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Dr. Allison Smith (PhD)
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Cover photo - Jacquie Berg

President’s Message
Recently I had the privilege of addressing the graduates of the Saskatoon Theological Union and reflecting on the challenges of the pandemic for members of faith communities like theirs and ours. At that point we were just into the Easter season and the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. It seemed inescapable to ponder what this central event of our faith might have to say about the predicament we find ourselves in – now over a year into the global pandemic. When the pandemic “ends” and restrictions are lifted, will we go back to the way life was before the first cases appeared? Or will we go forward into a future that we will need to remake from all the wreckage of the pandemic?

In one of the defining Gospel readings associated with Easter, Luke describes two disciples who, on the way to Emmaus, who find themselves in just such a liminal moment. They are trying to make sense of the death of Jesus and at the same time report that “where his body was laid is now empty. Into their intense conversation, teetering between despair and hope, Jesus makes himself present – but he does not reveal his identity. Is that because Jesus deliberately hides himself from them, or because they just could not recognize the risen and transformed Christ? As they near their destination, Jesus seems to be leaving them until they beg him to stay with them. Finally, and only in the sharing of a meal, do they recognize Jesus, but as soon as they do, he vanishes from their sight.

As mysterious as this Gospel is, it is not hard to see parallels between that existential crisis and ours. For those early disciples, the alternatives were stark: death or resurrection. Like them, we also teeter at times between despair and hope, but the alternatives before us are more nuanced. Maybe the pandemic has destroyed so much that we will carry on but never fully recover. Maybe the pandemic will subside to the point that we will rebuild what remains of the world we’ve lost. Or maybe we will build anew the world that we want to live in. I suspect we are all intensely discussing these options as we ponder our responsibilities as citizens of Canada and our local communities. What if we consider these options as members of St. Thomas More College (STM), where we say that we are “called to share in Christ’s service to the people of God”? If Christ continues to be present with us in our journey through the pandemic, how do we recognize Christ? And how do we make Christ present to others who are hungry for truth and meaning in a world that is so clearly out of our control?

For, as we all know, we face more than a public health crisis: there is also the economic crisis it has spawned, the climate crisis that continues to grow, and the social crisis rooted in the calls for racial justice. All of us have a role to play in addressing each of these crises, but as members of the STM community, I believe we have a special responsibility to show leadership in another crisis that is woven through all of them: some call it the “crisis of truth”. It prefaces the pandemic but has been intensified by it – and it shows no signs of going away.

The crisis of truth runs through all the others because without agreement on facts about the world, the other crises can be denied, and action deferred. We are so awash in information today that we frequently do not know what is true, and what we wish were true. It is now entirely possible to get all of our news and opinions about the world from a single media source that reinforces our beliefs and omits any editorial content that would offer a different view. We already know how pervasive this is, and how dangerous it is, for a democratic society such as ours. As optimistic as we might be that the lessons we learn from the pandemic will lead us to build a better society, there is plenty of reason to fear that the pandemic may actually deepen the divides between us.

We could point fingers in many directions – at politicians, at the media (including social media), at all the “others” whose views frustrate and perplex us. Instead, let’s consider what we will do in this liminal moment – as faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters of STM.

If higher education is truly a social good, all of us who have received its benefits have an obligation to address the crisis of truth. Not to be simply satisfied with first reports or interpretations of any event, we must be prepared to search for the truth, piecing it together from different sources and sifting through details critically. In this process we must use our moral and intellectual frameworks to identify the truth, and follow it back to its source. When our minds are renewed in that way, we will be able to share the hope that is within us. This can be our gift to one another, and to all who are seeking to make a better world.

Dr. Carl N. Still, PhD
President
St. Thomas More College
This has been a memorable year (if I can characterize it as such: phrases like "hard slog of a year" and "a year from hell" come to mind!). What an experience!

The academic year 2020-21 will be a turning point in our professional lives. We did switch to remote delivery in the final couple of weeks last year, but this is the first full year we went wholly remote, changing the way we see ourselves and do the things we do for work. A full-bore use of technology, no physical interaction with our fellow faculty and staff or students, no standing in front of the class and speaking to eager students, making our pedagogy almost fully written-word-based and foregoing the pleasures of the spoken word directed to a live audience.

I don’t know how many of you enjoyed it. To be sure, we liked some things: the fact that we stayed home, didn’t have to follow a strict audience. Of course, there will be some remote classes in the future, no question. But it is the total absence of in-person classes that was tough to live through.

So, friends, give yourself a pat on your back for what you have accomplished this year. That is the big story over the last eight months: how we adapted to a rapidly changing world, how we remade our profession and self-perception as teachers, and how we, despite the digital distance, maintained contact with our students and shaped their budding selfhoods. As I said, this has been a memorable year! As your Dean, I congratulate you all, both faculty and staff, for the great work you’ve done this year, and thank you for the grace you showed with the University, and so on. I am grateful for the support I have received from you all, especially faculty and staff. It’s been a wonderful experience.

And I would like to thank especially Tammy Marche, our Associate Dean, who’s been a pillar of support over the last four years, and, of course, Gail Morrison, my Executive Assistant, and Laura Mitchell, our Academic Administrative Assistant, for their invaluable support.

I wish you all a great spring and a relaxing and healthy and a Covid-free summer. We all deserve it. Thank you!

Dr. Arul Kumanar, PhD
Dean, St. Thomas More College

Dr. Saeed Moshiri (PhD)
2021 St. Thomas More College (STM) Teaching Excellence Award

By Dr. Zachary Yuzwa (PhD)
STM Teaching Excellence Award Nominees:
Henri Bialet, Shakti Brazier-Tomkins, Jennifer Briere, Amanda Devitt, Tina Greenfield, Fachnaz Halim, Meera Kachroo, David Lane, Saeed Moshiri, Banjo Oboloye, Allison Smith, Zachary Yuzwa
STM Teaching Excellence Award Honourable Mention: Shakti Brazier-Tomkins

We know all the ways in which this past year has presented real challenges for teaching and for learning here at global scenarios. And he encourages his students not only to see but experience the consequences of economic decision-making in their own lives. On the committee we remarked on his innovative use of MobLab, a virtual learning environment that allows students and researchers to understand and test the behavioural principles that underlie the economic theories Saeed teaches in his classroom. You might have read about this work in a previous issue of More News. His students clearly appreciate this approach. One nominee described his teaching this way: “Correct, passionate, up to date with technology.” But what struck us was that student’s recognition that this is in service of real learning. They continue...

“...above all, Professor Moshiri has encouraged us to become better students.”

This is evident throughout Saeed’s teaching practice; he regularly leads his beginning students through a first-year research experience, while another class encourages students studying environmental and energy economics to identify local issues, analyze them and propose solutions based on their learning in the course. But Saeed’s contributions to teaching and learning more broadly in his classroom. He has helped develop new courses at USask; he has published on the scholarship of teaching and learning; he has supervised graduate students; he has contributed to helping in the broader community. In short, Saeed has demonstrated consistently and over a distinguished career a commitment to teaching excellence. Congratulations, Saeed.
Fr. Raymond Lafontaine was the keynote speaker Friday, and offered a talk entitled “Heart speaks to Heart: The message of St. John Henry Newman for Catholic students and youth.” Fr. Raymond gave an historical account of Newman’s life, including prayers, pictures, and song lyrics Newman wrote. He talked about Newman’s “The Idea of a University,” how his writings influenced Vatican II, and how he was a champion of conscience. Newman emphasized the importance of solid relationships: with God, self, family, friends, and the community. Lafontaine went on to talk about what Newman would say to friends, and the community.

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Conference participants responded positively to Fr. talk, saying, “I learned a lot about making the most of University and discernment of one’s vocation(s) from Ava.”

Fr. Kevin Ahern of Manhattan College addressed the conference with a talk entitled “Re:Discovering a Spirituality of Action.” Kevin spoke of his university years with the National Catholic Students’ Coalition, (the American version of the CCSA), and his leadership with the campus movement of Catholic Students. He asked key questions to conference participants, like “What does it mean to be a Catholic student leader in the world today?” and “What does it mean to witness to the Gospel to evangelize as a student lead-er?” Kevin talked about how a missionary spirituality calls students to be active agents in transforming the world. He used Pope Francis’ words to encourage conference attendees to “make a mess.” Pope Francis said, “Dear young people, make the most of these years of your youth... Whatever you do, do not become the sorry sight of an abandoned vehicle...dream freely and make good decisions. Take risks, even if it means making mistakes.”

Saturday afternoon was the CCSA’s AGM, followed by a fun evening activity entitled, the Cross Canada Olympics. One of the results of the AGM was a newly elected CCSA Exec-utive Board. Students from Campion College, Newman at the University of Toronto, King’s University College, St. FX and Mount Allison University will comprise the new Executive. Many thanks to outgoing Exec members Adam, Molly, and Hannah!

Sunday morning for CCSA-ers meant turning in to SaskatoonMass.com to join St. Augus-tine’s Parish community for mass with Fr. Kevin McGee. STM Campus Minister Celeste Woloschuk led the music ministry. Students from all around Canada were able to join virtually in the final wrap up session was led by Sr. Michelle Garlinski SNJM from Winnipeg. Sr. Michelle checked in with the group to see where their hearts were at, challenged them to prioritize all the choices in their university year. Engaged participants to make good ones. Sr. Michelle sits on the board of the National Association of Formation and Loca- tion Directors who give their time in service behind the scenes and in front of the camera to bring the liturgy, the prayers, and the community together as a wonderful, prayerful experience. The celebration was also rooted in the College Chapels to the nines, invite absolutely everyone and keep the gifts, the talents, and the participation of so many, it came together as a wonderful, prayerful experience.

The STM Campus Ministry Team are still available to journey with you during this time of stress and anxiety. Send the team a note on Facebook or email us to set a time when we can meet electronically:

Michael - mmcname@stmcollege.ca
Celeste - cwoloschuk@stmcollege.ca
Fr. Andre - alalach@stmcollege.ca
Gertrude - grompre@stmcollege.ca

A Liturgy for New Times: Launching the College Plan 2025 in Prayer
by Celeste Woloschuk
This year, St. Thomas More College launched its New College Plan 2025. As part of this launch, in January, we came together in prayer, in cer-
mony, and in liturgy to ask for God’s blessing on the Plan and on all of us as we work to bring it from word to action. In pre-pandemic times a Plan launch would have been an occasion to pull out all the stops—decorate the Chapel to the nines, invite absolutely everyone to gather, get all dressed up, and have a grand celebration. This was not feasible in our current reality. However, this limitation proved to be a wonderful challenge and opened us up to new ways of being.

What resulted was a celebration which brought our College together in prayer and worship together on video call, while also digging our spiritual roots deeper into good soil. The liturgy was held virtually, with participants all joining together on video call, as keeping each other in our cre- times calls us to stay apart, stay home. We in Campus Ministry have tested and practiced virtual liturgies throughout the year. This week, our weekly live streamed Liturgy of the Word and Divine Liturgy, as well as September’s Academic Mass. The College Plan launch liturgy would be a combination of our expe-
rences during the Fall. Streaming over a video call allowed participants to be present in prayer and worship together on video call, which helped to thin the space between us. And though the gathering was virtual, the call it was anchored through our Chapel, connecting all of us to our sacred ground on campus.

The celebration was also rooted in the College Plan itself, to bring the Plan into action even as we participated in its launch. Focusing on the priorities of Hospitable Catholicism and Au-
thentic Indigenization, the liturgy was created collaboratively to weave together Indigenous traditions and Catholic tradition to make one cohesive liturgy and allow for full participation in a virtual setting. Combined with the gifts, talents, and participation of so many, it came together as a wonderful, prayerful experience.

Recorded Masses and the liturgy are available on the STM Campus Ministry YouTube channel. Special thanks go to Elda Al & Patricia Felix Sturgeon Lake First Nation and Deacon Harry Lafond (Muskeg Lake First Nation) for their leadership and for their powerful witness of faith, knowledge, and love in the liturgy and in our community. And many thanks to those who gave their time in service behind the scenes and in front of the camera to bring the liturgy to life. May God, our Creator, bless us as we journey with our College Plan 2025.

First CCSA on-line conference: GREAT SUCCESS

For the full article and link to view the Centre launch, check out stmcollege.ca/news

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE UNVEILS NEW ACADEMIC CENTRE

Dr. Chris Hrynkow (PhD) appointed to lead Centre for Faith, Reason, Peace, and Justice

January 29, 2021 St. Thomas More College (STM) held a virtual launch of their new Centre. The first director of STM’s Centre for Faith, Reason, Peace, and Justice (CFRPJ) is Dr. Chris Hrynkow, who is also the head of the Department of Religion and Culture. Three founding community partners are part of the advisory committee for the new centre - the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools and the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan.

For Dr. Hrynkow, the launch of the centre was a culmination of many years of effort. “The Centre has been in the planning for at least a decade. It is a lot of vision work was done since the creation of the Catholic Studies and Critical Perspectives on Social Justice and Common Good Minors, " Hrynkow said. "We are now trying to bring alive that vision, including by strengthening it through dialogue with community partners."

Hrynkow said the CFRPJ has a three-fold purpose: To act as a home for STM distinctive area programs in the areas of Catholic Studies, Critical Perspectives on Social Justice and the Common Good, and Peace Studies; To promote these programs with students, community partners, and faculty, including in the last case passion for teaching and research in these areas; and through outreach, to bring the insights and values associated with these programs alive through mutually-enhancing work with community partners.

Dr. Carl Still, president of STM spoke to upcoming Centre initiatives. “You can expect the Centre to discuss the ongoing dialogue between the Catholic Church and the wider society, but also to welcome into this discussion many perspectives from other Christian communities, from other communities of faith, and from all and any people of goodwill who are engaged in making our society a more peaceful and equitable place for all its members."

For the full article and link to view the Centre launch, check out stmcollege.ca/news

A recording of the liturgy is available on the STM Campus Ministry YouTube channel. Special thanks go to Elda Al & Patricia Felix Sturgeon Lake First Nation and Deacon Harry Lafond (Muskeg Lake First Nation) for their leadership and for their powerful witness of faith, knowledge, and love in the liturgy and in our community. And many thanks to those who gave their time in service behind the scenes and in front of the camera to bring the liturgy to life. May God, our Creator, bless us as we journey with our College Plan 2025.

The Centre for Faith, Reason, Peace, and Justice

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Inspiriting Excellence

by Jacquie Berg

St. Thomas More College (STM) is proud to once again have our faculty recognized for teaching excellence by the students of USask. STM is very pleased to announce Dr. Allison Smith (PhD), selected as one of USask’s ten USSU Teaching Excellence Award recipients for 2021. This well-deserved recognition was the result of the nomination evaluation ratings by students from Allison’s SPAN 117 (Term 1) class.

The USSU web portal recently announced the awards process as follows, “the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union (USSU) celebrates excellence at USask through awards for teaching, volunteerism, staff sport and contribution to campus culture. Selected by students, the USSU Teaching Excellence Award recognizes those who have demonstrated enthusiasm, organization, and fairness in evaluation, providing exceptional commitment and support to their classrooms.”

Originally from Toronto, Smith’s Bachelor of Arts Honours is in specialized Spanish from York University, which she followed up with a masters and PhD from the University of Ottawa. Joining her husband Charles Smith (STM Department of Political Studies), in a move to Saskatchewan for faculty positions with STM, Allison has now taught at the college for 11 years.

One of select faculty on campus specializing in the Spanish language, Allison has seen continued growth in interest for the subject which she believes is motivated by the prevalence of Spanish in popular travel locales, the modern languages major, a language requirement in some degrees, and a second language often serving as a valuable career asset.

“Language classes are so that you can speak it – you can’t achieve this on paper alone,” says Smith. “My classes always include opportunities to have the students speak in Spanish as much as possible. I also include cultural impact aspects – snippets of Spanish movies, videos, tours of Mexico City, and even Spanish commercials – so that I make the connections obvious with what we are learning.”

As STM entered into this pandemic year requiring remote learning, Smith was forced to make several changes to her presentations recognizing that language courses have their own unique demands. “Everything had to change,” she said. The first step involved learning the Canvas online system to record lectures. “I wanted to make my courses easy to navigate and clearly understood, while ensuring the balance of the oral component and interaction, so necessary for success. Taking into account some students’ challenges with IT access, I had to reduce the amount of synchronous time, while still providing opportunities to discuss concepts, practice the language and expand skills. Every student still had to be assessed with individual oral exams – held virtually via computer.”

While anxious to return to in-person course delivery, Allison notes there were some new positive practices adopted in this unique year that she may incorporate into the future, including keeping practice exercises available on Canvas to support students, along with an interactive syllabus.

Allison Smith’s own journey into academia – in particular Spanish – was the result of an inspiring teacher. Her own passion for the subject and enthusiastic engagement with her students at STM will most certainly result in more young people in similar scholarly pursuits.

Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions, the USSU is unable to host the celebratory awards ceremony this year. The winners will instead be showcased via video on the USSU’s website and social media channels.

Congratulations, Allison!
Grace Rath

This spring Grace Rath will receive a Bachelor of Arts (honours) degree in sociology, with a minor in Critical Perspectives on Social Justice and the Common Good.

The minor is described as “an interdisciplinary course of study designed to prepare students to be responsible critics of contemporary societies, and effective agents for positive social transformation.” This program is co-ordinated by St. Thomas More College (STM) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) and may be completed in conjunction with any degree in the College of Arts and Science.

Grace received STM’s Dubé Service and Justice scholarship for her first year. “I was attracted to the smaller class sizes at STM and the chance to continue involvement with STM’s Just Youth student club, which I had also been involved with at my high school,” she said. Just Youth offers students a chance to learn about global social justice and solidarity through public education, fundraising, and social action campaigns.

“I appreciated the Just Youth affiliation with Development and Peace and Catholic social teachings, while being with like-minded individuals and supporting advocacy around youth on campus,” said Rath. “Some of my highlights over these past four years has included working to support a good base for critical thinking. “It also enabled an appreciation last summer amidst COVID-19 restrictions,” said Lucas. “In these challenging times, you being family for many of the residents. I took them to appointments, was there to listen, and shared unique learning experiences.”

Coming from a family of teachers, Veronica Lucas was always aware of the value of education.

“Educating yourself is always a good thing. Period,” said Lucas. “You never stop learning. I found the opportunity to advance human connection skills in my degree most valuable, with many of my liberal arts courses additionally serving as important training for critical thinking—helping me to understand and connect with people on another level”

This June, Lucas will graduate with her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology, with a minor in Critical Perspectives on Social Justice and the Common Good.

“I was attracted to the overlap between the two programs, with a focus on the common good. With my grandmother as inspiration, I saw much that I could learn from her, but also the areas of vulnerability for seniors and elderly. I would like to be the voice of those that cannot advocate for themselves—whether in areas of care, finances, or their health,” Lucas said.

There is a lot of Lucas family history with STM and USask. Veronica’s great-grandfather served as the curator at the University of Saskatchewan in the Department of Sociology and School of Public Health. The research was focused on the impacts of Service Dogs on veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

STM faculty present future students

Every spring, STM Recruitment collaborates with local high schools offering STM professor guest lectures in their classrooms. A popular initiative, faculty representing STM departments French, English, Political Studies, and Religious Studies have generously volunteered their time to present on subject related to their department. They have included Dr. Henri Biâre, Dr. Jennifer Briere, Dr. Michael Cichon, Dr. Kylee-Anne Hingston, Dr. Chris Hrynkow and Dr. Charles Smith.

Grade twelve students have an opportunity to receive a scholarly presentation by STM university faculty and build an initial relationship with our college as they look ahead to course selection when enrolled at USask.

The presentations include a brief introduction to STM and our programs, a mini-lecture and a live questions and answers with the professor. Pre-COVID presentations were in person. This year, faculty pre-recorded the talk but were available virtually for questions.

Dr. Jennifer Briere (PhD) presented virtually to Nutana collegiate students this spring. Her presentation was on cognitive psychology, titled “You’re Constructing Your Reality: How Much Do You Trust Your Perception.”
Our wonderful volunteer committee!

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

Art Battiste - President
Angeline Battiste
Madeleine Bias-Dahllem
Corinne Baumann
Mary Donlevy-Konkin
Sylvia Regnier
Dean Schmidt

You are invited to join the STMNAA committee today!

The STMNAA committee welcomes other alumni to join this active group of volunteers who work to support and develop creative initiatives that benefit alumni and the College. This dedicated group of alumni is committed to building a creative community of STM graduates and alumni. We are an active group of volunteers who work to support and develop creative initiatives and serve on the STMNAA committee. Our efforts are aimed at supporting and developing a creative community of STM graduates and alumni. We aim to create a creative community of STM graduates and alumni and to support and develop creative initiatives that benefit alumni and the College. If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact us at:

ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca

Thank You!

Please join all members of the St. Thomas More College community in celebrating the outstanding generosity of every donor who chose to give in response to the STM Christmas Letter from Richard Medernach, Manager of Student Experience and Enrolment. More than $16,000 was given in support of STM Scholarships and Bursaries to help unlock student potential.

STM students are challenged to grow intellectually and personally, thinking creatively and critically as they prepare to take their place in the world. Through the faithful support of our caring donors, our students are well 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.

On behalf of all grateful students who benefit from your heartfelt support of STM Scholarships and Bursaries, thank you for "choosing to put your own hard work, sacrifice and, most importantly, faith in someone you deem fit for the award."
My Polish parents were passionate about education and were so were their ancestors. My grandparents immigrated to Canada in 1902 to homestead in Saskatchewan. They donated land from their home quarter to build the first school and church in their area.

Fast forward to 2021 – an era where knowledge is increasing at an ever accelerating rate and creating a "knowledge explosion." Our collective knowledge is doubling every 13 months, and it is predicted that the digital age will increase this speed to a doubling of knowledge every 12 hours. This massive amount of information, as well as the turbulent social and political change we are experiencing today, is putting us into "information overload!"

This why I feel education is one of our most empowering tools. Education helps to build confidence and education helps to sharpen our reasoning and problem solving skills. Education gives us a creative edge by building our critical thinking skills which enables us to plough through this massive amount of information with grace and ease. Education equips us with discerning tools which help us to evaluate this massive amount of information and then enables us to make better choices.

This is why I am passionate about education, and by contributing financially to STM I am part of the solution rather than the problem. I would like to create my legacy by contributing financially to STM. I feel my support helps the college to create opportunities and an environment for students to learn.

"Knowledge is power," but the ability to act on knowledge and make informed choices is really the power. And this is why I am passionate about supporting our college. And I am confident that our STM College can use this assistance to create opportunities for many students to receive an education.

Together, we can make a difference.

Many blessings, peace, love and joy.
Rosemarie Wrobel, BA, MSW

Education key to navigating future, says legacy donor Wrobel

STM alumna Rosemarie Wrobel has included her beloved alma mater in her estate planning. She has graciously agreed to share her perspective on why she is intent to "pay forward" her good fortune of receiving a liberal arts eduction at STM College:

The question I am addressing: Why do I financially contribute to STM and is this important?

I feel so blessed that I had the opportunity to receive my education at STM, a very special and unique college. And I am grateful that I received scholarships for my first year at STM.

My Polish parents were passionate about education and so were their ancestors. My grandparents immigrated to Canada in 1902 to homestead in Saskatchewan. They donated land from their home quarter to build the first school and church in their area.

What was your experience like at STM? Veronica: My experience at STM was incredibly positive. The smaller class sizes and unique learning opportunities made a world of difference when it came to building community and deepening my learning. I was fortunate to be a part of the Intermedia Program, Service and Justice Project, and served on the editorial team for in Medias Res, STM’s Liberal Arts journal. I also took a lot of classes through STM as a philosophy major and was financially supported by various bursaries and scholarships. I felt seen at STM and still nurture lifelong friendships that started here.

Wyatt: Very friendly. The community connections of the SIP program, the friendly students in small class sizes, and the spiritual support from people like Michael Maclean always made me feel welcome. Not only did it help me connect with the university community, it brought me closer to the Saskatoon community as well.

After graduation, where has your path taken you? Veronica: After I graduated from USask, I went to OISE (University of Toronto) to continue my studies in their Social Justice MA program. I fell in love with teaching and saw it as a means to always be learning and involved in education conversations so I then completed my BEd at SUNTEP in Prince Albert. I moved back to Saskatchewan to start a family closer to my and my partner’s family. I now teach with the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division and have been a Sessional Lecturer for the UofS. I hope with the Prince Albert campus opening there will be more opportunities to teach and learn in my community.

Wyatt: Immediately after graduating in spring 2019, I was accepted into the U of S Law College where I am on track to graduate in 2022.

How did your plans change as you progressed through university and then into the job market? Veronica: Life has a tendency of throwing you curve balls so naturally plans change along the way. Priorities change too as you learn and grow. I often thought I’d end up in Law or would jump right into a doctoral program after my masters but grad school made me realize that I needed to spend more time in the real world before being able to confidently pursue that level. I still think I’ll go back to university at some point but right now I’m enjoying my two daughters and my career as a teacher.

Wyatt: The switching between programs was mainly an effort to find a degree that could be composed of the varied classes I was taking. However some changes were the result of colleges changing their program requirements while I was mid-year, (particularly the Education College).

We’re glad to have played a part in Wyatt and Veronica’s journeys, and it is our hope that through Indigenous Scholarships and Bursaries we can continue to support Indigenous students in their academic pursuits. This year, $30,000 was earmarked specifically for Indigenous STM students.

We would love to hear more stories from our alumni! If you’re an alumni, please consider joining our St. Thomas More College - Newman Alumni Association page on Facebook and reaching out to Kari Sinkewicz, our Manager of Development and Alumni Relations: ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca.
2020/2021 STM SCHOLARSHIPS

ENTERING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
Wolfe Family General Achievement Entrance Scholarship
Camryn Ellis
Kramer Scholarship
Alayna Jones, Griffin Lehnert
Reverend Edwin Kline CSR Entrance Scholarship
Michael Turner
STM Indigenous Entering Student Scholarships
Marein Tin Fehr
STM First Year Scholarships
Ana Sofia Moran
Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross First Year Scholarships
Bridgette Campbell, Zachary Digout, Francis Glenn Feliciano, Michael Fytle, Emma Pierrard, Shriya Taul, Vien Vu, Marc Jason White
Knights of Columbus First Year Scholarships
Anza Alam, Felicia Kooster, Nathan Shea Guerandago
Bev Hanson First Year Student Scholarship
Nick Miekelberg
Ashley Smith First Year Student Scholarship
Madison Prytula

CONTINUING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
Wolfe Family General Scholarship (2nd renewal)
Liam Kerr
Hinz/Teunissen Memorial Scholarship
Allyson Cook
Henry and Agnes Brockman Scholarship
Temi Akinola
Rose Semko Hrynchuks Scholarship
Maria Krueger
Doug and Irene Schmeiser Scholarship
Emily Sinkewicz
Jeannette Tetreault Scholarship
Eric Chatrger
Evelyn Burkitt Scholarships
Abba Cross, Rachel Kay
Council 1517 George Mackey Foundation Scholarship
Maria Gunsly
Batten Scholarship
Jenna Roesch
Christopher Dawson Scholarship
Annie McKay, Grace Raths
Thomas Deis ’38 Pioneers of Saskatchewan Scholarship
 Alicja Rutkowski

Thanks to our generous supporters, each year STM College offers more than $220,000 in scholarships and bursaries to our self-declared students!

Dielschneider Aboriginal Scholarship
Jensen Trainbog
Terence & Margaret Downey Scholarship
Licia Cores Morar
Founding Fathers Scholarship
Terry Bateman
Wilfrid and Sylvia Hinz Family Award
Jeniffer Carmona
STM Creative Writing Scholarship
Jenna Miller
STM Leadership Award
Jenna Daly, Allison Jansen, Chelaine Kirsch, Veronica Lucas, Daryl Malana, Kiera Nakonechny, Grace Raths, Taylor Spock
STM Faculty Union Scholarship
Madison DeCorby
Cornelius and Rosallie Woloschuk Scholarship
Sarah Blom
Maureen Haynes Catholic Studies Scholarships
Danielle Corriveau, Alayna Nye, Kaili Flanagan
Roy E. Lloyd Scholarship
Ebelechukwu Amfemuru
Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association/TYC – Steppe Branch
Hayley Abery - 114, Madison Halvich -114, Rebecca Spilchuk - 114, Sharleen Rayner -117, Dillon Ollibough - 214, Natalya Shevchuk - 217

ENGAGED LEARNING SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS
Les and Irene Dubé Service & Justice Scholarships
Bridgette Campbell, Camryn Ellis, Francis Feliciano, Angel Jacobs, Ana Sofia Moran, Victoria Spurr, Vien Vu
St. Thomas More College Service & Justice Awards
Marian De Los Reyes, Madison DeCorby, Yehia El Karsh, Jos Nicole Ines, Maria Nunez Valdivieso, Nicole Iannone Reyes, Nicole Rocheleau, Nathan Shea Guerdago
St. Thomas More College Award for Excellence in CSL Writing
Jenna Matheson, Alicja Rutkowski

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

CONTINUING STUDENT BURSARIES
Aulea Arsenault Bursary
Donor: Estate of Aulea Arsenault – 2 @ $1,000
Robert and Florence Cowan Bursary
Donor: Florence Cowan – 1 @ $2,500
Anne Phelan Decoteau Bursary
Donor: Dr. Earl Decoteau and family, in memory of Anne Phelan Decoteau – 1 @ $1,000
Elizabeth Doktor Engaged Learning Award
Donor: Elizabeth Doktor – 1 @ $1,250
STM Bursary
Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College – 4 @ $1,000

INDIGENOUS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
Dielschneider Aboriginal Bursary
Donor: Peter Dielschneider – 2 @ $1,500
STM Indigenous Entering Student Bursary
Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College – 2 @ $1,500
STM Indigenous Continuing Student Bursary
Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College – 4 @ $1,500
STM Community – 1 @ $1,000

For information on establishing a scholarship or bursary, please contact Kari Sinkewicz at 306.262.6818 or ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca

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

Applications due Oct. 1, 2021

Mary and Nicholas Lucyshyn Bursary
Donor: The Lucyshyn family, in memory and honour of Nick and Mary Lucyshyn – 1 @ $500
Nasser Family Award
Donor: Dr. Kay and Mrs. Dora Nasser – 1 @ $1,000
Lorne and Elizabeth Parker Bursary
Donor: Mr. Lorne and Mrs. Elizabeth Parker – 1 @ $500
Peter Harold Richlark Bursary
Donor: Mr. Wally Richlark – 2 @ $1,000
Herman and Myrna Rolles Bursary
Donor: Herman and Myrna Rolles – 1 @ $1,000
Saskatchewan K of C Charitable Foundation
Donor: Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation – 1 @ $1,000
Knights of Columbus Bursary
Donor: Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus – 1 @ $500
STM Faculty Union Bursary
Donor: STM Faculty Union – 1 @ $1,000

STM Bursary
Donor: Grain & General Services Union – 1 @ $2,000
Donor: Robert and Florence Cowan – 1 @ $2,500
Donor: Friends of St. Thomas More College – 7 @ $1,500
Donor: Henry Rema Aboriginal Student Bursary
Donor: Henry Rema - 4 of varying amounts (5,000 total)
Northern Indigenous Student Access Bursary
Donor: STM Community – 1 @ $1,000

16
17
Greg Clemence had the loneliest job on campus last year. When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the St. Thomas More College (STM) building in March 2020, he was often the lone occupant for extended periods of time.

“STM Facilities team on frontline battling COVID-19
By Paul Sirkiewicz

Clemence was charged with implementing the protocols that are keeping the faculty, staff and students at STM College safe when they visit.

The year the Newman Executive had in 2020-2021, was both bizarre and exciting. Like most students, we were bummed out to hear that September 2020 meant more long distance learning. But we were excited about hosting the CCSA national conference in January 2021. The conference would be on-line, and would host speakers from Winnipep, Montreal, New York, and Saskatoon. But the most special moment of the conference for us was the dedication of our student lounge to Newman. Veronica Lucas, a member of the Newman Council at the University of Saskatchewan housed at St. Thomas More College was able to address CCSA conference participants from Calgary to Charlottetown after Fr. Raymond Lafontaine’s keynote address on Friday, January 22, that focussed on the life of St. John Henry Newman.

Lucas spoke of Newman’s vision for students across Canada. When we (hopefully) gather back together in person in September 2021, we will see you in the Newman Student Lounge!
Shannon Library supportive solutions
by Corinne Mathews

As a liberal arts college, we provide students the ability to become critical thinkers with the confidence to adapt and succeed in the face of the unknown. These competencies have never been more important than during this past year, and thankfully the employees at STM not only impart these skills but also have the chops to back it up. Shannon Library has worked hard to implement original solutions to ensure our students, faculty and staff received all the supports they required for academic success in 2020-2021.

In June 2020, Shannon Library partnered up with Murray Library to provide a contacts pick-up service. We ensured students and faculty had safe access to physical items and the ability to request scans from our items, such as a book chapter, or print article. More than 300 items from our shelves have been delivered to our patrons via contacts pickups. Determined to provide a safe space and a sense of normality for our students, Shannon Library opened its doors to a capacity of 20 people in September 2020. Encouraged and supported by STM administration, STM library was open weekly earlier than our counterpart at USask. After perfecting the safety policies and procedures, Shannon Library was able to expand its usable space to a capacity of 25, with opening hours six days a week. This effort was rewarded with the continued influx of students studying in the library. We are pleased to report that not a single COVID case has been linked to or connected with the safe space we have provided students. In this way, Shannon Library has been able to provide support to our faculty as well as our students. We provided copyright expertise when instructors needed to restructure their courses for distance learning and the ability to connect e-resources for course reserves, a service so valuable I imagine it will be requested long into the future. It has been quite a year, and while we all look forward to a return to normal, I am pleased to report that STM library has discovered we truly do have the necessary creativity flexibility and support to provide valuable services to our stakeholders, in any situation, when the need arises.

Creative Community-building during Covid
by Jacques Berg

STM’s college president shared studying tips. The Student Experience team produced ‘Sweet Skills’ videos to advance basic baking skills. A virtual first year student community was created. Campus ministry developed self-care videos, and Christmas dinner deliveries were made to studying students. These are just some of the many creative initiatives at St. Thomas More College (STM) at the University of Saskatchewan this past year to help keep connected with their students, extend hospitality and build community.

STM has long been recognized for its supportive environment. Richard Medernach, manager of student experience and enrolment, reminds us that relationships take time even under ideal conditions. “The pandemic is slowing that process further” he says. “But we still want to meet and know our students, to help them feel welcomed, respected, and cared about.”

In March 2020, mandated restrictions to address the COVID-19 pandemic brought in-class instruction, special guest lectures, student social events, the Glee club, theatre group, Study Abroad, and so forth, to a halt at STM. Faculty had to quickly reimage engaging course delivery in a remote format while staff and administration determined how to work and meet while maintaining a college community in the new virtual environment. Reminiscing about what student life is all about, graduating STM student Veronica Lucas is saddened by what was lost with the lockdown on campus, noting that being in college in person plays a critical role for relationships and student identity. “Meeting new people in those courses where you can encounter literally anyone and developing connections with mentors, faculty, or other students can grow into new and exciting opportunities,” says Lucas.

STM staff and faculty took these sentiments to heart, and while recognizing that nothing can replace the in-person experience, almost 12 months later and near a full academic year completed, the college is proud to see how everyone rallied to ensure students’ needs were best served, with the addition of many creative initiatives amidst the Pandemic crisis.

Beng new on campus is often intimidating. Add to that remote delivery and making new friends may seem an immense challenge. STM’s student recruitment officer and academic advisor, Linda Huard, introduced a student initiative to combat this.

“I reached out to several grade 12 students starting their first year at USask, who wanted to join the STM community. Through group chats, virtual meetings, and social media, we kept in touch, discussing pandemic anxieties and concerns, as well as personal hobbies, pets, and the unique stressors brought on during the pandemic. Many new friendships were forged, and confidence built, while sharing their experiences.” Huard added. “With recruitment travel also limited this fall, the wins were offered provincially and another new section on the STM website was developed for prospective students. Here students will find an STM introductory video, and all College specific materials that would otherwise be physically available.”

St. Thomas More College is grateful to the Stephen and Micheline Worobetz Foundation for their generous gift of $2500 to STM Campus. Ministry’s efforts to support the mental health & wellness of our students. These funds have been designated to the professional development of campus minister Fr. Andre Lalach, who is completing a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology at Yorkville University.

Engaged Learning in a pandemic year

by Caroline West

Offering experiential learning opportunities during a pandemic presented a unique challenge to STM’s Engaged Learning Office (ELO) and the community organizations that work with us. Many organizations shut down temporarily, others were forced to restrict access to outside community members, and some simply had too much on their plate to be able to take on the responsibility of training new volunteers.

In spite of these challenges, the ELO was able to work with many key community partners in order to offer service-learning to a select number of STM classes. Each of the placements remote was this past year, which prevented both opportunities and challenges for students and community members alike. Some STM students worked with newcomer organizations such as Saskatoon Open Door Society and Global Gathering Place as tutors for high school and elementary school students. Other students worked with Samaritan Place, a long-term care home. Each of these placements was offered remotely, which means that our community partners invested a lot of extra effort in making these programs possible.

In the case of the newcomer organizations, STM students plugged into existing programs, but in the case of Samaritan Place, staff were very much above and beyond for our students and their residents. SP staff matched our students with older adults who were experiencing the negative effects of isolation most acutely. Students talked with the residents via video chat one or two times a week throughout both terms. In some cases, the students developed quite deep relationships with the residents, and in one case, our student became a resident’s official designate for in-person visits. When social distancing guidelines were relaxed enough to allow for limited outside engagement, although our numbers were smaller this year relative to non-pandemic years, it was as apparent as ever that community outreach is an incredible benefit to both students and community.

The Service & Justice Project, our co-curricular service-learning program, underwent a temporary transformation this year. With volunteering essentially out of the question for our 25 students, STM provided the novels Son of a Trickster and Trickster Drift by Eden Robinson in order to do a book study. Throughout the year, students heard interviews with First Nations writers and members of St-Bruno, as well as participating in online activities with Menno-nite Central Committee. This year, the project’s theme was race, and students reflected intently about First Nations culture, and the particular challenges that Indigenous communities face, using these novels as a jumping off point. Working in small groups throughout both terms, students worked through notions of racism, oppression, the challenges of poverty, among other things, and also interrogated their own prejudices and philosophical blind spots. With this intellectual groundwork laid, we are hopeful that students will be able to serve the community more fully and intentionally when we are once again allowed to do so.

“I’ve come to see each other as community in a new way—we’ve developed new skills to connect, strengthened our resiliency and been witness to numerous examples of compassionate service to others,” Dr. Gertrude Rompé, STM Student Services

Student Services remained a constant throughout this challenging year. STM academic advising remained available whether by phone, online meetings, or email. Student awards and convocation celebrations were held virtually, with dedicated web pages and livestreamed events.

To assist first-year students and welcome them to the College, a new transition guide on the STM website includes articles and links to resources that students need when starting out. Several orientation and welcome week activities were available to participate in virtually, and email contact ensured information was relayed on support services, academic success tips, while also addressing isolation, stress and mental health management.

Remaining true to the college focus on pastoral care of students, in mid-September, STM opened their doors to support USask students in need of internet access and a quiet place to study amid COVID restrictions. Meeting provincial health guidelines, limited access is available on weekdays and Saturdays. Details for entry restrictions and a real-time tally for available space can be found on the stmo.ca homepage.

Caring for the whole person is a hallmark of STM. Campus ministry takes this to heart by attending to a wide array of student needs including attention to student mental health and wellness. They offer a full array of weekly programming online, while also staying connected to the student groups. In January, STM hosted the Canadian Catholic Students Association Conference (CCSA) connecting students virtually nation-wide.

Dr. Gertrude Rompé (EDT), director of Mission and Ministry for STM, finds hope and positivity have risen from these challenging times. “We’ve come to see each other as community in a new way—we’ve developed new skills to connect, strengthened our resiliency and been witness to numerous examples of compassionate service to others. We have a sense of still being connected to the STM community although we’re not in the same space.”

20

21
IN THE NEWS

STM researcher assesses Bystander Intervention Training effectiveness
by Jacquie Iong

Dr. Carie Buchanan (PhD), assistant professor in psychology at STM, received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Development Grant for her project, Evaluating Prosocial Bystander Intervention Training with Undergraduate Students in Preventing Sexual Assaults. She is working with co-principal investigator Dr. Karen Lawson (PhD) of USask, collaborator Dr. Donald McC Creary (PhD) of Brock University, and supported by several graduate students.

"Bystander intervention training (BIT) provides skills to enable people to safely and confidently intervene in situations that may be violent or have potential to end in violence," said Buchanan.

"Through our research we want to determine if this training results in a measurable difference in students’ ability to properly assess their situation and the risk factors, to in turn prevent sexual violence and/or intervene to impact the situation positively. Equipping students with knowledge and skills in recognizing and safely intervening in situations wherein sexual violence is occurring or may occur, will help make campus safer."

As a developmental researcher, Buchanan has always been interested in ways to foster healthy relationships. So, while providing the tools is important, she felt the need for evidence-based research to address and assess the effectiveness of this campus program. Lawson, an applied social psychologist, serves as an expert in program evaluation on the team. Through metrics, including workshop participant pre-testing and post-testing, they will evaluate the short and long-term impact of BIT training.

"Research results will be then used to inform changes made to the bystander intervention training offered to students, to improve efficacy and promote positive change in students’ social norms that may support sexual violence," Buchanan said.

"Athletes hold social capital on campuses in North America," Buchanan added. "If they agree to participate in these preventative workshops, it will be important, they felt the need for evidence-based research to address and assess the effectiveness of this campus program. Lawson, an applied social psychologist, serves as an expert in program evaluation on the team. Through metrics, including workshop participant pre-testing and post-testing, they will evaluate the short and long-term impact of BIT training."

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In Memoriam

Lorna Stack

It was with great sadness that the family of Lorna Stack (Kerr) announced her peaceful passing on Dec. 20, 2020.

Lorna was born on Aug. 12, 1939 in Saskatoon. She grew up in the Nutana area and attended St. Joseph elementary school, Nutana Collegiate, St. Thomas More College and the University of Saskatchewan.

During her time at St. Thomas More College, a young man met his friends that he could get Lorna to go on a date with him. John Stack asked, and she accepted. They married at St. Joseph Church on Aug. 5, 1961 and raised six children together.

Lorna was a loving daughter, sister, wife, mom and friend. She gave her family so much and many wonderful places, memories and traditions. From spending summers holidays at Jeannette Lake, hiking in Rogers Pass, playing in the Pacific Ocean in Hawaii, to the magic she brought to our Christmas Eve celebration. She made sure we experienced the joys of life together.

She was a wonderful baker and while she did not love it, she was an amazing cook. She loved gardening, and her yard was truly beautiful. She loved to buy local art and her home was filled with it. She contributed to her community in many ways, including taking Parkridge Care Home residents to weekly mass.

Lorna had great affection for all her friends including Mildred Kerr, Inga Kramer, Pat Keenan, Patty Thompson, and Anne DeCoteau, as well as her cousins, Lynda Moffat and Elaine Murray.

Lorna was proceeded in death by her father, Cameron Kerr; mother, Kitty Kerr; brother, Don Kerr; father- and mother-in-law, Ambrose and Berta Stack; husband, John Stack; daughter, Jennifer Stack; and her cat, Pancake. She is survived by her children, Caroline (husband Don, children Katherine, Anne, and Tom), Elizabeth (husband), Janice (husband Gerard, son William), Robert (wife Marion, son Nicolas), David (wife Andrea, children Jennifer, Andrew and Rebecca), and Marie (husband Darrin, girls Rose and Juliet).

Siblings and STM alums Don Kerr and Lorna Stack

Donald Kerr, SOM

Submitted by Mildred Kerr

Don Kerr registered at STM in 1953 at the old white house on College Drive. His future achievements all started when Father O’Donnell taught him English 2.

Don loved STM’s support of students, the Basian fathers, and the access to all classes afforded by its affiliation with the University of Saskatchewan. He graduated from STM in 1957 and went on to complete his MA at St. Michael’s at University of Toronto.

Friendships formed at STM last a lifetime. Don’s included Leon LeGault, Neil Ross, Ray Kutz, Jerome Atrens, Marcel de la Gorgondiere and Joe Dieker, to name but a few.

Don married Mildred McNamee (STM 1959 and 2001 STM Distinguished Alumna) on August 13, 1960, officiated by Father Finn at St. Joseph’s parish. On the Saturday Don got his first paycheck teaching English 2 at summer school.

Many former students said Don was their favorite teacher at USask. Besides teaching well researched English classes for 42 years, English 2, British and Canadian Drama and Film Classes, he wasprodigious writer, authoring nine books of poetry, and had five plays produced.

Don co-wrote Sakatoon: The First Half Century with Stan Hanson. Later he wrote A Book in Every Hand, Public Libraries in Saskatchew an for the Provincial Library Board. He also convinced then Mayor Cliff Wright to buy the Marr Residence, the oldest house still on its original location, and now a museum. He was first chair of Sakatoon City Council’s Heritage committee, and first chair of Sakatoon Heritage Society and served six years on National Heritage Advisory Board.

He edited Sakatoon History Review for 16 years until 2019 and edited writers for Grain, Coteau Books and NeWest Press and NeWest Review for many years.

Don and Mildred celebrated their 60th anniversary on Aug. 13, 2020, renewing their vows as lifelong friends looked on. Don passed away December 8, 2020.

Anne T. Moran

Submitted by Jane Haslip

Anne, who passed away Feb. 10, 2021, first became acquainted with STM in the mid-fifties when she took up her position in the Science Library at the University of Saskatchewan. From that time onward she kept unforgettable memories in the hearts and minds of many of the administration, faculty, staff, students and worshiping community who call STM home.

Anne, in her early days at STM, particularly appreciated the relationships she had with the Basian priests who shared a common Irish heritage with her. Over the years, as Anne became familiar with all those in the STM community, fostered particularly close relationships with the custodians, cooks, and groundskeepers whom she constantly encouraged to keep things up. Always curious, always caring, always believing that those who served must be appreciated as the individuals they were, to come to know not only these individuals but also their families whose birthdays and special occasions she always acknowledged.

And Anne herself loved celebrations! She loved STM for its Red Mass, its Academic Mass, its Easter and Christmas liturgies while in part because of the tradition and solemnity of these events, but also, and importantly, for the feast and fellowship associated with them. Anne would share with someone she thought needed it. Jesus showed us how to bring peace to earth, pray always and provide food with accompaniment to all around you. She spent decades as a participant in all STM had to offer because she knew prayer ministry was facilitated and accepted by most and because she neither really needed a ticket for any function given there. She would always be fed, no questions asked and her prayers for others would always be appreciated.

Anne enjoyed meeting young people, listening to them, counseling them, encouraging, praying with them. Many were the library fines she paid on their behalf and many was the meal she gave to those she met in her prayer ministry.

Anne was many things to many people at STM. To all of us she was someone always there, praying with us, celebrating with us, studying with us, leading us, following us, laughing and crying with us. Like the mortar in the bricks of our walls our presence helped hold us together. May her memory continue to support us and may we, from time to time, consider the quote which so often she gave to those she met in her prayer ministry.

Christ has no body now but yours.
Christ has no feet on earth but yours.
You are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
You are his body.

Teresa of Avila

Dr. Michael Krochak

Dr. Michael Krochak passed away March 11, 2021.

A kind soul, a wise committed leader, faithful, respected, and much-loved. Just some of the many adjectives used to describe Dr. Michael Krochak.

Michael first attended St. Thomas More College in 1950, receiving his bachelor of Arts in 1953. During his time at STM he was very involved with the life of the college, including the Newman Club, Ulcers lunches, and Sunday evening socials.

After completing his BA, Michael entered the College of Medicine, receiving his medical degree in 1957. He served as a family physician in Saskatoon for nearly 60 years.

An active member of St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Michael was also involved in many professional and community projects and organizations over the years including the Saskatoon Obnina Club; the Ukrainian Catholic Business and Professional Men’s Club; the Saskatchewan College of Family Physicians; Saskatoon and district Medical Society and the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Saskatchewan.

Michael’s community engagement included serving on Boards with the Knights of Columbus, the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Board, the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, along with many Ukrainian Catholic community projects such as St. Joseph’s Home and St. Volodymyr’s Eparchal camp.

Dr. Krochak received many commendations over his lifetime. Some highlights include being named the 2001 Family Physician of the Year by the Saskatchewan College of Family Physicians. He was also recognized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Saskatchewan Provincial Branch and named one of the top 10 family physicians of the year by the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Michael and Marie Krochak remained good friends and generous supporters of student awards at the College, and the Prairie Centre for the study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH), an academic unit of STM.

In 2002, STM recognized Dr. Krochak as a Distinguished Alumnus for his outstanding lifetime achievements, having made a significant contribution to the community, and continuing to celebrate his relationship with the College.

At that event, Sr. Theodora, administrator of St. Joseph’s Home, called Dr. Krochak “a man of service, and impeccable standards and noted that his colleagues were always inspired by his commitment to his medical practice and the care of his patients.”

A true inspiration and beloved alumnus.
Comfort Food

We hear you. It's been a tough year.
STM and Choices have stepped up to make things a bit easier during this challenging time. Enjoy lower pricing and new menu additions. Order ahead for easy pickup!

ORDER ONLINE for convenient takeout: stmcollege.ca/eat-here/take-out.php DINE IN OPTION for faculty/staff/students subject to room capacity restrictions

We are open Saturdays 11-6
*Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

STM Distinguished Alumni Award Nomination Form
DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS June 30, 2021.

Required Nomination Documentation and Information:
1. A completed nomination form signed by the nominator
2. A curriculum vitae, resume or summary of the nominee’s achievements that may include the following: career path, titles, awards, publications, honours, acts of kindness, compliments and contributions. Feel free to include newspaper/magazine articles.
3. Supporting letter(s) of reference and other relevant supporting documentation
4. Your reasons for nominating this alumna/us

Personal Information of Nominee:
Name of nominee: ____________________________
Year of graduation: _______________ Degree: __________________________
Nominee’s current position / occupation: __________________________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________________
Province: __________ Postal Code: __________
Phone number (Daytime): __________ (Evening): __________ Email: __________________________
Does the nominee know that he or she has been nominated for this award? __________

Nominator Information:
Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________________
Province: __________ Postal Code: __________
Phone number (Daytime): __________ (Evening): __________ Email: __________________________
Does the nominee know that he or she has been nominated for this award? __________

Selection Criteria:
The Distinguished Alumni Award honours graduates of St. Thomas More College who have distinguished themselves in their chosen profession or in their community and who have continued to celebrate their relationship with STM College since graduation. Note: Sitting politicians, current STM faculty, staff and current members of the Board of Governors and the Alumni Association Council are ineligible for this award.

1. A completed nomination form signed by the nominator
2. A summary of the nominee’s professional and/or community achievements
3. Provide a letter of reference, no longer than one page. The letter may be signed by the nominator

Selection Committee: The recipients will be announced during the annual STM Corporation Banquet in October. The nominator(s) of the successful recipient will be advised of the decision.

You may not nominate someone for a posthumous award. Anyone may nominate alumni for the awards and there is no limit to the number of times a candidate may be nominated. Candidates must be STM Alumni. Note: The selection Committee of Distinguished Alumni of the STM-Newman Alumni Association in consultation with the college president review all the nominations and select the award winner(s) who are then notified of the decision. The recipients will be announced during the annual STM Corporation Banquet in October/November.

Forward completed nomination to: Kari Sinkewicz, Manager of Development & Alumni Relations St. Thomas More College 1437 College Drive Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W6
For more information email ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca or call 306.262.6818

Follow on Instagram @ choicess.at.stmcollege

Jarrid Phillips
Executive Chef and Food Services Manager for Choices at STM effective April 1, 2021. Jarrid has been with STM since 2018 in his role as Chef and has been instrumental in the development of new popular menu items for Choices.

Mitch Spence
Lead Cook in our Food Services department. Mitch will be assisting Executive Chef Phillips and will be providing catering services to the College as we come out of the pandemic. Mitch has several years of experience and a broad set of skills that make his culinary style a great fit for Choices at STM.

stmcollege.ca Check out College News, events, STM faculty, STM course offerings, student supports, and so much more! New sections now added with prospective student resources: Indigenous initiatives at STM, Research Centres; Alumni news and graduating student information.

For more information contact Kari Sinkewicz at 306.262.6818 or ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca

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Thank you for your support!
Mail to: Kari Sinkewicz, Manager of Development & Alumni Relations STM College - 1437 College Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W6

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

Over $12,500 raised for STM Student Awards! Thank you sponsors for your generous donations.

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I do not wish to have my name published regarding this gift. If you wish to receive a charitable donation receipt, please provide a letter of reference, no longer than one page. The letter may be signed by the nominator.

You are welcome to make your donation to the STM Emergency Bursary Fund, or the STM area of greatest need. The recipients will then be announced during the annual STM Corporation Banquet in October/November.

Thank you for your support!
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

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

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

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

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