (Les) Dubé on March 13, 2024, and in offering condolences, reflects on the impact of his friendship and generosity.

“We offer our heartfelt condolences to Irene and family as we remember Les Dubé and honour his profound legacy in the community and at STM. Through his devoted service and visionary generosity, Les enriched the life of the College and elevated the learning experience of countless students over the past twenty years,” said STM President Dr. Carl Still (PhD).

Together with his wife Irene, Les Dubé will be remembered and celebrated for his transformative philanthropy. Les served on the boards of numerous trade associations and was a founding member of the Saskatchewan Regional and Economic Development Association (SRED). His strong Catholic faith led him to support his parish council, and as a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, Les & Irene gave generously to numerous charitable organizations in Saskatchewan as well as in Canada and internationally. Les & Irene received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from the University of Saskatchewan in 2007, the SK Order of Merit in 2008, the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ 2013 Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year for North America award, and in 2016, the Order of Canada, our nation’s highest honour.

His long friendship with the College included service on the STM Board of Governors and Corporation as well as a leading role in STM’s For All Seasons campaign in the early 1990s. The Dubés generously inaugurated the Leslie and Irene Dubé Service-Learning Program in 2005 and the Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies in 2012. In 1994, Mr. Dubé was a recipient of the St. Thomas More Medal, the College’s highest recognition.

The Dubés’ passion for STM was grounded in their faith and expressed in an ongoing, committed friendship. Les was a visionary servant leader, whose generosity enabled STM to carry out its vision and mission. Remembering his rural roots, Les was concerned about university students who faced high living expenses but had few city connections to help. The establishment of the Leslie and Irene Dubé Service-Learning Program includes annual scholarships for students, ensuring opportunities to engage in valuable community service-learning – benefiting both students and community partners through this relationship.

Fr. George Smith, CB, former president of STM had this to say about the Dubés’ contributions and influence: “I received the news of Les Dubé’s death with great sadness, but also with profound thanks to God for the life of a truly remarkable Christian gentleman. Of the many memories that I cherish of Les are of course his extraordinary generosity, his humble but unrivaled wisdom and counsel, and his devotion to his family, Church, country and community. But as much as these, I cherish the memory of being able to hold him up to our students as an icon of authentic leadership. He was a man who accomplished great and deserved prominentence in his professional life, but the more successful he became, the more faithful, the more generous, the more loving, he became. That is the success to which we want all of our students to aspire. May he rest in the abodes of God’s eternal love, and may Irene and all members of his beloved family be consolled by his memory.”

Dr. Terrence J. Downey, PhD, President Emeritus of STM, also reflected on the impact that Les had on the College: “In the second year of my presidency, 2012, Les and Irene Dubé donated one million dollars to endow a chair in Catholic Studies at STM, the only such chair in Canada. The Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies enables STM to extend its intellectual leadership beyond its classrooms to the broader Catholic and local communities through public lectures and invited presentations by distinguished scholars.

While this is only one example of the Dubés’ exemplary generosity to STM, the chair they made possible is uniquely positioned to manifest and make accessible to all the essence of the Catholic intellectual tradition. A worthy legacy indeed by this remarkable couple.”

The Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies supports scholarship and research related to Catholic teaching, fosters Catholic education, and promotes ecumenical dialogue and awareness of other faith traditions, most notably through an annual lecture series. At the time of this investment the Dubés expressed their motivation as follows, “We are strong believers in the importance of a College that encourages students to explore both faith and reason, and the Chair in Catholic Studies at St. Thomas More College will be a vital contributor to this environment.”

In a 2005 interview during the launch of the Leslie and Irene Dubé Service-Learning Program, Les made his philanthropic philosophy clear: “We come to this with nothing, and as we leave this world with nothing, in the end, money doesn’t mean anything unless it’s been used to make a difference in the world.”

Les Dubé has most certainly made a difference. And his legacy will continue to live on through the support structures he generously made possible, impacting so many.

Commitment to STM College remembered by good friend

Goodness diffuses itself.
St. Thomas Aquinas

With Les Dubé’s strong commitment to the people of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewhan, he wanted St. Thomas More College (STM) to have a significant influence and public presence in their lives, in our city and across the province. He viewed STM through the eyes and hopes of proud parents who wanted their daughters and sons to have an education as real persons: minds, hearts, and spirit – anchored in faith and friendships. He saw STM as an experience of faith and learning in community for students on campus, including a place where students would meet other students and becomes friends. “Even a few marriages,” Les told me. “And John, STM has to be visible in what it stands for. STM should not be a secret.”

Les, as a member of the STM Board, while also serving as the Chair of St. Paul’s Hospital Board, initiated STM’s For All Seasons fundraising campaign in 1990. He served on the three-person campaign steering committee, offering informed and judicious advice to the newly elected STM president who knew nothing of the fundraising. He told me I could call him anytime I needed. When I called him in Arizona in winter, he answered the phone, gently laughing at our contrast temperatures above 70F and below -20C. He gave me sage, supportive advice, closing our conversation with, “John, you can tell them I said so.” I did. It worked. Les ensured the success of the College’s first fundraising campaign. He was insistent the College establish a regular fundraising office and helped choose Don Gorsalitz as STM’s first fundraising director. He shrewdly negotiated STM’s purchase of Pus’s X Seminary for a student residence. Ogle Hall. Ogle Hall became the most desired residence on campus, known for its strong study environment and supportive community. And good food. As we were setting up the residence, Les told us that “an army marches on its stomach, so good food is the first priority for Ogle Hall. It turns out students do well when they eat well. We had good opportuni ties over meals, when the residence feels like home, when students make

Irene and Leslie Dubé

rules ensuring hours of studying every evening with high academic achievement as the norm. Father Ron Griffin, CSB was the wise and caring faculty member living there, setting the example of friendship. Don Gorsalitz expertly managed the whole facility, ensuring good housing and good food.

Les undid and intended all these efforts to make STM visible, substantial and attractively visible, for its values and caring relationships with students in the spirit and practices of our Basillian founders.

In 1994, STM publicly celebrated Mr. Leslie Dubé with the St. Thomas More Medal which was established to recognize and honor persons, groups of persons, and organizations which have combined personal qualities of care, integrity, and faith with significant contributions to community and public life.

Les’s values in practice made the Thomas More Medal sing in surpassing its former self.

In my lasting friendship with Les and Irene Dubé, personally and for the College, I say thank you. We will miss you greatly. Les, yet we will continue to be inspired by your spirit and faith, generosity and hard-headedness, your great smile and handshake, your abiding commitment as a person for community. These values inspire us as we collaborate with learning students. STM will and will be continued to be graced in your friendship, your goodness.

by Dr. John Thompson

Then-President of STM, Terrence Downey, Leslie and Irene Dubé, and Bishop Don Bolen at the announcement of the Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies in 2012

Connie Andersen 306-966-8203

Irene and Leslie Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies

The Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies at St. Thomas More College will be a vital contributor to STM College’s highest recognition. The Dubés generously inaugurated the Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies in 2012. In 1994, Mr. Dubé was a recipient of the St. Thomas More Medal, the College’s highest recognition. To help support the funding of STM’s Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies please donate online at stm-college.ca or contact: Connie Andersen 306-966-8203
On Dec. 7, 2023, members of the STM Lawyers’ Guild gathered in the St. Thomas More Chapel for the 19th Annual Red Mass at the College. Red Mass is a celebration to invoke the inspiration of the Holy Spirit on those of all faiths involved in the administration of justice in our community.

A reception dinner followed, and the Guild used the proceeds from dinner ticket sales to donate more than $1,300 to support scholarships and bursaries at St. Thomas More College.

“The members of the St. Thomas More Lawyers’ Guild have very much missed this event,” said Master of Ceremonies Michelle Ouellette, K.C. “And so, we are very happy to have the chance to formally mark what is meant to be a celebration of the opening of the courts.”

“Thank you for your attendance this evening – and for the support you’re giving to our students as they face higher costs to complete their education,” said Dr. Carl Still, President of STM College, in greeting the members of the legal profession in attendance at the event. “The renewal of Red Mass today gives us an opportunity to celebrate our ongoing relationship – and to thank all of you for your expertise and conscientious service as Catholic lawyers and judges.”

Red Mass returns to STM


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The public was invited to peer into the past at a special exhibit sponsored by the Classical, Medieval, & Renaissance Studies (CMRS) and Special Collections, Murray Library.

Medieval Wonders: Maps and Manuscripts

The public was invited to peer into the past at a special exhibit sponsored by the Classical, Medieval, & Renaissance Studies (CMRS) and Special Collections, Murray Library.

Medieval Wonders: Maps and Manuscripts featured an exhibition of reproductions and original manuscripts from the Middle Ages, as well as a talk by STM’s Dr. Sharon Wright, Director of Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, on the most famous medieval map, the Hereford Mappa Mundi. Students from Map of Mundi class and from Dr. Frank Klaassen’s Manuscript Class shared their expertise with the public at the event.

In Memoriam

REMEMBERED WARMLY

Dr. Earl Blewett
Crest Bobin
Terry Boucher
Fr. Ian Boyd, CSB
Fr. Bernard de Margerie
Ann DeVito
Martin “Joe” Donlevy
Leslie Dubé
Donna Elder

David Hengen
Shari Hoehn
Al Hubbs
Stanley Baptiste Lafond
John Thomas Maroney
David Makuch
Finton Marche
Fr. James McConica, CSB
Julie Muir
Ava Novecosky

Chris Novecosky
Joe Novecosky
Brosi Nutting
Harley Penner
Katherine Reddekopp
Paul Richert
Anita Riffel
Lloyd Zimmerman

Eternal rest grant unto 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.
Pastoral Care in Catholic Universities

Vatican City conference

by Michael MacLean

This past November, it was my honour and privilege to attend the first conference put on by the newly integrated Dicastery of Culture and Education, entitled, “Towards a Polyhedral Vision: Conference on Pastoral Care in Catholic Universities” in Vatican City. Its purpose was for “Strengthening Catholic Campus Ministry for Spiritual Nurturing, Cultural Engagement and Community Building.” There were 44 countries represented, with over 200 participants. I went representing St. Thomas More College, but also, as the only Canadian campus minister in attendance, represented the other organizations I work with: Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry, the association I serve as Vice Chair; their sister organization, the Canadian Catholic Students Association, whose executive I work with and mentor; the International Movement of Catholic Students (Chaplaincy Commission); and last but not least, Vocations Canada (formerly the National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors NAFVD). I owe being able to serve locally and nationally, as a campus minister, but also as a lay person.

The conference was held on the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, in which he launched his call for the Church’s pastoral care to take on the model of the polyhedron, a three-dimensional shape with flat polygonal faces, straight edges, and sharp corners. The conference kicked off with an excellent presentation by the Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça on “Proclaiming the Gospel in the University”. He talked about how the Church on Campus must be inclusive and synodal, and explained how Pope Francis’ polyhedral vision encourages us to look at things in all-inclusive terms and understand reality holistically. He remarked about how the vision of the polyhedron can help us, the way it has many faces. It is not one single point of view or thought. He said that the university community possesses a wide diversity which we must approach with a pastoral point of view. I think we all go for all of us looking to create a culture of vocation.

The next address was by Antonio Spadaro, S.J., on “Igniting the Imagination”. What an engaging topic! He spoke about how our lives are a preparation for the future, but we cannot be ready if we lack IMAGINATION. He talked about the images Jesus used in the Gospel in describing the Kingdom of God: Banquets, treasures, servants, landowners, maidens, bridalgowns: all stories to capture the imagination, requiring non-rigid thinking. He said that discernment is seeking and discovering God in everything, a truth that is close to everyone associated with Vocations Canada. He also added that we need cultural discernment, reading the university environment to see where the Spirit is working. It’s not about choosing God or the world. Can we be open and sensitive to profound discernment in finding God in secularism and pluralism? Is it a challenge to the imagination?

It was such an exciting moment when the conference was addressed by Pope Francis. He outlined his talk with three points: “To appreciate the world. Can we be open and sensitive to profound discernment in finding God in secularism and pluralism? It is a challenge to the imagination! The people in Campus Ministry and the worshipping community have not only allowed me to continue the journey in my faith, but also given me opportunities to learn more about others who share my faith. Just like me, many international students can find arriving in a foreign country very intimidating. Finding people who have similar experiences will make you realize that you are not alone. Campus Ministry brings people together.

Your generous financial support would be greatly appreciated by the students from all over the world who have found community through Campus Ministry at STM College.

With gratitude,

STM campus Minister Michael MacLean had the opportunity to meet Pope Francis.

In a serendipitous moment, Michael met Saskatoon’s former bishop, Archbishop Don Bolen outside St. Peter’s Basilica!

STM Campus Ministry makes difference

Welcoming community offers students chance to connect, grow in faith

My name is Ashton Plus Shashank. I’m a third-year engineering student, and quite an introvert.

My first time travelling alone to a foreign country was in 2018 when I came to Canada from Malaysia to study at the University of Saskatchewan.

When I first arrived, I spent most of my time in school or in my apartment and rarely made any effort to meet people. This is isolating for an international student, but Campus Ministry at STM helped me open up.

I’m writing to you to ask you to support the people in Campus Ministry who changed everything for me.

I grew up in a Catholic family who went to church every weekend, so I was quite happy in my first week exploring the city to find the STM Chapel on campus. Through my visits to STM Chapel, a warm welcome from the STM Campus Ministry team members, I was able to meet other international students who were facing similar challenges.

My new friends and I would spend holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas together, which really helped me with living away from home and my family. I felt a sense of belonging at STM.

By supporting Campus Ministry, you too are changing the lives of STM students.

Being invited to attend events such as coffee and snacks after Mass gave me the opportunity to build relationships that I still have today.

Additionally, the people in Campus Ministry also gave me the opportunity to volunteer and be a part of the service, which I really enjoyed, and was not able to do at the church back home.

I have really thrived because of the support that I received from the caring team in Campus Ministry at STM.

Your donation can help ensure STM continues to be a welcoming environment of learning and growth.

From the moment I arrived in Canada I realized that I needed to overcome my challenge with talking to people and building connections.

I will forever be grateful to be given the opportunity to become the sacristan for the STM chapel. This job is guiding me to overcome my fear by allowing me to talk to the volunteers and help them in the tasks they are assigned.

Being able to connect with others is an important part of my well-being and will help me be successful in my studies. I have been a student sacristan for two and a half academic years and when I first started right after the pandemic, there was barely anyone coming for Mass.

It makes me happy now to see my community and circle of friends at STM grow.

There are many people and many more students coming to STM, thanks to the support of Campus Ministry. Many student volunteers have spoken to have told me that coming to STM is a way for them to de-stress and that it aids with their mental health.

I hope you will make a gift today to help ensure others like me can continue their journey in faith and in life as a student.

Ashton Shakshank volunteers with STM Campus Ministry and loves the events where he connects with other students.

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STM Event Spotlights Career Paths in Book Publishing
Students offered industry insight with panel of authors
by Jacquie Berg

At St. Thomas More College (STM) students often request to learn more about prospective career pathways, and opportunities to use their degrees post graduation. Previous career-readiness events offered through the College helped support students in their preparation for job searches and articulation of skills as they near graduation.

This year STM chose to highlight the book publishing industry, as this has been an area of repeat requests for pathway support. English also remains one of the College’s busiest departments, and STM also produces a successful students’ liberal arts journal – in medias res – published twice annually.


As Executive Director with SaskBooks, the provincial creative industry association for book publishers in Saskatchewan, Jillian Bell brought to the panel more than 20 years working in the publishing industry having served on the Boards of Directors of the SK Writers’ Guild, the SK Book Awards, the Willow Awards, her local library, and other nonprofits. Bell is also a writer and freelance editor whose work has been published in anthologies, periodicals, newspapers, and syndicated online content.

Bell received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English, with an Advanced Certificate in Linguistics from the University of Saskatchewan, and completed a Masters in Public/Non-Profit Administration with the University of Regina/Johnson-Shoyama School of Public Policy.

Joining Bell was Heather Hataley, Joanne Paulson, and Cynthia Wallace. Heather Hataley, the youngest author and previous STM student, is an author of new-adult dystopian novels A Collection of Scars and A Burden of Love. Her passion for reading, writing, and learning more about the human condition led her to earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a History minor at the University of Saskatchewan. Hataley also works as a group fitness and music instructor, or volunteering in her local performing arts community.

Joanne Paulson received her Bachelor of Arts degree through USask (Political Science and English minor). Offering considerable insight for attendees, her career path included jobs as a reporter, editor at the StarPhoenix, editor in chief for the Western Producer, event organizer, communications professional, columnist, speaker, mentor and reviewer. Today Paulson’s focus is that of a newspaper columnist, freelance writer, author of novels, and editor of books.

From a scholarly writing perspective, STM’s Associate Professor Cynthia Wallace was another valuable author providing insight. Wallace received her PhD in English from Loyola University, Chicago in 2012 and has been teaching at STM since then. She teaches, researches, and writes at the intersections of contemporary literature, women’s writing, decolonizing literatures, ethics, and religion. Her scholarly, creative, and critical work has appeared in numerous journals, magazines, and literary journals. Her first book O/Men: A Literary Ethics of Suffering, was published in 2016, and her second book, The Literary Afterlives of Simone Wei: Feminism, Justice, and the Challenge of Religion was published in May 2024, both by Columbia University Press.

An opportunity for students to ask additional questions followed and the event closed with questions followed and the event closed with thanks and the SK Book Awards, the Willow Awards, her local library, and other nonprofits. Bell is also a writer and freelance editor whose work has been published in anthologies, periodicals, newspapers, and syndicated online content.

Bell told the audience that ‘publishing is at its core the business side of the artist’s perspective of writing and illustrating.’ With that she spoke to process, workflow, industry changes and direction, along with the challenges of effective marketing to ensure success.

Additionally, whether self-publishing or finding a publisher, Bell reminded attendees of the business side of the artistic endeavor - whether the plan be to publish or support those that do.

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

Do you have a great story about your Newman days that you’d like to share? We would love to hear them! We’re gathering stories and photos now, to help celebrate the upcoming 100th anniversary of the first Newman Society at USask. Would you be interested in being a member of the Newman 100th Anniversary Planning committee? Please email Kari at ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca with your fun memory and to learn more about getting involved.
My Recruitment Internship at STM

by Michelle Gall

I had the pleasure to intern with St. Thomas More College (STM) Student Recruitment for the 2023-2024 academic year. Interning with STM Recruitment has allowed me to travel, meet new people, learn about different careers, and experience the unique classes offered students a glance into social media posts based on the unique "Snapshots," in which I created and worked on a social media project using Microsoft Suite and Canva. I was able to be creative—making social media posts and gave me a deeper insight into the unique classes offered at STM.

In the fall term of the 2023-2024 academic year, I traveled to various high schools across Saskatchewan, meeting and talking with prospective students and visiting a multitude of Saskatchewan towns and cities. Along with seeing different small-town attractions like Watson's giant Santa statue, or following the beautiful fall scenery leading to Meadow Lake, traveling also allowed me to have many wonderful conversations with prospective students at various school and career fairs. I conversed with over 100 students during my travels, telling them about STM's amazing student services and unique areas of study.

Additionally, attending these career fairs has helped with event planning and organization skills, along with the opportunity to improve through practice my public speaking, as it forced me to step outside of my comfort zone and learn to give thoughtful and engaging presentations. Something I had not had the chance to do before. Not only did I have the chance to meet new students through this internship, but I was also able to reconnect with those students both electronically and in person.

Through the STM Recruitment internship, I also had the chance to learn different technological skills, becoming better acquainted with applications like Microsoft Suite and Canva. I was able to be creative—making social media posts and designs and writing captivating captions—while also learning more standard computer skills like data input and the organization of Excel documents. I also worked on a social media project called "Snapshots," in which I created social media posts based on the unique classes offered at STM. This social media series offered students a glance into different STM classes, some showcasing their intriguing topics and others highlighting their exciting projects. For example, PTL 261 asked students to create and perform traditional Filipino love songs and CMRS 111 discussed topics like religious warfare and witchcraft in the 16th century. The "Snapshots" project was a great project to work on, as it allowed me to use my creative skills to design social media posts and gave me a deeper insight into the unique classes offered at STM.

STM also held a career event in February 2024 called "Career Insights and Industry Spotlight," that I was able to help with and attend. This event focused on the publishing industry, showcasing a panel of distinguished guests who work in different areas of this industry and offering students a glance into different parts of the industry and pathways into publishing. Not only was I able to help with parts of the set-up for this event, but I was also able to attend the event and learn more about an industry that supports the liberal arts by highlighting some successful career paths for liberal arts grads. I learned many things through this event, both about the set-up and organization of an event, and about the opportunities the publishing industry can provide to students interested in this career path.

My time at St. Thomas More College has been a great asset in both my personal and professional life, arming me with skills I can apply to future careers, while allowing me to witness amazing provincial landscapes and connect with prospective students through travel. I also met and worked with many wonderful colleagues and mentors who supported me with helpful advice and encouragement throughout the duration of my time at STM. Ultimately, interning with STM Recruitment has been an exciting and educational journey, helping me to develop new skills, providing me with opportunities to travel and see new locations, and allowing me to speak to prospective students about opportunities through STM for their post-secondary education.

Empowering Students Through Engaged Learning: A Journey of Connection and Growth

by Yuan (Tina) Zheng

During my terms at St. Thomas More College, I’ve been consistently impressed by the vibrant atmosphere on campus, characterized by enthusiastic students and a supportive network of services that cater to academic and spiritual well-being. The deep-rooted connection with the community is palpable. Witnessing students being uplifted and influenced by more than just their academic studies—through on-campus activities, events, and community service—I am profoundly thankful for my role in the Engaged Learning Office, fostering various advocacy initiatives.

Community Service-Learning: stmcollege.ca/csl

Cultivating Compassion: Reflections from the Service and Justice Project

In our Community Service and Justice Project, students wrapped up their annual program in April, cherishing the camaraderie and sharing experiences.

"The group meetings to discuss volunteer experiences and social justice issues were enlightening," reflected one student. Another shared, "The community support was exceptional, offering insights into fellow volunteers’ journeys and shaping our vision for just societies." This sense of belonging and eagerness to continue contributing to the Service and Justice Project is testament to its impact.

Enriching Academia: Experiential Learning with the Museum of Antiquities

At the Engaged Learning Office, we’re dedicated to fostering connections that address the diverse needs of professors and students alike.

This term, students in ENG 286—Courtly Love and Medieval Romance—explored the role of a museum coordinator, collaborating with the Museum of Antiquities for an enriching hands-on experience. Beyond planning and presenting an exhibition, they delved deeper into the subject matter, gaining insights into potential career paths.
STM Professor Guest Lectures in Saskatoon High schools:

STM Recruitment continues to offer guest lecture opportunities by our College professors to Saskatoon high schools. For more information on how to participate in this initiative, contact lhuard@stmcollege.ca.

Thank you to the following STM faculty who volunteered in 2023-2024 to participate in this valuable initiative:

Dr. Carrie Arbuckle, Dr. Chris Hrynkow, Dr. Saeed Moshiri, Dr. Michael Cichon, Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk and Dr. Henri Biahé

STM Class Snapshots

The best course recommendations come from those who’ve experienced the classes firsthand. This year, professors invited Linda Huard, STM’s Recruitment Officer and Academic Advisor, and intern Michelle Gall to sit in on unique lectures to get a feeling for the classes we offer at the College.

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As the school year comes to a close, the editorial board of In Medias Res can look back on their work with pride.

The team accomplished several firsts, including the first time that the group has produced three themed issues in one year. Another first was participating in the Fall Festival, handing out candy apples to grateful attendees. Along with the launch parties for the “Decay,” “Traditions,” and “Of the Mind” issues, the group hosted creative events for students including a Valentine’s themed crafting event. The Fill Your Heart with Art event encouraged students to make art as a wellness break, promoting the year’s final issue that focused on mental health. Featured in “Of the Mind” is a section on campus resources by Peer Health, a dedicated group of students who promote student wellness.

Print copies of the journal can be found throughout the College. The digital version/previous issues are available at stmcollege.ca/imr.

Dr. Carrie Arbuckle’s high school presentation covered topics on how pop culture depicts ancient civilizations; how technology helps archaeologists (3d printed models, visual guides), and insight on her own experience as an archaeologist (her specialty, pictures of some of her projects, and information on the classes that she teaches). Arbuckle also brought some 3d models of relics, papyrus, pigment and wood samples.

Dr. Saeed Moshiri’s presentation for a class of students at St. Joe’s high school included a banking simulation for a financial literacy class, where he had the students play a “game” where they learned about how bonds work, reserve funds, and other borrower/lender issues.

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Thanks to our generous sponsors, STM College was able to offer over $280,000 in scholarships and bursaries to our students in 2023-2024.

USASK UKRAINIAN AWARDS
Administered by STM

John Russell Kowalchuk Award(s) in Ukrainian Studies
Rebejka Jasmin

Stephen J. Porayko Scholarship
Will Kushniryk

Michael Sytnick Memorial Scholarship
Will Kushniryk

Annie Panych Scholarship
Rebejka Jasmin

2023/2024 STM BURSARY AWARDS

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Margaret C. Dutli Award
Donor: Margaret C. Dutli – 1@$5500

Matt and Beth Hertz Bursary
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Christine Hudek Bursary
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Jenny Korolewich Bursary
Donor: Descendants of Jenny Korolewich – 1@$1,200

Nasser Family Award
Donor: Dr. Kay and Mrs. Dora Nasser – 1@$5000

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

STUDENTS - Information about scholarships and bursaries is online at: stmcollege.ca/awards

Awards applications are due Oct. 1, 2024

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23
Celebrating 25 Years for PCUH
by Paul Sinkiwicz

Anniversary celebrations are meant to be full of joy, but marking 25 years since the creation of the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH) at STM College was a bittersweet occasion.

As a second year of conflict raged Ukraine, with its neighbour Russia threatening its existence, with war refugees seeking shelter in Saskatchewan, and with its diaspora in the province grieving so much needless death and destruction, Dr. Nadya Foty-Onechuk, Interim Director of PCUH said the work of the Centre has never been more critical.

“Our silver anniversary happens to come at a time when our ancestral homeland, which is so much a part of our teaching and research, continues to be under brutal attack,” she said.

“We know our work is more important than ever before, and that we must be diligent in our support of Ukraine and Ukrainian studies.”

Foty-Onechuk was speaking on Jan. 24, 2024 at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, which was hosting an exhibit of posters from PCUH events over the years. They included myriad public lectures, conferences, book launches, and student events, and all spoke to the critical role the centre plays in creating an awareness of the history, politics and culture of Ukraine.

“As evidenced on the walls of this gallery, we continue to strive to curate a wide variety of opportunities for engagement and community, which speak to the dynamic nature of who we have become over the last quarter century,” Foty-Onechuk said. “We continue to ask who we are, especially in this new world – one where Ukraine is no longer relegated to being simply an ill-understood post-Soviet space; and one in which Ukrainians all over the world are proudly re-examining who they are in relation to the place that their people came from.”

He paid homage to past president of STM College, Dr. John Thompson, and the other dedicated supporters who helped make PCUH a reality, and to its other past directors, Rev. Dr. Myroslav Tataryn and Dr. Natalia Khamenko-Friesen.

Kordan said several objectives were identified that defined the centre’s mandate. They included engaging the wider public so there might be a fuller understanding and appreciation of the historical role that Ukrainian Canadians played in the country, to broaden the interest in Ukrainian-Canadian heritage, to assist Ukrainian Canadians adapt and contribute to Canada’s national culture through education and community development, and to enhance the natural connection between the community and academia while promoting the idea of living heritage as a necessary feature in its continuing vitality, viability, and growth.

“The posters on display are but a sample of the more than 100 projects and initiatives undertaken by the PCUH,” Kordan said. “They all speak to the success of PCUH as a centre of academic excellence, but one that is also rooted in the life of the community.”

Working, Learning, Living - Lesya Sabada in Africa
by Jacquie Berg

In summer 2023, Lesya Sabada (senior instructor for the departments of Religion and Culture, and Catholic Studies at STM) visited and worked in Africa, travelling to Namibia followed by the Republic of Congo, and then to Ethiopia. Her ambitious, exciting, and sometimes risky travel adventures proved inspirational and mission-affirming.

Sabada spent one week in Ethiopia speaking as an Eastern Christian theologian to the Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA) and led a workshop starting on the International Basin’s ecosystems and traumatized animals.”

Photos: 
• PCUH books 
• Sociologist Dr. Alan Anderson, who gave a lecture sponsored by PCUH in 2020,台风
• Dr. Nadya Foty-Onechuk, Interim Director of PCUH, said the war in Ukraine endorses the importance of the work of the Centre.
• Dr. Bohdan Kordan was the first director of the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage.
• PCUH books

As travel, learning, and friendships continued, Sabada noted that her days in the Congo Basin had expanded purpose. They were spent “going rilla trekking to contribute to the research of a world-famous Spanish primatologist Magdalena Bermejo and also to learn about the Congo Basin’s ecosystems and traumatized animals.”
Road to Reconciliation made easier by grace of knowledge keepers, gifts of storytellers

By Paul Sinkewicz

When you are on a long journey, sometimes, it is gratifying to take a quiet moment of reflection to pause, appreciate the road behind, and get a new perspective on the road ahead before starting again.

That moment came for St. Thomas More College recently on its journey toward truth and reconciliation with Indigenous people. At a luncheon to thank Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Lyndon Linklater for sharing his time with STM students while visiting nine different classes during the winter semester, he turned the tables and offered a word of thanks to the College.

“I want to acknowledge your institution, St. Thomas More College,” Linklater said. “Way to go!”

“I’ve seen so much hope being created with the things STM is doing. Truth and reconciliation is happening right across our country, and it’s so good that Canadian people are learning about our history, learning about the past and coming up with their own perspectives based on the truth about our history. And they’re doing things that are changing how they function. And so, this is an example, what STM is doing.”

Linklater recently offered STM faculty and staff the chance to participate in a sweat lodge ceremony at the Dakota Whitecap First Nation to get them further on their reconciliation journey.

“And my hope is that the students will have an opportunity in the future to participate in one, should they choose,” said Linklater. “It’s a wonderful thing to observe and to be a part. So, I thank STM, as we thank you, for your leadership, and I encourage you to continue walking on this journey.”

Dr. Carl Still, president of STM College, expressed appreciation and presented Linklater with a token of thanks for his work at the College. Linklater follows in the footsteps of Sol Sanderson, renowned scholar for his work on Indigenous issues and a mentor, who brought his own style of storytelling to STM last year.

Dr. Tammy Marche, Dean of STM College, emphasized that it is an integral part of the College Plan to build capacity for Authentic Indigenization at STM. “It’s really wonderful to see the integration of Indigenous knowledge, culture and ceremony into what we do at the College,” said Marche.

Most of the presentations Linklater gave were either beside, or inside, the teepee housed in the STM Chapel, and Marche said the feedback she got from faculty and students was that the experiences were incredibly valuable and really connected with the students.

All the presentations were recorded and will be available through the Shannon Library at STM.

Harry Lafond, STM Scholar in Indigenous Education, told the luncheon crowd that the Indigenous way of life has not been fully incorporated into educational institutions and it’s an area that needs to continue to develop.

He said the holistic treatment of subject areas and the context of some of the фактор inside conceptual knowledge we deal with in classrooms are handled differently, and it allows students to challenge their perspectives.

“Storytelling is important,” said Lafond. “People like Lyndon offer us a way to enrich the learning environment of our institutions, and we should continue to incorporate it. That’s Indigenization.”

The path of reconciliation is one that must bear the imprints of the footsteps of us all. It is not a short journey, but one that needs to be walked together, said创造 a future where mutual respect, understanding, and inclusivity are the norm.

STM College (STM) has been walking this road since 2012, after members of its faculty and staff attended Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada hearings. Since then, Indigenous Engagement has been integrated into the College’s strategic plan. Now called Authentic Indigenization, it is one of the five priority areas for the College.

STM has established an Indigenous Advisory Circle, appointed Harry Lafond as the STM Scholar in Indigenous Education, and began to raise funds to establish a Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation. It has incorporated Indigenous ceremony into its events, ceremonies and even religious services, as respectfully as possible while learning along the way. Authentic indigenization and reconciliation are a part of every decision made at STM College, in one way or another.

For the last five years, I have been on this path with my friends at STM.

It has been a journey of deep moving experiences. But nothing has been as powerful as being invited into Lyndon’s family sweat lodge. Many of my friends on the staff and faculty of STM College who attended expressed similar feelings.

Lyndon explained the lodge was constructed in the traditional way of the Ojibway people, as taught by him by his father. In the centre of the gathering space outside the entrance to the lodge was a mound of earth to represent the buffalo hump and a placed buffalo skull on top, to represent the traditional ways of the Plains First Nations, like the Cree, Dakota, Nako-ta and Assiniboia, to name a few.

The sweat lodge ceremony traditionally has four rounds. With more rocks brought in from the firepit burning outside after each round ends. The heat and steam build each time the flap is closed again.

Lyndon says to take part in a sweat is to purify one’s imperfect self and to exit reborn, as if from a womb. A sweat is an apt description of the inside of a sweat lodge. It is both a solitary experience, and completely communal. There is a feeling of connection to the warm earth on which we sit, the birch boughs at our backs, and the rocks providing the warmth – and to each other, through the sharing aloud of our personal thoughts and prayers.

Each time the flap is opened, the escaping vapours carry our prayers with them, along with our admissions of failings and our feelings of gratitude.

I’ll express out loud one of my feelings of gratitude here:

Our sweat lodge experience that day in April was guided by a generous man whose own parents survived residential schools, and was aided by his friend, Billy – a Sixties Scoop survivor who was my own age, but who had spent a lifetime of suffering disconnected from his own culture before finding his way back.

Their gifts to us were humbling.

As we shared salmon, berries and soup and barbecue after the sweat, I asked Lyndon if he had children or grandchildren.

And, of course, he is a grandfather.

He had been waiting for me. He was happy to see me.

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STM College appoints Ann Donald to post of STM Gallery curator

Ann Broeymans-Donald is a Saskatoon artist who has been in numerous group and solo exhibitions in many cities throughout Canada and Holland. She has lived and taught art in Saskatoon for more than 20 years, and was formerly the liaison for Holy Cross high school art students participating in STM’s annual Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSSCS) Student Art Exhibition at the College. Ann began her new position at the College on December 1, taking over from Linda Stark, who dedicated many years to the STM Gallery and overseeing the collection of the College.

Ann didn’t waste any time getting to work, preparing a new exhibit featuring a Selection of Artists from the Studio on 20th Street. It ran from January to March. Ann holds degrees related to creating art and teaching art from Mount Allison, Concordia University, University of Western, York University and a Kunst Academy in Enschede, Holland.

In the fall, Ann graciously curated an exhibit at the STM Gallery held in conjunction with the Annual Fall Gathering of Alumni and Friends. Her works are an expression of light, colour and form in landscapes, portraits, figures and still life in a variety of media painting, drawing, collage, and pottery. A connection to nature is often the inspiration for her use of the elements and principles of design, drawing, collage, and pottery. A connection to nature is often the inspiration for her use of the elements and principles of design, drawing, collage, and pottery. A connection to nature is often the inspiration for her use of the elements and principles of design, drawing, collage, and pottery.

Having received her Bachelor of Arts in English (High Honours) from UofA, Connie began her career in Phoenix, Arizona returning with her family to Saskatoon in 2014 to take on the role of Director of Community Development at Inclusion Saskatchewan. While in this role Connie developed and implemented a successful fund development plan, managed a large portfolio of annual pledged donors, and served as editor of Road Map to the Future, a Financial Planning Guide for Families. She achieved her Certified Fund-Raising Executive (CFRE) certification in 2020.

Andersen joins Kari Sinkewicz, Manager of Development and Alumni Relations, to establish a shared vision and direction for a full-scale institutional advancement program, including the development and execution of programs that attain campaign and fundraising goals. Connie will oversee a diverse revenue generation structure including prospect identification and management, major gifts, planned giving programs, major campaigns, sponsorships, community partnerships, alumni relations, donor relations, and special events.

In her short time in the role, Connie has reflected her genuine passion for STM and its mission, eager to connect with the community and fellow alumni to ensure our support for the College.

STM Expands IT Support

Earl Bernardo joins STM in the position of IT Helpdesk Support Technician. Reporting to Stacy Stillwell, Manager of Information Technology, Earl will provide helpdesk support to STM faculty, staff, and students.

Earl is a graduate of the Computer Networking Technician program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic in Regina. Earl served as IT Technician at Business Cents Technology, providing comprehensive user support through both on-site visits and remote assistance, utilizing various remote software tools, email, and phone communication.
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. The St. Thomas More College life resonates with the mission of the College — courageously applies their gifts for the good of humanity.

Characteristics of a nominee:
- makes a significant contribution to their community
- continues to celebrate their relationship with St. Thomas More College or the Newman Alumni Association
- makes a significant financial contribution to the College

Eligibility:
- Arts and Science USask Undergraduate degree/certificate holders who were declared as STM students at the time of Graduation, and/or
- STM faculty, staff, Alumni Association Committee Members, and past members of the STM Board of Governors are eligible for this award.

Nomination process:
You will have the opportunity to propose a name of a nominee, contact information, and a few points that will help us understand why you feel your nominee would be a deserving recipient.

We will add your name to the list of potential candidates and contact you again if we have additional questions.

Based on the nominations received, the committee will identify which candidates will be officially nominated.

The nomination packages will be developed and finalized by the Distinguished Alumni Adjudication committee by mid-July every year.

These nominees will be presented to the full STMNAA Committee for approval and then recommended to the College President.

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

Recommendations submitted by June 1, 2024 will be considered by the adjudication committee this summer.

Thank you submitting!
Alumni keep in touch! To provide a change of address, please contact Kari Sinkewicz - ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca or 306•966.8918

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St. Thomas More College
“Courageously exploring the riches of Revelation and of nature so that the united endeavour of intelligence and faith will enable people to come to the full measure of their humanity”
Ex corde ecclesiae, 5

STM Student QUICK LINKS

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

If you would prefer to receive an electronic version of the newsletter please contact ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca

Alumni keep in touch! To provide a change of address, please contact Kari Sinkewicz - ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca or 306•966.8918

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