

More news

Spring/Summer2024



STUDENT SUPPORT

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



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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STM Spring & Summer Course Offerings

2024 Classes - Register through PAWS

Spring: May 6-June 21

- CTST 200.3 Introduction to Catholic Studies
Fully Online Asynchronous
- CPSJ 112.3 Introduction to Peace Studies
Fully Online Asynchronous
- RLST 111.3 Asian Religions
Fully Online Asynchronous
- RLST 229.3 Religion and Sport
Mon., Wed. 130-3:50 pm; Dr. Chris Hrynokw

Quarter 2: June 3-21

- RLST 112.3 Western Religions in Society and Culture
Fully Online Asynchronous

Summer: July 2-Aug. 15

- CPSJ 112.3 Introduction to Peace Studies
Fully Online Asynchronous

Check out STM offerings at stmcollege.ca/study-here

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

STM Long Service Awards 2024 *Thank you!*

Recognizing faculty and staff with years of service to St. Thomas More College.

10 YRS

Monica Hwang
Tony Wurtz
Zachary Yuzwa

15 YRS

Nadya Foty-Oneschuk
Amanda Gieni
Saeed Moshiri

20 YRS

Daniel Regnier
Kerry Stefaniuk
Don Wiebe

St. Thomas More College Board of Governors



(L-R) Jason Aebig (Chair) • Neil Reddekopp (Vice-Chair/Treasurer) • Christopher Boychuk • Michelle Blackmon • Melvin Gerspacher • Dr. Helen Horsman • Sister Anne Lewans • Dr. Saeed Moshiri (Faculty member) • Dr. Carl Still (President) • Henry Thiessen (STM Student Member)

More news Spring/Summer 2024

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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 question 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 the success of a liberal arts education: by graduates 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 fulfilment in life? Or some combination of all three?

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

- It contributes to human knowledge through its research.

- It has a commitment to service to the Church (the “people of God”) and humanity (the “human family”).

Thus, Ex Corde 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 Israeli Jews 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 USask 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;

how new Canadians can play a role in reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; how the news we hear can affect our mental health, and how to protect ourselves without tuning out the world; how palliative care can be extended into long-term care settings; and the list goes on. If you listen for the themes in these examples of scholarly research, it’s not hard to find issues that a Catholic liberal arts college should be dealing with: engagement with the world, concern for justice, compassion for human suffering – what Ex Corde calls the “ethical concern” that is an essential part of research at a Catholic university.

Of course, all of that is barely a thumbnail sketch of what STM does on a daily basis to educate and provide for the needs of students. But, incomplete as it is, it depicts a Catholic college that is engaged with the “great problems” of our time. In fact, it makes clear that a college cannot be genuinely Catholic – in the sense of aligned with Ex Corde – and be irrelevant to its times. So the dichotomy between being a Catholic college and being relevant is a false one. But even a robust case for relevance does not guarantee impact. We must not shy away from the metrics that tell us how well our recent graduates are doing in their transition to the workforce; how well equipped they are to participate in the civic life of our society; and – last but not least – whether the formation they received at STM is contributing to their sense of meaning and purpose in life. A Catholic liberal arts college should aspire to doing well on all three of these measures. Doing so would not only affirm our mission and relevance but show a positive contribution to the social good.

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

DEAN'S MESSAGE



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. And a special congratulations to Kylee-Anne Hingston and Fachrizal Halim for receiving a STM Teaching Excellence Award and to Celene Sidloski for receiving the 2024 USSU Teaching Excellence Award. Congratulations to those STM faculty who received grants and published reports, articles, and books during the past 12 months, some of which are highlighted later in the newsletter.

Finally, congratulations, and thank you, to Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Lyndon Linklater and STM's Authentic Indigenization Action Group for giving the Dean's office the opportunity to provide students and faculty with a wonderful learning opportunity this past term. Students in nine of our classes heard Mr. Linklater speak about topics such as authentic Indigenization and reconciliation, Indigenous peacebuilding, storytelling, the history of the Indian Act, Indigenous culture, and treaty implementation. Most of these presentations included smudges in the chapel and if the class was small enough, the class was held in the teepee in the chapel.

STM has been proud to be the academic home for the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH) since it was established in 1998. In January, a reception was held at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada to celebrate a quarter-century of PCUH's unwavering commitment to Ukrainian heritage. The museum also showcased posters spanning 25 remarkable years of Mohyla Lectures at the Centre. Conceived as a community-university partnership and supported by endowed funds and individual contributions, the Centre is seen as an important link between the University of Saskatchewan, St. Thomas More College, and the Ukrainian-Canadian community. PCUH is, therefore, one of the key ways that STM connects with the Ukrainian community – a relationship that it values. Given that PCUH's mission is to promote the advanced study of various aspects of Ukrainian heritage, culture, and life, to co-ordinate and encourage the preservation of primary source materials, and

to disseminate study results, its work helps the College implement its vital liberal arts strategic priority. Congratulations to all those involved in PCUH's success for the past two and a half decades. It was also STM's pleasure to partner last month with the University of Saskatchewan (College of Education) and Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatiuk National Pedagogical University (TNPU) for a MOU to further explore opportunities to cooperate in academic, research, and scholarly endeavors.

We have many things to look forward to over the next number of months. As we complete this News magazine, *The Prairie Symposium for the Common Good* is taking place on April 29th and 30th, the Mohyla lecture on May 1, and spring convocation will be held on June 4th.

We will be advertising for our first Endowed Professorship in Child Development, thanks to the generous donation of Dr. Lois Brockman. In addition, because of the good work of our St. Thomas More Faculty Union and our administrative team, we will be adding permanent full-time teaching positions to our faculty complement, with the first of these positions taking place in Sociology. We look forward to welcoming these new faculty members to our STM family in 2025.

As many faculty now turn their attention to completing administrative and research-related tasks and many students seek employment and/or further course work, I wish you all a wonderful spring and summer. Take good care.

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



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN



Teaching Excellence Awards

USSU Teaching 2024 Award Winner

Celene 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; three important areas include enthusiasm, organization, and fairness of evaluation. The culmination of these aspects leads to an environment where students feel free to explore, critique, grow, and become leaders."

Congratulations Celene on this recognition by your students (one of just ten recipients campus-wide) as to your inspiring teaching qualities. We are very proud to have you serve as a sessional lecturer at STM.

Raised near Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Dr. Celene Sidloski currently teaches English literature and writing courses at St. Thomas More College (STM), and grammar for the Department of Linguistics at the University of Saskatchewan. She has taught at STM for 22 years.

Celene stated that she feels "especially privileged to teach at the intersection of her greatest loves, grammar (architecture of the language) and poetry, two neglected arts that form the foundation of the classical trivium."

"I truly care about the students," she said. "And as an academic, the world of ideas is exciting to me and so in turn, I want to transmit that knowledge in a way that students can understand and value."

Celene adds that her great literary loves include poetry spanning the complete Western tradition, and the works of Shakespeare, Dickens, G. K. Chesterton, and Flannery O'Connor. In addition to her literary interests, she takes pleasure in the informal study of Thomistic philosophy.

Sidloski is a member of the Executive for the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Canada, and the founder and director of Rebuilding Catholic Culture, a non-profit apostolate devoted to the exploration of the Catholic intellectual tradition through its art, literature, philosophy, and theology. As part of the 10th anniversary of Rebuilding Catholic Culture, in October of 2023 Celene cohosted 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.

Celene 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. Celene Sidloski, PhD

B.A., University of Saskatchewan
M.A., University of Saskatchewan
B.Ed., University of Saskatchewan
Ph.D., University of Toronto

2023-2024 USSU Teaching Award Nominees

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

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



2023-2024 STM Teaching Excellence Awards

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

by Dr. Michael Cichon(PhD)
Teaching and Learning Committee Chair

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



Dr. Kylee-Anne Hingston
(Tenured and Tenure Track stream)

The winner of the STM Teaching Award for tenured/tenure stream faculty is Dr. Kylee-Anne Hingston. Across the board, students identified Kylee-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: Kylee-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 Kylee-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 Kylee-Anne certainly lives this.

Congratulations Kylee-Anne!

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



Fachrizal Halim
(Term and Sessional stream)

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!

the differing responsibilities and foci 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.

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



Henri Biahé
(Tenured and Tenure Track stream)

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 merely 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



Hongbin Zhang
(Term and Sessional stream)

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!











2023-2024 STM Teaching Excellence Award Nominees

STM instructors nominated by students and/or peers for the STM Teaching Excellence Award:

- Syed Azeem
- Caroline Arbuckle
- Henri Biahé
- Shakti Brazier-Tompkins
- Carie Buchanan
- Tania Duclos
- Fachrizal Halim
- Rita Hamoline
- Paulette Hunter
- Kylee-Anne Hingston
- Anthony Jenkins
- David Lane
- David McGrane
- Saeed Moshiri
- Michael Poellet
- Sarah Powrie
- Daniel Regnier

St. Thomas More College Faculty Department Heads

 ENGLISH Cynthia Wallace	 HISTORY Zachary Yuzwa	 LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & CULTURAL STUDIES Daniel Regnier	 PHILOSOPHY Ria Jenkins	 RELIGION & CULTURE John Liptay Acting	 ECONOMICS Saeed Moshiri	 POLITICAL STUDIES Dave McGrane	 PSYCHOLOGY Carie Buchanan	 SOCIOLOGY Monica Hwang
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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 Productivity Partnership Program (which is funded by SSHRC) to support his research on the impact of diversity in workplace on 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 *The Literary Afterlives of Simone Weil: Feminism, Justice, and the Challenge of Religion*. Columbia University Press, 2024.

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

Caroline Arbuckle

- G. Canlas, Arbuckle MacLeod, C., Danielson, A., Randall, I.E., Spicer, R., Monroe, M.W., and Slingerland, E. (Forthcoming). Scaling Comparative Approaches: Recreating Burkert's Analysis using the Database of Religious History. In (Eds.) J. Brodd and S. Blakely, *Homo Necans at 50: Contributions and Controversies in the Anthropology of Greek Religion*, Atlanta: Lockwood Press.
- Caroline Arbuckle MacLeod. In Press. The Significance of Coffin Construction Practices in the Old and Middle Kingdoms. *Clarusculo* 22.2:X.

Jennifer Briere

- Jennifer Briere, Patkau-Ceh, T., & Marche, T. (in press). Detecting the veracity of children's experiences through drawings. *Memory & Cognition*.
- D. L. Cormier, Ferguson, L. J., Gyurcsik, N. C., Briere, J. L., Mosewich, A. D., & Kowalski, K. C. (2024). A quantitative assessment of the predictive utility of grit in sport. *Psychology of Sport & Exercise*, 70 (2024), 102540.

Tania Duclos

• Tania Duclos. « Balzac et les théories du luxe et de l'élégance à l'épreuve de l'androgynisme féminin » *Femmes et Luxe, perspectives littéraires*, edited by Soundouss El Kettani, Isabelle Tremblay, Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2022, pp. 151-164.

Fachrizal Halim

• Fachrizal A. Halim. Review of *Journeying with Muslims: The Ignatian Way*. Quezon City Philippines: Jesuits Among Muslims in Asia Network and Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific, 223 pages, 2022. *Jurnal Mediasas* Vol 6, 1 June, 75-79, 2023.

Susanne Guenther Loewen

• Susanne Guenther Loewen. "Martyrdom and Double-Tellings: Remembering Resistance and Trauma." *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* 25, no. 1 (2024): 36-44.

Sarah Knudson

- Sarah Knudson. 2024. "Including Student Voices in Special Education Research Through Interviews and Classroom-Based Ethnography." *SAGE Research Methods Cases: Diversifying and Decolonizing Research*.
- Jordan Wellsch and Sarah Knudson. 2024. "Voices for Change: Qualitative Content Analysis of Environmental Activists with Autism in the News." *The Journal of Communication and Media Studies* 9(1): 19-44.
- Lara Paul and Sarah Knudson. 2023. "Revisioning Financial Education: Shortcomings and Opportunities for Transformation." *Journal of the Canadian Association for Curriculum Studies* 20(2-3): 139-159.

Daniel Krahn

• Daniel Krahn. "Ontology on the Shore: Murakami, Heidegger, and Narrative Confusion in Kafka on the Shore." *Mosaic: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature* 54, no. 4 (12, 2021): 99-114,155.

Lesya Sabada

- Lesya Sabada. "The Cosmic Temple - A Reflection of God's Love in Eastern Christian Theology." *An Anthology of Contemporary Ecotheology, Philosophy and Eco-justice Practices: Ecothee* Volume 7. 2023.
- Lesya Sabada. "Joseph Raya: A Case Study in Religious Peace Building." *Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* Vol. 62 (2021) Nos. 1-4, pp. 139-178.

Carl Still

• Carl Still. "St. Thomas More College: A Basilian Heritage, A Renewed Identity." *Religious Studies and Theology* 42.1 (2023): 67-80.

Cynthia Wallace

- Guest editor, Special Issue: Global Christianities and Global Literatures. *Christianity & Literature*. 72, no. 4: (2023).
- Cynthia R. Wallace. "Introduction: Global Christianities and Global Literatures." *Christianity & Literature* 72, no. 4 (2023): 529-541.

IN THE NEWS

ACCUC GATHER AT ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE



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

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

L - R Most Reverend Michael Smolinski, CSsR - Ukrainian Catholic Bishop of Saskatoon; Most Reverend Mark Hagemoen - Roman Catholic Bishop of Saskatoon; Most Reverend Donald Bolen - 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 Rixon, SJ - President, Regis College, Toronto; Dr. Patrick Leroux - Rector, Saint Paul University, Ottawa; Dr. Gerry Turcotte - President, St. Mark's - Corpus Christi, Vancouver; Mr. Rob Harasymchuk, President, St. Peter's College, Muenster; Dr. Jason West - President, Newman Theological College, Edmonton; Dr. Carl Still - President, St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon; Dr. John Cappucci - 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

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

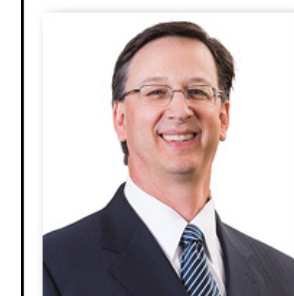


JASON AEBIG, BA

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

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

Appointed to the STM College Board of Governors as a member-at-large effective January 1, 2024.



CHRISTOPHER C. BOYCHUK, BSC., LLB

An STM alumnus, Chris Boychuk served as counsel with McDougall Gauley law between 1992 - 2022, primarily in the area of civil litigation with an emphasis in health, construction, and employment law. Active in the Canadian Bar Association he has also served on the Board of Directors of the Catholic Health Association, including a term as Chairperson; served on the St. Paul's Hospital Foundation Board of Directors since 2014, including a two-year term as Chair; as a Director and current Board Chair of Emmanuel Care; and presently a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

NEW BISHOP OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF SASKATOON



St. Thomas More College welcomed the Most Rev. Michael Smolinski CSsR, newly ordained Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon, Wednesday, Jan. 31. Bishop Smolinski celebrated the Divine 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 a priest on July 5, 2003. Among his other postings, Smolinski was pastor at Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Saskatoon from 2015 to 2019, and assistant pastor from 2019-2022.



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

STM mourns passing of Leslie Dubé

"Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have shown you are trustworthy in small things; I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

Matthew 25:21

The St. Thomas More College (STM) community mourns 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).

From humble farming roots near Wynyard SK, Les and Irene established a remarkable business career in Saskatoon. Les got his start in the grocery business, but with the purchase of land in Saskatoon's Greystone Heights neighbourhood in 1968, Les & Irene branched out into commercial land management through their conglomerate, the Concorde Group.

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 Saskatoon Regional and Economic Development Association (SREDA). His strong Catholic faith led him to service on his parish council, and as a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus. Les & Irene gave generously to numerous charitable organizations in Saskatoon as well as in Canada and internationally. Les & Irene received honorary Doctor of Law degrees from the University of Saskatchewan in 2007, the SK Order of Merit in 2008, the Association of Fundraising Professionals' 2013 Outstanding Philanthropists 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 – benefitting both students and community partners through this relationship.

Fr. George Smith, CSB, 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 promi-

nence 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 abyss of God's eternal love, and may Irene and all members of his beloved family be consoled 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 Dube donated one million dollars to endow a chair in Catholic Studies at STM, only the second such chair in Canada. The Leslie and Irene Dube 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 Dube's 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 into this world with nothing, and 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.



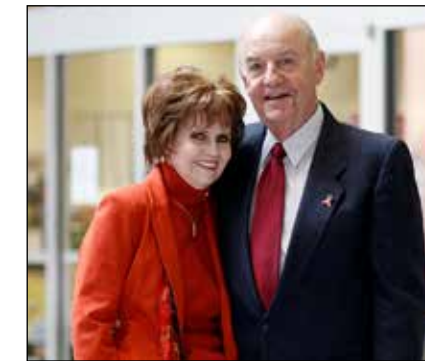
To help support the funding of STM's Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies please donate online at stm-college.ca or contact: **Connie Andersen 306-966-8203**

Commitment to STM College remembered by good friend

Goodness diffuses itself.
St. Thomas Aquinas

With Les Dubé's strong commitment to the people of Saskatoon and Saskatchewan, 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 become 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 a new president who knew nothing of 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 contrasting temperatures above 70F and below -20C. He gave me sage, supportive advice, closing our call with "John, you can tell them I said so." I did. It worked. Les ensured the success of the College's first fundraising since the mid-1950s. 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 Pius 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, have good conversations 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 undertook and intended all these efforts to make STM visible, substantially and attractively visible, for its values and caring relationships with students in the spirit and practices of our Basilian founders.

In 1994, STM publicly celebrated Mr. Leslie Dubé with the St. Thomas More Medal, which was established to recognize and honour 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 make the Thomas More Medal sing in surpassing its lofty aspirations!

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 in our collaborative learning with students. STM has been and will continue to be graced in your friendship, your goodness.

by Dr. John Thompson

STM sociology faculty member (1975-2005); STM president (1990-2000).

Medieval Wonders: Maps and Manuscripts

Classical, Medieval, & Renaissance Studies (CMRS)

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.



THE PRAIRIE SYMPOSIUM FOR THE COMMON GOOD 2024

Incarnating the Common Good -Catholic Institutions Engaging Diversities

STM was honoured to host participants of the 2024 Prairie Symposium for the Common Good April 29 through May 1 both at the Wanuskewin National Heritage Site and St. Thomas More College. Together, they engaged the theme of this year's Prairie Symposium for the Common Good: *Incarnating the Common Good – Catholic Institutions Engaging Diversities*.

Participants pondered what it means, as individuals, institutions, and communities, to be both Catholic and open to diverse expressions of human experience. They delved into their own commitments to foster the common good, "naming the tensions and promises of such commitments within a pluralistic world, as well as highlighting concrete paths of dialogue and action". Inspired by Pope Francis' call to build cultures of encounter and to journey along synodal paths of dialogue and action, attendees took time to listen, discern, and learn how to best act together.



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
FR. O'DONNELL AUDITORIUM

APRIL 29, 7:00PM Public Lectures APRIL 30, 7:30PM

THE
Leslie & Irene Dubé
CHAIR FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES

Everyone is Needed: Building the Common Good through Dialogue and Friendship

DR. MEGHAN J. CLARK
Associate professor of moral theology at St. John's University (NY). Dr. Clark is a senior fellow of the Vincentian Center for Church and Society and serves as a faculty expert for the Holy See's Mission to the United Nations.

AYOTTE Lecture on Faith and the Environment

Sharing the Creator's Earth: The Meeting of St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan, Al-Malik al-Kamil as a Model of Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

DAWN M. NOTHWEHR, OSF
A Rochester, Minnesota Franciscan, recognized as a leading Catholic environmental ethicist, Sr. Dawn received the Franciscan Federation's "Inspiration for the 21st Century Award" for her contribution to Franciscan theological education.

SPONSORED BY:



St. Paul's College



CAMPION COLLEGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Red Mass returns to STM

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 gather again 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."



Members of the Provincial Court and Court of King's Bench enter STM Chapel for the start of the 2023 Red Mass

In Memoriam

REMEMBERED WARMLY

Dr. Earl Blewett
Orest Bobin
Terry Boucher
Fr. Ian Boyd, CSB
Fr. Bernard de Margerite
Ann DeVito
Martin "Joe" Donlevy
Leslie Dubé
Donna Elder

David Hengen
Shari Hoehn
Al Hubbs
Stanley Baptist Lafond
John Thomas Mahoney
David Makuch
Finton Marche
Fr. James McConica, CSB
Julie Muir
Ava Novacosky

Chris Novacosky
Joe Novacosky
Brosi Nutting
Hartley 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



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

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 Polyhedric 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 NAVFD). I love 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' polyhedric 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 this goes 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, bridegrooms: 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? It is a challenge to the imagination!

It was such an exciting moment when the conference was addressed by Pope Francis. The Pope outlined his talk with three points: "To appreciate differences"; "To accompany with care"; and "To act courageously". At STM, Campus Ministry, Student Services, and Engaged Learning all agree that there is a need to accompany with care. In the audience, Pope Francis urged the conference to be attentive to the "confused thoughts, desires, and affections of the young people entrusted to you." He went on, "If we remove the edges and erase the shadows in a geometric solid, we reduce it to a flat figure, without breadth or depth," he said. "But if we wisely value it for what it is, we can make it into a work of art."

He said "As you know, this is an image close to my heart. I used it at the beginning of my pontificate, when I observed that pastoral ministry must not take as its "model the sphere... where every point is equidistant from the centre and there are no differences" between one point and another, but rather "the polyhedron, which reflects the convergence of all its parts, each of which preserves its distinctiveness" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 236).

Attending the conference was indeed a blessing, and the chance to meet Pope Francis was a once in a lifetime opportunity. Hopefully all of us can take the Pope's words to heart, journeying carefully with each other, appreciating the differences and ministering courageously.

Michael MacLean has served on the St. Thomas More Campus Ministry team since 1998. He is currently serving on the Board of CCCM and Vocations Canada.



Conference participants are pictured gathered in the Jesuit Curia.



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 Pius 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 can be 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, and 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 I 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 Shashank volunteers with STM Campus Ministry and loves the events where he connects with other students

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,

Ashton ShaShank

Ashton Shashank



Thank you for your support!

Mail or contact: Kari Sinkewicz, Manager of Development & Alumni Relations
STM College -1437 College Drive,
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W6
306.966.8918, ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca



SUPPORTING STM STUDENTS



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 neared 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.

February 28, students gathered in the Newman lounge for the *Career Insights and Industry Spotlight*. The event featured a short presentation, 'Publishing 101,' delivered by Executive Director for SaskBooks, Jillian Bell. Her engaging, informative, and often humorous introduction provided valuable information about key steps when entering into the publishing industry - whether the plan be to publish work or support those that do.

Bell told the audience that "publishing is at its core the business side of the artistic endeavor 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 attention to detail required in contract development whether for electronic or printed options.

The second part of the event featured a panel of four Saskatchewan authors with varied career

paths leading to where they are today, along with diverse genres of books published.

The authors relayed personal insight on how they got their start in publishing; their top tip for getting work published; and what they thought the future of publishing looked like.

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-Shoyoma School of Public Policy.

Joining Bell was Heather Hataley, Joanne Paulson, and Dr. 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 to her 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.

Self-proclaimed writer all her working life, starting at age sixteen when she published her first piece, 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 *Of Women Borne: A Literary Ethics of Suffering*, was published in 2016, and her second book, *The Literary Afterlives of Simone Weil: Feminism, Justice, and the Challenge of Religion* will be published in May 2024, both by Columbia University Press.

An opportunity for students to ask additional questions followed and the event closed with draws for books from the authors on the panel. The event provided a great road map to help get aspiring authors started down a path towards being published and insight as to the range of opportunities in the publishing industry.

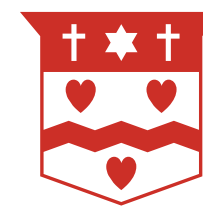
USask Career Services was also in attendance available to support students with questions about developing resumés, articulating skills, and where to search for jobs post graduation.

STM PEER HEALTH MENTORS

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



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



newman
COR AD COR LOQUITUR

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

DID YOU KNOW that this year's Newman Council Executive had a surge in members this year? And they continue to do great things at the College. For over twenty years, Newman Council has been giving out FREE CAKE observing St. John Henry Cardinal Newman's feast day on October 9th.

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.



Shannon Library

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



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

STMSU



**St. Thomas More College
Students' Union stmsu.ca**

2024-2025 Executive

President - Henry Thiessen
VP of Operations/Finance - Jarrod Daunheimer
VP of Academics - Carmela Enriquez
VP of Communications - Angie Rutkowski
MSC - Norah Jacob

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

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

For more information or to join as a member at large please contact vpccommunications@stmsu.ca



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 career industries and pathways, and develop new personal and technological skills. Although this internship provided me with many noteworthy experiences, here are just a few that really encapsulated my time with STM Recruitment.

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 1000 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 practise 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 post 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 showcas-

ing their intriguing topics and others highlighting their exciting projects—for example, RLST 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 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 places, and allowing me to speak with prospective students about opportunities through STM for their post-secondary education.

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

by Yating (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.



Strategic Foundations: Planning for Engaged Healthcare Education



As seasons transitioned, the team at STM collaborated with numerous professionals and partners to curate meaningful educational experiences. Launching a project is a formidable endeavor, requiring strategic planning and meaningful resources—some initiatives take over a year to develop.

Since early 2023, the Engaged Learning Office has worked diligently with Dr. Tracey Carr on an engaged healthcare learning project. Extending beyond STM students, the project introduced our institution to a broader audience, both on campus and within the larger community. It provided students with hands-on experience in data collection, analysis, and dissemination, supported by the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research—highlighting its significance and culminating in a nomination for the 2024 SHA Innovation Award.

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 suppers were 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 a 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.

The Engaged Learning Office stands as a beacon of experiential education at STM, bridging academic pursuits with practical application and community integration. Our commitment to nurturing a spirit of inquiry and service prepares students for a future where they can confidently apply their knowledge and skills to make meaningful contributions to society.

STM Professor Guest Lectures in Saskatoon High schools:

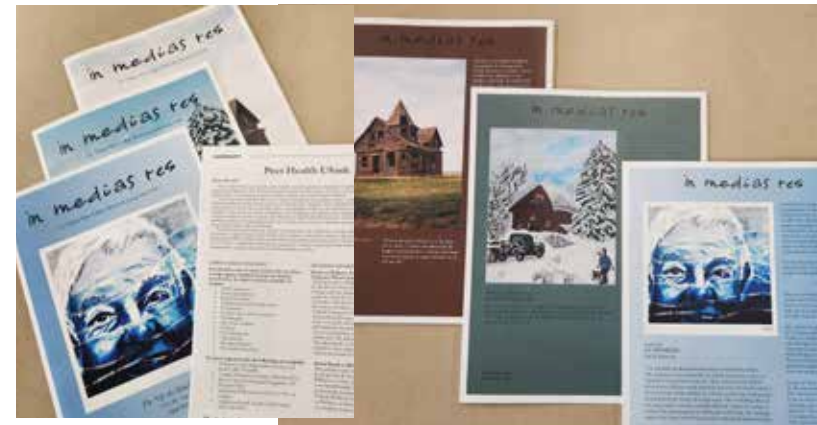
STM Recruitment continues to offer guest lecture opportunities by our College professors to Saskatoon high schools. For more information on how to participate in this initiative, contact lhuard@stmcollege.ca.

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



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.

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.



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

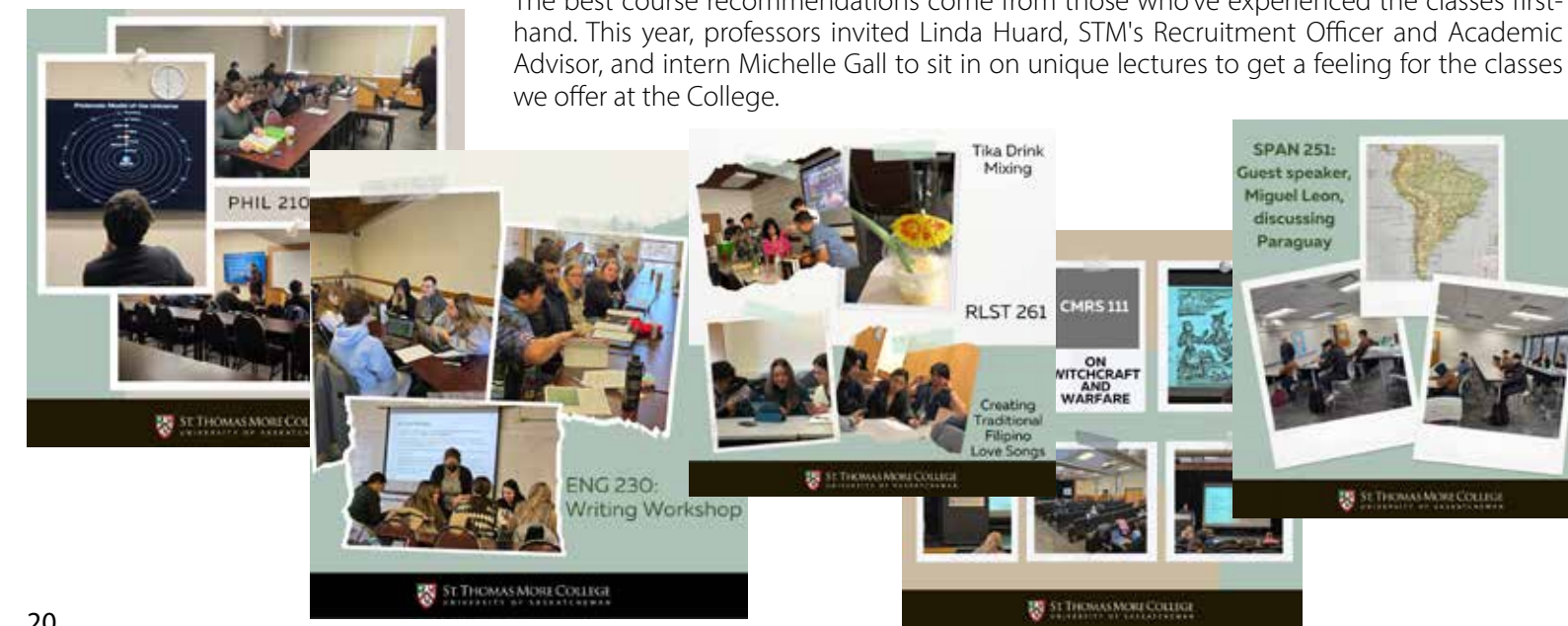
Linda Huard- staff mentor

Toni Elliot
Jenna Roesch
Carmela Enriquez
Candace Knihniski
Kelly Lam

Callisto Wieler
Abena Amankwah-Poku
Emily Zbaraschuk
Beatrice Isaiah
Rob Shauf
Akshara Dash

STM Class Snapshots

The best course recommendations come from those who've experienced the classes first-hand. 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.



BINGO Thank you



STM College celebrated the end of the academic year with their annual appreciation party for students and student group leaders. Hosted by staff from the STM Student Experience Team, the event featured delicious mocktails, bingo, prizes, pizza and donuts and other games.



STM at a Glance

2023-2024 (academic year)

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

19 AREAS OF STUDY

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

5300 + distinct STUDENTS
(registered in courses through STM)

1380+ STM STUDENTS
(declared STM status)

1034 (3CU) Indigenous STUDENTS
(declared status registered in STM courses)

717 International STUDENTS
(declared status registered in STM courses)

\$245,000+ STM Scholarships
& Bursaries given out

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

58,000 STM COLLEGE.CA
Website users
May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024



2023/2024 STM SCHOLARSHIPS

ENTERING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

STM College Entering Book Award Mahreen Chughtai
Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College

Wolfe Family General Achievement Entrance Scholarship
Roman Lalach Donor: Anonymous

Kramer Scholarship Aknoor Kaur Donor: Don and Claire Kramer

Russ and Sharon Aney First Year Scholarship Award
Carmela Enriquez Donor: Russ and Sharon Aney

St. Thomas More College First Year Scholarship
Aleksa Hyra Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College

Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross First Year Scholarships
Idunu Afolabi, Birana Andu, Ashar Aziz, Kim Baquiran, Jordie Finnie,
Easton Hobman, Lianne Nieto, Roshmita Tamang
Donor: Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry

Knights of Columbus First Year Scholarships
Madison Burrell, Kim Hatungimana
Donor: Saskatoon Chapter Knights of Columbus

TRANSFER OR RETURNING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

STM Transfer or Returning Student Scholarship
Henry Thiessen Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College

CONTINUING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Hinz/Teunissen Memorial Scholarship
Ava McLean Donor: Dr. Evelyn and Dr. John Teunissen

Henry and Agnes Brockman Scholarship Grant Forrest
Donor: Brockman family, in memory of Henry J. and Agnes Brockman

Blue Mantle, Audrey Haines Scholarship Victoria Spurr
Donor: Cosmopolitan Clothing Bank Inc. o/a the Blue Mantle

Rose Semko Hrynchuk Scholarship
Wil Kushniryk Donor: Estate of Rose Semko Hrynchuk

Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross Renewable Scholarships
Elisabeth Bauman, Sophie Brown, Erin Paulhus, Bailey Schaan
Donor: Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry

Russ and Sharon Aney Continuing Scholarship Award
Mohamad Kao Donor: Russ and Sharon Aney

Doug and Irene Schmeiser Scholarship
Shay Francis Donor: Doug and Irene Schmeiser

Jeannette Tetreault Scholarship
Emjay Koller Donor: Estate of Jeannette Tetreault

Council 1517 George Mackey Foundation Scholarship
Shahane Tamrazyan Donor: Council 1517 George Mackey Foundation

Batten Scholarship
Anna Marko Donor: Dick and Donna Batten

Christopher Dawson Scholarship
Elisabeth Bauman, Shenyce Buhler
Donor: The Fr. Henry Carr Foundation

Founding Fathers Scholarship Yehia El Karsh
Donor: Newman/STM alumni, in memory of Basilian Fathers
who served between 1926 and 1956

Thanks to our generous supporters,
STM College was able to offer over

\$280,000 in scholarships and bursaries
to our students in 2023-2024.

Wilfrid and Sylvia Hinz Family Award

Abbi Cross Donor: Sylvia Hinz

Ezekiel-Marche Scholarship Award

Anu Singh Donor: Margaret and Finton Marche

Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Studies Scholarship

Spencer Bouthillette Donor: Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry

St. Thomas More College Leadership Award

Abbi Cross, Alayna Jones, Emily Jung, Gillian Skjei
Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College

St. Thomas More College Faculty Union Scholarship

Shriya Tauh Donor: STM Faculty Union

Cornelius and Rosallie Woloschuk Scholarship

Gillian Skjei Donor: Children of Rosallie and Cornelius Woloschuk

Maureen Haynes Catholic Studies Scholarships

Shay Francis, Ali McPhee, Hannah Therese Montebon
Donor: Haynes family, in memory of Maureen Haynes

Terrence & Margaret Downey Scholarship

Alaafia Plumpre Donor: Terrence and Margaret Downey

Roy E. Lloyd Scholarship

Patrick Sarmiento Donor: Rose Lloyd, in memory of Roy E. Lloyd

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

Benerice Fortier – 114, Carolyn Maciejko – 114, Brooklyn Mann – 114,
Kimberly Dmyterko – 117, Sydney Joyes – 117, Jasmyn Rebeyka – 117
Donor: Ukrainian Self Reliance Association/TYC – Steppe Branch

Rose Voytilla Scholarship Shay Francis
Donor: Voytilla Estate, in memory of Rose Voytilla

INDIGENOUS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

STM College Indigenous Entering Student Scholarship

Hadley Anthony Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College

Dielschneider Indigenous Scholarship

Catherine Paquette Donor: Peter Dielschneider

ENGAGED LEARNING SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Les and Irene Dubé Service & Justice Scholarships

Kenny Anderson, Birana Andu, Kim Baquiran, Princess May Carlos,
Althea Castro, Carmela Enriquez, Keira Gareau, Reagen Hage,
Roman Lalach, Paula Orata, Jake Orioux, Henry Thiessen, Ben Warren
Donor: Les and Irene Dubé

St. Thomas More College Service & Justice Awards

Istafa Arshad, Rachel Kobusinge, Christine Kwon, Kayleen Oftedal,
Nicole Rocheleau, Maanya Singh
Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College

St. Thomas More College Award for Excellence in CSL Writing

Melissa Lazurko- Senior Level, Kyanna Zoller- 100 Level
Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College

USASK UKRAINIAN AWARDS Administered by STM

John Russell Kowalchuk Award(s) in Ukrainian Studies
Rebeyka Jasmyn

Stephen J. Porayko Scholarship
Wil Kushniryk

Michael Sytnick Memorial Scholarship
Wil Kushniryk

Annie Palynchuk Scholarship
Rebeyka Jasmyn

2023/2024 STM BURSARY AWARDS

ENTERING STUDENT BURSARIES

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

Matt and Beth Hertz Bursary
Donor: Matthew and Elizabeth Hertz – 1@\$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@\$500

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

Aulea Arseneault Bursary
Donor: Estate of Auléa Arseneault – 2@\$1,000

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@\$1,000

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

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 – 1@\$500

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

Lise LeBlanc Single Parent Bursary
Donor: Lise LeBlanc – 1@\$1,500

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

Nasser Family Award
Donor: Dr. Kay and Mrs. Dora Nasser – 1@\$500

Lorne and Elizabeth Parker Bursary
Donor: Mr. Lorne and Mrs. Elizabeth Parker – 1@\$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 – 2@\$1,000

Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Studies Bursary
Donor: Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry – 1@\$1,500

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 – 1@\$1,000

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

St. Thomas More College Bursary
Donor: Estate of Verla Koob, Estate of G. Alexander Beattie,
and Friends of St. Thomas More College – 44 of varying amounts
(\$73,500 total)

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

INDIGENOUS STUDENT BURSARIES

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

STM 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 – 4@\$1,500

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

STUDENTS - Information about scholarships
and bursaries is online at: stmcollege.ca/awards
Awards applications are due Oct. 1, 2024

Celebrating 25 Years for PCUH

by Paul Sinkewicz

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 bitter-sweet 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-Oneschuk, 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-Oneschuk 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-Oneschuk said. "We continue to ask the scholarly questions that are at the core of 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."

One of the founders of PCUH, and its first director, Dr. Bohdan Kordan was also on hand to explain the history behind the creation of the centre in 1998.

He said an academic centre was envisioned that would commit to studying the social, political, and cultural aspects of Ukrainian-Canadian life, and connect with a community that intuitively understood the importance of higher education, as evidenced by the past creation of culturally focused student residences like the Sheptytsky and Mohyla Institutes.

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 viability, vitality, 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."



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 Khanenko-Friesen.

Dr. Tammy Marche, Dean of STM College, said PCUH has helped the College advance its priorities in terms of the amount and quality of public scholarship produced by the Centre, and has helped the College develop more

ties with international institutions as well as to pursue two-way student abroad activities.

"PCUH is all about community and, therefore, the work and activities of the Centre help STM fulfill its mission. Conceived as a community-university partnership and supported by endowed funds and individual contributions, the Centre is seen as an important link between the University of Saskatchewan, St. Thomas More College, and the Ukrainian-Canadian community," Marche said.

Photos:

- Sociologist Dr. Alan Anderson, who gave a lecture sponsored by PCUH in 2020, tours the exhibit showcasing the centre's 25 years of work
- Display case: Aside from all its other activities, PCUH publishes scholarly works through its publishing arm, the Heritage Press
- Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk, Interim Director of PCUH, said the war in Ukraine underlines 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



Working, Learning, Living - Lesya Sabada in Africa

by Jacquie Berg

In summer 2023, Lesya Sabada (sessional 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 Day of Biodiversity. She also participated as a western academic at

a national conference - *The Road to Sustainable Development Goals in Ethiopia* addressing the human rights violations in Ethiopia.

The CCRDA is an umbrella organization for 459 international and national NGOs operating in Ethiopia. Lesya explained the organization's role and her involvement. "The aims of this organization that directs the decisions of these NGOs are to contribute to the alleviation of poverty by improving socio-economic conditions of the poor in Ethiopia and empowering them to bring about change. They also aim to strengthen the capacities of member agencies to help disadvantaged communi-

ties and groups to improve their standard of living. These top executive humanitarian decision makers of Ethiopia led by Dr. Nigussu Legesse, a world-renowned peacemaker, wanted to hear what an Eastern Christian female theologian like myself had to share on the topic of biodiversity. It was an incredible privilege and honour for me," she said.

"Ethiopia ranks as #2 on WATCHLIST, making it one of the top countries most at risk of worsening humanitarian need. The prolonged drought caused by climate change, economic stresses, impact of the civil war exacerbated millions of people. The United Nations estimates 20 mil-

lion people in Ethiopia are unable to access or afford the food they need to live a healthy life. Ethiopia and the Congo are very vulnerable communities. They need us."

As travel, learning, and friendships continued, Sabada noted that her days in the Congo Basin had expanded purpose. They were spent "gorilla 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 and praise 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 an institution, 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 across Canada for his work on Indigenous issues and government, 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 Indigenous Education 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.

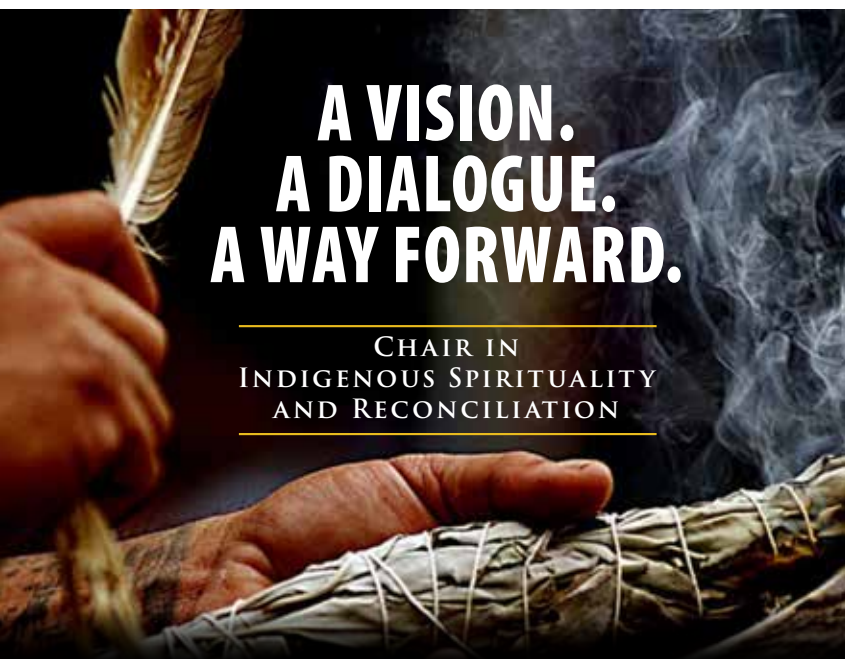
Harry Lafond, STM Scholar in Indigenous Education, told the luncheon crowd that the Indigenous way of education has not been fully incorporated into educational institutions and it's an area that needs to continue to develop.

He said the holistic treatment of subject areas and the context of some of the factual and 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 Indigenous."



Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Lyndon Linklater



A VISION. A DIALOGUE. A WAY FORWARD.

CHAIR IN INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY AND RECONCILIATION

The path of reconciliation is one that must bear the imprints of the footsteps of us all. It will not be a short journey, but one that when we walk together, will create a future where mutual respect, understanding, and inclusivity are the norm.

St. Thomas More College's ongoing commitment to reconciliation and Indigenous engagement has led to the creation of the *Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation*.

The Chair will serve as an important forum for learning and respectful dialogue fostering the reclamation and elevation of Indigenous spirituality. The hope and vision for the Chair is that it will set an example and build a model for implementation across the country.

STM invites individuals and organizations to walk forward on this path with us and to support this vibrant initiative on the path of reconciliation and decolonization.

To find out more about how you can participate in the journey, please contact Connie Andersen, Director of Advancement, at candersen@stmcollege.ca or 306-966-8203

The Wisdom of the Grandfathers

Invitation to take part in sweat lodge proves moving experience for STM faculty, staff



The sweat lodge has an outer and an inner structure. The actual lodge is rounded, and covered with tarps to keep light out and hold steam in. A wooden frame structure (seen here without its tarps) protects the lodge and provides a seating area to eat and talk before and after a sweat.

By Paul Sinkewicz

"In Cree, the word for rock is asiniy (ah-sin-ay). We call these rocks 'Grandfathers.' They have been waiting for you. They are happy to see you."

With those words from Lyndon Linklater, my most recent step on the road to reconciliation began. He had been very kind and patient in teaching us about the sweat lodge ceremony, allaying any anxiety and explaining the significance of his actions.

It would be gentle. A learning sweat, he said. But no less significant than any other.

He called for his friend, Billy, to close the flap to the sweat lodge, and I was enveloped in darkness, along with the other staff and faculty members of St. Thomas More College who had made the trek out to Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

The only thing visible was the red-hot 'grandfathers' glowing in the middle of the lodge. After adding a handful of cedar shavings to the pit, Lyndon dipped a spruce bough into a bucket of water and splashed the rocks. Steam rose in the air, the last vestiges of light faded away, and the ceremony began.

To take the journey of reconciliation is to walk through many different doors with an open heart.

It is to accept invitations to listen to Indigenous knowledge keepers and storytellers and share a simple meal with them after. It is to accept the opportunities to join in a Round Dance or to celebrate with children and elders, dancers and drummers at a pow-wow. It is to march with friends to remember missing and murdered women and girls, and to mourn the children who suffered at residential schools – left scarred if they were lucky, discarded and

forgotten in unmarked graves if they were not.

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 Indigenous Education, 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 Indigenous Education 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 deeply 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 to 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, Nakota and Assiniboia, to name a few.

photos courtesy Linklater family and Paul Sinkewicz

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 womb 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 sat, the birch boughs at our backs, and the rocks providing the warmth -- and to each other, through the sharing aloud 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 bannock after the sweat, I asked Lyndon if he had children and grandchildren.

And, of course, he is a grandfather.

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

NEW FACES



STM College appoints Ann Donald to post of STM Gallery curator

Ann Brooymans-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 (GSCS) 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 January to March.

Ann holds degrees related to creating art and teaching art from Mount Alison, 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, celebrating the prairies and the people of the prairies.

[Check out present gallery exhibitions at stmcollege.ca](http://stmcollege.ca)



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 systems assistance and technical 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.

STM Announces New Director of Advancement



Following a national search, St. Thomas More College (STM) is pleased to announce Connie Andersen BA, CFRE as the College's new Director of Advancement. She began this new role March 1, 2024.

As stated by President Carl Still, the new Director will "assist STM in building a culture of philanthropy through a strategic approach to our College Plan goal to increase revenue capacity with a renewed focus on philanthropy and alumni engagement."

Along with 21 years of fundraising and leadership experience in the non-profit sector and a passion for philanthropy, Connie Andersen brings to the role a strong belief in the mission of the College, crediting her own personal formation in a social justice career path from her educational experience as an STM alumna (Class of 1993). Connie is inspired by Henri Nouwen's declaration that "Fundraising is, first and foremost, a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission."

Having received her Bachelor of Arts in English (High Honours) from USask, 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 support for our students while securing the legacy of our college.

Please contact Connie Andersen at candersen@stmcollege.ca or 306-966-8203



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.



Left to right: Corinne Baumann, Madeleine Blais-Dahlem, Rae-Ann Dyck, Mary Donlevy-Konkin, Veronica Lucas, Sylvia Regnier, Dean Schmidt, Kari Sinkewicz (STM College staff representative)

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! Contact Kari at ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca

Quick connect



stmcollege.ca/alumni/register.php

Legacy gifts help ease financial strain on students

Recognizing the current high cost of living and its impact on students and families, St. Thomas More College made approximately \$100,000 in funding available to 89 students in financial need in 2023-2024.

In addition to funds sourced from STM operations, legacy gifts from the **Verla Koob and G. Alexander Beattie Memorial Funds** made this financial support possible.

The impact on students has been immediate and significant.

"The bursary from St. Thomas More College has eased the financial strain, allowing me to fully focus on my studies and embrace every opportunity that comes my way. The generosity of the College has not only lightened the burden of educational expenses but has also ignited a sense of determination and gratitude within me," said one of the students who received the funding.

A legacy gift can transform the lives of our students, providing practical support and the courage to persevere with their education.

YOUR LEGACY Through Planned Giving

Through STM's Planned Giving program you have the opportunity to make a special gift - a lifetime gift. For STM, a Planned Gift offers long-term stability which in turn allows us to plan into the future, ensuring the Catholic intellectual tradition will carry on in our hallways through future generations.

God's kingdom is the place of abundance where every generous act overflows its original bounds and becomes part of the unbounded grace of God at work in the world.

~ Henri Nouwen

Making a Planned Gift to STM allows you to establish your legacy or create a legacy for your loved ones, while also maximizing taxation benefits. And you can feel confident knowing that you are contributing to the vitality and growth of the College.

There are many opportunities to establish a Planned Gift including:

A Gift Today: making a gift with appreciated publicly traded securities such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or segregated funds, is a tax advantaged way to give. STM also welcomes gifts made through a Donor Advised Fund or family foundation.

A Gift for the Future: through a bequest in your will, a life insurance policy, or a gift of a registered savings account, you can help secure STM's mission for the future while benefiting from substantial tax incentives.

Reflecting our past Renewing our commitment Building our future

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss the various ways you can make a donation to STM part of your legacy, please contact:



Connie Andersen,
Director of Advancement
306.966-8203 or candersen@stmcollege.ca

STMNAA welcomes newest alumni

The St. Thomas More College (STM) community welcomed a new batch of alumni at the Fall Convocation ceremony.

Madeleine Blais-Dahlem (Class of 1968) brought greetings from the St. Thomas More Newman Alumni Association (STMNAA), and welcomed the graduates into the fold.

She said they will become part of many different communities as they go through life.

"You have been given the tools by STM College and the University of Saskatchewan to participate intelligently and compassionately in those communities," Blais-Dahlem said.

"But being part of a community is a reciprocal thing, you must participate according to your gifts and predilections."

"It is my task and my privilege, not just to greet you on behalf of the STM



Newman Alumni Association, but to invite you to become an active part of that community.

She invited the grads to stay in touch to share their triumphs, and to let us support them in their challenges.

"There are many ways to participate, to contribute. There are College events in which you can participate, and opportunities to volunteer. You might mentor an undergraduate. Or write an article for More News. And if ever you are in a position to donate, that would, of course, be also welcomed. But more than anything else, we don't want to lose you. You've become part of a caring and sharing community and you will always find a home within it."

STM College supporters respond to student need

Please join us in celebrating and recognizing our cherished friend and kind student volunteer, Elisabeth Bauman, for sharing her experiences at STM. Elisabeth's Christmas letter inspired more than \$12,100 to help fund STM scholarships and bursaries.



Elisabeth Bauman

We are grateful for this heartwarming support from every caring donor responded to the significant need for student financial support through scholarships and bursaries by making a generous Christmas gift.

A message of thanks to our donors:

"I want to express my sincere thanks for the St. Thomas More College Bursary, a generous support that's made a real difference in my college journey. Being an immigrant in college brings its own set of challenges. I can't go home to my family every weekend like some of my peers. The pressure to do well in my studies is always there, connected to the sacrifices my family is making for my education. There are tough moments, times when giving up feels tempting, and tears have been shed facing these challenges. But amidst these struggles, it's crucial to keep going. Recognition comes unexpectedly, like a quiet affirmation, turning hard work into a tangible reward. This bursary, a gift from the College and its caring donors, means a lot to me. It's a lifeline, easing some of the burdens on my family. More than just money, it's a form of acknowledgment, a realization that the effort and dedication don't go unnoticed. It's a sign that hard work is valued and appreciated, lifting my spirits in the process. Thank you.

Sincerely,
A grateful student

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 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:

You will have the opportunity to provide the name of your 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 their 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!

Your Gift means so much!

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

I would like to donate a gift of:

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other: _____

In support of:

- STM Area of Greatest Need
- STM Scholarships and Bursaries
- STM Campus Ministry
- Area of my choice: _____
- Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies
- STM Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would like to donate by:

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

Monthly or Pre-Authorized Debit
Please contact:
Kari Sinkewicz 306.966.8918 or ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca

By Credit card
 Visa MasterCard American Express

Card Expiry Date: ____ / ____ (month/year)

Name as Shown on card: _____

Signature: _____

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

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

Thank you for your support!

Mail to : Kari Sinkewicz, Manager of Development & Alumni Relations
STM College - 1437 College Drive,
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W6
306.966.8918, ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca



Herman Kuervers gift exemplifies commitment to education

St. Thomas More College is profoundly grateful for the foresight and generosity of **Herman Kuervers** in remembering STM students in his estate plans.

Mr. Kuervers directed his legacy gift to support scholarships and bursaries, available to students of St. Thomas More College. Because of the generosity of donors like Mr. Kuervers, our students will be equipped to accomplish their personal and professional goals, engage in their communities, contribute to a more just society, and grow to reach the full measure of their humanity.

Thank you Herman!

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, OCT. 5, 2024

Annual Fall Gathering of alumni and friends

Featuring: Celebration of Distinguished Alumni

Watch for details @ stmcollege.ca

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

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

Publication Agreement No. 40063294

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

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