

# STM

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

# DISCOVER! MORE

## STM Students Make The World Their Classroom



The Intercordia STM Class with  
(left to right) Engaged Learning  
Coordinator David Peacock,  
Laurie Cardnuff, Mitchell McIvor,  
Annalisa Dyck, Emily Ostapovitch,  
Kristina Kudel, Kevin Petty,  
Heidi Wagner, Ashlee Jensen,  
Linh Le and STM Professor  
Darrell McLaughlin.

After a successful first year, the Intercordia STM Class has shown the potential for students to gain "real world" education and first-hand experience of global solidarity living and working with people in other countries.

The new program is a joint venture between St. Thomas More College and Intercordia Canada, an international outreach program stemming from the L'Arche movement. It was developed by Engaged Learning Coordinator David Peacock and STM Professor Darrell McLaughlin. The program is part of a larger effort to deepen the educational experience of students in areas of justice, social responsibility and solidarity.

The program is twofold with students earning their first three credits through participation in a sociology class – Social Change and Global Solidarity – taught by Professor McLaughlin. The second three credits are earned from May through August by travelling to another country to live with a host family and work at a small community-based agency. To complete the class, students submit a journal of reflections and write a final essay about their experience.

In the following pages, *Discover More* offers you a glimpse of some of those experiences. Plus you'll discover more about what's been happening, and what's coming up, at St. Thomas More College.

### Table of contents

Inside, discover more about STM students, alumni, faculty and staff:

Kevin Petty	2
Kristina Kudel	3
Mitchell McIvor	4
Linh Le	5
Dr. Patricia McDougall	6
Madonna and Child	8
Welcome	9
Peter Zakreski	9
Karen (Bligh) Bergermann	10
Calendar	12



## Kevin Petty learned a new language – and a dance step – in Ghana



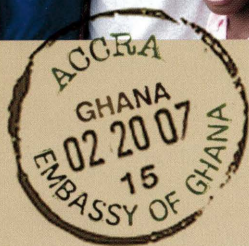
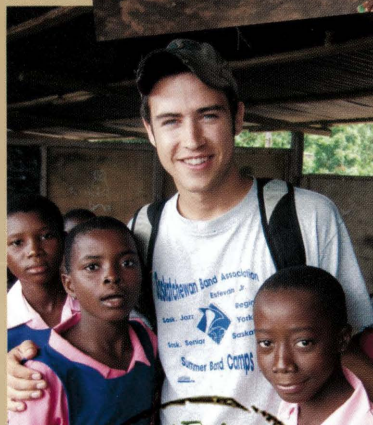
“I’ve been working in a small town for the last four summers at the local swimming pool and I was looking for a change. I taught elementary school in Ghana. I had fifteen students all around thirteen years old. The kids could all speak a little bit of English.

“It was thirty-eight degrees at nine in the morning and much hotter by midday. It was a five-minute walk from the school and I’d have to take a nap when I got home. The hardest things to get used to were the food and the heat. It took about a month.

“Every night as the sun was going down and it was finally cool enough to move around, the whole village came alive. My host family would sit around a kerosene lamp because the power was usually off. They’d dance and I’d laugh. Then I’d try to dance and they’d laugh. They loved that.

“They’d teach me a couple sayings, or at least a couple words every night. After a while, I became known as the white man who could speak and hear their language. There were many languages in Ghana. I could get by in ten of the surrounding villages. I was pretty proud of that.

“There was a fourteen-year old girl, Maida. She and I would be the last ones up talking. She spoke fair English when I got there and was really quite fluent when I left. It was sad to say goodbye.”



*Kevin*



## Kristina Kudel found herself in Honduras

“An organization called Intercultural Youth Exchange placed me at an orphanage in a small rural village of about 8000 people. It was an all-boys orphanage. The kids were between the ages of six and eighteen. A lot were abandoned by their parents, some were given up for poverty reasons, others were in conflict with the law and the police sent them there. A lot of them had been living on the streets. A couple had moms who were prostitutes. I think I was naïve before; now I know the reality of poverty.

“Every day was different. I could be helping with homework, helping out in the kitchen, measuring the boys for school uniforms, decorating dorm rooms or doing crafts with the kids. We built about 80 flags and put them up in the cafeteria to teach them about the world and populations and numbers.

“I remember having a piñata for the boys. All of a sudden, some Americans came and stormed on our parade. Everything just stopped, but there was a little boy, Santos, about six years old – we called him grumpy old man because when he first came he didn’t talk to anyone, he would just sit there and frown – anyway, he went up to one of the Americans and said, “This is Kristina, don’t you know that.” It made me realize that, yes, I am Kristina, and I shouldn’t hide. I should be myself. I am Kristina and I should accept who I am.”



*Kristina*



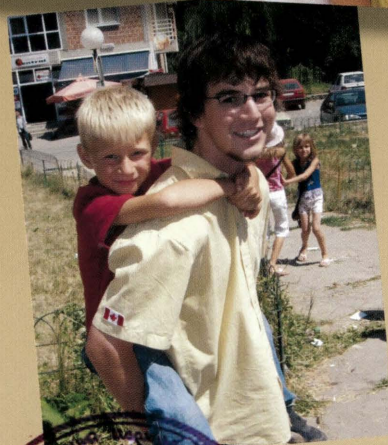
## Mitchell McIvor left his appendix in Bosnia

“I worked at a Muslim and Christian Youth Centre in Bosnia. We taught four classes a day and there were 30 kids in each class.



“There was a street in the town that divided the Croats from the Muslims. My host family was on the Croatian side, the youth centre was across the street. I thought it would be more developed and further into reintegration, but there’s still a real separation. There’s no love between them, but they’re willing to get along enough not to fight.

“I had surgery there. I had my appendix out. I was in the hospital for eleven days. There are really no English-speakers there at all. That experience will stick with me forever.



“There was a little girl, Anina, eight or nine years old, who’d had appendix surgery earlier. She was really bored. I became her pet to keep her busy. She’d tuck me in at night, make sure I had everything I needed. I realized how important family is. I’ve been through surgery at home before and family’s always there. In Bosnia I didn’t have that.

“I started reading books about the Bosnian war and meeting people in the hospital who had stories from the war. One of the guys learned English from watching American movies. He didn’t speak well at all but we managed to communicate. He has a brother in America but he can’t get a visa to visit because the border is closed to Bosnians completely. It put everything into perspective. What I was going through was small potatoes.”

Handwritten signature of Mitchell McIvor.





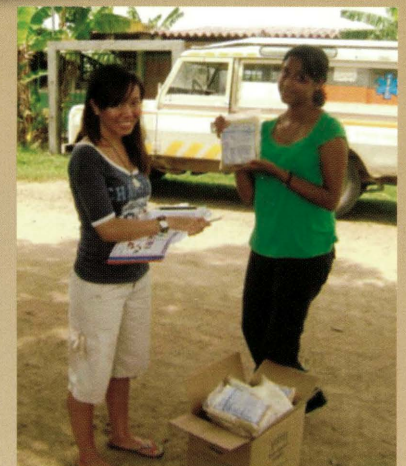
## Linh Le came back from Honduras more determined than ever

“I was supposed to work in a local women’s cooperative helping them market their products, but that got changed at the last minute. Instead, I worked for a medical clinic in a town that served eighteen communities. There was one doctor, three nurses, one director and one promoter of health who I mainly worked with, traveling from town to town to do health projects.

“I loved my work because there was always a project going on. When one was finished, we’d go to the next one. I vaccinated about a thousand dogs in two weeks – and one monkey. We had six babies to check on. We traveled up mountains to check up on pregnant ladies. We walked house to house to treat people. It was so much fun because you get to see how a lot of Hondurans live.

“Towards the end, I had an opportunity to go to high schools to give speeches on diseases and human rights. In Spanish. I really wanted to do the speech, so I had to learn.

“I’m hoping to get into international human rights law someday. That goal has never been more intense. Being in the Honduras made me disappointed in the law and policy making in general, and that made me want to practice even more.”



*Linh*





## STM Faculty Member Reaches Out to Youth Nationwide



Dr. Patricia McDougall

“Everybody acts like I’m a nobody. HELP!” This plea, voiced by a young girl named Emily, is not unlike that of countless other youths across Canada. Nor is it a cry arising from some new blight attacking the nation’s teenagers. What is new is that Emily now has a place to voice her concerns, she has the attention of people who are really listening, and she has access to a growing list of programs that are being designed to specifically address her needs and those of people in similar circumstances.

Emily has people like STM’s own Dr. Patricia McDougall to thank. Dr. McDougall participates in an initiative called Raise Your Voice, a national philanthropy program that urges youth to ask for help when they need it. Sponsored by Motorola, Raise Your Voice aims to create communities that support youth. It encourages partnerships with organizations in Canada that give young people a voice and provide resources and support.

According to Dr. McDougall, the benefits of such a project are reciprocal. “Research and teaching are rewarding, but nothing beats seeing your work applied for the betterment of the community,” says Dr. McDougall. It’s that striving-for-more approach that has directed the course of Dr. McDougall’s career. A research interest in social development in childhood and adolescence, with a focus on friendship and peer acceptance, is complemented by a desire to share her knowledge, particularly with students of developmental psychology. Now, her hunger to see that knowledge applied is being satisfied by her involvement with Raise Your Voice.

The program was initiated at the request of Michael Hortie, President, Motorola Canada. Dr. McDougall helped to prepare questions and analyze the results of a national online survey of 1,007 youth between the ages of 13 and 18, and a separate online survey of 496 parents of youth aged 13 to 18. The survey revealed that 42 per cent of teens in Canada struggle in silence, rarely or never asking for help when they feel overwhelmed. To complicate matters, the survey revealed a generation of teens who are dealing with a great deal of stress.

Dr. McDougall’s recommendation – “If we can give young people hope that help is out there and the confidence to raise their voices, we’ll increase the chances that they’ll look for help” – set the tone for Raise Your Voice. Today, the program provides a website ([raiseyourvoice.ca](http://raiseyourvoice.ca)) where youth can be heard and parents can read tips about opening the lines of communication. The initiative also teamed up with a variety of organizations such as the Kids Help Phone, Youth Science Foundation’s SMARTS Network, and LOVE Leave Out Violence Everywhere.



Now that the Raise Your Voice program has been established, now that its findings are helping to identify areas of greatest need, and now that Motorola is providing financial assistance to appropriate partner organizations, what's in store for Dr. McDougall? "I've been asked to join the Raise Your Voice volunteer advisory board to help assess potential partner organizations and plan for the future," says Dr. McDougall. "It's a big time commitment, but I accepted because, in the midst of research and classes, it shows me what my work really means, what it's all about."

It's projects like Raise Your Voice that make STM proud of its faculty – proud that they are seeing the big picture, proud that they are scaling the walls that sometimes surround academia, and proud that they are making enormously significant contributions to knowledge, research and the lives of people in communities around the world. It's to the credit of Dr. McDougall, Motorola and everyone involved with Raise Your Voice that countless lines of communication have been opened and people like a young girl named Christina have learned, in her own words, "the mouth was meant to talk, so use it, and don't let anyone ever tell you otherwise."





# Madonna and Child



We are pleased to announce the acquisition by Saint Thomas More College of an important piece of Saskatchewan art history – the “Madonna and Child” by Count Berthold Von Imhoff. The Count was legendary in Saskatchewan for turning little prairie churches into cathedrals, and introducing both beauty and art to the poor farmers of the prairies whose lives were so harsh.

A German immigrant to St. Walburg, Von Imhoff painted exquisite religious murals and frescoes in churches across the province from 1913 to 1939. He transformed sparse walls and ceilings into works of art. Most of the time, he didn’t charge the poor parishes for his expensive materials or labour.

At the time of his death in 1939, he had completed the interior decor of over 100 churches of all denominations. For this work he received the knighthood of St. Gregory the Great by Pope Pius XI in 1937. Today his studio, located on a small farm approximately five miles from St. Walburg, Saskatchewan, Canada, contains over 200 paintings that were once destined for cathedrals and churches.

Many towns in Saskatchewan, including St. Walburg, Paradise Hill and Lloydminster, are beneficiaries of the rich artistic legacy Berthold Imhoff left in their churches. Huge religious scenes adorn the ceilings and walls of both the old Roman Catholic Church in St. Walburg, and Our Lady of Sorrow Church in Paradise Hill. In addition, Lloydminster has over 250 of Imhoff’s works on display.

The “Madonna and Child” (oil on linen canvas) was donated to the Immaculate Conception Church, 17 miles outside Humboldt, when it was built in 1926. Upon its closing in 1965, the painting was moved to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Carmel, where it stayed until that church closed its doors in 2006. The painting will now make its home in the STM Chapel, allowing us to appreciate another piece of our artistic and religious heritage.

A well-respected artist in his native Germany, Imhoff moved to Pennsylvania at the turn of the century. He was a man of conviction, an idealistic aristocrat who believed industrial growth was sabotaging his effort to live a life devoted to art, religion and nature. He found harmony in Saskatchewan.

While his neighbours persuaded a living from the rugged, forested land, Imhoff painted hundreds of religious works for nothing but his own spiritual and artistic satisfaction. He painted in a style borrowed from the Italian High Renaissance artists like Raphael, and could instantly transport his rural audience from a Saskatchewan wheat field into the Prado or the Louvre.

While Imhoff’s contribution to artistic pursuit was considerable, we also value our acquisition as a reminder of Imhoff’s incredible selflessness and, indeed, charity. When he was commissioned in 1918 to decorate the ceilings and sanctuary of St. Peter’s Cathedral at Muenster, Saskatchewan, for example, he refused payment for the 80 life-sized figures and frescoes adorning the sanctuary. The work at St. Peter’s took him a full year to complete.

Berthold Imhoff is commemorated by a statue situated at the south entrance to St. Walburg, a bronze monument to a pious and generous artist. And today, we are reminded of his good works by the painting that now resides in our chapel. Please feel most welcome to drop by and make your acquaintance with the “Madonna and Child”!

Thanks to Linda Stark, STM’s Gallery Curator, for all the work she has put into making this possible for our College.



# Welcome

We are delighted to welcome **Dr. Edward Scissons** as Chair of the Board of Governors. STM alumni and U of S Professor Emeritus, Dr. Scissons is President of Dr. E. H. Scissons and Associates, founding partner of PSA International Consultants Inc. and owner of O'Malley Farms Ltd. A member of the Board since 2003, Dr. Scissons' strong dedication to the mission and vision of the College makes him ideally suited for the appointment.



Welcome, **Dr. Carl N. Still**, to the position of Dean. Dr. Still has taught at STM College since 1995 and is an accomplished editor, author and presenter. Dr. Still's academic leadership will allow STM to move into an important new phase in its federated relationship with the University of Saskatchewan. He succeeds Dr. Wilfrid B. Denis who served as Dean for seven years and Acting Dean, Dr. Thomas Deutscher.



**Mr. Rod Antonichuk** is a welcome addition to our senior administrative team in the position of Director of External Relations. Mr. Antonichuk was recently recognized for his efforts to make Saskatoon a great place to live by Saskatoon's "100 People 100 Reasons" centennial initiative. He is well known throughout Saskatchewan in corporate and not-for-profit sectors for his work in management, business education and marketing.



## Alumnus with a Mission



Children from a Malawi village pose at the site of the future Elaine Zakreski Medical Clinic.

Peter Zakreski, recipient of our 2006 Distinguished Alumnus Award, is well known for his love of "seeing the world." He and his wife Elaine have visited 46 countries since they married. But his philanthropy and straight-ahead approach to problem solving doesn't go on vacation when he does. After experiencing the extreme poverty in the African country of Malawi, they contributed to a village community's kindergarten program, then entirely funded a medical clinic that will, when it's completed, enable the village to receive regular visits from traveling physicians.



# A Letter to STM



*Special Members of STM,*

*Upon completing my degree in December and working my first month "in the real world" I cannot say that I miss school yet. However, I do miss the STM community and would like to try to express how much I appreciated the college and everyone in it throughout my four and a half years of university.*

*During the academic years I tried to participate in the many activities STM offered. In particular, I am very grateful for the many programs the Campus Ministry Team offered each year. The weekend retreat at Muenster is a journey I will remember forever. The Busy Persons Retreats really catered to students' needs and was a great way to stay focused and balanced in our lives at the busiest times of the year. I am also grateful for the other programs that guided me such as RCIA, Bible Study nights, Theology on Tap and the Friday Rosary. The only events that never seemed to fit into my schedule were the movie nights, but I would have loved to come, Fr. Andre!*

*The Campus Ministry wing was a hallway I always enjoyed visiting. It was full of wonderful, welcoming and caring people! Each year I was amazed at the diversity and number of events happening at STM!*

*The college produced wonderful musical productions each year that I enjoyed very much. There were lectures, presentations and upcoming events advertised throughout the college. Every time I came to the building, I would look at the walls to see what was happening. Billboards, posters and the weekly bulletin not only let everyone know what was happening in the college, it also updated everyone on other religious, cultural and academic events happening elsewhere on campus and throughout the city!*

*The worshipping community was also very special to me. I always thought STM's services were able to successfully connect with the diversity of its congregation. I loved the traditional aspects of the college such as the annual Red Mass (and GREAT brunches)! Special services throughout the year, such as reconciliation, advent and lent, were always so well put together and presented. Each week I looked forward to the music at both the morning and evening masses. Coffee and donuts were a great way to create the community atmosphere I always thought would be lost in the big city, coming from a small town.*



*It was evident groups such as Development and Peace, Social Justice and Bishop's Annual Appeal were always active, reaching out and updating the congregation on their activities. My experience with STM teaching staff in the two electives I was able to take was fabulous! (RLST 221 & RLST 314) The professors taught the courses very well and I was so grateful I had the opportunity to learn more about my religion through a Catholic college. When seeking guidance from other staff members at STM I was always welcomed and for that I am also grateful.*

*Lastly, a few other services at STM I would like to acknowledge include the library, food and janitorial services. I spent more time in the STM library than anywhere else on campus, even though it was not beside my college building. The staff at the library were great, the computer lab right in the library was so handy, the hours (especially evenings and weekends) were fantastic and I could always count on a sunny, clean and quiet place to work!*

*Choices is another service I think STM should be proud of. The food, especially the homemade soups, was always awesome. It was so great to be able to have a real meal that was actually healthy while being on the campus grounds.*

*And finally, the janitorial staff. Having spent a great amount of time in STM I became familiar with the staff's faces and shifts. They always had a greeting, kept the college looking great and even helped the library staff kindly kick me out of the library and building on late nights!*

*To summarize, the STM College profoundly influenced me during the four and a half years I attended the U of S. It will always be a special place to me and a place I will look forward to visiting when I am in Saskatoon. I am confident it will continue to positively influence everyone who passes through its doors.*

**THANK YOU for your GUIDANCE, KNOWLEDGE, MEMORIES and FRIENDSHIPS!**

*Karen (Bligh) Bergermann*

We thank Karen for her warm words, particularly since she is not an STM alumna. It is gratifying to know that STM's influence is felt and appreciated beyond the College.



# Mark your calendar!

Thursday, November 22 to Sunday,  
November 25, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

## *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Newman Players proudly presents Oscar Wilde's classic comedy of errors and the upper classes. Tickets are available in STM 146. Please see our website for more information.

Sunday, November 25, 11:00 a.m.

## *STM Awards Sunday*

Following the 11:00 a.m. Mass, recipients, parents and guests will move to the Fr. O'Donnell Memorial Auditorium for the awards ceremony, then to the cafeteria for Sunday Brunch, then back to the auditorium for the final performance of "The Importance of Being Earnest."

Saturday, December 1, 2007,  
7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

## *STM Newman Choir - Choral Concert*

Led by Choral Director Kristen Raney, the choir will perform a variety of sacred and secular pieces fitting to the season. There will be a reception following the concert in the STM Auditorium. Contact rmedemach@stmcollege.ca or phone 966-8946 for more information. Admission is \$10 for the general public and \$5 for students. Bring a non-perishable food item donation and receive a \$2 discount.

February 9, 2008, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

## *STM Gala Evening Featuring John McDermott*

John McDermott, a genuine patriotic soul, will captivate his audience in the Fr. O'Donnell Memorial Auditorium with his rich Irish tenor, traditional folk music, and mix of Celtic tunes. In addition, the evening will include the outstanding culinary creations prepared by Chef Derek Cotton, of Choices on Campus, and his award winning culinary team. Tickets are \$225, with proceeds going to scholarships at STM, and are available by calling 966-8940 or jsteacy@stmcollege.ca.

Friday, February 29, 2008, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

## *Mohyla Lecture*

Prof. L. Luciuk of the Royal Military College will be speaking on the subject of Redress in STM 344 A & B.

Thursday, March 6, 2008, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## *Scholarship Recital*

Join us in the Fr. O'Donnell Memorial Auditorium for an evening of stellar music and help to grow the scholarship fund for upcoming STM students. Featured performers are STM faculty members Daniel Regnier and Gregory Loewen along with numerous alumni and gifted students. Tickets are \$10.

## **Our Mission**

As the Catholic liberal arts college federated with the University of Saskatchewan, St. Thomas More College courageously explores the "riches of revelation and of nature so that the united endeavour of intelligence and faith will enable people to come to the full measure of their humanity" (Ex corde ecclesiae, 5). We are an inclusive community open to all persons. Through our teaching we are devoted to a partnership of learning and growth with our students which addresses the synthesis of faith and reason in all aspects of the human condition. The creative discovery of truth and its open dissemination nourishes our life as teachers and members of the wider academic and Catholic intellectual community. As a Catholic college we are called to share in Christ's service to the people of God. Thus, the work of our college is not an end in itself, but must find application for the good of humanity.

## **Our Invitation to You**

Contact us with reminiscences, anecdotal college stories, updates on what you're doing now or news from abroad. We'll print it here in Discover More! We love to hear from alumni... and we're not the only ones. Just get in touch with one of people listed below:

Rod Antonichuk, Director of External Relations  
STM 238 (306) 966-2955  
rantonichuk@stmcollege.ca

Jillianna (Jill) Steacy  
Development & Alumni Affairs Assistant  
(306) 966-8940  
jsteacy@stmcollege.ca

Kate Peardon  
Development and Alumni Affairs Coordinator  
(306) 966-8918  
kpeardon@stmcollege.ca

**stmcollege.ca**

The STM newsletter is a publication of St. Thomas More Alumni and Development.

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN