

SPRING 2009

STM

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

DISCOVER!
MORE



**New
Beginnings**

Reaching Beyond Borders

Shakespeare Comes to STM

A Witness to History

Too Darn Hot! The 2009 President's Gala with Holly Cole



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From the STM President's Office

STM

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Dear Honoured Alumni and Friends,

How blessed we are to live in Saskatchewan where the differences in the seasons are so pronounced; where winter gives way to spring with the same dramatic force that our summer so often gives way to winter (sometimes skipping autumn, perhaps, because it is a touch too moderate for prairie people).

The mystical rhythm of our Christian lives engulfs us, particularly in April and during the weeks leading to Easter. Each year at that time, we see new possibilities for ourselves and the world in which we live. And we see, ultimately, that our lives only have meaning in the context of our mortality—that is the truth of the Resurrection. We come to see the life of Christ anew, as a model for our own, and that realization brings great joy, great hope, and absolute trust in the providence of God.

Joy, hope, and trust in the providence of God: might these words also describe the sentiments of our students who graduate in the spring of 2009? Might they also describe the feelings of our recently resurrected Alumni Association, whose members have sacrificed of their time and talent to support the College in its mission of Catholic higher education?

I know they are very much the feelings that I have when I consider the future of STM after we Basilians no longer serve on the faculty and staff at STM. That will happen sometime in the next few years, though we have known about the inevitability of this since 2006. Joyful gratitude for what will be 75 years of service at STM in 2011; hope in the strong Catholic identity and mission that will be at the heart of who we are as the Catholic liberal arts college federated with the University of Saskatchewan; and unqualified trust in the providence of God which has guided our College to provide an indispensable Catholic education for thousands of university students since 1936. Ultimately, we trust that out of an ending will come a new beginning.



Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Smith".

Fr. George Smith, CSB

St Thomas More-Newman Alumni Association (STMNAA)

It all started in the fall of 2008 with a brief phone call.

Art Battiste (Assoc'63, BA'66, Educ'66), now the first President of the recently reconstituted St. Thomas More College-Newman Alumni Association, called Anne Ballantyne (BA'85, MA'94), herself a former President of an earlier incarnation of the STMNAA.

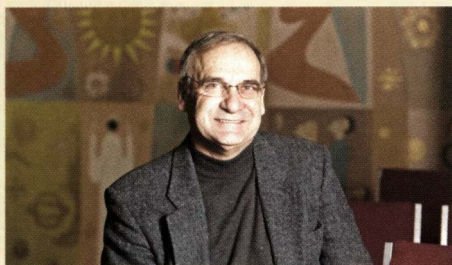
"We've been given the green light to develop a full-fledged Alumni Association," he said to her late last year prior to the formation of the new STMNAA. "Are you in?"

Their conversation was a short one and the Development Group came together not long after in October 2008. By the new year, the STMNAA had a new constitution. With an enthusiastic new Executive consisting of Mike Carey, Peter Fenton (BA'97), Anne Ballantyne, Angeline Battiste (BA'64, BEd'67), Fr. David Tumback (BA'87), and Adam Day (BA'06), the STMNAA was ready to hit the ground running.

"Everyone on the Executive knows how important it is that we encourage STM and Newman alumni to remain involved in the life of our College and connected to one another," says Battiste. "In fact, the STM-Newman Alumni Association's mission is not only focused on ensuring that the relationship between our College and our alumni is strong, but that we're also adding great value to the personal, professional, social and spiritual lives of all STM and Newman Club alumni and friends."

The future looks bright for the fledgling STMNAA; the Executive is beginning to develop a concrete strategic plan for 2009-10 and they plan to hold their first AGM on Sunday, June 21st as part of the Reunion 2009 weekend activities.

All STMNAA alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend!



Art Battiste,
STMNAA President



STMNAA Development Group
L-R: Peter Fenton,
Fr. David Tumback,
Art Battiste,
Adam Day, Mike Carey



Alumni Survey!

The St. Thomas More College-Newman Alumni Association wants to hear from you. Please visit www.stmcollege.ca and take a few minutes to let us know how we can serve you better.

And don't forget to enter your name into a draw for an iPod Touch!

Reaching Beyond Borders



"I've always been drawn towards the vulnerable. I love children. I don't think I give them anything, except perhaps the hugs, the kisses, the wiping of tears. But I really receive a lot from them. What really impresses me is their resiliency and their openness to people. There are no boundaries. It doesn't matter that I'm a woman. It doesn't matter that I'm white."

Lesya Sabada

STM's Lesya Sabada teaches students about world religions and the quest for non-violence in society. She bases her lessons on the textbook of life – her life – a life devoted to the well being of humanity.

At 18, Lesya was chosen for the Canada Work Youth Program. For four months, she served poor Aboriginal and Inuit communities in Goose Bay and Red River Valley, Labrador. For another four months, she served street children in Ciudad Don Bosco in Medellin, Colombia. Those experiences were the beginning of a very focused career. Having been deeply sensitized to the needs of the under privileged, she took her first teaching job in the inner-city ghettos of Syracuse, New York. Ever since, she has consistently worked toward bettering the conditions of the disempowered and dispossessed.

Lesya's efforts have helped children in Ukraine under the auspices of Caritas, the Redemptorist Father's Mercy Home in Bangkok, Thailand, and the House of Grace in Haifa, Israel, a halfway home for Muslim, Christian and Druze prisoners. Her visits to refugee camps in the West Bank, Palestine in 2007, and to Rwandan Hutu Villages in 2008 motivated her to support SACE, Student Against Child Exploitation at the University of Saskatchewan.

Lesya is the author of a book entitled *Go To The Deep: The Life of Archbishop Joseph Raya*. The publication brings an authentic personal understanding of non-violence to the classroom, although that was not its original intent. The book is actually a Nobel Prize nomination for Archbishop Raya and includes testimonies from Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Sweden, France, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, South America, United States and Canada, along with documentation of the Archbishop's lifetime commitment to non-violence.

STM was proud to honour Lesya last year with the *2008 Margaret Dutli Professional Community Service Award*, an honour earned through a lifetime of achievements. STM recognizes Lesya as an exemplar of the type of individual with the strength and conviction to change the world.



Clockwise from top left:
Hutu Village in Rwanda, 2008
Inuit Orphans in Goose Bay, Labrador, 1977
Refugee Camp in Palestine, 2007
Mercy Home in the Bangkok Slums, 2000

Shakespeare Comes to STM

STM would like to thank Richard Harris, a professor in the University's English Department, for the generous donation of a portrait of Shakespeare. Harris chose STM as the recipient of the gift because he is a fan of small religious colleges and believes the students have a great advantage. "At STM, they've got this small college with a religious bent to it. All of the professors who are willing to talk with each other can do so," Harris says with a chuckle. "They can keep track of their students as if it were a family instead of a degree mill. So that's why I gave it to them. I thought they'd be proud to have a picture of Shakespeare."

The portrait is indeed special to STM and will allow countless students who are reading and performing Shakespeare's plays to get a glimpse of the bard. Says Harris, "I had it restored at the Ashmolean and they said it's a tourist portrait of Shakespeare, probably 17th or 18th century. We think of them as a modern fixture, but they've had souvenirs forever and ever. Someone had the idea to paint these little portraits of Shakespeare to sell to tourists who came to Stratford."

STM is pleased to welcome this very special souvenir to its collection of antiquities and holds Richard Harris in high regard for his benevolence and support of our College.



Richard L. Harris



USSU Excellence Awards



Greg Loewen

STM professor **Greg Loewen** (Dept of Sociology) has won a USSU Teaching Excellence Award for STM's unique Cultivating Humanity class (INST 200.6). The award recognizes Professor Loewen's extraordinary ability to create a classroom environment in which "students feel free to explore, grow and become leaders."



Richard Medernach

And **Richard Medernach**, Coordinator of Student Services for STM, has won the inaugural USSU Academic Advising Award. This award honours outstanding delivery of academic advising at the University of Saskatchewan and recognizes the importance that such guidance has on enhancing the student experience.

Congratulations!

A Thousand Thank Yous!



In the fall, STM students picked up phones and called STM alumni and friends living around the world to ask them to support student scholarships and bursaries for students at the College. The response from alumni was nothing short of amazing!



The 2009 Phone-a-thon raised more than \$15,000 toward scholarships and bursaries from less than 200 donors around the world.

This means that STM students will have access to approximately 100 scholarships and bursaries during the 2009-10 academic year. And all this is possible, in part, because of the generous support of our STM alumni and friends.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in supporting the STM student experience through the 2009 Fall Phone-a-thon!



A Witness to History

STM student Brennan Richardson, currently in his fourth year majoring in History, had the opportunity recently to experience "history in the making." He was part of a Global Young Leaders delegation to president-elect Barack Obama's inauguration in Washington, D.C.

STM: How did this opportunity to attend the inauguration of President Obama come about?

Brennan: I had been invited to attend a student's conference last summer in China, another international student's conference put on by the American Congress. It was a great experience and I met a lot of interesting people. The same organization hosted this event in Washington for the inauguration. I joined up with the group again, and it was a great group of kids to spend the inauguration with. They were all very excited, and coming from all around the world they brought new perspectives.

STM: What was it like, standing in those vast multitudes of people, experiencing what many are calling "history in the making"?

Brennan: There was a lot of energy, a lot of excitement, almost a Christmas atmosphere of good will. Being in the throngs of people made you feel like you were really part of something big.

STM: What impression did President Obama leave you with?

Brennan: It wasn't so much the man, but the effect that a single individual can make. Obama himself, as we've seen in the first two months of his presidency, is not heading up a perfect administration. I feel bad the bar was set so high for him. Everyone's expecting this massive change overnight and that hasn't happened, couldn't happen. I think it was just this idea that people had for change and hope for the future. That's really what he is. Even if he himself can't solve all the problems, he can inspire hope. He's a symbol for change that has inspired people.

STM: What was the most memorable part of your trip?

Brennan: One of the most moving moments was when the president's motorcade went in front of the Canadian Embassy, where I got to watch from. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police stood on the steps saluting, standing on guard. I thought that was really a powerful gesture of our



country standing in solidarity with the United States. That simple gesture I found very moving. Another feeling I'll always remember from that cold, dull grey morning was the excitement of walking with thousands of other people, all moving in the same direction toward this single moment. That stays with you – the genuine sharing of feelings, the energy vibrating around the city.

STM: Did the experience change the way you think?

Brennan: It left me with a strong impression of how an individual can inspire people – not the individual himself, but the symbol he becomes. It showed me the difference that people can make together when they get behind someone like Obama – not Obama the man, but Obama the idea. If the experience changed my perspective, it made me more optimistic. It was a very positive message, a very positive feeling to see how the sentiments of people can change.

STM: How has that experience influenced your life since you got back?

Brennan: We were working on this production of a play I wrote called *Roma: City. Empire. Legend*. I didn't see the connection at first until people started asking what the play was about. I said, "It's about these individual men in crisis moments in the Roman Empire's history and how they have to make decisions that change the future of the empire." That's when I realized it's a timeless story. You can look to figures like Obama, or you can look to figures of the past like Brutus, Julius Caesar, Scipio Africanus, Constantine, Seneca, great warriors and thinkers in Rome's history. The reason we know them today is because of what they did at these important turning points when they were threatened by wars from abroad, wars from the east, political corruption, economic crisis, religious conflicts. The cyclical nature of history is comforting in a way because we can look back and see that other people have been through this before. We can see that when the right people do the right thing, it can move an entire people forward, it can save entire civilizations. Would I have written the play the same way if I hadn't been to the inauguration? I don't know. It definitely ties in with this Obama-mania.



From far left:
Brennan Richardson at the Inauguration
A Scene from *Roma: City. Empire. Legend*.

Too Darn Hot!

The 2009 President's Gala with Holly Cole



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Despite the chilly February weather, more than 160 alumni and friends gathered at STM College for an evening of great food and fantastic music – all in support of student scholarships.

The evening began with STM student ambassadors welcoming guests in the Shannon library where they enjoyed a few cocktails and had an opportunity to take in the art exhibition, *Confections III: An Exhibition of Small Works*. Guests then proceeded downstairs to the STM cafeteria, *Choices on Campus*, where they had the pleasure of experiencing a four-course menu prepared by Executive Chef Amy Frank and her staff.

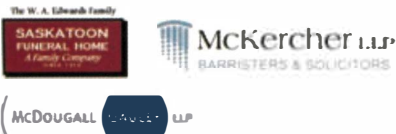
After dinner and dessert, guests filled the Father O'Donnell Auditorium for the evening's main event: an electrifying performance by internationally acclaimed jazz soloist Holly Cole. Cole's sultry voice and unique arrangements captivated the audience for more than an hour. And just when everyone thought she had finished, she floated back on stage for an encore, ending the night with the song, *Too Darn Hot!*

Thank you guests, volunteers and corporate sponsors! What a difference you have ALL made!

Because of your financial support and dedication to the 2009 President's Gala, St. Thomas More College can continue to provide students with much-needed scholarships. We believe in our students and clearly so do ALL of YOU!



Holly Cole signed CDs and visited with fans after the show (pictured here with STM student Desiree Nelson)



GREAT DISTINCTION



DISTINCTION



Discover '09
REUNION
at St. Thomas More College
June 20 & 21

All STM Alumni & Friends Welcome!
You are invited back to the College to honour our graduating years of:
1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, & 1969 and 1928 to 1948

nine-hole GOLF TOURNAMENT & BBQ
Saturday June 20th
Hosted by:
The STM-Newman Alumni Association
Wildwood Golf Course
Tee-Off at 11:30am - 2:00pm
BBQ at 4:00 - 7:00pm - STM College
\$25.00 RSVP by June 12th to (306) 966-8900

Mandolin COFFEE HOUSE
Saturday June 20th
Choices on Campus, STM Cafeteria
7:00pm - 9:30pm
Admission included with your weekend Arts & Science passport or \$10.00 at the door.
Cash bar and light food provided.

Alumni BRUNCH
Sunday June 21st
12:00pm - 2:00pm
(following Mass at STM Chapel)
Choices on Campus, STM Cafeteria
\$5.00 at the door.

OR Choose Packages:

package one \$35.00

- Golf
- BBQ
- Mandolin Coffee House
- Alumni Brunch

package two \$20.00

- BBQ
- Mandolin Coffee House
- Alumni Brunch

RSVP for Packages #1 or #2 by June 12th to 966-8900 or 1-800-667-2019.

Call (306) 966-8900 or toll free 1-800-667-2019 and discover Reunion 2009 at STM College!
www.stmcollege.ca

In Memoriam

"In death the relationship we have with the world is not abolished, but is rather for the first time completed."

- Karl Rahner, SJ, theologian

- Mr. Bernard Daly, BA'48
- Mr. Donald C Steele, BComm'60
- Mrs. Justine Lips, BA'43
- Dr. Philip Sheridan, BSc'51, MD'64
- Mr. Francis Marcil, AgCert'64
- Mr. Simon Lizee, BA'81, BEd'63
- Mrs. Leona Kelly, BA'28
- Rev. John Kratko

If you know of anyone who, in the past year, has departed this world to enter into the Lord's presence, please let us know. Contact the St. Thomas More External Relations Office at (306) 966-2955 or rantonichuk@stmcollege.ca

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!* Just get in touch with one of the people listed below:

Main Office
St. Thomas More College
1437 College Drive
Saskatoon SK, S7N 0W6
P: 1-800-667-2019 or (306) 966-8900
F: (306) 966-8904

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

Luke Muller
Development and Alumni Affairs
(306) 966-8918
lmuller@stmcollege.ca

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

www.stmcollege.ca

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Development St. Thomas More College
1437 College Drive
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