

More news

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

ST THOMAS MORE COLLEGE



Robert and Sylvia Regnier
2023 Distinguished Alumni



Desirée Hutton (née Steele)
2023 Distinguished Alumna
Posthumous recognition



Joseph 'Joe' Dierker, K.C.
2023 STM Medal



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

2023-2024

Winter term courses at STM

- Archaeology 258.3
- Archaeology 356.3
- Catholic Studies 200.3
- Catholic Studies 300.3
- Classics 104.3
- CMRS 111.3
- CMRS 402.3
- CMRS 433.3
- (Classical, Medieval, Renaissance Studies)
- CPSJ 112.3
- CPSJ 310.3
- (Critical Perspectives on Social Justice)
- DENE 110.3
- Economics 111.3
- Economics 114.3
- Economics 223.3
- Economics 380.3
- English 111.3
- English 112.3
- English 113.3
- English 114.3
- English 225.3
- English 230.3
- English 286.3
- English 312.3
- English 383.3
- English 444.3
- English 496.3
- French 103.3
- French 106.3
- French 125.3
- French 218.3
- French 305.3
- History 211.3
- History 217.3
- History 307.3
- History 411.3
- INTS 103.3
- (Interdisciplinary Studies)
- Latin 203.3
- Philosophy 110.6 (Fall & winter)
- Philosophy 120.3
- Philosophy 121.3
- Philosophy 133.3
- Philosophy 140.3
- Philosophy 210.3
- Philosophy 228.3
- Philosophy 231.3
- Philosophy 234.3
- Philosophy 237.3
- Philosophy 314.3
- Philosophy 404.3
- Political Studies 111.3
- Political Studies 112.3
- Political Studies 238.3
- Political Studies 256.3
- Political Studies 327.3
- Psychology 120.3
- Psychology 121.3
- Psychology 207.3
- Psychology 213.3
- Psychology 214.3
- Psychology 216.3
- Psychology 222.3
- Psychology 223.3
- Psychology 223.3
- Psychology 235.3
- Psychology 253.3
- Psychology 316.3
- Psychology 318.3
- Psychology 418.3
- Religious Studies 111.3
- Religious Studies 112.3
- Religious Studies 218.3
- Religious Studies 221.3
- Religious Studies 240.3
- Religious Studies 261.3
- Religious Studies 282.3
- Religious Studies 285.3
- Religious Studies 314.3
- Religious Studies 390.3
- Sociology 111.3
- Sociology 112.3
- Sociology 211.3
- Sociology 214.3
- Sociology 224.3
- Sociology 232.3
- Sociology 246.3
- Sociology 324.3
- Sociology 360.3
- Spanish 114.3
- Spanish 251.3
- Ukrainian 117.3
- Ukrainian 233.3

Register through PAWS



Check out the complete list of STM course offerings and descriptions for 2023/2024 [STMCOLLEGE.CA/CLASSES](http://stmcollege.ca/classes) REGISTER THROUGH PAWS or for more information or academic support, call STM Advisors at 306-966-8900

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More news Fall/Winter 2023-2024

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we move toward the end of the fall semester, we take stock of many positive developments this term: the premiere of a musical composition by a STM faculty member, a second Annual Fall Gathering of alumni and donors, a Peace Studies lecture by the Honourable Roméo Dallaire, the awarding of a USask honorary degree to a previous STM Medalist, and the return of Newman Players for their first production since 2020. It was clear from the beginning of the term that students were back in the building in numbers not seen since 2020 and with new energy. All of this is good news and suggests what a liberal arts college looks like when it is flourishing.

And yet a growing number of Canadians are showing signs of skepticism about the value of universities – a skepticism that tends to focus on the humanities and social sciences, precisely the disciplines we teach. This presents a communications challenge for us: to convey the value of what we do to the public. But it also calls us to engage with the question of what our social impact is. What is our contribution to the social good? As our Mission Statement says, "the work of our college is not an end in itself, but must find application for the good of humanity."

Our Basilian forefathers taught us to look for the "signs of the times", and one of the most provocative accounts of the challenges we face appears in David Brooks's recent article "How America Got Mean" (The Atlantic, September 2023). While Brooks considers an American phenomenon, the issues he raises are familiar to us in Canada. "Americans", he observes, "have become sad and alienated and rude." He considers various explanations for this problem before offering his own diagnosis: "we live in a society that's terrible at moral formation."

The term "moral formation" sounds so old-fashioned that one might doubt that it could have any relevance today, even in an educational setting. But as Brooks uses the term, moral formation raises a perennial question: "What is life for?" Himself a graduate of the renowned University of Chicago, Brooks proposes that

one of the best ways to answer the question of life's meaning is by reading the major works of world literature and "thinking about them deeply." Of course, he could have suggested studying the world's major religions or taking a course on world philosophies (like STM's PHIL 121). If that makes moral formation sound too intellectual, Brooks adds that

"moral formation involves training the heart and body", which is "more important than training the reasoning brain."

We learn virtues mostly through practices within a "community of common values" – something that universities, with their official values statements, aspire to be. STM is currently working on finalizing a Values statement to round out its Mission and Vision statements.

Brooks acknowledges that we cannot go back to the training methods of the past, as they were tainted by racism and sexism, but he argues that the abandonment of an education that develops people morally has produced dire consequences. "In a culture devoid of moral education, generations grow up in a morally inarticulate, self-referential world." Furthermore, "expecting people to build a satisfying moral and spiritual life on their own by looking within themselves is asking too much." Brooks – an award-winning journalist for the New York Times – lands his argument with the claim that a lack of moral formation has led to the hyper-politicization we see today. Political affiliation fills the vacuum left by the retreat from institutions that promote religious practice and moral development, but we need more sources of meaning in life than politics alone can give.

So, what would a 21st century version of character-building look like? For Brooks, it would involve new social skills that are not taught today, but could be, like paying attention to others. Moreover, leaders need to be clear about the "instrumental" as opposed to the moral goals

of their institutions. At an educational institution like STM, this plays out in the tension between a key instrumental goal like financial sustainability and a key moral goal like developing students to their full potential. Institutions cannot survive without meeting their instrumental goals, but they can become soulless if they don't prioritize their moral goals.

Brooks's article has already provoked plenty of commentary and criticism, and I recommend reading it. But I cite it primarily to set up two questions for our self-reflection:

- 1) Does STM provide "moral formation" as Brooks describes it? If so, what forms does it take?
- 2) Can such moral formation for our students and graduates make a difference to our society?

While it is part of the role of presidents to address questions like these, I invite readers of More News to ponder them and share your reflections with me.

When thinking about our own community, Brooks would remind us that "healthy moral ecologies don't just happen ... they have to be seeded and tended." In trying to gauge our impact, we might consider Brooks's suggestion that moral formation "means helping people behave in ways that make other people feel included, seen, and respected." There is no quick or easy fix for the societal malaise Brooks describes, but if an education at STM develops these humanizing skills, that is a valuable contribution to a society fragmented by differences and worried about its future.

Dr. Carl N. Still, PhD
President
St. Thomas More College
cstill@stmcollege.ca

DEAN'S MESSAGE



It has been a wonderful and busy start to the 2023–2024 academic year. We kicked things off with a faculty and staff retreat where we spent the morning discussing what it means to live a good and healthy life, followed by a family-friendly afternoon at the Forestry Farm.

At the Dean's Welcome Back reception in September, I had the opportunity to introduce the new Dean of Arts and Science, Dr. Brooke Milne, who is an anthropological archaeologist and who will serve a five-year term as Dean. We look forward to working with Brooke over the next few years. And for the first time, our Academic Mass in September was held during the work week, which made it possible for many faculty to attend. Mass was followed by dinner in the STM cafeteria. What a terrific way to celebrate the start of another fall term.

The Chelsea Seminars returned this September after being on hiatus for the past few years due to the pandemic. Dr. Daniel Regnier's presentation titled "Music, Meaning and World" included an extraordinary performance of his original composition "Trees of Northern Waters," performed by the Elixir Ensemble.

The 34th Annual Michael Keenan Lecture, which is STM's signature academic event in honour of the College's first Dean, Dr. Michael Keenan, took place in early November. Dr. Michele Dillon, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of New Hampshire, and a Professor of Sociology, discussed whether post-secular society can rekindle the common good. It was a thought provoking and engaging lecture, as was the seminar on synodality in the Catholic Church that took place the following day.

Our enrolment, including international and Indigenous student representation, continues to

remain strong. STM offers 215 credit courses in 19 different subject areas with over 5,300 students registered this year, over 1,100 of whom are declared STM students. We also continue to do very well in terms of meeting our Strategic Enrolment Management Plan objectives. For example, our enrolment for our unique course offerings, such as Religious Studies and Peace Studies, continues to grow and has surpassed the target we set.

Dr. Gertrude Rompré and Dr. Christopher Hrynkow have generously agreed to serve a second term as Co-Directors of the *Irene and Doug Schmeiser Centre for Faith, Reason, Peace, and Justice*. I wish to sincerely thank them for their service and for their continued dedication. The Centre hosted a wonderful Peace Studies lecture in October entitled "Peace, Faith, and Humanity in Times of Crisis," featuring the Honourable Roméo Dallaire.

We were very happy to welcome our new Academic Librarian, Martin Nord, to the STM community in July. Martin comes with several years of experience as an academic librarian for Catholic and liberal arts colleges, including archival and museum work, along with digital projects. The role of STM's Academic Librarian also includes a new collaboration with the Saskatoon Theological Union.

Another exciting development with respect to our faculty complement includes a tenure-track appointment in the Department of Psychology, which is expected within the next year or so. This opportunity is possible thanks to Dr. Lois Brockman's generous legacy gift to support the Endowed Professorship in Child Development. Lois was a long serving member of Corporation, and we will be forever grateful for her kindness.

We had a fantastic convocation ceremony during the second week of November, with STM hosting a reception in celebration of our graduates.

STM, along with students participating in our Service and Justice Project, also hosted a recognition dinner for Fr. André Poilièvre who was awarded an honorary degree at Convocation for his extraordinary public service, including the founding of Saskatoon's STR8UP.

A survey of graduating students last spring indicates that most students are very satisfied with STM's classes, facilities, and the services and support we provide. They report that our classes help them better understand social issues such as justice, race, wealth and privilege, gender, peace, and conflict, while teaching them to communicate complex ideas and problems with greater clarity.

We enjoyed celebrating students' accomplishments at our Scholarship Awards Ceremony on November 25th and will continue to work hard to provide our students with the best experience possible.

All the best to our students and faculty as they finish this semester. On behalf of all of us in the Dean's Office, I wish everyone all the blessings of this season and best wishes for the New Year.

Tammy Marche

Dr. Tammy Marche, PhD
Dean, St. Thomas More College



STM Fall 2023 Academic Mass

Each year, the STM community gathers in the Chapel to look for divine guidance in its mission of educating the next generation of leaders in our community.

On Wednesday, September 13, the STM Chapel was filled with voices both familiar and new at the 2023 Academic Mass.

On hand as presiders were Most Reverend Mark Hagemoen, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, as well as Fr. Andre Lalach, and STM's newest additions, Fr. Daniel Yasinski, who joins the Campus Ministry staff to serve as chaplain and preside over masses at the College, and Fr. Greg Smith-Windsor, who has joined the faculty at STM in the Philosophy Department.

STM faculty join in the procession and mass in the robes reflecting their own graduation degree.

The celebration began in a very special way, with Knowledge Keeper Jasmyn Albert performing a Smudge Ceremony.

Dr. Cynthia Wallace, head of the Department of English and Jacquie Berg, Director of Marketing, Communications, and Student Recruitment shared the Readings. Dr. Gertrude Rompré, Director of Mission and Ministry led the Prayers of the Faithful.

Bishop Hagemoen's homily was followed by Dr. Carl Still, President of STM College, presiding over the Commissioning of the STM Community.

In the Commissioning, those leading the College –faculty and staff– reaffirm they will work in partnership with its students for learning and growth, and to build a better society through the Mission of the College.

More than words: PCUH lecture fitting 'Musical' Anniversary Celebration

Ethnomusicologist and folklorist Dr. Brian Cherwick showcases 40 Ukrainian folk instruments

by DR. NADYA FOTY-ONESCHUK

In culmination of its 25th anniversary celebrations, the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH) hosted ethnomusicologist and folklorist Dr. Brian Cherwick for a lecture-presentation entitled "Sounds You've Never Seen Before," featuring 40 Ukrainian folk instruments on Tuesday, October 3, 2023.

The main gallery of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada (UMC) was filled with an enthusiastic and awed audience for this wonderful event, which informed everyone not only about the mechanics and musical qualities of the instruments themselves, but about the relevant ethnographic and historical context of each. Dr. Cherwick is the leading scholar in this area in North America, and has a gift in making such topics accessible and entertaining for his audience. The relevance of the many distant historical themes discussed were not lost on the audience, as Ukraine nears 600 days since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion into its territory. The historical ballads performed from the 1500s about fighting for Ukraine's independence ring eerily true today.

We could not have asked for a more poignant way to wrap up our 25th anniversary events. Our gratitude to Dr. Cherwick for his expertise, to the UMC for their beautiful space and cooperation, and to both our dedicated supporters and the many new faces that were present that evening.



St. Thomas More College Faculty Department Heads



ENGLISH
Cynthia Wallace



HISTORY
Zachary Yuzwa



LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & CULTURAL STUDIES
Daniel Regnier



PHILOSOPHY
Ria Jenkins



RELIGION & CULTURE
John Liptay
(Acting)



ECONOMICS
Saeed Moshiri



POLITICAL STUDIES
Dave McGrane



PSYCHOLOGY
Carie Buchanan



SOCIOLOGY
Monica Hwang



A time for community, celebration, and recognition

2023 Annual Fall Gathering includes presentation of Distinguished Alumni and STM Medal honours

BY JACQUIE BERG

The evening of October 14, marked a wonderful opportunity to celebrate faith, connect with St. Thomas More College (STM) alumni, friends, family, and colleagues, enjoy food, and drink, and recognize special members of our community – all the perfect components for the STM Annual Fall Gathering.

STM Campus ministers led a Celebration of Faith in STM's chapel which included song, reflection on readings, and STM's Indigenous Scholar, Harry Lafond leading prayer in the traditional Four Directions.

New this year, attendees were greeted by a beautiful hallway exhibition in the STM Gallery, featuring art by 2023 Distinguished Alumna, Sylvia Regnier, and Ann Donald, the exhibit curator, and College supporter in past annual STM High School art collaborations.

The reception and more formal part of the

gathering took place in STM's Shannon Library. President Carl Still spoke to the guests as to the purpose of a Catholic liberal arts college and the evening honorees — “four outstanding graduates of St. Thomas More College — whose time at the College spanned over 50 years. Their stories attest to how our graduates — stretching from the 1950's to the 2010's — have been going out into the world and exploring faith, reason, and justice, while also generously serving others, in their own professions and according to their individual gifts,” said President Still.

It was explained that the STM Distinguished Alumni Awards were designed to specifically honor graduates who have taken the mission of the College into the world; made important contributions to their communities; applied their gifts to serve the good of humanity; and celebrated their ongoing relationship with the College.

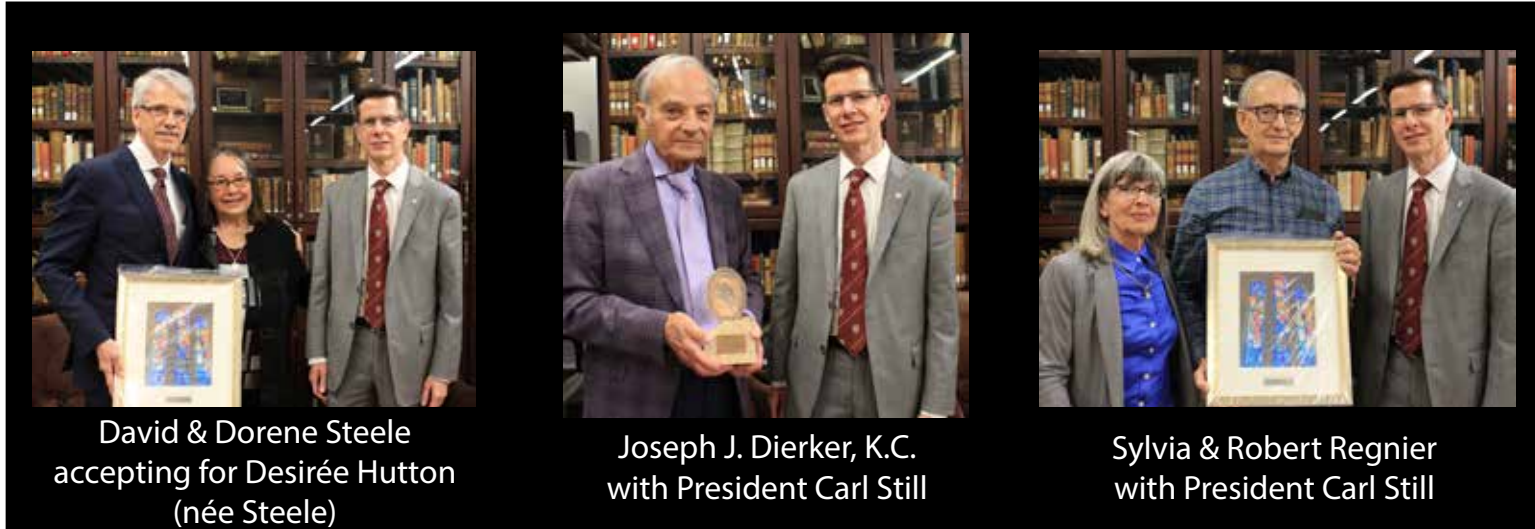
The 2023 Distinguished Alumni honorees cele-

brated included Robert and Sylvia Regnier, and Desirée Hutton (née Steele) posthumously.

Robert and Sylvia Regnier, who met at the College as students, were recognized for their engaged support and devotion to the STM community, the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, and beyond.

Sylvia remained involved in STM alumni activities as a member of Corporation, as well as serving as president of the St. Thomas More Newman Alumni Association for several years. Robert served as Newman Centre President.

Nominator and friend, Madeleine Blais-Dahlem spoke to the couple's “shared values including the arts, environmentalism, social justice, education, Indigenous issues, and disability issues.” Their commitment to quality education was reflected in their career paths. “Bob became a teacher of teachers, as head of the Educational Foundations Department in the College of



David & Dorene Steele accepting for Desirée Hutton (née Steele)

Joseph J. Dierker, K.C. with President Carl Still

Sylvia & Robert Regnier with President Carl Still

Education, while Sylvia became a teacher of children. Both exemplify what is known as Gentle Teaching,” said Blais-Dahlem. “Teaching in a manner committed to increasing the fullness and richness of the experience of life. It is based on a commitment of unconditional love for the most disenfranchised.”

STM Campus Minister Michael MacLean presented the posthumous tribute for Desirée Hutton, 2023 Distinguished Alumna, sharing how “she was an inspiration to others, and made St. Thomas More College proud to have played a role in the life of such an amazing person.” Accepting on her behalf were her parents David and Dorene Steele.

As a student at St. Thomas More College, Desirée Hutton served on the STM Students' Union, ultimately as President, and was elected Academic Vice-President of the USask Students' Union. “Desirée also represented STM at the Canadian Catholic Students Association conference. The light of Desirée's faith always shone brightly to inspire students, staff, and faculty alike,” added MacLean.

Hutton earned her B.A. with High Honors in Political Studies with a Minor in Social Justice and the Common Good before entering the USask College of Law, where she earned a J.D. with Distinction. After articling as a clerk with the Regina Court of Queen's Bench she worked as a Crown Prosecutor in Regina. Desirée remained connected to the College and became a member-at-large for STM Corporation.

As she battled cancer, Hutton established a legacy fund in the hopes that it would lead to a better life for others. The Desirée Hutton (née Steele) Legacy Fund will continue the work close to her heart by help-

ing to remove barriers for marginalized students, supporting community service-oriented learners and students in the first generation of their family to seek post-secondary education.

Completing the evening awards, President Still introduced the St. Thomas More Medal criteria set in 1993, “to honor individuals, groups, or organizations that embody in our time the outstanding characteristics of the College namesake, Thomas More – distinguished public service, elevated by personal virtues, including care, integrity, and faith.”

Joseph J. Dierker, K.C. was honored at the Fall Gathering as the 2023 STM Medal recipient.

A member of STM's graduating class of 1957, Dierker additionally obtained his Juris Doctor at the University of Saskatchewan, was admitted to the Saskatchewan Bar, designated as Queen's Counsel (Q.C.), and was recognized nationally (among many accolades) for his tireless work in the development and implementation of Canadian tax laws for credit unions and co-operatives.

President Still also celebrated Dierker's service and care for the College, his community, and his family, adding, “Joe's active participation in his faith community, and dedication in supporting access to education and communities in need with financial commitment and volunteerism reflect valued priorities put in action.”

“With a College history spanning nearly 70 years, engaged alumnus Joe Dierker's commitment, his many professional achievements and community contributions, clearly personify the traits of Service, Care, Integrity and Faith - intended for this Medal honor,” Still said.

Thank You!

- Distinguished Alumni Adjudication Committee:** Dr. Gerry Farthing, Veronica Lucas, Michael MacLean, Dr. Gertrude Rompré, Dean Schmidt, and Kari Sinkewicz.
- Event Planning Committee:** Corinne Baumann, Madeleine Blais-Dahlem, Rae Ann Dyck, Amanda Gieni, Veronica Lucas, Corinne Mathews, Sherry Richert, Dean Schmidt, Kari Sinkewicz, and Paul Sinkewicz
- Event Day Support:** The Event Planning Committee, Jacquie Berg, Greg Clemence, Ann Donald, Michael MacLean, Dr. Carl Still, Stacy Stillwell, Celeste Woloschuk, and several STM students.

We love our STM Volunteers!

It's our pleasure to acknowledge and sincerely thank the many generous, caring STM volunteers who strengthen our community, care deeply about supporting students, bring light and joy to our work, and who inspire others to give in their own way.

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



Left to right: Corinne Baumann, Madeleine Blais-Dahlem, Mary Donlevy-Konkin, Rae-Ann Dyck, Veronica Lucas, Sylvia Regnier, Dean Schmidt, and Kari Sinkewicz (STM College staff representative)

STMNAA working to nurture connections, engage alumni

In 2023, the STMNAA continued to work through an ongoing process of restructuring and growth.

Our focus in 2022 was twofold:

First, was the recognition of our Distinguished Alumni.

We needed to streamline criteria to provide recommendations to the President of the College for the annual Distinguished Alumni awards, and to create a special event to honour these alumni.

Our second focus was to reconnect with the wider alumni community and restructure how the STMNAA operates.

Our work with recognition of our Distinguished Alumni culminated with our successful creation of the STM Annual Fall Gathering in 2022, which is the College's largest public facing event.

We have continued with these initiatives in 2023, utilizing our new criteria to recommend award recipients, and honouring award recipients at the second annual STM fall gathering which took place on October 14, 2023 in the Shannon Library.

Our gathering began with a celebration of faith in the STM Chapel, followed by a reception honouring our Distinguished Alumni, Robert and Sylvia Regnier and Desirée Hutton (née Steele).

We were delighted to include the presentation of the STM Medal to Joseph Dierker in the program this year. The yearly fall gathering is a wonderful way to honour our award-winning alumni and to build community among the attendees, many of whom have spoken very favourably of the event.

We are very grateful that the College has been so willing to partner with us in order to make these initiatives successful.

We, as members of the STMNAA, are very aware of limited resources and appreciate the investment of time, funds, and helping hands that the College has provided to support our initiatives.

Of course we could do nothing without the generosity of the College in providing us with a budget for our Fall Gathering.

Faculty, staff, and volunteers stepped up to help us cheerfully and wholeheartedly.

We are especially grateful for the College's inspiring Manager of Development and Alumni Relations, Kari Sinkewicz, and we are delighted that Dr. Carl Still, who has been so supportive of our work, will be serving another term as President of the College. Congratulations, Dr. Still!

Now that we have begun to feel comfortable with these new STMNAA responsibilities, we need to direct our attention back to the restructuring and visionary planning which began several years ago.

Our next step is to consider other creative ways to build genuine connections between

alumni, and faculty, staff, and students. But we need to discern exactly how we are going to do these things in ways that remain consistent with the College Plan.

Of course, this work cannot be successful without a very active Alumni Association; an important step to expanding and enlivening the STMNAA must be to reconnect with our less involved alumni.

We are also committed to strengthening our partnership with the College through consistent, transparent communications.

Please continue to encourage people to reconnect with the College through active participation in surveys, events, celebrations of faith, and fundraising. Communication and shared experiences are key aspects in relationship building.

We hope that our continued efforts to expand the alumni association and to build meaningful connections will provide us with new and creative opportunities to inspire alumni, faculty, staff, and students to actively participate as strong partners with the College and in our community.

Submitted by Corinne Baumann

MANY WAYS TO STAY ENGAGED WITH STM!

- **Volunteer** at STM College events throughout the year, including Orientation Week and on the STM Fall Gathering.
- **Mentor** an undergrad student or be available to chat with a member of an STM student group.
- **Become an active member** of the STM/Newman Alumni Association.
- **Take part** in surveys to guide the future direction of the College.
- **Be an advocate** and get involved in fundraising for the College! Contact Kari at ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca

Quick connect



stmcollege.ca/alumni/register.php

Gift of gab: Learning Spanish more accessible thanks to donation

One of STM College's most loyal supporters has just made learning Spanish a whole lot easier for students on a tight budget.

Irene Ositis-Schmeiser made a donation that allowed the purchase of five ¡Hola, amigos! textbooks for the Shannon Library.

"We use that textbook on a daily basis as it is a mandatory component of both Spanish 114 (Elementary Spanish I) and Spanish 117 (Elementary Spanish II)," said Dr. Allison Smith, who teaches both courses.

"Without this substantial gift, our students would be forced to pay the exorbitant price of over \$170 each. Unfortunately, many simply cannot afford both tuition and textbooks. I have seen first-hand the negative impact experienced by students who are unable to shoulder such a cost or are reluctant to incur additional debt."

Dr. Smith said this contribution will encourage future students to sign up for STM Spanish classes,



Irene Ositis-Schmeiser visited St. Thomas More College recently to present Dr. Allison Smith with a set of newly purchased texts titled ¡Hola, amigos! to help students studying Spanish 114 and 117 at the College

as they will not be burdened by unaffordable learning materials. Please know that you have made an impact on not only our students, but on our College as a whole," Dr. Smith said.

Shannon Library receives treasures from a lifetime of travel



Martin Nord accepts a collection of historically significant items for the Shannon Library, donated by Irene Ositis-Schmeiser from the collection of her late husband, Doug, who was an alum of the College

The world is now at the fingertips of STM students visiting the Shannon Library, in a manner of speaking.

Irene Ositis-Schmeiser has donated a trove of items from her husband Doug's travels over the years, including items from Greece, Africa and Jerusalem.

Doug Schmeiser, S.O.M., Q.C., passed away in 2018, after a distinguished career in the field of law. He authored a number of legal textbooks, and was a constitutional advisor and had a prominent role in creation of the Canadian Constitution. In 2010 he was inducted into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the province's highest distinction. In 2009, Doug was named STM Distinguished Alumnus.

During his career, he advised and lectured on legal, constitutional, and judicial matters in The Maldives, Russia, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Ukraine & Latvia. It was during these travels that he collected items of historical significance.

The items, though not necessarily defined as artifacts, are accurate representations of ancient objects that are themselves more than 100 years old, including an oil lamp, an orthodox Ethiopian family prayer book and animal skin scrolls with Aramaic text, said Ositis-Schmeiser, who took the time to research the items for the library staff.

She said they were in a cabinet at home, but needed to be appreciated.

"I want a home for them, so it's a gift to the College," she said, adding the Shannon Library can also look forward to adding more items from the Schmeiser collection, as she is also planning to donate some books on Byzantine iconography.

2023 STM DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Robert & Sylvia Regnier

Sylvia and Robert Regnier are being recognized by St. Thomas More College as 2023 Distinguished Alumni for their engagement and devotion to the STM community, the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon and beyond.

Their contributions are revealed through their professional lives, their volunteerism and their commitment to ideals not easily held in today's society.

Sylvia and Bob met at STM. They courted here. Their vows were officiated by Fr. Peter Swann and they held their wedding banquet here. They also worship here.

Sylvia has been involved in STM alumni activities as a member of Corporation, as well as president of the Alumni association (1987-93).

As a student, Sylvia often worked as a typist for STM professors and her calligraphy graces the spines of books in the Shannon Library.

Bob was Newman Centre President in 1967-68, and both Bob and Sylvia, each in their own way, have found meaning by engaging with the world in which they found themselves. And always, they led with their heart.

Their shared values include the arts, environmentalism, social justice, education, Indigenous issues and disability issues.

Bob became a teacher of teachers, as head of the Educational Foundations Department in the College of Education, while Sylvia became a teacher of children. Both of them exemplify what is known as Gentle Teaching.

Gentle Teaching is "an approach to teaching and learning for persons with intellectual disabilities and complex issues who have often been excluded from community. This form of teaching is committed to increasing the fullness and richness of the experience of life. It is based on a commitment of unconditional love for the most disenfranchised."

Bob and Sylvia also share a deep interest in disability issues. Gabriel, their first-born son, was born with multiple serious medical issues. As an infant, his needs were all-encompassing. Sylvia and Bob never hesitated in their unwavering support of their child.

The couple has been involved for many years with SAI (Saskatchewan Alternatives Initiatives Inc.) a non-profit agency that provides vocational, residential and semi-independent living support in the community for intellectually challenged individuals. Sylvia has been involved since 2017 and is currently chairperson of the board. Bob is a board member.

Another shared interest is environmentalism. Bob has done research and writing about the nuclear industry and its possible effects on



Saskatchewan and our community as a whole. He has been a member of the Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Cooperative as well as having written and delivered papers on this complex subject.

When Gabriel was 12, and all the children were in school, Sylvia began teaching Special Ed full time at Walter Murray Collegiate Institute.

During her 10 years at Walter Murray, she was the Drama Director from 1987 to 93. She is proud of their 1991 award-winning production of The Puppet Master which was invited in 1993 to a thespian Conference in Arizona. She went on to Mount Royal where she continued in Special Ed for 10 years. While there, she worked on her Masters in Education from the University of Alberta, doing her homework during the noon hour.

Finally, she completed her career at Nutana as a resource teacher where her special contribution was in looking after the Nutana Art Collection.

Sylvia is also a painter, and one of her great sources of pride is that her works, which she generously donates to various fundraising events often generate significant funds.

She has donated paintings to the Preschool Foundation, the Artists Against Hunger initiatives, St. Paul's Hospital Foundation, Boys and Girls Club, the Literacy Foundation, the College of Education, the Rosthern Junior College and Mennonite Central Committee.

Sylvia has always been a very busy volunteer. It very often was to support her children's activities: such as the Saskatoon Totline, the St. Matthews's Home and School Assoc, or the Bishop Murray Home and School Association. She also helped at the Saskatoon Heart Foundation, Oxfam, Folkfest, Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan and Meals on Wheels.

Bob's CV reveals an inquisitive mind, a kind, caring soul, and a human being committed to the health and safety of his fellow travelers here on earth. In addition to the significant course development and research, he has written much, and has delivered papers at conferences internationally.

In a paper written by Bob while he was a student at STM, we can already see the philosopher and educator which he would become, and get a preview of the life of service he and Sylvia would embark upon together:

"Success is having a meaning in life, a reason for becoming involved with life. This success is increased the more we become aware that we are looking for meaning and the more we become aware of this meaning by our knowledge of our relationship to the world."

2023 STM DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

Desirée Hutton (née Steele)

Desirée Hutton, STM Class of 2015, truly lived a meaningful life enriched by her Christian faith and a heart bursting with love enough for all.

Despite leaving the world much too soon at the age of 30, she was an inspiration to others, and made St. Thomas More College proud to have played a role in the life of such an amazing person.

At the age of 12 she adopted the motto of St. Francis of Assisi to "Preach the gospel with your actions at all times and, when necessary, use words."

The students, staff and faculty at STM College watched her live that motto in so many ways, and she was a continuing inspiration to others through her actions.

She demonstrated her generous, loving spirit touchingly at the end of her life as she issued a message of love and peace to comfort her friends and family.

As she battled ovarian cancer, Desirée said: "I would like to thank all the people who have been part of my journey in life. Each one of you is a gift. I so appreciate who you are and all the support and encouragement you have given me. I know I did not answer all the messages I received but I want you to know I appreciate each one of you and I felt your encouragement, so thank you so much. I wish you well in life and I encourage you to thank God for all the good in life each day. I am filled with joy and peace; all is well!"

She also established a legacy fund in the hopes that it would lead to a better life for others.

The Desirée Hutton (née Steele) Legacy Fund will continue the work close to her heart by helping to remove barriers for marginalized students. The fund supports community service-oriented learners and students in the first generation of their family to seek post-secondary education.

Desirée's connection to STM and its community was very important and meaningful to her, and she often spoke of the academic, spiritual and community growth she experienced through her life in the College. The formation she received at STM helped shape her engagement with the world and was fundamental to the difference she hoped to make.

Desirée was born to David and Dorene Steele in Calgary, on March 17, 1992, becoming a younger sister to James.

When 9-year-old Desirée learned in 2001 that girls in Afghanistan couldn't go to school, she announced, "When I grow up, I'm going to be a women's and children's rights fighter!"

She was known already as a friend and helper to all in her classroom. As she grew, Desirée welcomed four Cree sisters and a Dakota/Cree foster



brother as siblings. She found her voice in high school debating and used it to serve, represent and advocate for others.

She loved to dance, to play the piano and to accompany fiddlers, especially her brother James. She loved learning, especially about how power works and what justice can look like. She loved people wherever she found them and made friends everywhere.

Active in academics, choir, debate and drama, Desirée graduated from Holy Cross High School in 2010, receiving awards and scholarships for academic prowess and commitment to service and justice. She passed the Royal Conservatory of Music examinations for Grade 8 Piano with Honours while simultaneously qualifying as a Greystone Scholar at the University of Saskatchewan.

At St. Thomas More College, Desirée served for three years on the STM Students' Union, ultimately as President, and was elected Academic Vice-President of the USask Students' Union.

She earned a B.A. with High Honours in Political Studies with a Minor in Social Justice and the Common Good before entering the USask College of Law, where in 2018, Desirée earned a J.D. with Distinction. Many generous awards and scholarships helped further her education.

After articling as a clerk with the Regina Court of Queen's Bench she worked as a Crown Prosecutor in Regina for two years.

Desirée first met her future husband Simon during an Encounters with Canada trip in 2008. They became engaged in the summer of 2019, and were married in May 2020.

She was passionate about working toward the common good and compassionate in seeking justice. Her Christian faith and the Catholic intellectual tradition of faith inquiring with reason motivated and informed her learning and service.

At the time of her death, she was serving her second term as a member of STM Corporation, chair of the Bylaw Committee. She volunteered to share music with the elderly, to serve people with intellectual disabilities, to visit prisoners, and with Campus Legal Services.

Her passion was to live fully, to use her voice to advocate for justice and her presence to bring peace.

Desirée sought to live Micah 6.8:

***"And what does the Lord require of you
 but to do justice,
 and to love kindness,
 and to walk humbly with your God?"***



Martin Nord, Academic Librarian for STM College, with alumni Art and Angeline Battiste, who have made a donation to establish a snack program at the Shannon Library

Snack program to fuel students studying in Shannon Library

A permanent snack program has been established due to the generous sponsorship of alumni donors Art & Angeline Battiste.

The Shannon Library knows the whole self needs to be healthy to be successful, and had been offering snacks during exam periods and at Christmas.

"We are delighted to now be able to provide our students with healthy snacks, coffee, and tea free of charge on a full-time basis," said Martin Nord, Academic Librarian at STM College.

"We hope to create intentional community and provide for student wellness while addressing increasing concerns about food insecurity thanks to the goodwill of the Battistes."

Nord said it seems the Battistes, who were once students at STM, remember what it's like to engage in the hard work of learning while hungry and thirsty.

"Our whole selves—not just our brains—participate in that work. If we are hungry, engaging our minds can be difficult," he said. "The provision of food and drink is important in this moment of food precarity."

YOUR LEGACY *Through Planned Giving*

Through STM's Planned Giving program you have the opportunity to make a special gift - a lifetime gift. For STM, a Planned Gift offers long-term stability which in turn allows us to plan into the future, ensuring the Catholic intellectual tradition will carry on in our hallways through future generations.

Making a Planned Gift to STM allows you

the possibility to establish your legacy or create a legacy for your loved ones, while also maximizing taxation benefits. And you can feel confident knowing that you are contributing to the vitality and growth of the College.

There are many opportunities to establish a Planned Gift including:

A Gift Today: such as publicly traded securities that include stocks, bonds, GIC's or royalties, can be donated providing immediate benefit to STM with direct tax relief to you.

A Gift for the Future: through a bequest in your will, a life insurance policy, a gift of annuity or charitable remainder trust, you can help secure STM's financial health for the future, while benefiting from substantial tax incentives.

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."

Albert Camus

Reflecting our past Renewing our commitment Building our future

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss the various ways you can make a donation to STM part of your legacy, please contact:



Kari Sinkewicz,
Manager of Development & Alumni Relations
306.966.8918 or ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca

In Memoriam

REMEMBERED WARMLY

Alfons Boving
Richard Folk
Harvey Gerein
Herman Joseph Kuervers
Yagappan Kumaran
Joseph Lovecky
Rita Marroco
Brosi Nutting
Hartley Penner

*Eternal rest grant onto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

New STM Blue Mantle Scholarship Honours Audrey Haines

BY PAUL SINKEWICZ

The warmth generated from more than 50 years of Christian love and compassion will forever be felt at colleges and schools around the province.

The flame was lit in Regina in the mid-1960s, when the Blue Mantle project first began with volunteers distributing coats, gloves and warm clothing to the inner-city needy from a small outbuilding of the Blessed Sacrament Parish. As the mission expanded and with the outbuilding scheduled for demolition, Archbishop Charles Halpin charged Father Don McNeil in 1984 with the task of finding a permanent premises from which to continue the work of the Blue Mantle with the provision that the charity must be self-sustaining and cover all of its costs of operation.

Father Don led the organization's transition into a new inner-city location, supported by volunteers, a small staff and community support in the form of donations of clothing, furniture and housewares. The overhead was covered by operating a Thrift Store, the proceeds from bingos and general donations. In the early 2000's, as the organization faced financial exigency, Archbishop Peter Mallon facilitated the transition to Katherine Duke and a new Board of Directors in order to continue and revitalize the mission. Father Don remained as a Board member and advisor for many years.

Through the years, the charity moved buildings several times, struggled, survived, grew, served as a hub of community, and offered an educational opportunity in Christian service to many high school student volunteers.

Ultimately a catastrophic flood resulting from frozen and burst water pipes combined with insurance coverage and building ownership issues brought about the closure of the Blue Mantle, but the spark of its mission didn't die.

St. Thomas More College will carry that flame into the future thanks to a new \$100,000 endowment from the charity, which will fund The Blue Mantle, Audrey Haines Scholarship for a continuing student each year.

The scholarship is given based on academic average to a declared St. Thomas More College student who is a continuing, full-time student and has demonstrated leadership in community service and/or actions for social justice.

"Over the years at the Blue Mantle, many newcomers to Canada became staff members, learning English and getting Canadian work experience," said Katherine Duke, Executive Director. "It was a model that impacted a lot of people in the community in different ways," she said.

"It was a cool place with a cool vibe. Those that donated, those that shopped, those that worked with us as volunteers, and those that needed things, all meshed into an interesting community."

The scholarships that came out of the Blue Mantle were given in honour of key volunteers who kept the work of the charity alive, going 'above and beyond' in giving their time and effort. They are Fr. Don McNeil, who was a passionate advocate, Sr. Rose Aimée Belisle, a tireless volunteer and friend to the homeless, Alvin Knoll committed volunteer and Board member and Luther High School teacher Steve Haddad, who faithfully brought his Christian Service students out each Saturday to do pick ups and deliveries of furniture and other donations.

Aside from the new STM scholarship honouring Audrey Haines, there will



Audrey Haines

now be a Fr. McNeil Scholarship at Campion College, the Sr. Rose Aimée Belisle Scholarship at Notre Dame High School, an enhanced Guenzel Knoll Luther High School dormitory scholarship and the Luther High School Blue Mantle Christian Service Award (in honour of Steve Haddad).

"We've tried to carry on the spirit of the Blue Mantle. It may not be physically giving goods and services to individuals, but through the individuals these scholarships support in their education and the mandate to try and encourage them to reach out to the community," Duke said. "The spirit of it carries on, and that's important."

Duke credits Audrey Haines with 20 years of dedication to the Blue Mantle as a volunteer and Board member with a strong commitment to her Catholic faith. She acted as Corporate Secretary providing trusted advice, minutes and support through many challenging times. Her clarity of thought, mediation skills and ability to offer trusted advice was valued and respected. Her attitude was always "How can I help?"

"That's what any university graduate could be as an active member of any charitable board, and have something really essential to contribute," she said. "Because for the people that are passionate, and are in it 24-7, sometimes you want that outside view that says 'Well, keep your eye on the ball here,' which is what Audrey's trusted advice always offered."

"And that approach is also quintessential to anybody who wants to be meaningfully active in a charity. It's really vital."

"The creation of this award not only encourages STM students who share these values, it also celebrates the value of the Catholic intellectual tradition, and fosters community engagement. By including STM in their giving plans, the legacy of the Blue Mantle lives on through the students who will become leaders in our community" said Kari Sinkewicz, Manager of Development & Alumni Relations.



Katherine Duke presents the inaugural Blue Mantle, Audrey Haines Scholarship to Victoria Spurr

SAVE
THE
DATE!

Annual Fall Gathering of alumni and friends

Featuring: **Celebration of Distinguished Alumni**

FALL 2024 Watch for details @ stmcollege.ca



Joe Simonot is donating two pieces of Allen Sapp artwork to STM College

"I spent a lot of time in the cafeteria," he said. "And back then we used to have Sunday night socials. You'd begin the evening with Mass and then one of the colleges would put on a show, or some sort of entertainment, in the old auditorium. And afterward we'd have a dance. You'd get to meet so many people. I used to really look forward to that."

Simonot, 79, earned a BA and BComm while at university, and then spent more than 30 years working for the provincial government. During that time, he had the chance to travel around the province. On a trip to North Battleford, he came across the work of famed Saskatchewan Indigenous painter Allen Sapp, and Simonot's youthful memories flooded back to him.

"Each piece is a particular story of a particular time, living on the reserve, as he saw it," Simonot said. "Growing up on a small farm in Saskatchewan, a lot of things he experienced, I experienced, too. Like the picture shows a bunch of wood on a sleigh, well, my dad used to do that, too. I could identify with so many of his paintings."

Simonot said Sapp's brilliance wasn't in his painting skills, but rather in communicating a story of a time and place. You could see how they lived. Every picture was a different snapshot of how they lived.

He's now sharing the work of Sapp with STM, by donating an original acrylic on canvas titled *Heading Home with a Load*, and a numbered print titled *Esquiao Coming From Sewing with Ladies*. Both are very valuable, and tell a part of the story of Saskatchewan.

For Simonot, sharing the paintings with his alma mater marries two happy memories in one new one.

Alumnus donates Allen Sapp art to College

Joe Simonot has fond memories of the simple, rural life he led while growing up.

There were chores to do on the family farm in those days in the 1940s and 1950s. Cutting and hauling wood, helping his dad with the farm among them. And there were deep connections to neighbours in the tiny community of Bonne Madone, near Wakaw. There was only a church, a rectory, a tiny store, the RCMP station and a post office.

It was a rich life, but still, his parents wanted more for him, so he found his way to Saskatoon where he made many more fond memories during his time as a student at St. Thomas More College from 1963 to 1967.



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

2023 STM MEDAL RECIPIENT

Joseph "Joe" J. Dierker, K.C.

The St. Thomas More (STM) Medal recipient for 2023 reflects the qualities of care, integrity, and faith, with great service to community and public life, as was the established criteria set out with the College namesake award — to recognize and honor inspiring individuals.

With his College history spanning nearly 70 years, STM is very proud and appreciative that young Joe Dierker found his home away from home at St. Thomas More College and over the years has remained an engaged and committed alumnus.

From Cudworth, Saskatchewan, Joe noted he first heard about STM while attending St. Peter's College in Muenster.

This encouragement from the trusted faculty was a great introduction to the Catholic College on campus and from that first year (scholarship in hand), Joe reminisced that in addition to stand out professors like Fr. Finn and Fr. O'Donnell, the College camaraderie — gathering for lunch, weekend socials, and even supporting fundraisers with envelope stuffing, launched his long-term relationship with STM beyond graduation.

Fast forward, after his BA, Joe obtained his Juris Doctor at the University of Saskatchewan, was admitted to the Saskatchewan Bar in 1961, designated as Queen's Council (Q.C.) in 1991, and continued as part of the McDougall Gauley legal team culminating in 62 years of practise with the firm.

Joe's Certificate in Corporate Finance from Harvard Business School in 1976 expanded his financial knowledge to better serve his clientele, but additionally served him well in future work particularly in the development and implementation of Canadian tax laws for credit unions and co-operatives.

Instrumental in both the Credit Union Act, and Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan Act, after years of pivotal roles in these endeavors, Joe was ultimately awarded the Credit Union Central of Canada Hall of Fame Award.

In the early 90s, the First Nations of Saskatchewan began to explore whether they could turn their small equity lending into a national



Aboriginal owned Chartered Bank. Joe was key to the success of the first Nations Bank of Canada receiving Letter of Patent in 1996.

The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation lauded Joe Dierker in 2005 for the many years of support — from drafting of legislation, to helping create the foundation of the Saskatchewan Teachers Retirement Plan with the praise that Joe always worked diligently "to benefit the teaching profession in Saskatchewan, and the education system in general."

Joe's legal and financial knowledge was also called upon in relation to St. Thomas More College.

Joe's expertise was instrumental in securing positive outcomes on significant agreements for St. Thomas More College such as the successful sale of Father Bob Ogle Hall to USask in 2010 and the negotiation and subsequent drafting of Academic and Financial Partnership Agreement (AFPA) with USask from 2016 to 2020.

Joe Dierker not only served as a valuable asset to the College over the years in his professional capacity, he also remained an engaged member of the community, donor,

and College fundraising supporter — having served as a member of the "For all Seasons" campaign committee, and fundraising lead for the "John Stack Lecture Series."

Joe also worked closely with several STM presidents over the years including Father George Smith, Dr. John Thompson, and Dr. Terrence Downey.

In his endorsement of the medal recipient, John Thompson, former President of STM College, said that Joe Dierker "In his character and profession, citizenship and faith, friendship, and grace — is what this award stands for and recognizes: 'a person for all seasons.'"

Service to community and care of family remain high on Joe's priorities. He is very proud of the work and studies of his three children and five grandchildren. Their varied distant locales keep travel and communication key in bridging the miles.

Joe has been an active member of his local Rotary Club for decades, involved in educational and health assistance, to both local and international communities.

He has also been very generous in contributing financial support for rebuilding schools in Haiti, and recently supporting the construction of the new St. Frances Cree Bilingual School in Saskatoon.

Joe is an active participant in his faith community and volunteers many hours of singing and other means of support, including to seniors' residences and those with special needs, along with volunteer roles at the Friendship Inn serving the marginalized of our community.

When asked his advice for students today, Joe spoke to 'hope' stating, "I would remind them to never abandon their objectives because of difficulty. Live with the concept of hope."

Great advice, indeed.

With this award we celebrate Service, Care, Integrity, and Faith — the traits originally highlighted and sought for St. Thomas More medal recipients — and clearly personified in this year's deserving recipient.

Congratulations and thank you, Joe Dierker.

Life of service its own reward, says STM graduate

Bill Powalinsky doesn't plan to slow down anytime soon.

At an age when most people are enjoying retirement, the CEO of the Prince Albert and District Community Services Centre is still too busy helping others to stop, and so he's happily still working.

"And I'm loving it," says Powalinsky, 69. "I'm working with a tremendous agency and staff. We're making change in the community and with individuals' lives and its very rewarding."

In June, CTV Saskatoon selected the STM College alum as its Hometown Hero for the work he's done throughout his life, and continues to do.

"It's an organization that I often said I'd like to work for," he said of the Community Services Centre.

The organization offers employment and budget counselling centre, operates two SARCAN recycling depots and runs the paratransit and seniors transport programs in the city.

About 1,000 people a year come through its doors for employment services, a program in which Powalinsky takes particular pride.

Service to others has been a hallmark of his character. He has served with various groups

and organizations over the years in P.A., as well as the other places he's lived during his career.

"I've always had a bent for being involved on one board or another, and volunteering for different things."

The Kinistino native attended STM from 1972-1976, earning his Bachelor of Arts degree.

He remembers the warm welcome he received on orientation day from faculty and students that quickly turned into fast friendships.

"We were able to make connections very early," he said. "My haunt was the cafeteria. I would typically show up at 7:30 or 8 in the morning, and I might still be there at 8 at night. Of course, I would be in and out for classes, but we had a perennial bridge game that would start in the morning. The players would change, but the game would go on. It was a real social event."

He joined the student executive in his second year, and even served as president of the St. Thomas More Newman Alumni Association from 1973-1978, and helped develop the first Five-Year Plan for STM.

After Powalinsky earned his degree, he stayed in Saskatoon for a while, had a short career in real estate and then says he fell into career

with federal government, first in Kinistino, then Melfort and Prince Albert. He went on to help his parents operate four group homes for people of various ages with intellectual disabilities, and credits their example with instilling the belief and benefits of community building.

He also remembers many of the professors at STM who had an influence on him, as well as the classes that shaped him. "I've facilitated a lot over the various careers I've had, and I think the social psychology classes gave me a solid base to develop that interest. So, I think that's been character forming."

"I think just the ability to learn and research was something that I've carried with me and the ability to work as a team was something that was very critical in my character development"



34th Annual Michael Keenan Memorial Lecture

Can Postsecular Society Rekindle the Common Good?

BY PAUL SINKEWICZ



Guest Lecturer Dr. Michelle Dillon is Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of New Hampshire and the UNH Class of 1944 Professor of Sociology. Educated at University College Dublin and the University of California-Berkeley, her research focuses on autonomy and authority in the Catholic Church; moral politics; religion, spirituality and aging; and religion and cultural change.

The annual lecture was established to commemorate the life of Dr. Michael Keenan, the first dean of STM, who served from 1975-1985.

photo and article: Paul Sinkewicz

The Michael Keenan Memorial Lecture held on November 2, featured Dr. Michele Dillon asking: *Can Postsecular Society Rekindle the Common Good?*

The readiness to tackle the immense challenges that mark our current era are severely undermined by the political polarization that is so dominant, said Dr. Dillon.

She gave as an example the issue of climate change. The belief that it represents a significant threat can largely be predicted by one's political leaning in major countries around the world.

"You can see this (split) for all kinds of other issues as well," she said. "One's leanings does matter as to how you perceive the world. Sometimes it seems that the idea of individual and social well-being – never mind the notion of the common good – is a little old fashioned. And so what I'm hoping to do is rekindle your interest in the common good."

She said the notion of the common good is a central tenet to Catholicism, and it is defined as the sum total of social conditions which allow people either as groups or as individuals

to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily.

The idea of the common good has been elaborated publicly by papal and cyclical going back to the late 19th century. Church leaders have had an emphasis on this no matter the topic being considered.

"Really it's an emphasis on the inherent dignity of the individual and that each individual really has to be treated with all the due respect that inheres in their God-given inalienable rights," Dillon said.

She spoke of worker rights, access to education, health care, political stability and security and the promotion of peace as consistent themes, and said while it's everyone's duty to promote the common good, Catholic teaching tends to see a special emphasis on the role of the state in doing so, and of social institutions more generally.

In her conclusion, Dr. Dillon said she believes the Church does have postsecular credibility.

"It has a long history of commitment to the common good. But not just an articulated commitment to the common good. There's actually a lot of consistency in this regard be-

tween the Church teachings on the common good and its own activism, its own actual institutional practices on social justice broadly defined and then in more recent years on environmentalism."

Dr. Dillon said the data shows that religion does still matter in individual lives, as well as institutionally in the way that the Church is involved in education, health care and other social supports.

"What I like about the postsecular is it recognizes that we live in a secular society – that's the operating mode, is that it's secular – but nonetheless religion really does matter in a positive way."

"Religion has this ethical voice that transcends political and religious partisan interests."

She said Pope Francis exemplifies the postsecular society we now live in. He has really been focused on social justice, looking at poverty and climate change.

"He's really saying 'I'm bringing the secular into my arguments, and you need to bring the religious ethics I'm articulating into your discussion to find a way forward.'"



BY JAMES POWELL

On October 4, the Irene and Doug Schmeiser Centre for Faith, Reason, Peace, and Justice presented the 2023 Peace Studies Lecture. The invited speaker was the renowned humanitarian, author, and former senator General Roméo Dallaire. The title of his lecture was, "Peace, Faith, and Humanity in Times of Crisis."

General Dallaire is the founder of the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security, a global partnership with the mission to end the recruitment and use of children in violent conflicts. He is best known for his service as the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda before and during the 1994 genocide. Disobeying the order to withdraw from the conflict, General Dallaire, along with a small contingent of Ghanaian and Tunisian soldiers, remained in Rwanda to protect those who sought refuge with the UN forces.

Before the lecture, General Dallaire visited St. Thomas More College, ate lunch in the cafeteria with students and staff, and then led a seminar for students taking the class, "Introduction to Peace Studies." Brigid Fuller, a 2nd Year Student Majoring in Psychology, had this to say about her experience of participating in General Dallaire's student seminar: "To be among such a giant of military and peacekeeping efforts was an incredible honour. But for all this, it was his gentleness and the way he softly shared his experiences that was most striking. His words were inspiring, thought-provoking, deeply honest, and insightful. It was moving to know that he has seen some of the worst of human suffering and at the age of seventy-seven, he is still working, still fighting, and still willing to share his thoughts and views with younger generations. His vulnerability and willingness to speak about the importance of mental health, therapy, counseling, and recovery was refreshing. His inspiring summation of peace was that women and girls are the future of peacebuilding, are our hope for the world, and are the answer to what is currently missing from this work."

General Dallaire began the Peace Studies Lecture by reflecting on the advancement of global telecommunications as it relates to creating a lasting peace. He claimed that young people—whom he calls the 'borderless generation'—make use of this new technology

Peace, Faith, and Humanity in Times of Crisis



to gain a global perspective on humanitarian and environmental crises. He also encouraged young people to engage with democratic systems as a way of making their voices heard. This participation is all the more important, General Dallaire argued, as self-interest and greed seem to be the primary drivers of political action. He related this to his time in Rwanda. He believes that he could have stopped the genocide if he had been granted 5,000 troops from Western countries. Time and time again, however, he was told that it was not in the self-interest of those countries to stop the genocide. It was against this normalization of self-interest and greed that General Dallaire decided to take a principled stance for the Rwandan civilians in the care of the UN forces.

Reflecting upon his decision to stay, General Dallaire then issued a clarion call to Canada's educational and religious institutions. He questioned where the moral impulse to disobey the order to withdraw came from: "I didn't learn that at military college, I didn't learn that in any tactical books. I learned it from our society, from our schools, from my family, from our churches, from our communities, from the reference points that we have created." In a world that is incredibly complex and has no shortage of ethical dilemmas, he concluded, "we need depth. Not just educational, intellectual depth, we need a moral depth." These institutions and

cultural reference points play a crucial role in developing the moral depth required to face the challenges ahead."

General Dallaire closed his lecture by unpacking the differences between a truce and a lasting peace. He claimed that humanity has never known a lasting peace. There have been truces, cessations of violence, but during those times the underlying tensions that produced the prior conflicts were not addressed. He believes that this is evidenced by the fact that "there has not been one peace agreement in the past twenty years that has survived without significant frictions, if not total breakdowns, longer than seven years." These tensions contribute to the phenomenon of people not seeing other humans as fully human. General Dallaire urged that

"there is not one human more human than another. We are all equal. Not one of us has a higher claim on our humanity than another."

He asserted that patriarchy and misogyny have been impediments to giving human beings the respect they deserve. A lasting peace is only possible by cultivating a culture of respect, which necessarily integrates the voices of women, youth, and people in marginalized communities.

STM Recruitment Fall Travel '23

Welcoming students into a community for all; embracing potential; working together with positivity.

St. Thomas More College (STM) busy recruitment travel season started off at the end of September, with school fairs and presentations across Saskatchewan. STM was grateful and excited to be able to visit with high school students expanding awareness about the College as a wonderful complement to the University of Saskatchewan. A key component of the school visits involves providing prospective students with important post-secondary information, and highlighting STM's wide range of course and program offerings (many distinct on campus), the student service supports available, and an invitation to experience the welcoming community environment!

Over 20 different towns and cities across Saskatchewan were visited this fall and STM recruitment was able to meet students from 80 + different schools. Some of the event locations included, but were not limited to, Yorkton, Meadow Lake, Lloydminster, Regina, and Saskatoon, as well as some smaller communities like Macklin, Goodsoil, Cut Knife, Estevan, and Weyburn.



Michelle Gall joined STM in an Internship position with STM's Student Recruitment in fall, 2023. In STM's first paid student internship opportunity, Michelle has gained valuable experience in PSE recruitment – the many facets and skills involved – including representing St. Thomas More College (STM) in College, campus, and provincial recruitment, and relationship initiatives. Michelle received her BA (English major) at USask in the spring of 2023.



Michelle Gall, STM Recruitment Intern
Linda Huard, STM Recruitment Officer and Academic Advisor



STM Engaged Learning Office

Empowering Students Through Engaged Learning: A Recap of STM Initiatives Connecting Students with Real-World Experience for a Brighter Future

BY YATING (TINA) ZHENG

As the fall term draws to a close we embrace the rhythm of academic life on campus, STM's Engaged Learning Office is excited to bring you a glimpse into the exciting initiatives and opportunities that have been fostering growth and transformation among our student community.

One of the hallmarks of our approach to education is the recognition that learning extends far beyond the walls of the classroom. To that end, we have been hard at work creating a range of innovative programs designed to connect students with real-world experiences. Our diverse pathways to learning excellence encompass Service and Justice Project, engaged research projects, Community Service-Learning, and collaborative partnerships with local organizations.



SERVICE AND JUSTICE PROJECT—SERVING FOR THE NEEDS *Fall 2023 Events*

October 18, 2023 An impactful event, organized by L'Arche Saskatoon and STM, brought together students for a unique encounter with both the local and national L'Arche community. The event drew nearly 80 participants, with 22 of them being STM Service and Justice Project (SJP) students.

Reflecting on this memorable experience, Jake Orioux, a student affiliated with the Service and Justice Project (SJP), shared his thoughts, "It was a truly grateful experience to connect with the members of the L'Arche community and spend quality time with them." This event provided a valuable opportunity for students to engage with the L'Arche community, fostering a sense of empathy, understanding, and social responsibility among participants.

November 14, 2023 A community supper with SJP students featured two international speakers from the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) talking about climate action for peace, food security, agriculture, and disaster relief projects in a global perspective.

Sara Melgarejo lives and works in Colombia as the MCC Project and Learning Tours Coordinator. She is knowledgeable in topics such as food security and climate change issues. Durga Sunchiuri lives and works in Nepal as a program coordinator for MCC. He has experience and expertise in managing agriculture, disaster relief projects.

November 22, 2023, STM honoured Fr. Poilievre with a dinner in collaboration with the College's Service and Justice Project students. Fr. Poilievre, recipient of the 2015 STM Medal, founded STR8 UP, working with those ready to leave street gangs and the lifestyle. Part of the evening included a talk and follow up questions with Fr. Andre, reflecting on his lifelong commitment to serving Indigenous peoples, the STR8 UP goals and commitment, and the keys to building relationships.



RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES THAT IGNITE CURIOSITY

STM is committed to fostering a culture of research and innovation. We've been proud to see students collaborate with faculty members on cutting-edge research projects, exploring new horizons and contributing to the advancement of knowledge in their chosen fields.

This fall there are 30 students participating in the pilot co-curricular engaged learning project supervised by Dr. Tracey Carr (PhD). The healthcare project provides students opportunity to gain practical experience with data collection, analysis and dissemination in health-related research.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR A GREATER GOOD

Our Community Service-Learning (CSL) program has connected students with local communities, fostering empathy, understanding, and a commitment to making a positive impact. CSL is associated with certain STM courses and it offers distinctive learning opportunities both on and off campus. From volunteering at local schools to helping seniors with meal service, our students are living out the values of community and social responsibility.

THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

We understand that the synergy of teamwork is paramount to success. That's why we've nurtured partnerships with local businesses and institutions, creating opportunities for students to gain real-world experience and make valuable connections.

In the coming months, we will continue to enrich the lives of our students with engaging learning experiences that bridge the gap between academia and the real world. We invite all students to explore the various opportunities we offer and embark on their own journeys of growth, discovery, and personal development.

YOUNG STUDENTS LEND VOICES TO STM RECONCILIATION EFFORT

BY PAUL SINKEWICZ

On September 22, Grade 5 students from St. Frances Cree School visited STM to share in a very special reconciliation day that began in the heart of the College, the STM Chapel. They sat in a sharing circle beside the teepee that has found a home in the little chapel.

"If you notice, this is the praying place for St. Thomas More College," said Harry Lafond, STM Scholar in Indigenous Education. "This praying place is a good place for the teepee to be,

because the teepee has become a praying place for Indigenous people. And so, we bring the two together to tell us that reconciliation is important. It's something we need to work at, and we can only do that by acting."

The visit from St. Frances Cree School came about after a conversation between Dr. Carl Still, STM College president, and Lafond, who is also a Deacon in the Roman Catholic Church in his home community of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation.

Lafond arranged the visit through his contacts at the elementary school. Lori McAuley, Principal of St. Frances, and STM Campus Minister Michael MacLean collaborated to set up the day.

The Grade 5 students and their hosts heard from the school Elder Joceyln Joseph, from Beardy's & Okemasis' Cree Nation. She relayed personal stories about how the residential school system hurt her family, and also spoke of the pain so many other Indigenous families in Canada felt and are still feeling.

The students then sang a song with Lafond and heard a message of welcome from Dr. Still. He explained that the teepee is still very new to the College and is very special because it was made especially for STM by Elders A.J. and Patricia Felix, and their family.

"Because it's here, we're learning a lot about Indigenous spiritual ways. We are learning to smudge, we have an Indigenous Advisory Circle that meets there. We sit together and we smudge, and we hear spiritual teachings. This is part of our journey toward reconciliation. And I'm so glad you're here with us today."

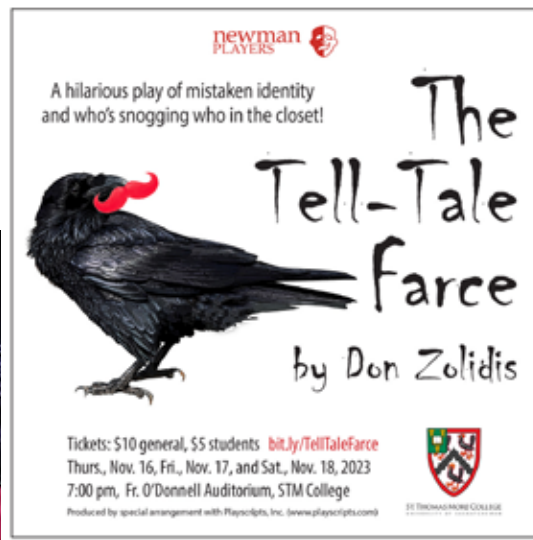
The students then shared their own thoughts on what reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day mean. Dr. Still invited them to return to the same hallways as university students to find a welcoming home at STM College.



Students built orange shirt displays to carry around the USask campus, making stops at the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre, and several spots around the Bowl, where Lafond spoke a few words of prayer, remembrance and healing.

STM STUDENT GROUPS

<https://stmcollege.ca/study-here/student-clubs.php>



CAST		&	CREW
EDGAR POE RUFUS GRISWOLD HENRY WHITFORD BRINSLEY MARY O'DONNELL HELENA DOWLING SARAH DOWLING ABIGAIL DOWLING	Oliver Cossette Josh Goring Erik Robertson Nick Evans Max Herman Stephanie Bachman Laura Mitchell Riel Fidler Bernalda St. Pierre		Director Stage Manager & Lighting Asst. Stage Manager Props/Stage Crew Sound Costumes Richard Medernach Amanda Gieni Katrina Lemcke Johanna Epp Chelsey Elimanco Emily Roberts

Participation in STM student clubs can be used for student official USask Co-curricular Record. For more information about any of these organizations, please contact Student Services at 306-966-8900.

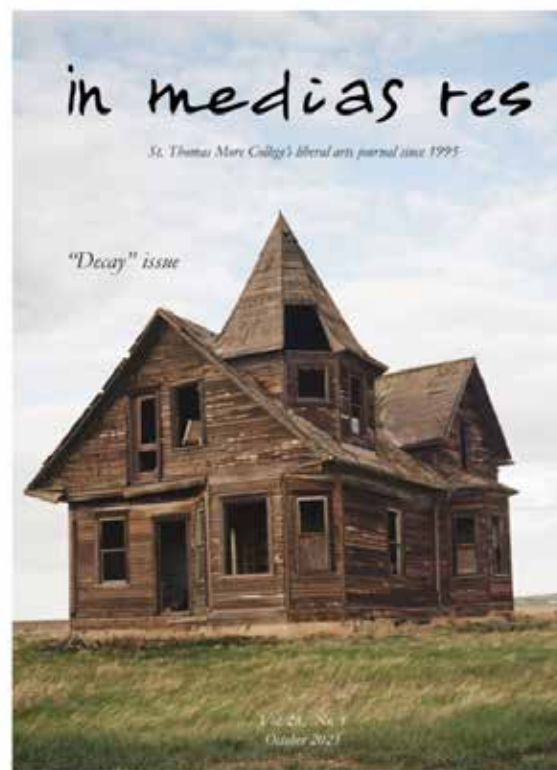
in medias res (IMR) STM's Liberal Arts Journal, required a quick turnaround this year, between confirming the 2023-24 board in September and releasing the first issue of the year on Halloween — an appropriate launch date for the "Decay" issue. As Editor-In-Chief, Toni Elliott, stated in the issue's editor's note, "Although the theme might seem overwhelmingly morose to some, our contributors explore both the sadness of decay and the beauty found within the darkness."

A launch party for the 'Decay' issue was held October 31 in the Shannon library.

Fall is the season of decay, and as the world slows for winter slumber, the IMR board asked folks to share their traditions for the next issue 'Traditions' to bring us warm feelings, seeing us through the cold months ahead.

For more information on how to submit email inmediasres@stmcollege.ca

To read past issues and to see upcoming themes, please visit www.stmcollege.ca/imr.



STMSU



St. Thomas More
Students' Union
stmsu.ca

The STMSU is made up of an Executive and members-at-large. STMSU represents STM students and their views to the college and the greater campus community. All STM students are welcome to get involved in their work and attend the social activities hosted.

STMSU is independent of the Arts and Science Students' Union (ASSU), and has voting membership on the University Students' Council (USC) and the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) council and several committees at St Thomas More College.

For more information or to join as a member at large please contact vpcommunications@stmsu.ca

2023-2024 STMSU Executive

- Abbi Cross - President
- Gillian Skjei - VP Operations & Finance
- Henry Thiessen - VP Academic
- Angie Rutkowski - VP Communications
- Carmela Enriquez - First Year Representative

Norah Jacob serving as Member of Student Council (MSC).



Abbi Cross



Gillian Skjei



Henry Thiessen



Angie Rutkowski



DID YOU KNOW that this year's Newman Council Executive has had a surge in members this year? And they continue to do great things at the College, like celebrating Newman's feast day. For over twenty years, Newman Council has been giving out FREE CAKE on the Friday prior to Thanksgiving, observing St. John Henry Cardinal Newman's feast day on October 9th.



For more information on how to join the Newman club or upcoming events, please email newman@stmcollege.ca

Newman Centre 100th Anniversary Planning

Do you have a great story about your Newman days that you would like to share? We would love to hear them! We're gathering stories and photos now, to help celebrate the upcoming 100th anniversary of the first Newman Society at USask. Would you be interested in being a member of the Newman 100th Anniversary planning committee?

Please email Kari at ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca with your fun memory and to learn more about getting involved.



STM Student QUICK LINKS

Classes and Programs:
stmcollege.ca/classes

STM Scholarships and Bursaries:
stmcollege.ca/awards

Academic Advising:
stmcollege.ca/advising

New Students:
stmcollege.ca/new

Declare as STM student:
stmcollege.ca/selfdeclare

Community Service-Learning:
stmcollege.ca/csl



STM at a Glance

Fall Term
Census Data

215+ ARTS & SCIENCE CREDIT COURSE OPTIONS
(open to all USask students)

19 AREAS OF STUDY

73 FACULTY
(Tenure, tenure-stream, term, sessional)

2867+ distinct STUDENTS
(registered in fall courses through STM)

1191+ STM STUDENTS
(self-declared STM status)

391 Indigenous STUDENTS
(declared status registered in STM fall courses)

269 International STUDENTS
(declared status registered in STM fall courses)

\$280,000+ STM Scholarships
& Bursaries available

10,000+ STM Alumni
(approx. since 1936)

32,000 STMCOLLEGE.CA
Website users
May 1, 2023 - November 1, 2023

STM Fall 2023 Graduates

Brendan Bear Bachelor of Arts
Three-Year (Sociology)

Devon Boechler Bachelor of Arts
Three-Year (English)

Jolie Bossaer Bachelor of Arts
Three-Year (Art History)

Florence Dale Bachelor of Arts
Four-Year (Business Economics)

Agis Daniels Bachelor of Science
Four-Year (Computer Science)

Leanne Espey Bachelor of Arts Honours
(International Studies)

Karimah Fleming Bachelor of Arts Honours
(Regional and Urban Planning)

Madison Graff Bachelor of Arts
Four-Year (Philosophy)

Mackenna Hamilton Bachelor of Science Honours
(Psychology)

Brooke Hulowski Bachelor of Arts
Four-Year (Psychology)

Julia Kowalski Bachelor of Fine Arts
Honours (Drama)

Amy Lalonde Bachelor of Arts
Four-Year (Political Studies)

Jinyang Li Bachelor of Science
Four-Year (Environmental Biology)

Xiaolong Liu Bachelor of Science
Four-Year (Food Science)

Kurt Loescher Bachelor of Arts
Three-Year (Religion and Culture)

Kallie Lychak Bachelor of Science
Four-Year (Physiology & Pharmacology)

Kingslei Medina Bachelor of Science
Honours (Geology)

Sara Meyers Bachelor of Arts
Four-Year (Sociology)

Zaid Mir Cert in Ethics Justice Law

Zaid Mir Bachelor of Arts
Honours (Philosophy)

Samira Mohamed Bachelor of Arts
Three-Year (Sociology)

Oluwatomilola Ojo Bachelor of Arts
Three-Year (Psychology)

Theodore Oliver Bachelor of Arts
Honours (English)

Katherine Peterson Bachelor of Arts
Four-Year (English)

Megan Schmidt Bachelor of Arts
Three-Year (English)

Riley Sharp Bachelor of Arts
Three-Year (English)

Brenna Vanstone Bachelor of Arts
Honours (Political Studies)

Julia Visentini Bachelor of Science
Honours (Psychology)

Joshua Weenie Bachelor of Science
Four-Year (Biology)

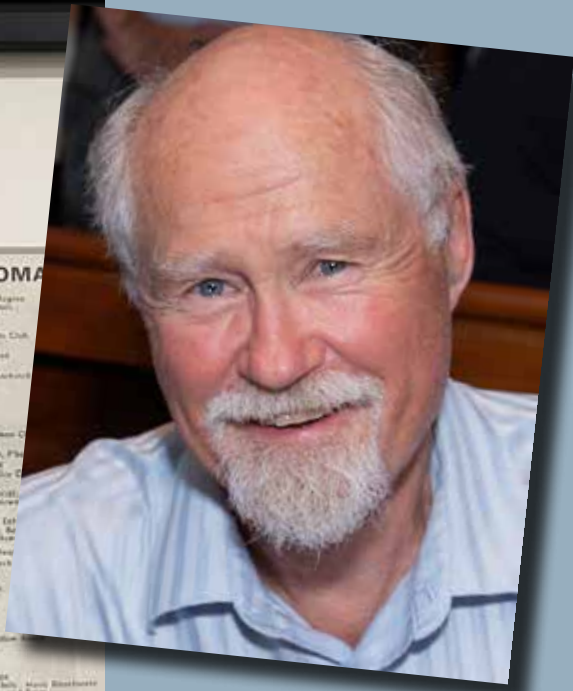
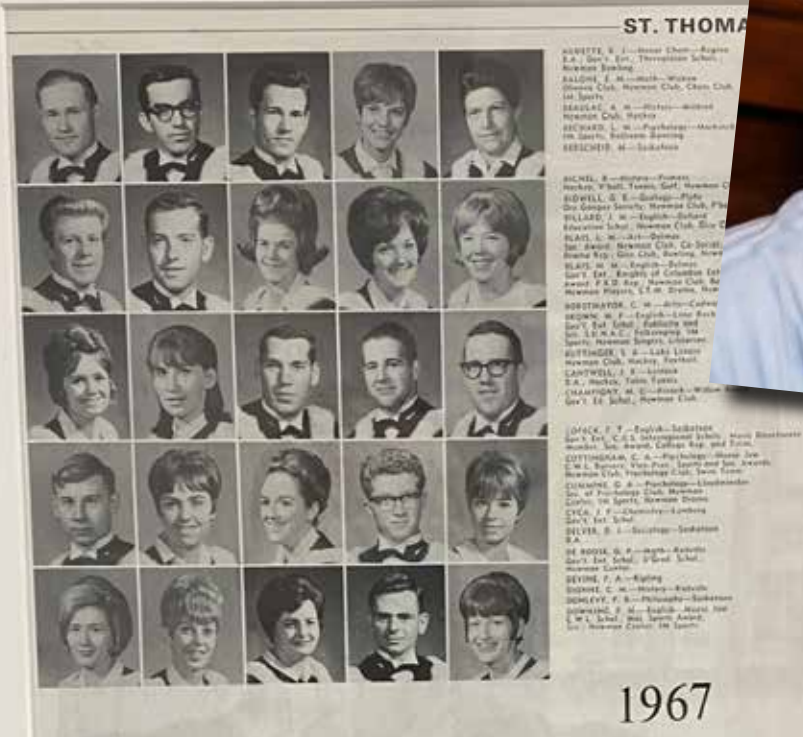
Chloe Winterhalt Bachelor of Arts
Four-Year (Psychology)



Congratulations graduates!



Robert J. Audette
Class of '67



Audette's liberal arts background helped frame perspective in scientific career

BY PAUL SINKEWICZ

Robert Audette contemplated cause and effect as he walked the halls of St. Thomas More College on a visit home this past summer.

As a natural scientist, probing the 'why' of things is just built into him.

Why has he been so lucky in life? How has success been achieved in his career? Who were the people, and what were the factors that guided him on his path?

His visit back to the College from which he graduated in 1972 spurred all those thoughts.

The answers came from the memories of countless conversations around the cafeteria lunch table with friends and in discussions with STM professors who took an interest in helping him succeed when he was struggling.

In particular, Audette recalls his first foray into taking a philosophy course. "During that first year at STM (1965) I had to take an arts elective, and I chose Introductory Philosophy, with Fr. Tom Stokes," he said. "It was interesting because a natural scientist has certain ways of thinking about things, but when

you go over to philosophy, it's completely different."

Audette remembers struggling mightily in making the leap in his thought processes, and even failed an early philosophy exam – not an experience with which he was familiar.

"A group of us in the sciences formed a group talking at lunchtime about a whole bunch of things, and Fr. Stokes used to come and sit with us and talk about life and philosophy. That really helped. In fact, Fr. Michael Swan used to also come down and mingle with us, and those discussions opened up our minds."

Audette, now a Ph.D. in the fields of analytical inorganic and clinical chemistry, said he had several fruitful conversations with Fr. Stokes, and finally made the connection about what philosophy was all about, and ended up with a mark of 78.

"I was absolutely over the moon with that," he said. "And that really, it turns out, was the foundation for helping me in my scientific career open up my mind and helped me to jump paradigms and take cutting edge scientific ideas and instrumentation from other scientific disciplines and other parts of

the world and put them into perspective of what was happening in my current scientific career."

After graduating with his second degree in 1972, he did a Post Doc in Hamilton and returned to teach undergraduates at University of Saskatchewan Chemistry Department until 1973. Audette and wife, Marjolyn, reconnected with the STM College family on Sunday masses in the chapel. They moved to Edmonton in 1973 where he began work at the RCMP forensic lab as a forensic chemist.

He did that for eight years, delving into paint identifications, explosives, soils, glass, petroleum products and all kinds of things related to chemistry as they pertained to crimes.

He vividly recalls a tragedy in 1973 when a pedestrian -- a young mother -- was killed by a car that fled the scene of the accident.

"At that point in 1973 it was very hard to match and trace paint chips left in clothing from hit and run accidents back to a specific automobile."

Today we take for granted that it is easy to collect automotive paint chips from accident

scenes and the clothing of hit and run victims and match those paint chips to a specific make, model, and year of vehicle. Back then, the science was not ready.

"After my first year of training as a forensic chemist I decided to do some paradigm shifting," Audette said.

He pioneered the development of a nation-wide comprehensive forensic computerized paint classification and identification system for the RCMP and was ultimately successful.

Audette is considered the "Father" of this RCMP National Forensic Services' Paint Data Query computerized automotive DB paint system which is currently accepted as the gold standard worldwide for identifying automobiles involved in hit-and-run accidents, in particular, where they involve a human victim. It is used by famous law enforcement labs like the RCMP, FBI, Scotland Yard and in countries all around the world.

"And that comes back to that basic foundation at STM," he said. "The philosophy courses I took allowed myself as a natural scientist to start broadening what I was doing and taking other perspectives into consideration."

The elasticity in thinking required to make the innovations required can be attributed to his training at Campion College, for his first year of undergraduate studies, and STM College, he said.

He said at Campion College, the Jesuits helped him understand that it was important to broaden his interests to include those in the social sciences.

"When I transferred up to Saskatoon, our Campion College's Dean, Fr. Gerald Francis Lahey, suggested that I register at STM, and I'm so grateful that happened because it continued the tradition started by the Jesuits at Campion with the Basilians at STM."

Even more innovation and success would come during the next phase of his career as Assistant Director/Provincial Analyst and Analytical Toxicologist at the Alberta Provincial Analysts Laboratory (1979-1985). Following this he became a Clinical Toxicologist/Biochemist and Medical Staff at the University of Alberta Hospital's Dept. of Laboratory Medicine in Edmonton and a Clinical Associate Professor at UofA (1985-2001).

There he made the realization that cutting edge instruments and scientific and computerization techniques used in other scientific fields outside the medical community could be applied to analyzing the trace levels of metals in humans, both toxic and beneficial, in a much more efficient way.

As Founder/Head of the Trace Elements/Environmental Toxicology Laboratory, Audette is recognized internationally as a pioneer and leader in establishing the first innovative specialized ICP-MS ultra trace element analysis service in clinical biological samples. Audette's laboratory was the only clinical lab in Canada innovating and implementing this simultaneous testing method for 20 trace metals in clinical samples at that time and one of only three clinical labs in North America using this technique.

Now it was possible to quickly analyze, within minutes, trace amounts of beneficial micro-nutrients like selenium (Se), zinc (Zn), copper (Cu), as well as toxic metals like lead (Pb), arsenic (As), mercury (Hg), cadmium (Cd) when a life might be on the line.

He said the new system of analysis for ultra trace elements in clinical samples that he helped pioneer is now the gold standard in clinical laboratories for patient care around the world.

This is critical for renal dialysis patients, people with diabetes and in the field of occupational health, especially for people on farms who were exposed to toxic metals unknowingly. Also, in today's world for sustainable environmental climate goals by employing in EV's, the critical trace minerals in Lithium-Ion batteries expose miners, manufacturers, recyclers and the general public to toxic levels of Li, Co, Ni, Cr, Mn, Cu, Pb, Hg, Cd and his ultra-trace elemental system is critical in ensuring the safety of all citizens.

As an internationally accredited lab auditor, Audette went on in the 1990s to help develop rules and regulations for mineral analysis, environmental and toxicology labs aiming to achieve accreditation to the international ISO laboratory standard around the world.

Through the travel involved in North and South America, Asia and the Middle East from 1990-2019, he had exposure to world religions and again recalled the important teaching he received at Campion and STM Colleges: to respect other religions and to do a lot of listening and learning.

In his dealings with other cultures, he showed respect, made connections and subsequently was able to offer his 40-plus years of experience to educate them to improve their labs and help them rise up to the international ISO standard.

It's all been very rewarding and gratifying, he said.

"I learned from my father, and it's been an underlying principle that I've used all my life, that one has the responsibility to give back to soci-

ety. And I have been truly blessed. Not only by what has happened in my life, but in my exposure to the education that I had at STM."

During his time as a student at the College, Audette was involved in the Newman Players, the Newman Club and volunteered as a reader or altar server at Masses.

So, what brought Audette back to the halls of his beloved STM recently? It was a trip for the 50th anniversary reunion of Marjolyn's BScN degree nursing class.

He met Marjolyn at an STM Newman drama night she was attending while taking her nursing education at the University Hospital.

It was another STM connection that shaped the course of his life and brought him the greatest joys.

They have two sons (Gerald and Cameron) and a daughter (Christine) (all involved in the sciences), and four grandchildren to show for that chance meeting.

The couple recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.



Robert and Marjolyn Audette

Audette sees the foundation he received at STM as the thread that has wound through his life and career.

"I've been blessed to be able to do these things," he said. "It comes back to opening one's mind and thinking about the gift that we can give to humanity from our Catholic intellectual tradition of education, and I can't think of a better place to have trained and been exposed to that than through STM."

Serving with a joyful heart

Fr. Dan Yasinski joins STM College Community

Dan Yasinski's life changed on April 6, 2005.

As a 22-year-old student in the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan, he was working on his second degree, was in a long-term, committed relationship, and was looking forward to fulfilling his dreams of marriage and fatherhood.

And then the news of the death of Pope John Paul II came on that fateful day. The pontiff was his personal hero, and news of his passing shook Dan's world.

Attending Sunday Mass was a given while growing up in St. Walburg, as was praying the rosary with his parents each evening. He said it taught him about the importance of faith, and he is still struck by the powerful memory of his devout father kneeling during prayers.

Dan played piano and organ in church, and the parish priest was a frequent guest in their home. He said it was during his high school years that he began to really make the faith his own, and that growing connection to the Church really took hold in university.

"All that provided the bedrock for my vocation," he said. With the passing of the Pope, a fork in the road appeared before him.

"It really affected me. I really looked up to John Paul II. I read a lot of his writings and encyclicals, and The Theology of the Body, and when he died it just made me sad in my spirit, so I decided to go to Mass that day," he said.

"As I was sitting in Mass, there was a priest preparing something at the altar and I was praying, and I remember all of a sudden hearing words in my heart. They weren't audible, but it was these words: 'The priesthood. The priesthood.'"

Dan likened it to the story in the Gospel of Luke of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, who were mourning Jesus after the crucifixion. But after they encountered the resurrected saviour on the road and they asked each other: "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" "That's how I always describe feeling the call on that day," he said.

Answering the Call didn't happen immediately, but through patience and prayer over the course of a year, Dan realized the call would not be denied. He felt he only had one life to live, and he had better live it in the way God intended.

So, after graduation, his journey through six years in the seminary began, and he never looked back. "That burning call I felt in my heart never left me."

He was ordained in 2013, and became Fr. Dan Yasinski.

He returned to Saskatoon, working in a variety of positions in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, before becoming the pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption in



Kerrobert in 2015. He had chosen to be a diocesan priest rather than joining a religious order with a purpose in mind – service to others.

"I wanted to serve with my boots on the ground, and I wanted to give back," he said. "I've got to say that it's been the best 10 years of my life."

This summer, he began serving at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Saskatoon and in the fall was appointed Priest Chaplain to STM by His Excellency Bishop Mark Hagemoen.

Fr. Yasinski shared the story of his Calling at a recent Theology on Tap session with members of the STM community, and didn't hesitate when talking about what brings him the most joy in his ministry:

"It's my encounters with people," he said. "You get to meet people at the most sacred moments of life. You get to meet them at the grave, at the hospital, at the birth of their babies, at their marriages. It's just a real privilege and you see God work in amazing ways, and even though I feel that I give, I get a lot more back."

SHANNON LIBRARY



STM SHANNON LIBRARY

Hours of Operation
September - April

Monday to Thursday:
8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday:
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday:
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

A permanent snack program has been established due to the generous sponsorship of alumni donors Art & Angeline Battiste. The Shannon Library knows the whole self needs to be healthy to be successful. We are delighted to be able to provide our students with healthy snacks, coffee, and tea free of charge on a full-time basis. We hope to create intentional community and provide for student wellness while addressing increasing concerns about food insecurity thanks to the goodwill of the Battiste's.



Much work was involved over the summer and fall to return and organize College archives back on site. Faculty and staff work with Amanda Gieni, the Records Manager to access archival collections, and photographs.

NEW STM LIBRARIAN APPOINTED IN UNIQUE COLLABORATIVE ROLE WITH STU



An extensive year-long search resulted in the appointment of Martin Nord as STM's College Librarian. The Assistant Librarian tenure-track position commenced July 1, 2023.

Nord received the recommendation of the Search Committee, based on the valuable experience and vision for a Catholic liberal arts academic library he will bring to STM's Shannon Library. He holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS) from Dominican University (River Forest, Illinois) and is completing a Ph.D. in Library and Information Science (LIS) from Western University in 2023.

With several years of experience as an academic librarian for Catholic and liberal arts colleges, including archival and museum work, along with digital projects, Nord feels this background has served to help "inform his vision of what a Catholic liberal arts academic library is and can be."

STM's College Academic Librarian role will also include a new collaboration with the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU). STU is an association of three theological colleges located on the University of Saskatchewan (USask) campus, "formed to facilitate a cooperative and ecumenical approach to the task of theological education." In collaboration with STU library technicians, Nord will advise the STU on many library resource and service facets, while fostering valuable linkages to the STM library and other libraries in the USask system.

Nord's Ph.D. research focuses on "the complex relationships between selves and documents, with implications for our collective memories and lived ethics in community." He has published and presented on information literacy, document theory, the information society, holistic research methods, and virtue ethics.

Nord's stated vision for the library as "a space in which learning, responsibility, and care for each other are all part of the same process" echoes what STM is about.

The STM Campus Ministry Team are available to journey with you. Please send the team a note on Facebook or email them individually to set a time to meet electronically or in person:

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

CAMPUS MINISTRY CONNECTIONS

by Michael MacLean

St. Thomas More Campus Ministry has been busy this fall, making connections with students, staff and faculty, through a ministry of presence, prayer, programs and positivity.

- They hosted a TED Talk time on the very first week of classes, and helped serve students pancakes and sausages with their colleagues from the Student Experience Team (SET).
- The team set the tone for the year in a good way, as Bishop Mark Hagemoen presided at the Annual Academic Mass.
- Rev. Mr. Harry Lafond, STM's Scholar in Indigenous Education offered a smudge, as a part of this year's mass, which was held for the first time on a weekday, Wednesday September 13th.
- STM Campus Ministers were also able to participate in the City-wide Rock your Roots walk on September 30th.
- October was busy with Newman's Feast Day, our biggest in-person session of the Inquiring Mind, the L'Arche party at Grace Westminster church, our first Post-Mass Pizza party of the year, the Regional CCSA Conference at Campion College, Newman Coffeehouse on October 27th, and serving soup to students on Halloween.
- The team is looking forward to many exciting upcoming connections, including Newman's Annual Retreat in January 2024!



St. Thomas More College Chapel
Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

Weekday Liturgies
M-F at 11:30 am

Sunday Mass at 5 pm



stmcollege.ca 306-966-8931

Over 200 declared STM students convocated this past spring in Arts and Science at USask.
An evening dinner celebrated this achievement and entrance into the STM Alumni community.
**Event occurred after the spring publication.*

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Adam Said Abdel Malak | Urvashi Gupta | Fiza Noor |
| Kaley Aime | Matthew Halter | Hans Nuque |
| Ayokunle Ajayi | Ryann Handley | Valentine Offordum |
| Azwa Alam | Avery Harder | Oghenefejiro Onoruvwe |
| Karl Aera Almero | Jessica Howard | Joshua Oputteh |
| Rachel Andres | Jocelyn Hudson | Kaitlyn Oster |
| Courtney Andrews | Kaylee Ilnisky | Justin Pasloski |
| Yulian Androsenko | Joi Nicole Ines | Sarah Kiesman |
| Javier Anleu Alegria | Stevie Isteevan | Michael Kilborn |
| Chelsea Arseneau | Rebecca Iyoha | Benjamin Kmiech |
| Michelleanne Atchivara | Cathrina Jacildo | Sophie Peters |
| Josephine Azuka-Oganwu | Shania Jamero | Daly Pham |
| Jade Badger | Raghad Jaradat | Luc Piche |
| Nathan Baillie | Jill Jeffrey | Destiny Polischuk |
| Hussam Mohammad Bilal Bakhsh | Umer Khane | Matthew Prychak |
| Marie Christine Balderama | Sarah Kiesman | Dakota Rabbitskin |
| Emily Becker | Michael Kilborn | Norah Ridley |
| Darrellyne Bickel | Benjamin Kmiech | Jai Riley |
| Marian Birkland | Paige Knisley | Joshua Roberto |
| Jayden Bissky | Lucas Kobashi dos Anjos | Caila Robson-Kullman |
| Logan Bitz | Tessa Koerberlin | Anneka Rowe |
| Gavin Blondeau | Anjay Koehn | Emma Rusnak |
| Maksym Bodnarchuk | Olga Kopytko | Bhavesh Saha |
| Bailee Brewster | Marta Krueger | Sharlene Sayed |
| Erin Brotzel | Saima Kumbhar | Maher Senoussi |
| Lily Buckles-Whittle | Derek Kunkel | Sidney Shacter |
| Samantha Bundus | Lorynn Labbie | Shayma Shah |
| Benjamin Camplin | Pamela Laliberte-Ross | Chen Shen |
| Jeza Mae Canuto | Melissa Lazurko | Ralion Kim Simbulan |
| Pranav Chaudhari | Daniel Leas | Antonia Simko |
| Saman Chughtai | Ashley Levesque | Michayla Siwak |
| Brianne Cipywnyk | Patience Lewis-Germain | August Skrudland |
| Maria Andrea Clarete | Wilson Li | Owen Smith |
| Dawson Connelly | Yuyu Lu | Oluwaferanmi Solarin |
| Ayden Corbeil | Lual Lual | Taylor Spock |
| Jacqueline Costanzo | Dana Lucas | Jaymie Stachyruk |
| Dale Couet | Miranda Lucki | Sarah Sumalave |
| Alexandra Currie | Kyle Luo | Ammara Syeda |
| Jade Cyrenne | Igor Macedo | Pucheng Tan |
| Minh Phuong Dang | William MacInnes | Ho Kwan Tang |
| Jackson Davis | Mary Margarete Mancha | Morgan Thompson |
| Danielle Delorme | Vanessa Mangiwet | Kristian Tud |
| Joseph Desjarlais | Keesha Martin | Alexander Verishine |
| Elliot Dillabough | Anna-Marie Matthews | Fazia Virk |
| Veronica Dirk-Pothier | Tanner McCubbing | Ashley Voinorosky |
| Ava Dulos, James Entaalo | Matthew McLaughlin | Yi Yang Wang |
| Jenna Ernst | Ava McLean | Oleksa Wasylow |
| Paula Estupinan | Christina McRorie | Tori Werner |
| Leon Laurina Farr | Savannah Meechance | Jamen Willis |
| Katherine Fisher | Vikas Mehboob | Naomi Wirsta |
| Michaela Gadsby | Jane Mohrbutter | Anna Wolitski |
| Michelle Gall | Julia Morelli | Kieran Young |
| Laurence Craig Garcia | Raymond Morstad | Ammar Zainulabdeen |
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| Akash Gill | Omer Munir | Rebecca Zimmer |
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| Kathryn Guenter | Ira Marie Nazareth | |
| Victoria Guenter | Liam Neufeld | |
| Harriet Gundidza | Emma Neufeld | |
| | Niza Ngwira | |



Special Honors

Fr. Henry Carr Award 2023

Awarded to a student who has shown leadership in and/or contributed to the life of the St. Thomas More College.



Taylor Spock and Marta Kruger
(co-recipients)

The Thomas Deis '38 WWII Memorial Prize

awarded to a STM Student or Newman Centre member who has demonstrated an all-round excellence, leadership, and has enriched the life of STM and Newman Centre.



Adam Eichorst

Thomas Deis '38 Prize in Scholastic Philosophy

in Honour of Dr. Basil Markle S.T.D. This is awarded annually to a distinguished graduating student of St. Thomas More College having majored in Philosophy.



Luc Piche

The Right Reverend Monsignor Myroslav Kolodey Memorial Academic Prize

awarded annually to a graduating STM student with the highest overall cumulative average.



Victoria Guenter

New STM Faculty Publications

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Jennifer Briere



Briere, J. L., & Marche, T. A. (2023). The comprehensive narrative elaboration technique: Expanding the narrative elaboration technique to increase the quantity and quality of children's autobiographical recall. *North American Journal of Psychology*, 25 (4), 321-349.

Briere, J. L., Wang, S. H., Khanam, U. A., Lawson, J., & Godridge, D. (2023). Quality of life and well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic: Associations with loneliness and social isolation in a cross-sectional, online survey of 2,207 community-dwelling older Canadians. *BMC Geriatrics*, 23 (615), 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-023-04350-x>

Cormier, D. L., Ferguson, L. J., Gyurcsik, N. C., Briere, J. L., Mosewich, A. D., & Kowalski, K. C. (2023). Evaluating the predictive utility of grit for high performance athletes. *Psychology of Sport & Exercise*, advanced online publication.

Briere, J. L., Zaman, I. B., & Wang, S. H. (2022). Filling the knowledge-to-action gap with open-access pedagogy: An alternative assignment model. *Open Praxis*, 14 (4), 300-309. <https://doi.org/10.55982/openpraxis.14.4.492>

David McGrane



David McGrane, "Jagmeet Versus Justin: Leadership and the NDP's Political Marketing", in *The Canadian Federal Election of 2021*, J.H. Pammett and Christopher Doran (eds.), Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2022, pp. 60-83.

David McGrane, "Federal Political Culture: Federalism's Glue?", in *Teaching Federalism: Multidimensional Approaches*, John Kincaid and J. Wesley Leckrone (eds.), Northampton: Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, 2023, pp. 104-112.

Sarah Knudson



Murray, Jonah, and Sarah Knudson. 2023. "Mental Health Treatment and Access for Emerging Adults in Canada: A Systematic Review." *Frontiers in Public Health* 11: 1088999. DOI: 10.3389/fpubh.2023.1088999

Mazurik, Kathrina, Linzi Williamson and Sarah Knudson. 2023. "Socioeconomic Differences in Parental Financial Support, Coresidence, and Advice: A Portrait of Undergraduate Students in the Canadian Prairies." *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie*. DOI: 10.1111/cars.12436

Knudson, Sarah. 2023. "Transition Planning and Perceptions of Support in an Autism Spectrum Disorder Resource Program." *Preventing School Failure: Alternative Education for Children and Youth*. DOI: 10.1080/1045988X.2023.2207482



Sarah Powrie

"Textual Communities, Textual Selves: Essays in Dialogue with Brian Stock". Edited by Sarah Powrie and Gur Zak. (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies Press, 2023).




Lesya Sabada

Research Projects: Laudato Si and an Eastern Christian Perspective on the Wholeness of Creation


On Site Field Research:

Western Lowland Gorillas with world authority Spanish primatologist Dr. Magdalena Bermejo – Republic of Congo – 2023; Female Genital Mutilation – Ethiopia – 2023



Congratulations & Thank you

Fr. André Poilievre



In recognition of your Honorary Degree bestowed by the University of Saskatchewan, and in appreciation for your many years dedicated to the children and youth in our communities - serving as an educator, counsellor, and chaplain - and most notably as a beacon of hope in STR8 UP.

A VISION. A DIALOGUE. A WAY FORWARD.

CHAIR IN INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY AND RECONCILIATION

The path of reconciliation is one that must bear the imprints of the footsteps of us all. It will not be a short journey, but one that when we walk together, will create a future where mutual respect, understanding, and inclusivity are the norm.

St. Thomas More College's ongoing commitment to reconciliation and Indigenous engagement has led to the creation of the *Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation*.

The Chair will serve as an important forum for learning and respectful dialogue fostering the reclamation and elevation of Indigenous spirituality. The hope and vision for the Chair is that it will set an example and build a model for implementation across the country.

STM invites individuals and organizations to walk forward on this path with us and to support this vibrant initiative on the path of reconciliation and decolonization.

To find out more about how you can participate in the journey, please contact Kari Sinkewicz, Manager of Development & Alumni Relations, at ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca or 306-966-8918



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Help STM recognize Distinguished Alumni

Let's celebrate their story!

The STM Distinguished Alumni Award is awarded annually to individuals whose life and commitment reflect the values and benefits of the education they received while interacting with the College. They exemplify Saint John Henry Newman's motto as people whose "heart speaks to heart." Up to four awards will be presented annually.

Characteristics of a nominee:

- makes a significant contribution to their community
- continues to celebrate their relationship with St. Thomas More College
- life resonates with the mission of the College
- courageously applies their gifts for the good of humanity

Eligibility:

STM Alumni

- Arts and Science USask Undergraduate degree/certificate holders who were declared as STM as students at the time of Graduation, and/or
- Any USask Undergraduate degree/certificate holders who were active in Newman Programs or another recognized STM student organization during their undergraduate studies as USask.

The honour can now be awarded posthumously. Alumni who are current STM faculty, staff, Alumni Association Committee Members, and past members of the Board of Governors are eligible for this award.

Those who are ineligible include:

- Sitting Politicians
- Members of the Distinguished Alumni Award Committee
- Current members of the STM Board of Governors

The nomination process has been simplified:

You will have the opportunity to provide the name of your nominee, contact information, and a few points that will help us understand why you feel your nominee would be a deserving recipient.

We will add their name to the list of potential candidates and contact you again if we have additional questions.

Based on the nominations received, the committee will identify which candidates will be officially nominated.

The nomination packages will be developed and finalized by the Distinguished Alumni Adjudication committee.

These nominees will be presented to the full STMNAA Committee for approval and then recommended to the College President.

To download a nomination form, please visit the STM College website at: stmcollege.ca/alumni/distinguished-alumni

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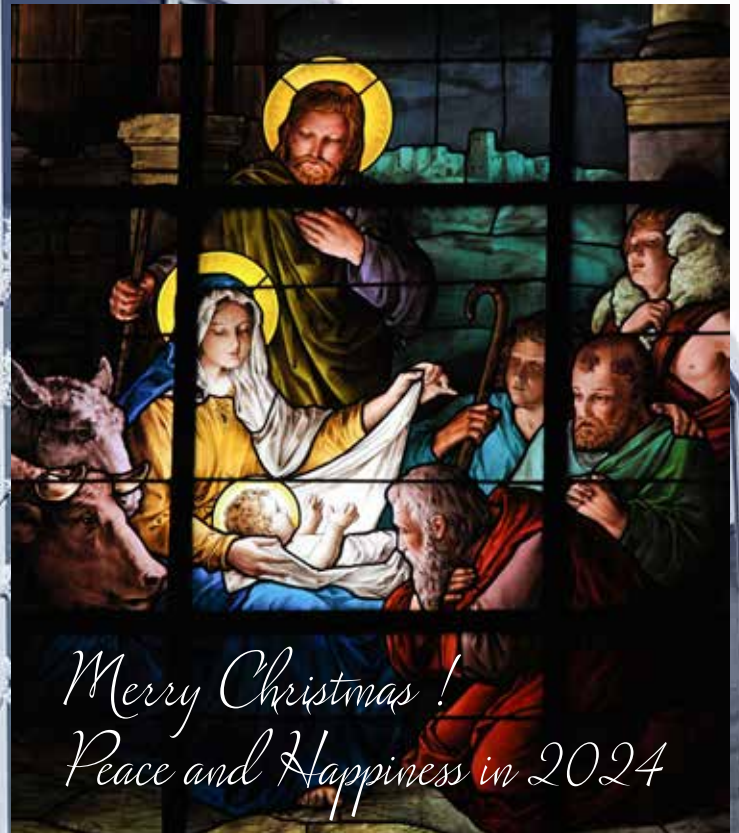
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ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

"All that is good, all that is true, all that is beautiful, all that is beneficent, be it great or small, be it perfect or fragmentary, natural as well as supernatural, moral as well as material, comes from God."
St. John Henry Newman



*Merry Christmas!
Peace and Happiness in 2024*

St. Thomas More College

"Courageously exploring the riches of Revelation and of nature so that the united endeavour of intelligence and faith will enable people to come to the full measure of their humanity" Ex corde ecclesiae, 5

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

Publication Agreement No. 40063294