

2000-
2020

SHANNON LIBRARY, ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE

Dr. Donna Brockmeyer, Library Director



Photo by Paul Sinkewicz.

**In 2018, the North Expansion Project received a
Municipal Heritage Award, Sensitive Addition Category.**

DR. DONNA BROCKMEYER's research regarding library architecture and design, her experience in viewing libraries, galleries and museums in places such as the Library of Congress in Washington, Bodleian Library at Oxford, national libraries of Britain and Austria, as well as the Vatican Library of Rome provided a solid foundation for her vision in creating the Romanesque, Renaissance library that we have today. Working closely with the architects, Edwards Edwards McEwan, who were exceptionally accommodating in finding creative ways to put into reality a joint vision of classic and modern styles, was very effective.

Brockmeyer met with the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee to explain the sensitive nature in which the new library was designed to align with and compliment the Collegiate Gothic architecture of the existing college and campus design. "Bringing a library vision to reality is every librarian's dream; my dream was realized and I am very grateful to the College Board, and Administration for initiating the renovation, and allowing me great latitude in it's design; it made all the difference" she said.

Dear Colleagues,

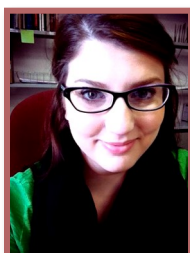
Like most, if not all, of you, I have found 2020 and COVID 19 to be a year of opportunity for reflection. For me, personally, it also marks my 20th Anniversary Year at STM. So, given that the library is closed, and I have no access to current library and statistical data, I am taking this opportunity to reflect on my work at STM and also to celebrate those with whom I have had the pleasure of working with most closely. I have also enjoyed working with everyone associated with St. Thomas More College.

Thank you all, and God Bless.

Dr. Donna Brockmeyer



DOROTHY ABERNETHY I was very fortunate to have worked with Dorothy Abernethy from 2000 until 2017. Dorothy was hired in 1970 as a Sessional Lecturer in the English Department at STM College, and then became full time as a Library Assistant in the Library in 1990. Dorothy's main roles were to supervise the desk assistants, manage circulation, stacks, serials and bindery. Among Dorothy's greatest achievement while working in the library was to learn the U of S Library Automation system, so that when the catalogues were merged, she was instrumental in enabling the merge to work smoothly. She stood in for me when I was on sabbatical, and did a wonderful job. On a personal note, I felt very blessed to have worked with Dorothy who was very efficient in the library, held the college history, and also taught me a great deal about her own Catholic faith as someone who was very devout. Dorothy retired in 2017.



AMANDA GIENI Dorothy and I hired Amanda Giени in 2009, and in doing so, we struck gold. Amanda manages acquisitions, cataloguing, archives and records management, off-site storage, database maintenance, graphics and many special projects for me. She supervised the processing of the Bob Ogle Papers, and on her own initiative digitized archival photos for college use, such as the Basilian Fathers photographs, the STM Newsletter dating back to the 1970's, and many photos in the archival collection that had been collected, stored and documented by Margaret Sanche. She participates in Indigenous Voices and has attended Indigenous events on and off campus when possible. Amanda is a thespian and artist at heart consistently commits extensive volunteer hours to Newman Players, and always has a smile on her face with a ready chuckle.



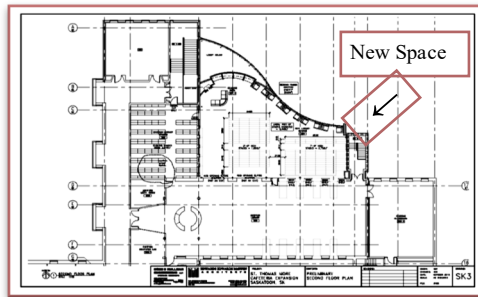
CORINNE RAE MATHEWS Amanda and I hired Corinne in 2017 to work in Dorothy Abernethy's stead. Corinne has a great deal of experience in working in libraries with students. Her role is to hire, train and supervise desk assistants year, manage circulation, course reserves, stacks, serials and bindery. Corinne has also worked to up-date changes on the STM library website, created a Library History component, as well as an Events Held in the Library component. Corinne joined the STM social committee and is part of the Indigenous Voices group, as well contributes her volunteer time to Newman Players. Corinne tries to take a course each term to enhance her knowledge in Religious Studies and continue in academia. She will soon be taking an introduction to Librarianship course here at the U of S. Corinne is very energetic and outgoing; she likes to volunteer her time and is an executive member of the Saskatoon and District Kinette Club, working for the underprivileged. We are very

***The Library Committee:* Dr. Donna Brockmeyer, Chair;**

Long Standing, library advocates from faculty: Dr. Pat Kelly, Dr. Bohdan Kordan, Dr. Michael Cichon,
Recording Secretaries: Dorothy Abernethy, Amanda Giени.
Office of the Dean or President; Student Representative.

The Mission of the Shannon Library is to support, through its collections and services, the inherent values, vision and culture of St. Thomas More College. The Library offers optimum service for research, teaching and learning, and provides an inspiring and welcoming environment that supports creative discovery, reflection, synthesis and application of knowledge. This service is supported by a research librarian and trained staff. The library is one of the most important tangible assets of the Catholic intellectual tradition within the College. We honour our term of stewardship of this valuable cultural resource as we build for the ages.

STM's Visionary Showcase Library



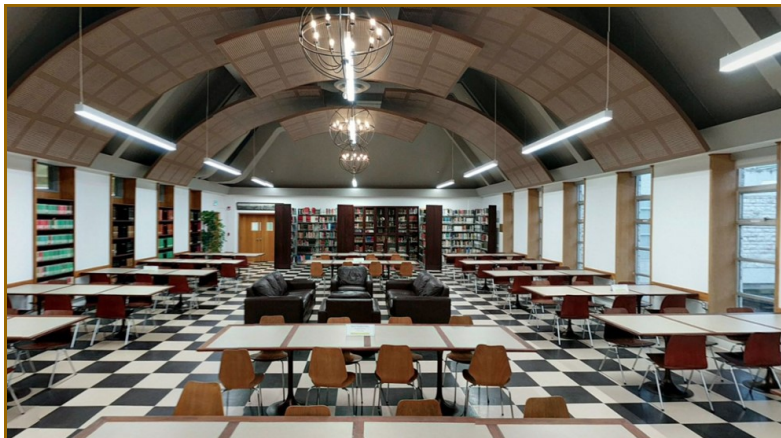
*We shape our buildings,
and thereafter,
they shape us.*

Sir Winston Churchill

Library Director, Dr. Donna Brockmeyer, wanted to build for the ages and design a library that would lift the minds, the spirits, and the imaginations of the students who work and study in the Shannon Library.

She hoped that this space, which houses the scholarship of God's greatest writers, would impress upon each person who enters here that they too can be an agent of positive social change in the worlds in which they live.

Continued below...



Brockmeyer was instrumental in many special features in this library that she had seen during her research tour of many European libraries. Some of these aspects include: suspended barrel vault ceiling, bronze and copper tones from the Lionel Thomas doors of the college, celestial chandeliers, classic checkered flooring, large open windows, extra large open doorways to conjoin the old space to the new, lower compact shelving to maximize the transfer of light, and further unify the space by the transfer of light. Donna also suggested the curved stone and glass wall at the South Entrance of the college in order to connect the two prominent corners of the building, which afforded hundreds of additional floor space on both levels of the addition. Which gives the college a touch of elegance and class, and welcomes people in: come in, come in, come further in, it seems to say.

Crow Never Dies

Kisiskâciwan
In the Land of the Strenuous Life
Who Controls the Hunt?
When the Caribou do not Come.
Hunters at the Margins
Empty Cellars, Melting Ice
and Burning Tundra.
Reconciliation; a Journey
Towards a Prairie Atonement.
Crow Never Dies.

Donna Won 2nd place in the Saskatchewan Library Association Book Spine Poetry Contest.

LEGACY OF A LIBRARIAN AT STM, FROM 2000 — 2020



- Designed **Computer Lab** opened by Minister of Education who presented the College with \$500,000.00. This was initiated by Dr. Wilf Denis, as Dean (2000)
- Expedited the **acquisitions process** (2000)
- Introduced course-based **information literacy** instruction; served on Web Committee (2000)
- Installed the **Faculty Publications Display Case** (2000)
- Created a collections policy for, culled, and relocated the **Catholic history collection** (2001)
- **Built Special Collections shelving** with cherry wood and glass doors to house and showcase the rare book collection. This was made possible through a donation of **\$10,000.00** from Evelyn and Isabell Burkitt, family friends who then donated **\$275,000.00** to the College library and scholarships (2002)
- Initiated and negotiated an agreement to **amalgamate the College online catalogue with that of the U of S** at reduced rates than previous projections; this ensured access to over 14 million dollars worth of bibliographic and full text databases, including access to book collections and the online system that provides seamless use for STM faculty and students. This was the expressed intent of Dr. John Thompson, Past President who hired Donna because she had this kind of experience at NEOS, U of A (2002)
- Initiated and co-hosted an **STM Author Reading** event (2002)
- Launched the **Pristine Copy Collection of STM Authors** (2002)
- Actively received the **Anais Nin Collection**, to nurture and promote donor relations With Dr. John Teunisson, (2004)
- Sought appropriate working status for library technicians and student staff (2004)
- Published ***On Sibyl's Shoulders: Seeking Soul in Library Leadership*** (2005)
- Sabbatical Leave: **Researched Library Architecture in Europe** (2006)
- Initiated and produced ***Shannon Library Newsletter*** (2004 - 2020)
- Refurbished the Reading Room with Clean Air flooring, and leather furniture (2008)
- Published articles, book reviews, and registered **library fund raising concept** (2009)
- Stabilized STM Archives in remote storage (2009-10)
- Created **art exhibition of residential schooling** for STLHE (2010)
- Won **Heart of STM Award** for contribution to student life (2010-11)
- Served on apr. 20 faculty searches as Equity Advisor (2004-2012)
- Sabbatical: **Curated Anais Nin Exhibition, and Catalogue,**



Art Photo Composite by Brad Klebaum

4' X 6' wall hanging awarded to Gordon Oakes by Dr. T. Downey



Served on STM building committee and suggested this College colonial rooftop to be consistent with that on campus and to ensure STM Chapel was not dwarfed by modernity.



Assisted to raise apr. **\$1,260,000.00** to renovate the Shannon Library by describing to government that the Library is a 21st Century Research Library in that it supports the research of an engaged, forward thinking, faculty (2016-17).



Assisted to **design of the North Addition** (2015-2017), and requested a curved glass wall on the South Side to unify two exterior doors, to create a bright interior and stunning exterior.



Values: **Academic Freedom and Confidentiality;**
Women: Claim Your Power; Celebrate Your Work.