

SAINT THOMAS MORE COLLEGE & NEWMAN ALUMNI/AE

STM Newsletter



VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1 SPRING/SUMMER 1998

The following message from President John Thompson was addressed to the STM worshipping community, and read by Sr. Roma De Robertis at the Sunday liturgy early in May:

Thank you for your prayers for me and my family as I have gone through an operation to remove a growth on my pancreas.

The growth was benign and my recovery is coming along as expected.

While I am still at Royal University Hospital, I expect to be home in the near future. I still have another six weeks of recovery at home before returning to the regular routine of work.

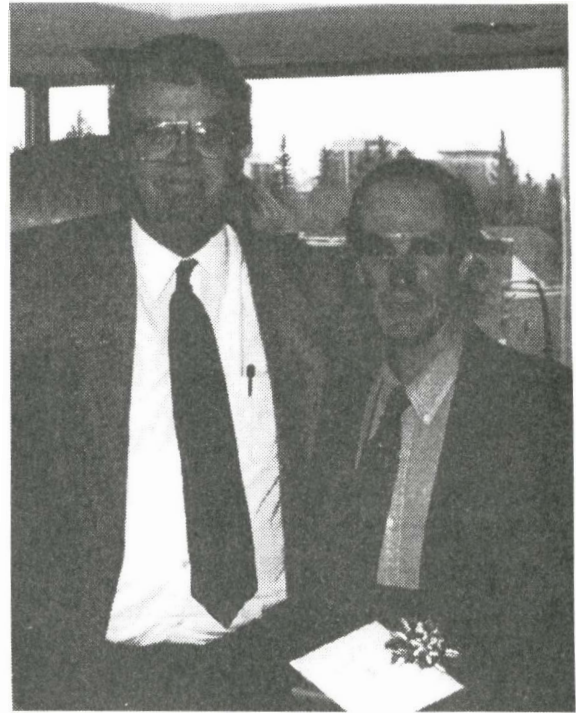
Your support and care have been a grace to me and my family.

In gratitude,
John Thompson

“And we continue to pray for John,” Sr. Roma concluded, “and for Patty and their sons, Andrew and Mark.”

As it happened, John’s stay in hospital was longer than anticipated, as the doctors wanted to be cautious with such a complicated and invasive surgery. As of this writing, he is at home — in his own words, “gradually regaining my strength and my colour.” We continue to offer our prayers and good wishes for his complete recovery.

A Message From the President



President John Thompson, Dean Kevin Corrigan

From the Dean’s Desk

This will be my final message to you, since Wilfrid Denis assumes the position of Dean as of July 1. I am grateful to him for taking over this service to the College so that I shall have the time to write several books which have been growing in my intellectual imagination over the past seven years and which now have publishing deadlines. Being a scholar is in some ways like participating in the Olympics. Quite apart from the years of training and intense dedication required, one also needs love, hope, faith, vision, and luck; and these qualities have to be developed over many years; in a sense, they may be “given”

to the one who works diligently to receive them. But for deans there just isn’t the time or leisure for the kind of preparation for visionary intellectual work one needs. So my special thanks are due to Wilfrid and to STM.

We were all concerned for John Thompson’s health, as you know. So it is pleasing to see him slowly recovering from major, but successful surgery. The operation took nearly ten hours to remove the gall bladder and several growths on the pancreas — growths which turned out to be benign. We are grateful, together with Patty, Andrew, and Mark, for his recovery to full health and strength.

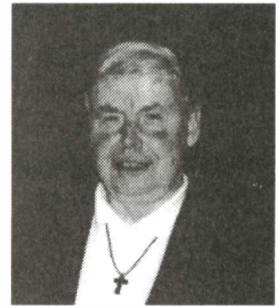
The Spring semester was a difficult one for us at STM. Sarah Murphy-Hall, our High School Liaison Officer, lost her parents to a brutal fire which destroyed the family home in Calgary. Kevin and Dorothy Murphy were STM students and long-time friends of the College. Then in early March our graduate student, Scott Truitt, died suddenly of a brain aneurysm, leaving behind his wife Gloria, a young daughter, Taryn, parents Helen and Archie, and brother Craig. Scott was a unique presence on campus and at STM: generous, energetic, dedicated, eager to help students. Our interdisciplinary English-

Philosophy class was devastated. In the same month my father-in-law died of cancer — a cancer only diagnosed a few days before Christmas. Yuri Glazov had signed a petition against the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, was blacklisted and lost his position in the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and finally took his family to a new life in the West where he enjoyed a successful second career at Dalhousie University. Later still in May, Bev Cushman (Religious Studies) lost her mother after months of worrying about her mother's declining health.

The cumulative toll of these major circumstances was harsh, but at the same time there have been happier events to compensate for the sense of loss. As a tribute to Scott, and in response to the generosity of the Truitt family, the College has named the fellowship Scott occupied the Scott Truitt Graduate Fellowship. The student awarded this fellowship occupies an ideal learning position in the Foundation Program, working with and serving as a role model for younger students in the pursuit of interdisciplinary excellence, integration of learning, and community spirit. The student also gets a chance to teach in tutorials as well as work

Anniversary

Rev. Joe Penny, CSB, a long-time member of the Basilian community at STM, celebrated his forty-fifth anniversary of ordination at the end of June. Fr. Penny is remembered not only as an English teacher, but as a sensitive and gifted confessor and chaplain, especially to the sick. He has himself been gravely ill over the past year. He was treated for lymphatic cancer, and has spent a long period of convalescence and recovery at the Basilian infirmary in Toronto. It has been a painful ordeal, but it now appears that the cancer is in remission, and we look forward to his return to our community. We offer our heartfelt congratulations on his anniversary, and our prayers for his continuing recovery



Notable Moments in the History of STM

A young couple was taking their small children to mass at the chapel one Sunday morning when Fr. Joe appeared at the top of the stairs, vested in green. One of the children, looking up in awe, asked, "Is that God?"

"I've been promoted," said Fr. Penny. "The last child asked if I was the Pickle Man."

closely with professors in a team-teaching classroom environment. The overall result is the provision of a much more integrated and community ideal of learning and the creation of a dialogue which not only links professors and students as well

as professors and professors, but goes beyond the classroom to link classes and other parts of university and ordinary life.

A second event which will be very good for the College is the hiring of five talented young women

The Newsletter

IS PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR BY:

St. Thomas More College and Newman Alumni Association

President:	Anne Ballantyne
Past President:	Jerome Konecsni
Treasurer:	Claude Lang
Secretary:	Elaine Shein
Members at Large:	Dennis Dorgan Brent Gough Larry Yakimoski

1437 College Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 0W6
Tel: 306-966-8900
Fax: 306-966-8904
e-mail: don.gorsalitz@usask.ca
donward@sk.sympatico.ca
Website: www.usask.ca/stm/

Newsletter Editor:	Donald Ward
Development Officer:	Don Gorsalitz

News items, letters, commentaries, suggestions, and inquiries should be sent to the editor at the above address.

to faculty and staff positions at STM. Over the past seven years we have made a determined effort to continue to hire new faculty so that revitalization and renewal are a natural part of College life. The result has been that, despite government cut-backs and financial pressures, STM has been able to develop a dynamic, energetic, and youthful community of faculty and staff. These new appointments will serve to deepen the process of renewal. Rhia Jenkins is the first woman to be appointed to a tenurable position in Philosophy at STM. Mary Ann Beavis has been appointed to Religious Studies in the position of Bible and Biblical Literature, and she will work together with other specialists (especially in the Theological Colleges) to develop a vibrant option for our students in Biblical Studies. Valerie Zawilski is joining our Sociology department for a two-year term to strengthen our general offerings and particularly our concern for internalization in which area she has done some of her major work; and Patty McDougall is joining our Psychology department for a two-year term to boost our curricular and scholarly contributions during a time of several sabbaticals expected in that department. After three years' excellent service, Sarah Murphy-Hall of STM's High School Liaison Office is leaving us to return to Education. Our special thanks to Sarah. We shall miss her certainly. Tonya Kirilenko, a graduate student in Political Studies, replaces Sarah as of July 1.

We are also losing one of our campus ministers, Carol Toszczak. Carol served first as High School Liaison Officer and then as campus minister, and she has done stalwart service during a period when STM was

in process of rebuilding its campus ministry. Again, we shall miss her, but at the same time we want to congratulate her as she enters the religious community of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

So, the spring/early summer of 1998 has been a time of major transition of renewal, sadness, and yet hope for the future. It was an honour and a pleasure to see that hope and a

It is always daunting to take over a task that has been done so long and so well by someone else, and I would like to thank Mary Miller, Dawn Sinclair, and Jack Skrip for their work on previous *Newsletters*. The fact is, though, this is not the first time I have been associated with it. Years ago, when Fr. Brian Hogan was the superior of the local Basilian community and Fr. Oscar Regan was Alumni Director, Colleen Fitzgerald and I were charged with the task of taking the *Newsletter* from the typewriter into the computer age.

March 1984 was the first issue to be professionally typeset and designed. The results were gratifying; not only could more news be presented in less space, but the news itself was more accessible. Everyone seemed pleased with it — not least Fr. Regan, who was henceforth relieved of the task of laboriously tapping out every issue on his ancient Underwood and hand-setting headlines from his vast collection of Letraset fonts and symbols.

That first typeset issue was fully eight pages long. There was a message from then-President James Hanrahan, CSB; an article about *Vox Benedictina*, a new journal founded

hearty sense of fun reflected in the faces of our 1948 graduates (and other years) at this year's Alumni/ae Reunion (26-28 June). Thanks in no small part to your efforts and to the torch you still hold for STM, we — faculty, staff, and students — continue to enjoy the vocation of learning and teaching. We thank you for your support and for your prayers. God bless you all!

From the Editor

and edited by STM librarian and alumna Margot King; a two-page spread on the *Chesterton Review* in light of an upcoming conference; a Letter from the Editor; a Letter to the Editor; various bits of news about various people; and the ubiquitous back-page notice about lost alumni/ae.

We've come a long way since then. The *Newsletter* has expanded dramatically. Alumni/ae are taking a more active role in the continuing life of the College. We have a committed and conscientious Association, and a dynamic Development Office to assure continuity with the past and confidence in the future.

It's been twelve years since I last laid out this *Newsletter*, but my association with STM has continued and strengthened since I was first received into the church by Kevin Kirley, CSB, on May 1, 1982. Although I am not myself an alumnus, I count STM alumni/ae among my closest friends — indeed, I married one (see page 27) — and the Congregation of St. Basil has been a continuing source of guidance and friendship. I hope that, with your help, this new relationship will prove to be just as fruitful.

— Donald Ward



A Message From Your Association President

Anne Ballantyne

Greetings to all STM and Newman Alumni/ae and friends! It is hard to believe that yet another academic year has drawn to a close and preparations are under way for the fall session. Spring Convocation has come and gone once again as well. Congratulations to all our recent graduates and welcome to our newest alumni/ae members.

This occasion provides an opportunity for all alumni/ae to reflect upon their days at STM and the Newman Centre. The memories for each of us are many and are to be treasured. Each of our experiences is unique and diverse in nature. Individual recollections may be associated with social events, academic pursuits, and spiritual gatherings. But perhaps most of all, our memories will be of the people — remembering the faces and names of those who influenced us the most during our critical years of personal and intellectual development. I recall my father telling me on more than one occasion that going to university provides you with more than just an education — and he was correct. When I think back to my STM and Newman Centre days, I remember the family atmosphere that the College provided me . . . the students that I met, some of whom have become lifelong friends . . . the faculty who helped to

shape my outlook on life as well as understand the many objectives of intellectual pursuit . . . and the chapel, which always provided spiritual strength, peace, and insight.

I continue to associate with many of these people and those events that helped to shape my life today in a variety of ways. I often find myself thinking of others who have crossed my path during those days at the College, and wonder where they are and what they are doing. As a member of the Alumni/ae Association, I am sure that each of you share the same thoughts and queries of those memorable people from your STM and

Newman Centre past. As the new President of the STM/Newman Alumni/ae Association, I challenge each of you to become a more active Alumni/ae Association member and make contact with our Association by dropping us a line at the address on the back of the *Newsletter* or sending us an e-mail at:

don.gorsalitz@usask.ca.

With summer holidays upon us, the Alumni/ae Association wishes all our friends a safe and fun-filled holiday season. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing many of you in the fall and throughout the year!

Your Alumni/ae Association at Work



Left to Right: Brent Gough (Member-at-Large), Elaine Shein (Secretary), Don Ward (Newsletter Editor), Larry Yakimoski (Member-at-Large). Dennis Dorgan (Member-at-Large) had already left for another appointment. If they look unusually circumspect, it's because the meeting was called for 6:45 am.



FOCUS ON STUDENTS



Year-end Awards Banquet, April 4, 1998

Fr. Henry Carr Award
SARAH POWRIE

Fr. Paul Mallon Award
KENNEDY FRAGATTA

Heart of STM Award
ELENA GLAZOV-CORRIGAN

Newman Centre Award of Distinction
ALAN REESE

Newman Centre Campus Ministry Award
SARAH POWRIE

Newman Centre Most Active Man
GORD LAING

Newman Centre Most Active Woman
DAPHNE PEDERSON

Newman Centre Most Helpful Female
SHANNON FOX

Newman Centre Most Helpful Male
RICHARD MEDERNACH

Newman Centre Rookie of the Year
VINCENT GABRUCH

Newman Spirit Award
NICOLE CROSS

STMSU Executive Award
MELISSA HENDERSON

STMSU Rookie of the Year
ERIN STANG

Stephen Gradish Award
JASON AEBIG

STMSU Spirit Award
KAREN KECK



JENNIFER PEREIRA: History
EARL KOWALCZYK: English
MARGARITA SYRING: French
YURI CORRIGAN: Philosophy
LOUISE GANTEFOER: Sociology
JANALEE CHERNESKI: Political Studies
and Archaeology

Giving Thanks

Thank you, God of Celebration, for these STM graduates, encouraged and guided by family, friends, faculty, and staff. Blessed are you, God of all Knowledge and Wisdom; you communicate yourself through diverse paths and journeys, so we may discover what is good and true and just in your intelligence and love. And thank you, God of the Future, for your constant fidelity as we make choices for ourselves and for our society, conscious of generations yet to be born in a new millennium. May we be dedicated to the common good as people of courage, compassion, and justice. As the circles of our graduating students lead beyond STM, may we cherish the many ways in which we have grown through one another. All our joy flows from you, God of Integrity, Creator, Jesus, Holy Spirit. All praise and thanks to you, now and forever. Amen.

Roma De Robertis, SCIC

"We have grown through one another. . . ."

St. Thomas More College Graduation Luncheon, May 19, 1998

Carol Tosczak, a member of the campus ministry team, welcomed the graduates, their families and friends, and offered congratulations on behalf of the STM community. She then called on Father Mel Fenrich to give the opening prayer. Father Mel offered a litany of thanksgiving based on Psalm 136, and closed on a personal note. When he was finishing grade eight, he said, and about to leave his country school, his teacher

wrote the following lines in his autograph book:

Your new life now lies before you
Like a field of freshly fallen snow;
Be careful how you walk it,
For every mark will show.

Following the meal, Carol introduced Dr. Kevin Corrigan, Dean of St. Thomas More College. She noted that Kevin was just completing a seven-year term in that position, and that it was in large part his care and com-

passion that have made the College a welcoming place for so many students.

Following Kevin's greetings, Carol welcomed Elaine Shein, who spoke on behalf of the Alumni/ae Association. Elaine graduated from STM in 1986, then went on to the School of Journalism and Communications at the University of Regina. Following a four-month stint at Gemini News Service in London, England, she rounded out her education with an

Kevin Corrigan



**Saskatoon
ennial**

It is my great pleasure to be here today to bring greetings on behalf of John Thompson, our President, who last month underwent a ten-hour operation. The operation was a complete success, and he is recovering, but a ten-hour operation takes its toll, even on John Thompson. He would love to have been here today.

I also want to bring greetings to you on behalf of the faculty and staff of our beloved College. At St. Thomas More College, we are dedicated to the integration of wisdom, learning, teaching, the practical aspects of life, together with that great mystery, the life that God gives us. And so we take a special pride in your achievements.

It's been great for me today to wander around the room and meet you — some of you for the first time, some for the *n*th time. We have struggled with you for the past three, four, five, six, seven . . . eight years, because we know of course that buildings aren't just bricks and mortar, and degrees aren't just a piece of parchment that you get at the Centennial Auditorium. They represent blood, sweat, toil, tears, the occasional relapse in Louis' perhaps, and much delight.

The great thing about today is that we get to see the other side of you: your parents, your spouses, your children, your families and friends who have struggled with you over these years to try to make you equal to one or more discipline in arts and science, and ultimately equal to the great task of living life in a full, dignified, and humane way, with a touch of the extraordinary and the divine about you.

Today we celebrate the miracle of life. From your parents' point of view, or from your partners' point of view — perhaps they sometimes wondered, "Can they do it?" or "I wonder if they'll do it." Here today, you *have* done it. And you've done it with superb success, with major distinction. You are the top graduates in our college, and some of the top graduates in our university. To you, to your families, to your friends, many, many congratulations. And from us at St. Thomas More College — we shall miss you, but we shall always keep you in our hearts.

extended tour of Europe. She returned to Saskatchewan and a job as a reporter with *The Western Producer* in 1992. She is now Managing Editor of that publication and Secretary of the Alumni/ae Association. She shared some of her memories of college life with the graduates, and assured them that the friendships they have made during their years at STM will last a lifetime.

Rev. Ron Griffin, CSB, then pre-

sented certificates and a gift from the College to the top STM student in each academic discipline. Father Griffin, a member of the Congregation of St. Basil, is head of the Sociology Department at STM and Dean of Residence at the former St. Pius X Seminary. "We're very proud of you today," he said, "and I am pleased to be able to convey to you on behalf of the College our congratulations and some small token of the appreciation that we have of the effort you

have given and the recognition of the accomplishment that you have achieved in that effort."

Unfortunately, not all the award recipients were able to attend, but Don Gorsalitz of the Development Office, who was responsible for organizing the luncheon, managed to snap a photograph of those who were.

Following the awards ceremony, Sr. Roma De Robertis, SCIC, another member of the campus ministry team at STM, offered the closing prayer.

Elaine Shein



Thank you for the opportunity to be here this afternoon, on behalf of the St. Thomas More Alumni/ae Association.

I would like to congratulate everyone who has received degrees today. You can be proud of your accomplishments.

You have worked hard, and probably are looking forward to catching up on your sleep. Don't worry —

you'll be all caught up in about three or four years. I think that's the usual cycle. That's about the same time you'll be able to face another doughnut or Kraft Dinner again.

In the last twenty-four hours you have probably felt a whole range of emotions: stress, relief, joy, and sadness. You are thrilled that perhaps you may never see a test again. But you're also afraid you may never see your friends again.

It's exhilarating to be at last ready to take on the world — and it can also be scary to be facing the real world.

Be confident. The world is yours to conquer. This is a wonderful time to be graduating, and I believe each one of you will have amazing opportunities and challenges in the years ahead.

In the future, you will always remember the years at university. Our Alumni/ae Association can help you to continue feeling you're a part of the STM community. We want you to keep in touch with the friendships and spirituality that have grown during your time here.

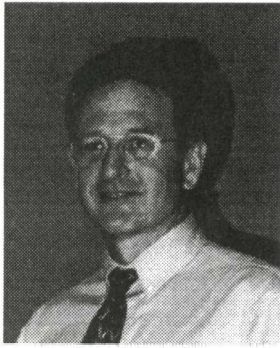
We invite you to keep in touch with the Alumni/ae Association as you set out in your exciting lives and careers.

Almost exactly ten years ago I was going through the same feelings as you are here today. During this past decade, I've learned to appreciate even more what STM means to me.

I don't think there is a week that goes by that I don't have contact in one way or another with someone I first met at STM's orientation, or at dances and coffee houses, or at student council meetings, or while attending church, or while playing sports, or while wasting time — I mean, **STUDYING HARD** — in the cafeteria.

Ten years from now, I hope you'll still feel like you're a strong part of STM and continue to be one of our extended family.

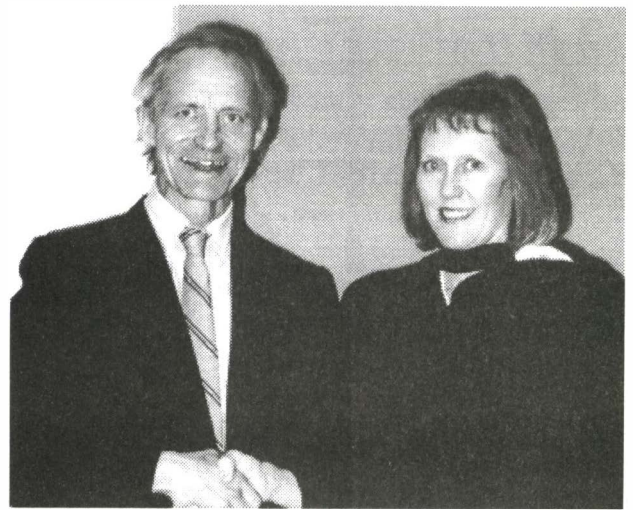
On behalf of the Alumni/ae Association, welcome aboard. Best wishes in the years ahead.



John Bertolini



Gillian Kuch



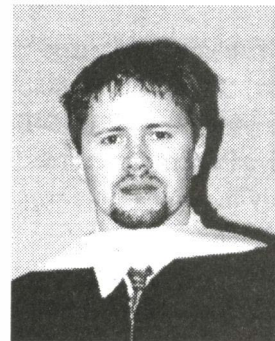
Rev. Ron Griffin, CSB, and Trudine Greenwald



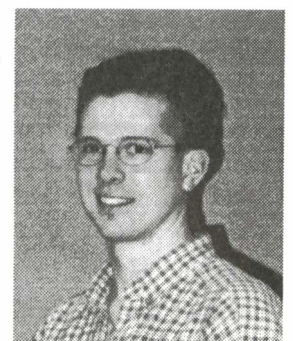
Karen Gilleta



Karen Huys



Murray Olafson



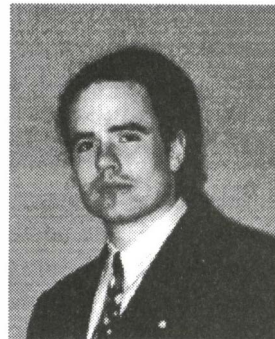
Peter Gottschlich

Award Recipients

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sean Groves | Anatomy |
| Trudine Greenwald | Anthropology |
| Murray Olafson | Art |
| Jonathon Gamble | Biochemistry |
| Gillian Kuch | Biology |
| Wing Kit Chan | Computers |
| Scarlet Cheung | Economics |
| Keri Walsh | English |
| Trevor Pond | Food Science |
| John Bertolini | French |
| Christian Miller | Geology |
| Christopher Sample | Geography |
| Peter Gottschlich | History |
| Deanna Billo | Environmental Studies |
| Melanie Dauk | Microbiology |
| Rebecca Mitchell | Music |
| Lee-Ann Lavoie Kingyens | Native Studies |
| Susan Andrews Grace | Philosophy |
| Karen Gilleta | Psychology |
| Matthew Mitchell | Religious Studies |
| Karen Huys | Sociology |



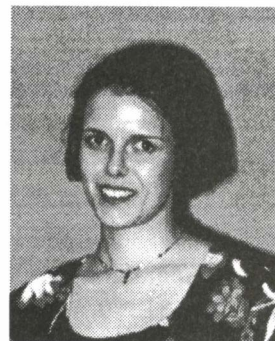
Matthew Mitchell



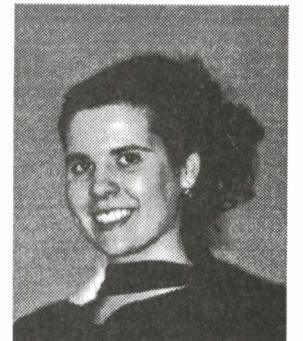
Christian Miller



Rebecca Mitchell



Lee-Ann Lavoie Kingyens



Keri Walsh



FOCUS ON FACULTY



An Interview with the New Dean



Dr. Wilfrid Denis was born and raised in St. Denis, just thirty miles from Saskatoon. He attended a country school there until grade ten, and completed high school at Notre Dame College in Prince Albert, a residential

male boarding school run by the diocese. He taught for two years at STM before going to Carleton University in Ottawa for doctoral studies in Sociology. Now a full professor, he has been at STM full time since 1979.

What are your main academic interests?

My PhD was in prairie agriculture, and I have done a bit of work in the area of occupational health and safety. But I had done some work on the francophone community while I was doing my Masters degree, and when I came back from Ottawa I was asked to do a number of studies on francophone communities in Saskatchewan, and so a lot of my research interests shifted back. Since then my major area of work has been minority groups. Being both a sociologist and a member of the francophone community, it's been difficult at times to separate the professional from the personal. But the two tend to complement one another.

Are we making progress in Saskatchewan, do you think, in recognizing the rights of the francophone community?

Once you've denied a minority the right to their language and their schools, all you have to do is set up an administrative structure to maintain that oppression, so that it appears as though life is normal. This was largely the situation until the 1960s. Then after 1965 things began to change, so that with the Charter of Rights and a court case which in 1987-88 found the Education Act

to be unconstitutional, so that it had to be modified to grant francophones the right to manage their schools, progress has been made. There's no doubt about that. Whether it will be significant enough to allow the community to survive and flourish, I don't know.

Of course, your family is part of this.

Yes. Our oldest son was in the first class to graduate from L'École Canadienne in Saskatoon. Our second son is just finishing grade twelve, and the youngest is in grade ten, also at L'École Canadienne. Interestingly, my wife, Jeannine Poulin, taught in an immersion school at the time we were struggling to establish the francophone management of our schools. It gave us another view of French in Saskatchewan — for anglophones who are interested in French and who want French for their kids. From the point of view of a francophone parent who looks at friends who have kids in immersion, my feeling is that there is a decline in political will to maintain French immersion in the province and in the country.

How is all this going to affect your tenure as dean? Obviously, you're going to bring your values and beliefs to the position, but is there anything you want particularly to accomplish?

I'm not sure of the appropriate role for St. Thomas More regarding the French language or Canadian unity. We already have a French program and we will continue that, but I don't see STM becoming the bilingual liberal arts college in western Canada or in Saskatchewan. That's not on the agenda. What I do bring to St. Thomas More, though, is an understanding of how minority groups function and the need to develop institutional structures to protect their basic rights and culture.

In that respect, St. Thomas More College is one of the institutions the Catholic community has given itself to achieve certain goals, and it is up to us to ensure that we

keep meeting that purpose. Academically, I am very much interested in trying to find a way of integrating our various departments in a way that will allow students to achieve some kind of recognition for what they've done — a diploma which would allow them to integrate, for example, Political Studies, Sociology, French, History, Philosophy, and Literature. I see us strengthening a number of courses we already offer to develop students who will come away with more than simply an arts degree with a major in this or that.

I'd also like to do a survey of our graduates to see where they're working and what kind of skills they're finding useful. I don't see our task as being a service college to professional colleges. There is inherent merit in having a liberal arts degree. I would like us to re-identify what it is at the core of a liberal arts degree that makes it worthwhile for people to have one. I think that probably some of the elements people are looking for is the ability to analyze, to read and understand, to inte-

grate material, and also the ability to communicate. I think in the past we've approached this perhaps too much in terms of emphasizing writing ability. It's important that we be able to tell employers that our students can read, understand, and write. But I think we also need to find ways of developing oral communication. STMSU and Newman, for example, can provide tremendous opportunities for leadership training for students if we were to strengthen them a bit more. We need to think in terms of doing oral presentations and offering students ways in which they can master oral communication skills.

Is there anything you're particular looking forward to as Dean of STM?

I'm really looking forward to assuming the responsibilities of the position. I see a lot of interesting things happening in the College. We have new people coming in, and new people bring new ideas, new energies. I'm looking forward to a very interesting, very dynamic term.

USSU Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Alan Reese this year joins a growing list of distinguished STM professors who have been honoured by their students with a teaching excellence award. Alan first came to the University of Saskatchewan to study with Peter Bietenholz, one of the foremost Erasmusian scholars of the day. He began as a sessional lecturer in history in 1987, and has been a full-time faculty member in STM's History Department since 1994.

Following in his mentor's footsteps, Alan has been invited to work on *The Collected Works of Erasmus*, helping to annotate Volume 48 of *The Paraphrase on Luke*. "Erasmus and the Ascetic Tradition" was both the title of his doctoral dissertation and a good description of his academic interests. "Sad is the Fasting Prescribed by the Law"

was the title of a paper he presented to the Renaissance Society of America at Washington, DC, in March 1998, and an article entitled "So Outstanding an Athlete of Christ: Erasmus on the Significance of Jerome's Asceticism" is to be printed in Volume 18 (Fall 1998) of the *Erasmus of Rotterdam Society Yearbook*. But Erasmus is not going to occupy him for the rest of his

professional life. He is also deeply interested in the Northumbrian Renaissance, the age of the Venerable Bede. Significantly, Erasmus had consulted Bede's commentaries on scripture continually in composing his paraphrases.

Alan's teaching philosophy is, in his own words, "rather odd," but it certainly seems to be effective. "I read myself silly on the topic," he says, "so that I have my facts straight. I'll have some notes, but they're not very thorough: just names and dates, a few events. I come into the classroom having prepared almost like an actor — an actor who's going to do a lot of ad libbing, to be sure, but I get re-enthused for the subject as I'm teaching. For a good lecture, your preparation has to be fresh, so that you can deliver most of it without clinging to your notes. I like to act things out. I change my voice and strut about, and I have fun with my maps. Especially for first-year classes with lots of students, you really have to come out with all guns blazing and all bells chiming. The thing is, if I'm not excited about it, *no one's* going to be excited about it."



Reese of STM



Erasmus of Rotterdam

Formation Linguistic Canada / Language Training Canada

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE



When Dr. Cheryl Soulodre, Head of the Department of Languages and Linguistics at STM, was a student in Winnipeg and looking for part-time work, she was hired to teach French to federal civil servants. This fairly casual beginning has now blossomed into a major language training program at STM. Communicative French in the Workplace, STM's first independent Extension enterprise, is the result of a partnership with Language Training Canada in Winnipeg. There are four partners in the enterprise: the federal government under the auspices of Language Training Canada (Prairie Region), Collège St.-Boniface in Winnipeg, the University of Regina Language Institute, and St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon. It is because of Cheryl's expertise and experience both with Language Training Canada and with teaching French in a variety of venues that STM was chosen.

Originally designed for teaching French to federal civil servants, Communicative French in the Workplace has expanded as major corporations and other bodies have expressed an interest in bilingualism. The program, as Cheryl envisages it, will be flexible enough to meet the needs of anyone, with classroom instruction, periods of immersion, and even cassettes that participants can listen to when they are travelling. Cheryl's enthusiasm for the program is infectious. "If *any* program is going to make people bilingual," she says, "this is it."

June 6, 1998 The SAINT THOMAS MORE COLLEGE/NEWMAN ALUMNI/AE & FRIENDS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mixed Team



(L to R): Peter Kalist, Bill Zerebesky, Board of Governors Chair Brent Gough, Verla Zerebesky, Rev. John Pazak

Championship Team



(L to R): Rev. Stan Liska, Ken Wagner, Brent Gough (again), Herman Rolfes.
Missing: Jerome Chomos

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KEEP IN SHAPE FOR NEXT YEAR'S TOURNAMENT: SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1999 – SHOTGUN START



FOCUS ON ALUMNI/AE



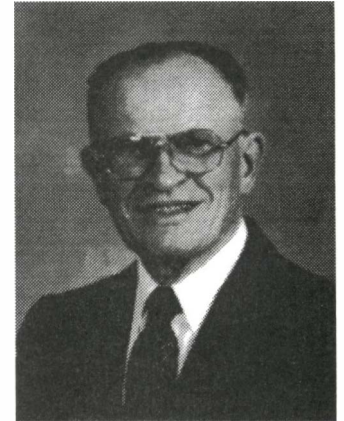
John and Elizabeth Dechief on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, December 28, 1995.

Few alumni can have had as varied and distinguished a career as **John A. Dechief**. On first graduating from the University of Saskatchewan in 1938, he became an insurance salesman. He joined the Canadian Army in 1940, and served overseas for the duration of the war. Returning home in 1945, he enrolled in the College of Law, graduating in 1948. From 1949-54 he served as Trust Manager with Canada Permanent. From 1954-64 he was a partner in the law firm of Boyce

1938



Doris McTavish



Joseph P. Kowbel

and Dechief in Regina. From 1964-75 he worked with the federal Department of Justice, serving *inter alia* as a lecturer at Regina College and the University of Regina and as a Judge of Magistrates Court.

His special memories of STM include “great philosophy” with Fr. Markle, and friends Bill Ogle, Tommy Deis, and Rupert LeBlond — “in fact, the whole gang at Newman Club circa 1936-38.” John and Elizabeth have one son, Gregory John, now fifty years old. They make their home in Regina.

Doris McTavish (née McDonald) spent the first two years after graduation teaching in Cudworth, Saskatchewan, and still remembers the pupils and community with fondness. In 1941 she married John McTavish, a fellow graduate of the U of S, in Kingston, Ontario. Four months later, John, an engineer, was shipped overseas to serve with the Canadian Army for four years.

“Our first home after his return,” she writes, “was on Anticosti Island, Quebec, where John was engineer for Consolidated Paper Corporation. Life on Anticosti was a unique

experience, a good time in our lives in spite of the isolation. Three of our four children — Judith, Daniel, and Susan — were born on the island. A third daughter, Lynn, was born in Montreal. When we left Anticosti Island in 1951, we bought a house in Dorval, Quebec, and have remained here ever since — an ideal community for young families, and for seniors.”

Doris and John kept their many contacts with the University of Saskatchewan through letters, visits, and reunions. “Quebec has been home for more than fifty years,” she writes, but “Saskatchewan has called us back for frequent visits.

“Family life, fifteen more years of teaching, church, and community activities made the years speed by. John and I celebrated our fifty-sixth wedding anniversary in July, 1997. He died just before last Christmas, a sad time for our family.

“The four McTavish children, their spouses, and our eight grandchildren have heard many stories about life in Saskatchewan, and high praise for the University of Saskatchewan.”

Doris remembers particularly her friends and teachers from the period.

Joseph P. Kowbel spent most of his professional life living above a drug store. It was his own drug store, and his dedication to the people of his community led in 1988 to a special community service award presented by the Canora (Saskatchewan) and District Chamber of Commerce. He was especially noted for his willingness to serve at all hours of the day or night. “Anyone who has raised a family,” the presenter recalled,

1938

“knows that emergencies arise in the middle of the night, and Joe was always there, cheerful and obliging.”

Joe was raised on a farm north of Aberdeen, Saskatchewan. Jobs were scarce in 1938 when he graduated with a degree in pharmacy, so he created his own employment by opening a pharmacy in Buchanan. Three and a half years later he moved to Canora, and spent the next forty-five years operating his pharmacy and gift shop.

In 1942 Joe married Anne Krywy, and the couple raised four children in the suite above the drug store. Mary Anne (Kowal), 49, holds a BA and a BEd and teaches school in Saskatoon, where she is kept additionally busy raising her own four children and singing in the church

choir. Joanna Barbara (Kapusta), 46, also has a BEd and taught in Saskatoon until her husband joined the medical clinic in Meadow Lake. She has two children, and she, too, is kept busy with church and community activities.

With a degree in hotel administration, Joseph W. P. Kowbel, 42, is Assistant Manager at Heritage Park, Calgary, Alberta. He married Janice Hauser in 1981, and they have four children. Michael A. M. Kowbel, 38, is a doctor who practises anæsthesiology and pain management in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Michael married Deborah Clark in 1988.

In addition to their two daughters and two sons, Joseph and Anne Kowbel have ten grandchildren, ranging in age from 8 to 22: Joanna, Alicia, Justin, and Katherine Kowal; Michael and Christina Kapusta; and Mathew, Mishaela, Anastasha, and Jantina Kowbel.

Joseph Kowbel has been active in the Ukrainian Catholic Church all his life. He is a member of the Ukrainian Canadian Businessmen’s Association and an honorary life member of the Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree. He is a charter member of the Canora Kiwanis Club, in which he holds a record forty-eight years’ membership. He was a member of the local Board of Trade, then the Chamber of Commerce, and he was a school trustee for twenty-eight years.

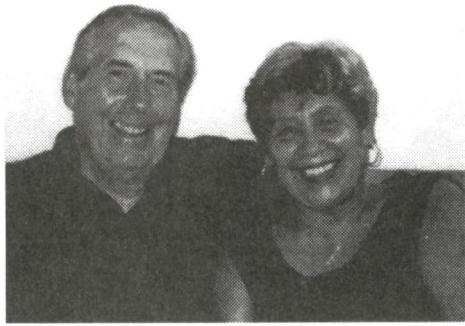
Joseph retired in 1986, and he and Anne moved out of the suite above the drug store into a new house in Canora, where they continue to enjoy, in Joe’s words, “curling, fishing, boating, and all outdoor activities with our lovely family.”

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Lorne and Marie Carroll

After graduation, **Lorne Carroll** taught in Fernie, BC and Prince Albert before joining Simpsons-Sears in Regina the year the company was formed. It was in Regina, too, that he met and married Marie Laing, a graduate of Sion Academy in Saskatoon.

In 1960 Lorne was transferred to Toronto, where he and Marie still live. When Lorne retired from Sears, he was national manager responsible for employee training and self-development. He spent the first seven years of his retirement as a lecturer in organizational behaviour in the School of Business at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario.

Lorne and Marie had seven children, five of whom are still living. In their retirement — supplemented by the \$18 monthly pension cheque Lorne receives from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation — the couple enjoy "Scrabble, travelling, cottaging, the company of our children, four grandchildren, other family members, and friends."

Lorne's memories of his STM and Newman Club days include "the guidance and friendship of the founding Basilians, breakfast conversation following morning Mass, Sunday evening socials, and embarrassing defeats at ping-pong at the hands of Bill Anderson."

Marie and Lorne maintain strong ties with Saskatoon, which Lorne still thinks of as home.

1948



Vincent Dantzer



Mae and Bernard Daly, both graduates of STM — Mae (née Strasser) graduated in '49 — were honoured as Distinguished Alumna and Alumnus in 1994.

No one who has been even tenuously associated with STM over the years can fail to recognize the name of **Bernard Daly**, former Saskatoon *Star Phoenix* reporter and editorialist, holder of numerous offices with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in Ottawa, former editor and publisher of *The Catholic Register* in Toronto, and continuing member of the STM Corporation.

Born and raised in North Battleford, Bernard completed high school at St. Thomas College prior to coming to STM, where he earned his BA in English and Philosophy in 1948. Following a ten-year stint with the *Star-Phoenix*, the Dalys moved to Ottawa, where Bernard spent thirty-three years with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as Editor of the CCCB Information Service (1958-67), Director of the Family Life Bureau (1967-73), Member of the Pastoral Planning Team (1973-82), Assistant Coordinator of the Papal Visit Secretariate (1982-84), and Assistant General Secretary (1984-91). He was with *The Catholic Register* from 1993 to 1996. *Inter alia*, he also managed to earn a Masters degree in Sociology from Carleton University in 1971.

Bernard and Mae, married since 1948, have six children and eighteen grandchildren. Thomas, born in 1949, has a BA in Theatre Arts and is following a varied and eclectic career in movies and commercials, boat building and computers. Tom makes his home in Petite Rivière, Nova Scotia. Patricia (1950), with a BSc and a BEd, is a homemaker and kindergarten teacher in Calgary. Mary Anne (1952),

who holds an MA in demography, has been a policy analyst for UNICEF in Florence, Italy, and is currently with Statistics Canada in Ottawa. Michael (1953) has a BA in geography and works as a city planner in Norco, California. With a BA in English, Teresa (1956) is with the Canadian Armed Forces in Kingston, Ontario. Timothy (1960) is a musician and carpenter in Vernon, BC.

Tom's children include Jesse (16) Brennan (14), and twins Elynnyd and Kieran (12). Pat, too, has four children: John (24), Michelle (23), Luisa (18), and Julia (13). Mary Anne's four daughters are Thomasina (23), Hannah (19), Moira (16), and Brigid (9). Michael has one son — Patrick (23) — while Teresa, like Tom, Pat, and Mary Anne, has four children: Tiana (17), Kyle (13), Sean Kelly (7), and Harley (3). Tim has one child, Emerald (6).

Among his memories of being a student at STM, Bernard cherishes particularly the teaching and caring of the Basilian Fathers, the Newman Club, chapel activities — and falling in love.

Vincent M. Dantzer, QC remembers that “the priests were very, very excellent! They played a major role in forming my attitude and character and outlook.”

His is not an opinion to be taken lightly. Born and raised in Rush Lake, Saskatchewan, he earned his first degree in Economics, with honours, from the University of Saskatchewan, then went on to take an MA at the University of Toronto, and finally a Law degree at the University of Alberta in 1956. In the meantime he had served as a Flying Officer in the RCAF (1942-46), been a Research Economist with the Department of



Trade and Commerce in Ottawa (1949), worked in the Budget Bureau of the Government of Saskatchewan (1950-52), and lectured in the Department of Political Economy of the University of Alberta (1952-55).

In 1957 he established a law firm in Edmonton. When he left in 1970 (to establish another firm in Vernon, BC), he was the senior partner in a nine-member practice. He holds memberships in the Canadian Bar Association, the British Columbia Bar Association, and the Alberta Bar Association, and has served on the Canadian Tax Foundation and the Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association, among others. In 1967 he was appointed Queen's Council, and also awarded the Canada Centennial Medal.

His political career spans thirty years, from Chairman of the Board of Referees of Workman's Compensation (1959) to Progressive Conservative Member of Parliament for Okanagan North (1980-89). In the interim he also managed to serve the City of Edmonton as School Board Trustee (1959-63), Alderman (1963-65), and Mayor (1965-69).

Vincent married Mary Catherine Boyd, also a graduate of STM, in May 1949. Together they raised seven daughters and two sons, including Alex, a lawyer; Mark, an accountant; Mary Jo, a businesswoman; Betty Jean, a recreation supervisor; Pat, who is busy raising four children; Ruth, a secretary to the Cabinet in Ottawa; Cathy, who is raising two children; and Tamara, a physiotherapist. They have eleven grandchildren, ranging in age from two to twenty.

In 1990, after leaving the House of Commons, Vincent retired back to Vernon, British Columbia.

STM Alumnus Honoured

Lorne Carroll writes:

For the information of the alumni organization, it will no doubt be of interest to know that **Dr. John E. Hall**, a 1948 STM graduate in Arts, has recently had a professorship at the Harvard Medical School in Cambridge, MA, endowed in his honour. It is to be known as the John E. Hall Professorship in Orthopædic Surgery.

“Jack,” the first name he was known by in Saskatoon, was for many years Head of Orthopædic Surgery at Harvard Children's Hospital and, although he has recently retired from that position, is still very active in private practice, specializing in children's surgery. He is in demand all over the world, both as a surgeon and a lecturer.

(Editor's Note: John is the son of the late Justice Emmett Hall, the distinguished jurist and long-time friend of STM.)



Lorraine Snelgrove



Allyre Sirois



Sherry MacEachern

Clifford “Bus” Farrell lives in Edmonton with his wife, Elizabeth, also an STM grad. After forty-four years in the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning business, “Bus” is now retired.

He and Elizabeth have ten children: Shannon, a professor at Laval University; Shaun, a mechanical contractor in Watson Lake, YT; Tim, a manager of mechanical engineering at NWT Power; Rory, manager of Farrell Engineering in Edmonton; Jody, a self-employed education and journalism graduate; Mary, a teacher in Calgary; Patti, a medical doctor



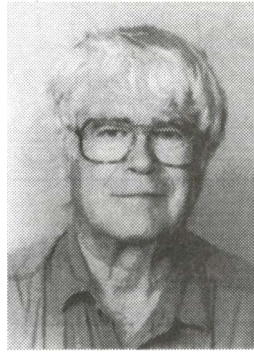
J. Frank Roy



Laurine Redl



Eileen Nichol



Ron MacIsaac



with a family practice in Sherwood Park, AB; Terry, who is doing communications studies; and Erin, a veterinary assistant in Fort Vermillion, AB. As for grandchildren, Bus allows that he has nineteen of them, but “I can’t remember all their names, let alone their ages.”

His special memories of STM include noon bridge games and Sunday dances.

Sherry C. MacEachern earned her BA in 1948 and a BEd in 1952. Her first teaching assignment was in northeastern Saskatchewan, at the Composite High School in Sturgis. From there she moved to cowboy country in Pincher Creek, Alberta. It was there, on a rainy day when the school caretaker had spread newspapers at the front door, that she spotted an advertisement for a position with the Department of National Defence. She applied, got the job, and taught at RCAF Headquarters in Metz, France for two years.

“From France,” she writes, “I migrated to the Arctic, and taught first in Aklavik, then Inuvik, towns situated in the MacKenzie River delta. While in the Arctic, my summer job was at a whaling station on Kittigazuik Bay, keeping statistics on Beluga whales.

“After the Arctic, I moved to West Africa, to Ghana, teaching in the Asuri Girls’ Secondary School in the hills above Accra.

“I ended my career in Toronto, where I currently reside, as a school librarian at Brockton High School. In retirement, I am still travelling — to Finland, Russia, Australia, Ecuador, and Italy of late. It’s a hobby I enjoy!

“Hello to all my STM friends.”

Ronald MacIsaac, who grew up in Prince Albert, now lives in Victoria with his wife Jocelyn. He has had a varied career as a lawyer, travel writer, and television interviewer. He and Jocelyn have six children — Dan, 38, a lawyer; Carol, 37, a Montessori teacher; Elizabeth, 35, a music teacher; Hugh, 34, an engineer; Melanie, 32, a teacher; Bruce, 31, a computer programmer; and Juliette, 28, a manager — and nine grandchildren.

Ron particularly remembers the Newman Club operettas and dances from his university days.

M. Eileen Nichol grew up in Govan, Saskatchewan, and now lives with her husband Bernard in Belmont, California. Her working career included four years with the Saskatchewan Department of Social Welfare and a further four years with Catholic Social Services in San Francisco before taking on the larger challenge of be-

coming a full-time homemaker and mother to six boys: John, 37, who holds a degree in accounting and works as a controller in an electric company; Jim, 36, who with a degree in microbiology is employed by the Department of Health in San Bernardino, CA; Dan, also 36, who has a Masters degree and works with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Larry, 35, who has a degree in finance and works in farmers' insurance; Thomas, 33, who is self employed, with a DDS; and Patrick, 32, who has a degree in business as well as a California Teacher's Certificate. The six sons have seven children among them, ranging in age from five months to six years.

Of her days at STM, Eileen remembers:

- choir under Fr. O'Donnell,
- girls of the Donald House and the Sisters of Service,
- Sunday morning Mass, coffee, and choir practice,
- Sunday evening Benediction and dances, and
- Fr. Carr making toast.

She writes: "Best wishes to those I knew fifty years ago."

Laurine M. Redl (née Boucher) writes from her home in Prince Albert: "Beginning in 1939 I taught in Saskatchewan country schools before teaching elementary classes in town and city schools. I attended summer school at the university, taking classes toward my BA, for about seven years, then I taught high school French and English in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. From 1955-57 I taught in Germany for the children of NATO forces. This was the highlight of my career, to be able to travel and enjoy the culture of Europe."



Laurine was married to Ignace Redl, now deceased, and raised two stepchildren: Clifford, who passed away at the age of 24, and Linda (Richardson), who is 50 years old, with two daughters — Tammy, 30, and Tanya, 21 — and a grandson, Thomas, now 5.

Laurine remembers "gathering for afternoon tea and communion breakfasts. That is where I met my best friend and travelling companion throughout Europe in future years — Sherry MacEachern of Saskatoon, now of Toronto."

After "three wild and wonderful years at STM," **John Francis Roy** took a year of Education, then headed

north to Meadow Lake to begin his teaching career. In 1954 he returned to Saskatoon, where he continued to teach for another thirty years. He managed to earn a BEd and an MA in the process, as well as teach at the Canadian military base in Lahr, West Germany, for three years.

Frank began "active retirement" in 1984 with a teaching stint in Gambia, West Africa. He also spent four summers with the Canadian Wildlife Service, one of them in the Arctic. An avid photographer, writer, and student of natural history, Frank recently completed *Birds of the Elbow* (1996). The culmination of a lifetime's observation and study, *Birds of the Elbow* is a major work on the ornithology of prairie Saskatchewan.

Frank has always taken leadership roles in education, church, and community. Currently a member of St. Joseph's Parish, Saskatoon, he has served on parish councils there and

Not Really an STM Alumnus?

"I am not really an STM Alumnus," **Duncan Robertson** writes, "but I obviously know many of the alumni/ae of 1948. Following wartime army service I was one of the many veterans who entered the university in 1945, and after graduation went into the peacetime army. In 1957 I left to study at St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto, and received an STB from St. Michael's College in 1961. I was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Regina in 1962. After serving in various parishes and as a hospital chaplain, I attended the UBC School of Librarianship (BLS 1971) and joined the staff of the U of S Library. Papal dispensation was granted in 1974. I became Head Librarian at the Kelsey Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences in 1975. At the same time I was enrolled in graduate studies (MA in History, 1976). I retired in 1987. I was involved in establishing the archives of the Diocese of Saskatoon, and wrote *The Sword of St. Paul*, covering the first fifty years of the diocese."

Duncan grew up in Bradwell, Saskatchewan. He married Lorraine Wright in 1976.

at St. Philip's, has been an editor since 1991 at the Saskatoon Centre for Ecumenism, and served as a parish coordinator during the recent Saskatoon diocesan synod. He was one of the authors of the Division IV English curriculum (1974), was for six years a member of the provincial Rhodes Scholarship committee, has been president of both the Saskatchewan and Saskatoon Nature Societies (he helped found the latter in 1955), continues to teach classes in the Extension Division, University of Saskatchewan, and has organized over 100 nature tours throughout the province.

Frank remembers Fr. O'Donnell as intimidating and forthright, and Fr. Mallon as one of the most concerned and gentle of men. From Fr. Cullinane he learned that it would be difficult to be a Christian and not be politically involved in transforming society.

It is not surprising that Frank describes St. Thomas More College and the Newman Club as "profound formative influences in my life." It is not surprising, either, that, with fellow educator Mary Louise Long, Frank was one of the first two recipients of the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1992.

Thanks to good health, varied interests and loyal friends, Frank continues to enjoy life in Saskatoon, a city he rates as one of Canada's finest.

Like Frank Roy, **Kenneth Louis Schmitz** particularly remembers the Basilians who taught him at STM: "I remember Fr. Joseph O'Donnell's lively judgements on the merits and foibles of the poets, Fr. Eugene Cullinane's courageous presentation of economic theory, gentle Fr. Paul Mallon's mellifluous French, and Fr. Robert Miller's dedicated teaching of Maritain's political philosophy. Great



teachers all!"

He also remembers "having tea with Fr. Henry Carr and talking of Maritain and Gilson's philosophies." and Fr. O'Donnell's "ebullient direction of the STM theatre."

Born and raised in Humboldt, Saskatchewan, Kenneth Schmitz is probably one of the most academically accomplished of STM's accomplished alumni/ae. By the age of 12 he had already read — though "without much understanding," he admits — some of the early dialogues of Plato, having discovered them in his grandfather's library. His later education began at the University of Saskatchewan, where he received his BA *summa cum laude* with a combined English and Philosophy major. He subsequently went to the University of Toronto, where he earned his MA in 1950 and a PhD in 1953. Concurrently, he pursued a program in mediæval studies, receiving a Licentiate in 1952.

"I was blessed by studying under and with very gifted scholars," he recalls, "most of them known internationally in specialist circles, but also including the philosopher Jacques Maritain."

His first teaching appointment was at Loyola College in Los Angeles, where from 1954 to 1957 he served as chairman of "a department of eight feisty Jesuits, taught fifteen to eighteen hours a week, and wrapped newspapers during weekends in the mail-room of the *Los Angeles Times*." It was during this time, too, that he returned to the Catholic Church after a

lapse of almost twenty years.

From 1957-65 he taught at Marquette University in Milwaukee, except for two years (1962-64) spent in Freiburg-im-Breisgau as a fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. In 1965 he moved to the Philosophy Department at Indiana University in Bloomington, with a cross-appointment in Religious Studies. In 1968 he was appointed to the School of Philosophy of the Catholic University of America, returning to Canada in 1971, to Trinity College and the Department of Philosophy in the University of Toronto, where he taught until 1988.

After "retirement" in 1988 he became a senior research fellow at the Cambridge Centre for the Study of Faith and Culture, taught for two years in the Christianity and Culture Program at St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto, and in 1992 became Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Doctoral Program at the John Paul II Institute in Washington.

His publications include over a hundred articles on metaphysics and on German philosophy. He has also contributed chapters to more than two dozen books, including an audio cassette on St. Thomas Aquinas narrated by Charlton Heston.

He served in the RCAF as Navigator/Observer in Night Bomber Command, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for service during the Second World War. His early job experience also included pharmacist-in-training, farm hand, house painter, electric utility inspector, and mass magazine consultant.

He is married to Lillian, with four children — Donald, Geoffrey, Anne, and Jonathan — and eleven grandchildren ranging in age from 3 to 20.

Allyre Louis Sirois grew up in Vonda, Saskatchewan, and now lives in Saskatoon. After graduating from STM in 1948, he took his LLB in 1950, and practised law in Gravelbourg from 1951 to 1964, when he was appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench. He retired in 1998. He also sat on the Court Martial Appeal Court for ten years, and still serves on the Pension Appeals Court.

He and his wife Madeline (née Ehman), who passed away in 1980, raised six children — Valerie (born in 1951), Richard (1955), Guy (1959), Marianne (1962), Lisa (1963), and Norman (1969) — and have eleven grandchildren to date.

Allyre's special memories centre on "the good Fathers of STM — Fr. Carr, Fr. O'Donnell, Fr. Mallon" and "the fraternal good ambience of the College, a home away from home."

Lorraine M. Snelgrove (née **Palmer**) married George the same month she graduated from STM. She continued taking classes in the College of Education to get her teaching certificate while George completed his degree in Pharmacy. They moved to Calgary in 1949.

Lorraine was a full-time homemaker in the early years of her marriage. Later, she worked in the drug department of Woodward's Department Store. In 1975 the family moved to an acreage southeast of Calgary where Lorraine could indulge her love of gardening and animals.

Lorraine and George have three children: Dale, 49, a computer technician; Patrick, 48, an engineer; and Barbara, a farm manager. The four grandchildren include Scott, 15; Ryan, 13; Lyle, 5; and Hanna, 3½.

Lorraine's special memories of STM include religious instruction with Fr. O'Donnell, followed by her



Baptism and reception into the Catholic Church.

In May 1997 Lorraine was institutionalized with Alzheimer's Disease. We remember her in our prayers.

On graduating from STM, **Joe Treleven** went on to the University of Alberta, where he graduated in Medicine in 1950. He spent his internship in Victoria, followed by a stint in general practice. He then took four years' training in psychiatry, much of it in Oregon, where he has spent the major portion of his professional life, retiring as Clinical Director of the Oregon State Hospital fourteen years ago.

Joe married Catherine Connelly, also an STM grad, in 1949. The couple separated in 1973. They had four children.

Michael, born in 1951, joined the Jesuit order in 1973 and is presently a professor of political science at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

Peter, born in 1953, a graduate of the University of Oregon, is a stockbroker in Walnut Creek, California.

Mary Ann, born in 1957, graduated

in nursing from Portland University, works part time as a school nurse in Olympia, Washington. In 1978 she developed Lupus, which destroyed her kidney function over a period of nine years. Owing to the marvels of modern medicine, her father was able to give her one of his kidneys, and she has enjoyed almost normal health for eleven years. "The cost to me," Joe writes, "was insignificant, as I had little discomfort from the procedure and am not aware of any negative effect on my health. This was the best investment I have ever made in my life — much better than winning a ten -million-dollar lottery with a one-dollar ticket."

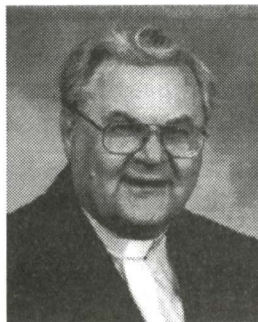
Patrick, born in 1959, graduated in social work from the University of Washington, served two years in the Peace Corps in the Solomon Islands, and is currently director of a community mental health service in Astoria, Oregon.

Retirement for Joe has been the best time of his life. At first, he found it difficult to set aside the skills and professional position he had attained with so much effort, but soon he found it "a privilege and a blessing" to have the opportunity to experience and learn about other things.

"In summary, life has been very good to me, and I enjoy every day, as I suspect you all do. That is the nature of Saskatchewan people."

1-800-667-2019

STM's toll-free telephone service, provided mainly for students to access information on the College and residences, is now available throughout Canada.



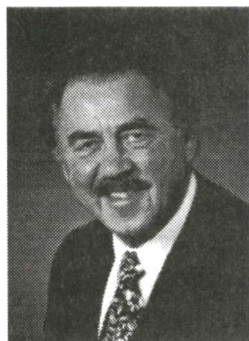
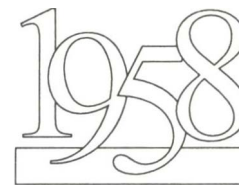
Walter Bialobzyski



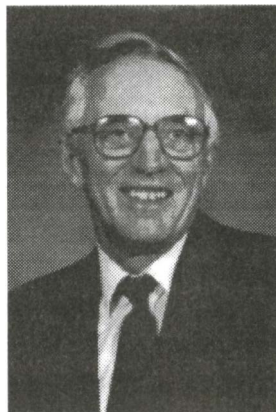
Thomas Coleman



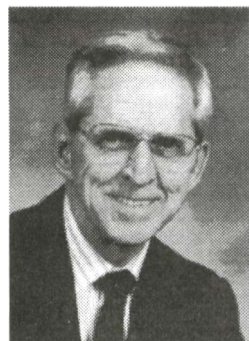
Joan Kathryn Elias



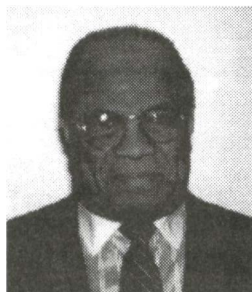
Wilfrid Hinz



George Schmid



Denis Favreau



Lawrence Roach

Edmond Belcourt grew up and still lives in La Fleche, Saskatchewan. He has been a pharmacist since 1958. He and his wife Laura have three children — Nadine, 37, a nurse; Roger, 35, a carpenter; and Marc, 32, a computer technologist — and six grandchildren, ranging in age from one month to seven years old.

Walter Bialobzyski grew up in Canora, Saskatchewan. A graduate of the Universities of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta, he has been a teacher, principal, and counsellor at schools across the prairie provinces. In 1993 he was or-

ained to the diaconate for the Edmonton Eparchy, and is presently serving as Pastoral Administrator at St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic parish in Red Deer, Alberta. He and his wife Mary (née Samborsky) have three sons.

Walter's special memories of STM include playing the part of Thomas More in a Newman drama production, being trounced by Fr. Kennedy in a table tennis tournament, and Fr. Finn's memorable quotes during his Mediæval History class.

A recent photograph of **Thomas H. Coleman** in the *Humboldt Journal* bears the caption: "Tom Coleman of Quill Lake was October's Ticket to Travel winner in the monthly draw by St. Elizabeth's Hospital Foundation. Coleman won a trip to Puerto Vallarta." An earlier photograph — a snapshot — shows him receiving a Community Achievement Award from Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation at the SPCA Annual Conference in Prince Albert, October 1996.

When he's not travelling or volunteering in the community, Tom can reflect on his thirty-six years as a school teacher and his twenty years as a principal. He and his wife Rita, who passed away in 1993, raised eight children — Tommy, Donna, Bobby, Rocky, Cory, Colleen, Lori, and Holly — who in turn have produced twenty-one grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Joan Kathryn Elias (née **Mitchall**) presently lives in Creelman, Saskatchewan with her husband Herbert, known as "Bud." She writes: "As a fresh-faced grad in 1958 I became principal of a four-room school at Francis, Saskatchewan, where I taught all the subjects in grades ten to twelve for four years." She took off a year and a half to give birth to two daughters, ten months apart, and went back to teaching when the younger was three weeks old, this time at Stoughton, where she taught high school math. The next year she began teaching English and French at Creelman. Seventeen years later, she "decided that was enough!"

Joan's two daughters, Judy and Peggy, were married in a unique double ceremony in October 1986. Judy, 34, holds a BA from the University of Regina and works for Saskatchewan Crop In-

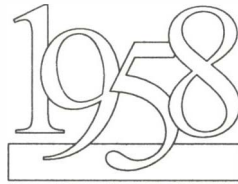
insurance and the Canada Grains Commission. She and her husband Cam Hart have one child, Bailey, born on Canada Day, 1997. Peggy, 33, is a hairdresser who operated her own shop in Creelman before taking on the responsibilities of a full-time homemaker. She and her husband David Kosior have three boys: Devon, 9; Kelvin, 8; and Barrett, 2.

Joan's special memories of STM include "Fr. Mallon's fifteen-minute weekday morning masses" and "all the great visiting in the Newman Club."

Like most STM/Newman alumni/ae, **Denis Favreau** includes the Basilians among his particular memories of the College. Denis played the role of Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Fr. O'Donnell, and remembers Church History, taught by Fr. Finn, as particularly meaningful to him, and Fr. Finn himself as "a very fine person." He has fond memories, too, of Sunday mass followed by breakfast at "Ulcers Inc."

Denis, who holds a BEd, a BA, a Post Graduate Diploma, an MA, and a Certificate in Business Administration, is well qualified to teach in the schools of Saskatchewan — which he has done for forty-five years. Starting at a one-room country school in Zenon Park, he moved for six years to the junior high school in Domremy, then to a senior high school in Tisdale, and finally to Riverside Collegiate and then Carlton Comprehensive in Prince Albert, where he still lives. In 1981, as principal, he established the first École Fransaskoise in Saskatchewan. He spent 1984-85 as Agent for French Community Development in Saskatchewan.

Denis married Gabrielle Georget, a music teacher and alumna of the



Newman Club, and the couple raised three daughters. Sharyn, who holds Masters degrees in both music and education, is Vice-Principal of Msgr. Neville Anderson Elementary School in Calgary. Laurelle, who has studied performing arts management, worked for, and later became President of, Great Artists' Management, Inc., with offices in Toronto and Montreal. She currently lives in Connecticut with her husband, Don Verdery, also a performing arts manager. Joylyn, a computer analyst, works as a consultant for Husky Oil

in Calgary, where she lives with her husband Mark Skoko, a geologist, and their three sons: Sébastien, 5; Zacharie, 2; and Jonathan, 4 months.

Coincidentally, Denis and Gabrielle Favreau are aunt and uncle to Cheryl Soulodre, Head of the Department of Languages and Linguistics at St. Thomas More College.

The photograph from *The Sheaf*, November 30, 1956, shows "the Varsity volleyball team, which competed in the intercollegiate play-offs last weekend against the Universities of Manitoba and Alberta." The team "placed second behind the top-finishing Manitobans," having won the inter-varsity championship the year before. Fourth from the left in the photograph is **Wilfrid Hinz**. Playing

Catholic Trivia

The world of the early Christian was filled with secret symbols. Perhaps the best-known of these was the fish, which not only figures prominently in the Gospels but whose name in Greek, ICTHYS, was taken to stand for *Iesos Christos Theou Yios Soter*: "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour." A lesser-known but more elaborate play on letters was the

ROTAS square, examples of which have been found as far afield as Pompeii, Italy, and Cirencester, England. At first glance — and perhaps at second, third, and fourth glances as well — it appears to be

	A						
	P						
	A						
	T						
	E						
	R						
A	P	A	T	E	R	N	O
							S
							T
							E
							R
							O

R	O	T	A	S
O	P	E	R	A
T	E	N	E	T
A	R	E	P	O
S	A	T	O	R

meaningless, if clever: it reads the same left-to-right as top-to-bottom, and bottom-to-top as right-to-left. Once the letters are unscrambled however, they form the words PATER NOSTER — Our Father — twice, in the form of a cross, with two As and two Os left over, standing for Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, on the arms of the cross.

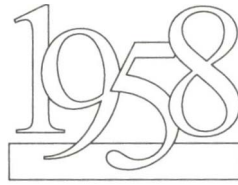
volleyball for the University, however, does not top the list of Wilf's special memories of STM.

"My fondest and dearest memory of STM days," he writes, "is Fr. O'Donnell's spicy soup and a skating party on January 30, 1955. It was at this party that I met a cute young lady, Sylvia Nachtegaele. She was skating with a group of others, and I was trying to get in shape for hockey. It so happened that we ran into each other and I sent her flying. I picked her up, apologized, and after a brief skate together went and had some of Fr. O'Donnell's soup. This was the start of a beautiful friendship that blossomed into marriage."

Sylvia and Wilf were active in the Glee Club, and often helped out with coffee, breakfasts, and lunches at STM. Sunday evening dances and other entertainments were always on the couple's agenda. In addition, Wilf remembers "taking English classes from Fr. O'Donnell and religious classes on Saturdays. I tried to get to church every morning so I could see Sylvia!"

Wilf graduated as an engineer and has, since 1985, been President and CEO of Hinz Automation Inc., a consulting firm with projects across Canada and the world. Some of the company's more notable undertakings include the design of the electrical systems and controls for the MacMillan Bloedel plant expansion at Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan, the electrical design work for mines in Wyoming and Kentucky, and the design of an explosion-proof underground power distribution and ground fault protection system for Companhia Val do Rio Doce in Brazil.

Wilfrid and Sylvia raised five children. Darrell, 39, an engineer like his father, is manager of Hinz Automa-



tion, Vancouver. Married to Brenda Kristjanson, the couple have two daughters and one son. Ryan, 37, also an engineer, is Vice-President of Hinz Automation, Saskatoon. Married to Sabine Van Gool, they have one son and one daughter. Marina, 36, is a cosmetologist who operated Salon Marina on 8th Street in Saskatoon for years. She and her husband, Allan Dagenais, moved to Denver in 1993. They have two daughters and two sons. Diane, 34, is the owner of The Wedding and Party Boutique in Saskatoon. Married to Robert Anton, the couple have four sons. Bradley, 32, is an ophthalmologist with a practice in Edmonton. He is married to Laurel Paulson, a dietician. Tragically, the couple lost twin boys in 1997, but are expecting again in 1998. We remember them in our prayers.

Lawrence Christopher Roach grew up in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, and currently lives in New York City. As a research radiologist at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York, Lawrence developed a new technique for treating female cancers. Other highlights in his distinguished career include a professorship in radiology at Columbia University and a consultancy in radiology to the Government of Trinidad. In addition, he has established radiology centres in Trinidad and Tobago, and presently owns and operates a radiology imaging centre in New York.

Lawrence has three sons: Dale, 33, a physiotherapist in Westchester, New York; Chris, 31, an actor off

Broadway; and Larry, 20, currently enrolled in computer engineering at Boston University.

Special memories from STM days include mass and breakfast on Sunday mornings, and the many social gatherings and shows in which he participated: "My brother Charles, now a lawyer in Toronto, and Rudy Gittens, an orthopaedic surgeon in Ottawa, and I performed with Calypso songs and dances from Trinidad. This was a pleasant diversion in a rigorous course and severe cold climate — 40° below!"

Myrna Rolfes (née Hopfner) has a long association with the College and the Catholic community in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan. Born in Lake Lenore, Saskatchewan, she graduated from the local high school with a Governor-General's Medal before coming to STM, where she graduated *magna cum laude* with a BA in philosophy and psychology. While at STM she served as vice-president of the student council, and was involved in the Sodality of Mary Immaculate.

Myrna has been a social worker, a homemaker, and a volunteer in countless church activities. She has served on the Board of the Family Services Bureau; she has volunteered at the Catholic Centre; she's been singing in the St. Philip Neri parish choir for years; she's been involved the RCIA and the infant baptism program at St. Philip's; and she was recently appointed to the STM Board of Governors.

Myrna is married to Herman Rolfes, a well-known political figure in Saskatchewan. His more prominent portfolios have included Minister of Health and Speaker of the Legislature. The couple have two children: Debora, 36; and Brian, 33.

Debra, also an STM alumna, has an Honours degree in English from the U of S and an MA from UCLA. A homemaker and tutorial assistant teaching business communication, she and her husband Matthew Sherry have two children, Hanna, 6; and Benjamin, 4.

Brian holds degrees from Carleton, Oxford, the University of Saskatchewan, and Cambridge, and works as a management consultant.

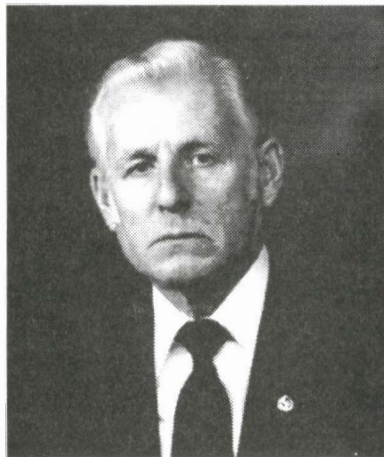
Myrna's special memories of STM days include "spending first year in the crowded old white building, Shakespeare classes with Fr. O'Donnell, singing in the Newman Glee Club under the direction of Fr. Finn," and "being Queen of STM and Vice-President of STM Executive in 1957-58."

George Louis Schmid spent his professional life as a teacher in Saskatoon: five years in elementary school, eleven years at the Technical Collegiate, and ten years at Walter Murray. Raised in Middle Lake, Saskatchewan, he lives in Saskatoon with his wife Marie (née Hoenmans).

They have seven children. Judy and Jim both hold degrees in Music Education, and, like their father, are both teachers — Judy at W. P. Bate School in Saskatoon, Jim at Medicine Hat, Alberta. Matthew is a medical physicist; he and his sister Betty, a clinical instructor, work at the Blair Clinic in Regina. Audrey is a lab technician in Fort McLeod, Clare a police constable in Winnipeg, and Paula works in public relations for the Government of Alberta in Edmonton.

The seven Schmid children have so far produced seventeen grandchildren for Louis and Marie: Alaris (17), Jarvis (14), Jacinta (11), Tacita (9), and Gabriel (6) Schmid; Jonathan (16) and Jeffrey (13) Schmid; Kristine (15), Steven (12), and Ashley (10) den Boon;

1958

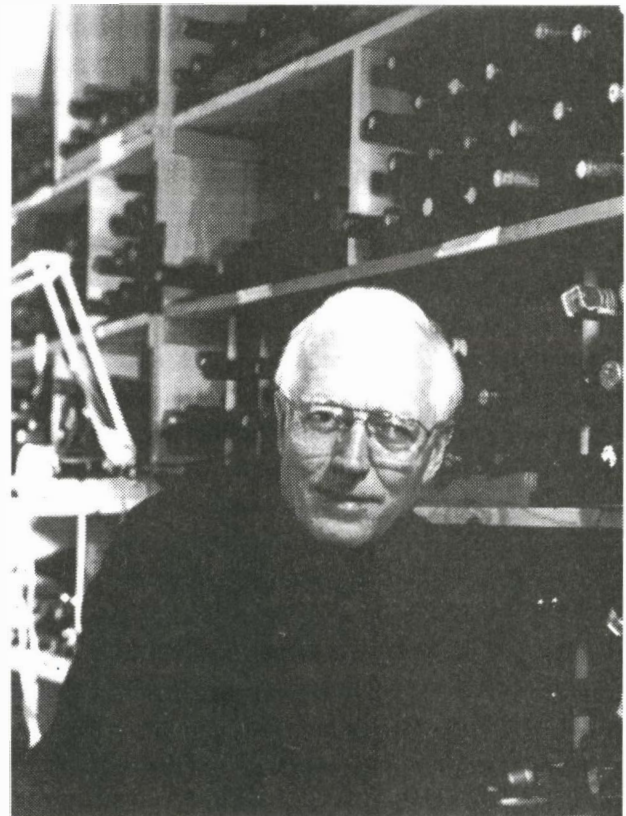


Roman Scholdra

Shannon (10), Shayla (8), and Joel (6) Refuik; Breanne (8), Jessica (6), and Ariana (3) Booth; and Molly Power (5).

Roman Scholdra obtained his doctorate in Political Science from the University of Innsbruck, Austria, in 1951. He then came to Canada to study Law at the University of Saskatchewan. He was admitted to the Saskatchewan Bar in 1959 and the Alberta Bar in 1960. Shortly after joining a law firm in Edmonton, he came down with a severe case of sciatica. As a result of surgery and convalescence, he ended up spending a year on his back — and earning a Masters degree in Slavic Languages and Literatures from the University of Chicago. Following a trip to Europe and a stint as a solicitor for the Motor Vehicles Branch of the Department of Highways in Edmonton, he opened his own law office in Lethbridge, Alberta, where he is still practising. He married Dr. Joanne Dolores Scholdra (née Oss), a U of S graduate (1955) in 1970. Their daughter, Elke Larissa, was born in 1972 (and graduated from STM in 1996).

Roman has served on the Board of Governors of



John Schreiner

the University of Lethbridge (1979-1986); he was President of the Lethbridge West Progressive Conservative Association (1979-1981); he was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Recreation, Parks, and Wildlife Foundation of Alberta (1980); and he has twice served as President of the Canadian Club of Lethbridge (1981-1982 and 1986-1987). By far his greatest accomplishment as a lawyer, however, was the winning of a case in the German Court of Appeal in Cologne, resulting in the conviction of the German Federal Republic for crimes against humanity. The headline in *The Lethbridge Herald* of February 5, 1972, reads, "City lawyer wins war reparations from West Germany for Alberta man." The story details how William Wasylashko of Holden, Alberta (formerly of Ukraine), was held as a political prisoner from 1939 to 1945, subjected to forced labour, and eventually committed to a concentration camp. The German Court granted Mr. Wasylashko substantial damages and a life-long pension.

Roman Scholdra had paved the way for others to follow. A subsequent story in the *Herald*, dated November 28, 1996, reports on the recent surrender by Swiss banks of "some of the wealth accumulated as a result of the Nazi rape of the Jewish people" during World War II, and traces the event directly to Roman Scholdra's court victory twenty-five years before.

Special memories from his STM days, Roman writes, "are too numerous to share. However, I fondly remember attending masses every winter morning and having discussions with the other students and the Reverend Fathers. The Newman Club was to me truly a home away from home,



as I did not have a Canadian home at that time.

"As for my numerous friends at STM, I often think of Agnes Elizabeth Taylor (now deceased) and Joan Cowley, who vanished without a trace. Does anybody know her fate after graduation? I often think of Joan standing in front of the 'white house' on a grey and cold autumn day in 1956, deciding which way to go, while helping in the moving activities from the old wooden structure to the new gorgeous building erected for the STM students, as well as the winter mornings when the bus driver was prepared to wait for her if she was not at the usual bus stop at 6:00 o'clock in the morning. And how can one forget the wonderful and unforgettable professor of English language — the Reverend Father Joseph O'Donnell — who taught me English II? He often shared morning coffee with us, providing us with an opportunity to forget English II for a few moments and delve into philosophy, history, and politics. I simply could not imagine my years at the University of Saskatchewan without the leadership provided by the Basilian Fathers."



Anyone glancing at the photograph of **John Schreiner** might conclude that he was interested in wine. In fact, he has written four books about it: *The World of Canadian Wine* (1984), *The Wineries of British Columbia* (1994), *The British Columbia Wine Companion* (1996), and *Chardonnay and Friends* (1998).

John grew up in Indian Head, Saskatchewan, and currently lives in North Vancouver. He worked at the Regina *Leader Post* for three years, then moved to *The Financial Post*, where he has been ever since. He and his wife, Marlene, raised three children: Maureen (born in 1962), who is involved in advertising production; Alison (1964), who does financial research; and John (1969), who is a businessman in Hong Kong.

From STM, John remembers "the urbanity of Fr. Finn, the humanity of Fr. Montague, and Fr. O'Donnell's Shakespeare performance."

John Adam Spenrath was born in Trier, Germany, and grew up in Bruno, Muenster, and Saskatoon. He now lives in Edmonton, where he worked in the Catholic school system as both teacher and principal for many years. He completed a Masters degree in Education at Portland, Oregon, and was halfway through a doctorate at the University of Seattle when a stroke in 1978 effectively brought his career to an end.

John and Mary (née Rommings) have nine children — Mary-Ann, 47; Bernie, 44; Louise, 42; Norma, 41; John, 39; Irene, 37; Mike, 36; Frank, 34; and Lorraine, 32 — and twenty-two grandchildren. Of his days at STM, John particularly remembers Frs. Carr and Mallon, Dean Leddy, and friends Ned Feehan, Bono Feehan, and Peter Dielschneider.

Sharon Ertl (née **Barchuk**) grew up in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, and now works as a pharmacist in Red Deer, Alberta. She and her husband Edward have two sons: Jeffrey, 16; and Jason, 13. Sharon's special memories of STM include "lunches with friends in the cafeteria" and "philosophy class with Fr. Bistyó."

Jim Greer was a high school teacher from 1974 till 1982, when he left teaching to return to graduate school. He earned his doctorate in Computer Science from the University of Texas at Austin in 1987. In 1989 he joined the Department of Computer Science at the University of Saskatchewan. He is now a full professor, teaching and conducting research in the area of artificial intelligence. He and his wife Marianne have two children — Phil, 23; and Erin, 21 — and a brand-new grandson, Clark.

Sue Kessler, from Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, is the Director of Information Management and Privacy with Alberta Labour in St. Albert, where she is responsible for Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation. She and her husband, Jim Connelly, have one son, Christopher Connelly, 11.

Marian Noll writes from Humboldt, Saskatchewan: "Since 1984 I've worked at the *Prairie Messenger* in a variety of positions, and [until recently was] Associate Editor of the finest Catholic newspaper in Canada!" Sr. Marian grew up in Cudworth, and taught high school there from 1973 until 1979, then at the Ursuline Academy in Bruno until 1982. Effective June 28, 1998, she is Major Superior of the Ursulines of Bruno. Of her memories of STM, she



writes, "When Fr. Joe Bistyó got mischievous during Philosophy class, he'd chalk up my veil or my notebook — until Larry Benning and Doug Still put a stop to it!"



Frances Stang (née **Gerich**) has worked as a social worker in northern Saskatchewan, a homemaker, and a school teacher in both Macklin, Saskatchewan, where she now lives, and Provost, Alberta. She currently teaches grade three in a half-time, job-share position.

Frances and Larry have been married twenty years, and have five children: Erin, 19, is currently attending STM; Heidi, 17, is entering the College of Nursing in the fall of 1998; Matthew, 15, is in grade 10; and Alexandra, 10, and Julianne, 6, attend

elementary school in Macklin.

"I truly enjoyed my time at STM," she writes. "My eldest daughter, Erin, is presently enrolled at STM and will next year be president of STMSU. She has been very active in College activities since she started university, and has made many friends, both students and staff. It is a great place to make the adjustment from high school to university while keeping her faith in perspective."

Frances enjoyed working in the cafeteria at STM, and particularly remembers Professor Jean Seaton's English classes."

Larry Trach grew up in Prince Albert, and has practised law in Saskatoon since 1979. He and his wife Claire have two daughters: Kelly, 4; and Jillian, 2.

Joan Weber, an Ursuline of Prelate, grew up in Arcola, Saskatchewan, and recently retired after thirty years of teaching in various Saskatchewan schools, most recently St. Philip's in Saskatoon. Sr. Joan, while doing some volunteer work, is spending an active retirement as an artist in watercolours and oils.

1998 Higgins Award to STM Grad

The Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association has awarded its 1988 Higgins Award to **Wendelin Herle**, a member of the St. Thomas More College Corporation and an STM alumnus (1951). The Higgins Award is a recognition of an individual's high level of contribution to Catholic Education both in the recipient's own province and in Canada. Wendelin's nomination by the Catholic Section of the Saskatchewan School Trustees' Association reflects the respect with which he is held by his professional colleagues.



Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald

STM Alumna Named President of St. Peter's College

St. Peter's College, Muenster, has a new President as of August 1, 1998. She is Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald, presently living in Saskatoon with her husband, Donald Ward, and two daughters, Brigid and Caitlin.

Colleen's area of academic expertise is European History, 1450 to the present. Her BA, a double honours in History and Art History, was completed in 1979 through STM. Her MA and PhD are also in History, the one earned in 1989, the other in 1996. The decade between 1979 and 1989 was not unproductive: Colleen earned a diploma from the Canadian Museums Association in Museums and Philosophy, engaged in studies in International Museum Education through the American State Department, and took courses in Communications at the University of Saskatchewan. These latter skills have been put into practice most recently in the Division of Audio-Visual Services at the U of S where she is presently employed as producer, editor, director, and writer.

Colleen has worked as a researcher in the Saskatchewan Archives in Saskatoon, as a curator/educator at the Mendel Art Gallery, and as manager of the Communications Lab in the College of Education. She spent a year, as well, as Assistant to the Dean of St. Thomas More College. From 1982-85 she served with her husband Don as Managing Editor of *The Canadian Catho-*

lic Review, a journal originating out of St. Thomas More College. Since 1987 Colleen has served as a History instructor on the University's main campus, at Woodland Regional College in Prince Albert, and at St. Peter's. She will be remembered by past students not only for the courses she taught in European History, but for her supportive involvement as faculty advisor to the College's History Club from 1992-94.

— *Phyllis Thompson*



Dr. Christopher Lind

St. Andrew's College Appoints New President

Dr. Christopher Lind, Professor of Church and Society at St. Andrew's College since 1985, has been appointed president of that institution effective July 1, 1998. St. Andrew's, a theological school of the United Church of Canada, has worked in frequent collaboration with STM over the years.

A distinguished teacher and writer, Chris received his BA from York University in 1974, his MDiv from the Toronto School of Theology 1978, and his PhD from the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, in 1988. He will be especially familiar to prairie Catholics through his monthly column, "The Moral Economy," in the *Prairie Messenger*.

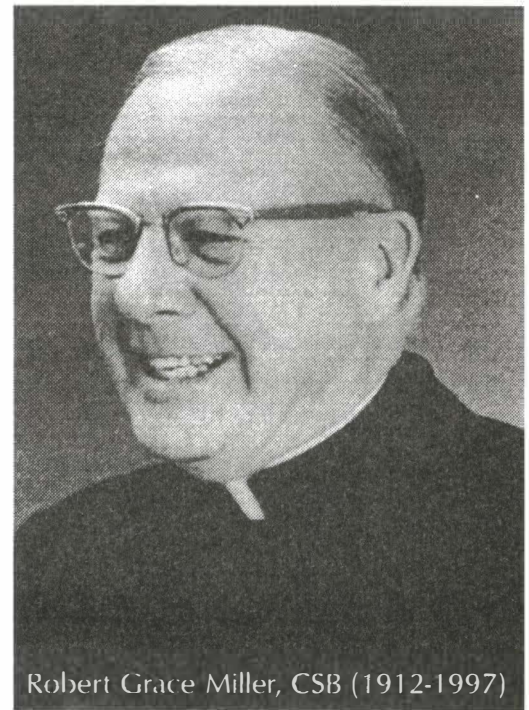
Dr. Frank Vella, a member of Corporation and a long-time friend of STM, has been appointed Acting General Secretary of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, which consists of sixty-five bodies worldwide. He is the first Canadian ever to fill this position, which runs to the fall of 2000.

Remembering Father Miller

by

Kenneth L. Schmitz*

(Class of '48)



Robert Grace Miller, CSB (1912-1997)

Following a long period of failing health, Fr. Robert Miller died on Sunday, December 21, 1997 at the Providence Centre in Scarborough, Ontario. The wake, mass, and burial were celebrated in the Cardinal Flahiff Basilian Centre in Toronto, and he was buried in the Basilian plot at Holy Cross Cemetery in nearby Thornhill.

Among the many who remember him, the class of 1948 will recall a dedicated young priest who taught Philosophy to STM students during the five years (1943-38) he spent on campus. His course in General Psychology integrated experimental psychology with philosophical psychology to an unusual degree, and his courses in Political Philosophy introduced many to the thought of Jacques Maritain. Many will remember, too, his quiet sense of humour, capped by

* With thanks to Frs. Thomas Miller and Harold Gardner, CSB for information received.

the light snuffle of a laugh. But many may not be aware of the particulars that filled a busy and productive life as priest, teacher, author, and academic administrator.

A native of Rochester, New York, who returned in his later years to that city to assist his ageing parents, Robert Miller was born on February 5, 1912 to William and Margaret (Nelligan) Miller. The family of five boys gave three to the church as priests: along with Robert, his brother Thomas, a fellow Basilian, and the late Father Richard, SJ. His early education was in Catholic schools in Rochester, at Nazareth Hall elementary and at Aquinas Institute, where he was valedictorian of his class (1930). Robert had some interest in pursuing the study of Law at Harvard, but changed his plans when Fr. McCorkell and other Basilians, guests in his home after the graduation, drew him to study at St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto. Once there, he flourished,

graduating *summa cum laude*. Supported by a Carnegie Foundation Fellowship, he took further studies towards an MA and a PhD at the Pontifical Institute of Mediæval Studies, writing a dissertation on St. Albert the Great under the directorship of the renowned historian-philosopher, Etienne Gilson. The dissertation was published in 1938. He then entered the Basilians (it is said in part through the example of Fr. Joseph O'Donnell, whom STM students of the 1940s and '50s will remember as a dynamic professor of English literature), and was ordained on the Feast of the Assumption, 1943.

During his theological studies (1939-43) he taught Philosophy at St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto. Then began more than three decades of a busy professional life, starting with a five-year appointment to STM, where he taught alongside Basilian Fathers Henry Carr, Joseph O'Donnell, Paul Mallon, and Eugene Cullinane. In addition to his

teaching and other academic duties, Fr. Miller became Diocesan Director of Catholic Action and founder and editor of the *Catholic Action Priests' Magazine*.

During a subsequent term (1948-51) as chairman of the Department of Philosophy and Director of Development at the University of St. Thomas, Houston, he contributed greatly to the financial solvency of the institution through founding the Mardi Gras featuring the participation of celebrities such as Bob Hope, Arlene Dahl, and June Haver.

After two years of further study at the Pontifical Institute of Mediæval Studies (1951-53), Fr. Miller was appointed Professor of Philosophy at Assumption—now the University of Windsor—(1953-58), where he also served as Dean of Men. After five years he requested an appointment to St. John Fisher College, Rochester, where he chaired the Department of Philosophy for ten years and taught for another eight, retiring in 1977. He completed his teaching career as Adjunct Professor in Philosophy at Nazareth College (1978-88), also assisting as priest at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

His publications, including the book on St. Albert (1938) and one on the philosophy of language (1968), span thirty years, and appeared in such journals as *Modern Schoolman*, *New Scholasticism*, *Medieval Studies*, *Journal of Philosophy*, and in *The New Catholic Encyclopædia*. They range in topics from the philosophy of economics and politics to issues of methodology, language, and metaphysics, and in eras from the mediæval to the modern and contemporary periods. In retirement he was preparing a work on causality in St. Thomas.

On a visit with him at St. Basil's Seminary infirmary some little time before his death, I enjoyed a lively conversation with him. It was as much engaged with current academic and cultural issues as with reminiscences of our days at STM, though his memories of that time were affectionate. It was clear that the declining vision that had troubled him for some years had not dimmed his interior vision. I knew him, of course, as a student knows his teacher; but others knew him in other ways, including his love of golf and sailing, and knew him as a priest dedicated

to his calling, his family, and his friends.

Among his unfinished reflections in retirement were an article on "Process Theology and Prayer," and a proposed book, *God's Eternity and the Immortality of the Human Soul*. Poor vision prevented this lover of books and study from completing the work. Fellow Basilians, family members, cousins, nieces and nephews, colleagues and students can be confident, however, that with God's grace he has reached his goal and is enjoying the clear vision of the Ultimate Good.

IN MEDIAS RES A LITERARY JOURNAL

In Medias Res (In the Middle of Things) is a literary journal run jointly by the students and faculty of STM and distributed throughout the university and the surrounding

community. Our purpose is to provide a forum for students and professors to develop a conversation beyond the classroom, and to explore significant issues of life, education, and culture.

The journal is now three years old. To ensure its survival, we require financial assistance. Our aim is to establish scholarships for students involved in the paper, allowing them to participate more fully in the educational mission of the College by developing practical editorial and leadership skills, by acquiring teaching skills in a collaborative setting, and generally by fostering a sense of integrated community. Currently, most of our editorial members are third- and fourth-year students; with this initiative, they will be able to offer mentoring services to younger students who will eventually replace them. *In Medias Res* has already been a transforming presence in the life of St. Thomas More College. None of us wants to see the spirit of the paper disappear.

We hope that students, staff, faculty, alumni/ae, and members of the larger community will recognize the importance of this venture. We therefore ask you to support our work by a donation or by subscribing to *In Medias Res* at the modest rate of \$25 for three issues. Donations can be mailed to: *In Medias Res*, St. Thomas More College, 1437 College Drive, Saskatoon SK S7N 0W6.

Thank you very much indeed.

Farewell and God Bless. . . .



After three years as our High School Liaison Officer, Sarah Murphy-Hall has decided to leave that position to further her education. Sarah came to us as a recent graduate of STM and joyfully took on the challenge of recruiting new students for the College, travelling across the province with representatives of the

Universities of Saskatchewan and Regina, the four SIAST campuses, Luther College, and Campion College. For Sarah, the tenth of twelve siblings, the camaraderie of the team was what made “not being at home” okay. Recently married, Sarah has revisited her priorities and decided to pursue a long-held ambition to be a teacher, and possibly a guidance counsellor.

Alumni/ae will remember that Sarah’s parents, Kevin and Dorothy Murphy, both graduates of STM and long-time friends of the College, died tragically in a house fire in Calgary earlier this year. To Sarah and her family we offer our continuing prayers, as well as our best wishes for her future.

We’ll miss you, Sarah!



If “haunting” is a word that can describe a vocation to religious life, Carol Toczak has been “haunted” since she was eighteen. “My vocation was always there,” she explains, “and it developed over the years. In fact, it pestered me. It sits there and you push it back and say, ‘No, that’s silly.

Why would I want to do that with my life? It seems like it’s giving up everything.”

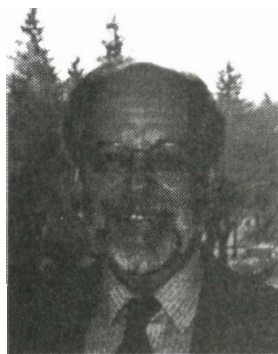
“Everything” for Carol was a comfortable life as a dental assistant in Weyburn, annual vacations in the Caribbean. But as she approached her late twenties she began being “haunted” again by the idea that perhaps life had a little more in store for her. She took a couple of night classes through the Extension Division, did well in them, and decided she would quit work and go to

university full time. She credits a Lay Formation Program she took through the Archdiocese of Regina with helping give her the courage to make this decision.

She majored in Religious Studies, and was invited to apply for the High School Liaison position at STM when it fell vacant. “I’d ever dreamt of anything like that,” she says. “I really wasn’t certain of the direction I was going, but Claude Lang [STM’s Administrator of Student Services] asked me to apply.” She held the position for two years. Then the chaplaincy position came open. Again, Claude urged her to apply, and with the encouragement of students and friends, she did.

“I’ve been a chaplain for three years,” she concludes,

continued on page 31



After twenty-three years of service to the College as Business Manager, Treasurer, and Comptroller, Bob Lemke is retiring to pursue the hobbies and interests he has neglected over the years in the interest of STM. As he says, “I don’t want to retire *from* something, I want to retire *to* something.

As things got busier here I found I had to drop some personal interests because the demands were greater. I think back to the early years of the job. They were pretty relaxed. There was a lot less confrontation, a lot less competition for scarce dollars. It’s tougher now, and it will get progressively more complex and difficult.”

The comptroller cares for both the physical and financial aspects of the institution; essentially, all those things that are supportive of the academic activity. Bob was the first lay person to hold the position at STM. He has worked under four presidents and one acting president, and he’s proud to say that, “In a lot of respects, I think the building is just as good if not better than it was twenty-plus years ago.”

Bob has looked on administration as far more than a job; it has been an intimate involvement with virtually every aspect of the institution. STM will never leave him, he says. His time here has been a commitment of the heart. We can be confident that that commitment will continue through his retirement.

Carol: continued from page 30

“and now I’m leaving to join the School Sisters of Notre Dame.” She credits the intellectual tone of the College with helping her make that decision “based on not just the heart but the mind as well.” She also credits the example of Sr. Annella Pek, a canon lawyer and a member of the STM Corporation: “There was something about her that made me want to look into her community, and I was impressed with the tough questions they were asking about religious life.”

Carol has been formally affiliated with the community since July 1997. Affiliation, which can last anywhere from six months to two years, is followed by the pre-novitiate or postulancy; this is the stage Carol is now entering. She will be living in community in Hamilton, Ontario, with four other women, one of them another postulant, and working at a place called St. Martin’s Manor, a home for young women who are pregnant and don’t have any means of support.

After the pre-novitiate comes a two-year novitiate, followed by first vows and then another three to five years before final vows. “You decide with the community when you are ready,” Carol explains. “I’ve really experienced these women as very much a partnership. It’s not at all a dictatorship or authoritarian, but much more collaborative.”

And after that? “I don’t have any great big thoughts,” she says. “Teaching is one area I’d like to explore. Or I might look into the area of spiritual direction and retreats. I have a strong aptitude, I think, for this kind of work. This community is international, so the world is open.”

Indeed, we might even see her back at STM.

Absent Friends

Please remember in your prayers our deceased alumni/ae and friends.

Clements, Harold

Class of 1948

Drage (Rupcich), Anne Helene

Class of 1968

Ferner, Paul

Class of 1950

Fisher, Maurice

Hunter, Ken

Kinahan, James Joseph

Class of 1952

Kobrynsky, Steven

Leicester, John

Class of 1947

McAnally, Joseph Howard Arthur

Class of 1950

Miazga (Kalinocha), Marianne

Class of 1968

Murphy (McGinn), Dorothy Marie

Class of 1953

Murphy, Kevin Francis

Class of 1952

Ogle, William Albert

Class of 1938

Osiowy, Betty Anne

Class of 1964

Stark, Robert Dale

Class of 1962

Stein, John

Class of 1953

Truitt, Scott

Wilde, Gerald Anthony

Class of 1970

Winkes, Evelyn Mary Stewart

Class of 1938

Worobetz, Peter Justin

Class of 1939

Winkes, Evelyn

Class of 1938

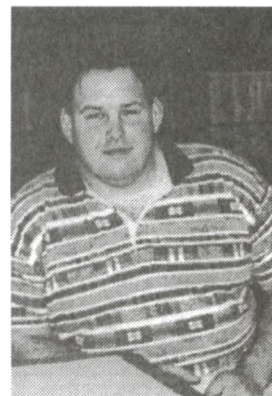
Yuzdepski, Stanley

Erratum

In the previous *Newsletter*, James Paul Schmeiser (class of 1986) was mistakenly listed in the “Absent Friends” column. Mrs. Schmeiser assures us that her son is alive and well. We apologize to James and to his family for any embarrassment or inconvenience this may have caused.

Scott Truitt

Few people who have been at STM for such a brief period have made such a deep impression as Scott Truitt, who died suddenly on March 2, 1998. Scott was a member of the editorial board of *In Medias Res* and a graduate student who taught in the Foundation Program. In memory of our friend and colleague, the fellowship he held has been named the Scott Truitt Graduate Fellowship. Donations can be made to the College care of the Scott Truitt Fund.





Are you Lost? We are.

At least, that's the way it seems sometimes when our *Newsletters* come back marked "Not Known Here" or "Return to Sender." The fact is, though, your fellow alumni/ae of St. Thomas More College and the Newman Centre – not to mention those of us still slogging away at the College – are intensely interested in your news: births, marriages, moves, career changes, triumphs, retirements,

On the Cover

"Angels Don't Look Like That!"

Among a number of works designed by Vancouver artist Lionel Thomas at St. Thomas More College was the mural of Mary, Queen of the Universe, a gift to the College from the Catholic Women's League of Saskatchewan. The mural is a stylized portrayal of Mary accompanied by angels and various symbolic figures, and was painted by Thomas on oak panels in a cantilevered recess at the north end of the chapel. Though most reaction to this work was favourable, it brought some negative comment from at least one person when the College was opened. The irate art lover wrote anonymously to the bishop complaining that such art was not suitable for a place of worship and that "angels don't look like that."

Margaret Sanche

Heartwood: A History of St. Thomas More College & Newman Centre at the University of Saskatchewan (pp. 102-103)
Cover photo by Terry Zemluk, Portfolio Photographics

bereavements. For many of us in this hectic world, it's the only way we can keep in touch with those friendships and memories we cherish from the days when we were preparing to set out and conquer the world. Wouldn't you like to know what happened to that girl who balanced the water bucket over the door and soaked you from head to foot ten minutes before you had to be in class? Or what about the guy who stood on the stage tossing sponges into the audience at the last Newman Coffee House you attended? What about the people you studied with, laughed with, prayed with in the chapel? And we're always accepting nominations for the "Distinguished Alumna and Alumnus of the Year" Award. Surely you know someone who qualifies. We want to hear from you.

So please . . .

