

# ST. MICHAEL'S

UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ALUMNI MAGAZINE



## Putting Wellness First

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# ST. MICHAEL'S

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*Land Acknowledgement: "We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land."*



## FROM FOUNDERS HOUSE

# Being Human: Finding Hope in Familiar Places

*“To be human means to care for one another!”*

*—Pope Francis, Rome 2013*

**T**RUTH BE TOLD, I’M NOT ONE who usually spends much time quoting the Holy Father, in either my work as a university president, or as a professor of medieval social economic history. Certainly, my children never found it an endearing practice around the dinner table when they were growing up. I am finding lately, however, a particular resonance and consistency in the words of Pope Francis, especially in the midst of the deluge of public discord, misinformation, and violence evident in pretty much every digital and social channel to which I am attuned. As Francis lamented, “...when harmony is broken, a metamorphosis occurs: the person who is to be cared for and loved becomes an adversary to fight, to kill.”

I might add that we are all diminished as a result. The inescapable reality of war in our time, the politics of otherness, and the soul-crushing slaughter of innocents we face today has eroded in no small way my own sense of self, and even questioned my assumptions of what it means to be human. I am hearing the same from colleagues and students here at St. Mike’s, and beyond Clover Hill.

So, where does one find hope in what I sense is a collective desire to rediscover that harmony and our ability to care for others, and to find peace? Well, allow me to be bold enough to suggest that this little corner of campus has always been, and is called anew to be a source of hope and a witness to humanity.

I am hardly the first educator to suggest that the study of the liberal arts is by its very nature a catalyst to understanding our

common humanity. Of course, we can always look to the past (which we do), but we need not rely on just classical thinkers. Just one contemporary voice is that of philosopher Martha Nussbaum who has been arguing for decades that the study of literature, for example, demands that we see the world through the eyes of others, and that the humanities are essential for democracy, civil society, and peace in our time. At St. Mike’s this has always been our educational undertaking—the search for meaning, and an understanding of ourselves and each other.

Closer to home, Professor David Johnson (yes, our former Governor General) invites us to listen to our young people as a way to build intergenerational empathy and understanding. I type this after spending an edifying morning with our own SMCSU student leaders in a frank and honest conversation



about what response is appropriate in the face of the complex troubles in the Middle East. I can assure you that they embody a deep, deep desire to do the right thing, to find practical ways to care for their fellow students and for the innocents who are living and dying in the path of violence. They inspire me, and you would be proud to know that they are thoughtful, responsible leaders in this community. And, of course, they reflect what St. Mike's has always been about: hope. The Basilian Fathers, Loretto Sisters and the Sisters of St. Joseph came to this place in difficult times to teach and heal the most vulnerable. We still claim proudly that 'the University of St. Michael's College is an institution founded—and grounded—in hope'. So it was in 1852, so it remains today.

And still, my thoughts of hope extend beyond our curriculum and our community, and back to Pope Francis, who reminds us that finding peace in troubled times and restoring our ability to understand and care

for others comes not only through study, reflection and good intention:

*"Always, peace is possible! We have to seek it...We are all called to combat every form of slavery and to build fraternity, all of us, each one according to his or her own responsibility.*

*Remember well: peace is possible! And prayer is the very root of peace..."*

—Pope Francis: *World Day of Peace, 2015*

And so at St. Michael's, grounded in hope in these difficult days, we teach, we listen, we act, and yes, we pray. It's what makes us human. ♦

*David G. Sylvester*

*David Sylvester, PhD*

*President and Vice-Chancellor*



## FIRST PERSON

# Remembering Janine Langan

*Being taught to see*



BY STEPHEN TARDIF, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, CHRISTIANITY & CULTURE

**I**N THE WINTER TERM OF my first year of undergraduate studies, I took what was to be the last course taught by Professor Janine Langan before her retirement; even now, I find it difficult to convey the transformative effect of this single, half-credit class. “Christian Symbols II” was, ostensibly, a survey of responses to the Book of Job. For me, though, it was so much more. Taken simply as an itinerary of reading, the course provided a bracing introduction to figures who would exert considerable influence over the rest of my undergraduate studies; the syllabus featured theological and philosophical luminaries of the Catholic intellectual tradition in the 20th-century. To read the likes of Hans Urs von Balthasar, Simone Weil, René Girard, and Jean-Luc Marion, as a first-year student, was to be given a sketch of the night-sky’s constellations that identified fixed stars by which to navigate safely.

This course was also my introduction to Christianity & Culture, the program which Professor Langan co-founded and in which I now have the great privilege to teach. In subsequent years, I would become familiar with professional literary criticism—its history, its scope, and its norms; in this class, however, I witnessed a virtuosic version of this practice that broached what I would later recognize as long-established boundaries. I have never forgotten this early encounter with the tools of my future discipline being turned towards such thrilling, unconventional ends. Instead of training our focus either on text or context—on the beauty of aesthetic objects or on the truth of social realities—our attention was fixed elsewhere. We were

taught to see, in the figures we met from week to week, the beauty of personality. Whether brooding on Job and the nature of evil or offering their own arduously acquired insights into the nature of human suffering, the authors we encountered gave vivid glimpses of achieved selves. And, in doing so, they became so many conduits of intellectual, artistic, and actual grace.

“Christianity and Culture” is T.S. Eliot’s title, but

the phrase itself appears nowhere in the pair of essays that he gathers in that volume. The special charism of the program which now takes this phrase as its name is the exploration of the connection of its pair of terms as they are revealed through the “living stones” (1 Pt 2:5) of the Church and their stories. As they conform themselves to Christ, the figures whom we



study in C&C display, in their lives and works, delicate contours which would have been impossible to fashion without the drama, the pathos, and the hope that the call of the Gospel awakens in a human life.

It was hardly a surprise to find, in the excerpts of Janine Langan's own retrospective on her 37 years of teaching, which were shared by her family at her wake, the perfect articulation of this approach; the Church, in her courses, emerged not as a lifeless collection of exempla, the members of a diverse nation, or even the contributors to a great conversation, a tradition, or a body of knowledge.

The Church was, instead, as she put it, "a sea of radiant faces: Minucius Felix, Gregory of Nyssa, Augustine, Benedict, Cuthbert, Sir Thomas More, Teresa of Avila, Francis de Sales, Vincent de Paul, Pascal, Hopkins, Edith Stein, Dorothy Day, thousands more...and us."

This last point deserves special emphasis: Janine Langan was a vital, vibrant, and iridescent member of the Church; she showed, in her own person, the incredible flourishing which the pregnant word, "vocation," always promises. A partial list of the activities that this retired octogenarian would undertake in her final years would include: introducing her high school students to figures like Boethius, Dostoevsky, and St John Paul II; reading the latest philosophical doorstopper, and convening meetings to discuss it; bringing Christ in the Eucharist to invalids and shut-ins; offering impeccable hospitality to an impossibly wide array of guests and friends; and being the doting, attentive, and inspiring matriarch of a large and beautiful family.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul tells the members of this community that he "received from the Lord what [he] also delivered [to them]" (1 Cor 11:23). In doing so, he reminds them that the gifts they have been given also impose a solemn charge: to live them

fully, and to pass them on to others. This exhortation exquisitely captures the joyful burden of having had an incredible teacher like Janine Langan: while the standard she set is imposing, the energy her memory imparts inspires my own modest attempt to emulate her

“Janine Langan was a vital, vibrant, and iridescent member of the Church; she showed, in her own person, the incredible flourishing which the pregnant word, ‘vocation’ always promises.”

example. As a C&C faculty member, I'm humbled by the opportunity to continue, in a small way, her institutional legacy in the academic program which remains such a gift to me and to so many others as well.

Long before Janine's untimely passing in December of 2021, I had pasted on my wall an ebullient and encouraging message from her which conveyed, at once, her confidence in my career, her pride in my achievement, and an affection which was volcanic, unconditional, and utterly characteristic. Although it was one of the joys of my life to remain in regular contact with Janine during what turned out to be her last years—and I'm now delighted to count members of her family as my friends—she is, for me, not simply a pedagogical inspiration, one whose fading memory slips, year after year, imperceptibly but inescapably, into the gentle, obliterating mists of the past. She is dead—but the dead shall be raised. In the meantime, she is in my prayers and hope that I may always remain in hers. And, after a time, I hope to realize the same beautiful wish which St Thomas More expressed in a letter to his family, shortly before a temporary separation was imposed upon their communal life: "May we one day meet merrily in heaven." ♦

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This is an edited version of a piece posted on [stmikes.utoronto.ca](https://stmikes.utoronto.ca) earlier this year. You can find the whole piece at <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/news/insightout-remembering-mentors>. If you have a St. Mike's memory you'd like to share and want to find out how to submit to [InsightOut](#), please contact: [Catherine Mulroney](mailto:Catherine.Mulroney@utoronto.ca) at [Catherine.Mulroney@utoronto.ca](mailto:Catherine.Mulroney@utoronto.ca)

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# Book & Media Studies: Studying the Impact of Communications on Society

**F**OR 20 YEARS NOW, THE Book & Media Studies program (BMS) at the University of St. Michael's College has been challenging students to analyze the ways in which we express ourselves through different and often evolving forms of communication and to ask how this in turn can influence ways of thinking and being in society.

A key component of BMS over the past two decades has been to delve into the historical, global, and contemporary relationship between meaning and the forms through which a message is communicated or received. In that emphasis, of course, the program continues to develop and explore the famous theories of philosopher, literature scholar, and former St. Michael's professor Marshall McLuhan.

From ancient codices and oral traditions through to electronic and digital media, Book & Media Studies offers an interdisciplinary and historical investigation into the role of printing, books, reading, and electronic and digital media in human communication and understanding. Course offerings include the study of manuscript and book production; book illustration and the relationship between word and image; advertising in different forms; censorship; the history of reading; and the development

of mass media—the advent of radio and the emergence of television, global telecommunications, social media, and the Internet. Course selections include cross-listed classes from St. Mike's College programs in Mediaeval Studies and Christianity & Culture as well as from other departments within the University of Toronto.

Professor Mark McGowan, one of the founders of the program, was new to the Principal's Office in 2002 and spearheaded discussions with many University of Toronto colleagues about creating a program that would foster a critical examination of book history and print culture and an intensive approach to media literacy. The result was Book & Media Studies, one of the four sponsored programs hosted at St. Michael's in conjunction with the University of Toronto.

The program's first round of registration in 2003 saw 19 students register in BMS



*Professor Irene Morra, PhD  
Principal and Vice-President*

as a minor. Today, Book & Media Studies is one of the largest sponsored undergraduate programs in the Humanities at the University of Toronto, with more than 700 students registered in the major, and 117 in the minor.

This year, the program is excited to take advantage of the College's refurbishment and expansion of the Kelly Library Printing Room. With the help of Massey College Printer Kit MacNeil, Interim Chief Librarian James Roussain has transformed the room into a unique teaching space that will provide students with hands-on experience in a series of new academic and experiential courses. Next semester, the program is also honoured to be hosting MacNeil as a guest lecturer in The History of the Book course. As MacNeil notes, the subject of book history is global and ever-evolving as the very understanding of what constitutes a book constantly changes.

Today's reading materials can take the shape of anything from a zine or chapbook to a digital message: "My iPad does not have pages but it can hold a dictionary and all of Proust whereas I can only fit so many volumes of Proust into my backpack," notes MacNeil.

Students in MacNeil's class will be encouraged to ponder the relationship between this changing of form and the ways in which content is understood, created, and received. They will also study the complex history and relationship between the physical and aesthetic qualities of the printed book. Students will study fonts, including non-Roman typefaces, as well as various styles of papermaking, and how ink is made. The printed page has been and continues to be extremely influential in society: MacNeil will also be offering



workshops that teach students how to make their own zines and how to contextualize that practice in the study of the relationship between printing and social history.

Over the years, BMS has had a dedicated group of professors teaching core courses and topics in their areas of expertise. Professor Iris Gildea teaches courses that delve into the critical relationship between history, media forms, and the way that people think about such topics as the environment, social transgressiveness, and trauma; Professor Paolo Granata's expertise ranges from book history through to media theory and the contemporary impact of AI; Professor Felan Parker studies contemporary media industries and the complexities inherent in the study of video games. Some more recent additions to the faculty are adding even more perspectives on the topic: Professor Xianwei Wu specializes in Asian culture and communication; Dr Stacy Reardon exposes students to in-depth study of library resources both physical and electronic; next semester, Professor Giulia Gaimari will be

teaching a course on the Illustrated Dante from manuscript traditions to the contemporary day. In the next academic year, St. Michael's Principal and Professor Irene Morra will be offering courses that focus on constructions of national identity in various media from the plays of Shakespeare to the Beatles, to the BBC.

Author and longtime *Globe & Mail* journalist Michael Valpy, who has taught numerous courses over the years, appreciates the way the program has always responded to emerging issues and to changes in technology. His Media Ethics class, for example, now includes exploring ethical issues relating to Tik Tok, the social media video platform. One of the great pleasures for Valpy has also been interacting with the multicultural and international experience of the students who are in the program. These discussions only underline the extent to which a global educational perspective can help to teach Canadians about ourselves, he adds.

The program has also hosted many big names as visiting instructors: these courses



have responded to and examined how headline-making events are communicated and interpreted in the moment. During U.S. President Donald Trump's term in office, for example, American historian and journalist Sam Tanenhaus taught *Trump and the Media*, which caught the attention of U.S. media outlets, including *Vanity Fair* magazine. Quebecois journalist Emilie Nicolas taught a course examining the impact of the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Jessica Johnson, former editor-in-chief of *The Walrus* magazine, co-designed and co-taught the course #MeToo in the Media with the late Anne Kingston. The winter semester will see Johnson return to teach a pertinent and timely course entitled *The Future of Journalism*.

"If ever there was a time to teach media literacy, this is it," notes McGowan, adding that his assertion has been true as long as the program has been around. The World Wide Web was still in its infancy when the program

was established, he notes, creating a whole new world to navigate, while today's students continue to deal with "a wild west of new media," including the emergence of bots, AI, and misinformation campaigns.

**“If ever there was a time to teach media literacy, this is it.”**

As it continues to respond to world issues and the emergence of new media forms, Book & Media Studies adheres to a firm conviction that the present can only be engaged with and understood through an engagement with the past. This consistent focus on past and present, on the importance of understanding and analysing various forms of communication and their complex and fascinating global history, on experience and practical engagement, speaks yet again to the quality and richness of the academic community at St. Michael's College. ♦



# Putting Wellness First

*St. Mike's finds new ways to ensure good mental health*

FOR ALUMNA EMILY VANBERKUM-FARAHAT, WELLNESS has long been a vocation. Now she is bringing that passion to her alma mater, serving as St. Michael's inaugural Manager of Community Wellness. ¶ As she embraces her new role, one of her goals is to capitalize on the unique nature of St. Michael's. While great health supports exist at the University of Toronto, U of T is so large as to sometimes feel anonymous — and therefore daunting — whereas within the smaller St. Mike's community there is the daily opportunity to build relationships with students, which can make it easier for them to reach out should they need any kind of help.

“St. Mike's is a place to explore customized support, based on student needs,” she says, noting she is looking forward to getting to know a range of students, whether through one-on-one appointments, participation in workshops, or via the various wellness activities her office will hold throughout the year.

“I've always been drawn to helping professions because I want to engage in purposeful work. I deeply value that this role is a relational one, caring for the whole human person,” she says. “I am excited but daunted by this opportunity because it is open-ended. It's both a challenge and an opportunity.”

If VanBerkum-Farahat's name or face is familiar, it's no surprise, as she's had an active and involved presence on campus for 15 years now. She graduated from St. Mike's Christianity & Culture program in 2012, having served as a residence don and on the Campus Ministry team. She then earned a Master of Divinity degree from

St. Michael's Faculty of Theology in 2015. After graduating with her MDiv, she worked at St. Basil's Church as Outreach Coordinator and Director of Pastoral Ministries before being appointed Dean of Residence at Loretto College, a role she held for six years.

(She earned a Master of Social Work degree from the University of





Toronto's Factor Inwentash School of Social Work, earlier this year.)

Describing herself as a wellness navigator, VanBerkum-Farahat sees herself as a guide, ensuring that all who knock on her door are greeted warmly and get connected to the appropriate services. While she will be offering resource navigation appointments herself, she will also oversee a variety of wellness programs and services at St. Mike's.

Community Wellness, she adds, is designed to proactively support wellbeing and safeguard good health. "Resource navigation responds to personalized needs. Sometimes the answer is more straightforward, but if a student is in distress we can help them get the help they need, plugging in to other places," she says.

VanBerkum-Farahat points out that an array of services exists at U of T to support students, from those seeking counselling to those in acute crisis. Rather than try to replicate U of T's offerings, St. Mike's can help its students by making the process of accessing those services clearer and less daunting, and offering supportive

referrals and recommendations, all within the comfort of a known community.

She adds that, today's world, everything from the challenges of social media to the adjustment to a post-pandemic world,

**“I want everyone to find ways to thrive rather than just survive, to help them make the most of their university experience.”**

presents challenges past generations never had to face. One of the most valuable legacies of COVID-19 was the light it shone on mental health issues, and how many young people face struggles. Many of us, she notes, simply had not been aware.

VanBerkum-Farahat supports a stepped care model by directing students to appropriate services according to their urgency. For example, if a student is feeling homesick, she might chat with that student to discover what clubs might be of interest or introduce ways to make social connections. Someone stressed about completing schoolwork might get time management tips or a referral to meet with the embedded learning strategist. But for



students presenting with what could be addiction issues or an eating disorder, for example, she will help students find their way through the supports offered by the University of Toronto, as well as through other local resources in the city.

And she's not alone in her efforts.

"Many of us work together to reinforce wellness," she says, pointing to her colleague Nicole Lacy, a registered psychotherapist, who offers on-site counselling. Together, they have created working relationships with U of T's Health & Wellness Centre, often referring students to this central resource for a wide range of health services, including further counselling, group therapy, nutrition education, and skill-building workshops.

VanBerkum-Farahat is happy to note that the St. Michael's Student Union now has a position of Vice President, Mental Health, and that there is now a Student Wellness Advisory Group, student-run Wellness Council, and 'Talking Circles,' a student group offering peer support. Since Emily was last on campus, thanks to generous donors there is now a beautiful Wellness Studio, which in any given week includes mindful moments yoga, boxing, budo-taijutsu, and drop-in crochet classes — some of the activities designed to offer students a way to wind

down, learn a new skill, exercise, and have some social time.

Her plans include hosting regular events and workshops to talk about health and wellness issues, including the continuation of mandatory suicide prevention training for student leaders and Dons. She'll also work closely with existing St. Mike's supports — from the writing centre to the staff in the Dean of Students' office and Campus Ministry — to provide students with support so that they can contribute to a healthy, fruitful university experience, whether the issue is the need for some study tips or just a desire to hang out with the therapy dogs when they come to campus.

"It's gratifying to see the interest and support on the part of staff," she says, noting that a lunchtime talk in early October on mental health services at U of T and how to navigate them saw 20 staffers attend.

"I want students to understand that change is possible, and that wellbeing is more than the absence of deficits. Some need to know that it is common for students to feel imposter syndrome (a form of anxiety that leads someone to doubt their abilities, often leading to burnout) and I want everyone to find ways to thrive rather than just survive, to help them make the most of their



university experience,” she says.

She also wants the students who come to see her to find a sense of purpose. Although she’s only been in the post a few months, she says she has seen many students asking the big questions, whether it’s “What job will I get?” or “What does my future hold?” or the much deeper, “What is my purpose?”

VanBerkum-Farahat is keen to help students respond to challenges precisely because of the positive experiences she had as a student at St. Mike’s.

“I thrived in undergrad. I had an incredible support system with my professors, peers, and don colleagues. For me, St. Mike’s provided a close-knit community that helped me fully enjoy the undergrad experience, achieve academic success, and grow as a person,” she says.

Student response to the expanded wellness services is enthusiastic.

“As university students we face new challenges, take new responsibilities, and with this we encounter new barriers,” says Wellness Council President Maria Paz de Barros Barreto Scavone. “Having wellness supports on campus to help overcome/bypass such barriers (especially the ones we pose on ourselves) and allow students to find the help they need when going through

this new stage of life.”

The important Community Wellness work that is being done is thanks, in part, to donors who recognize the importance of maintaining a healthy environment that is quick to respond to student needs, says St. Michael’s President David Sylvester.

“We are grateful to our supporters who have given so generously to this important service,” he says, adding, “and we are incredibly fortunate to have Emily serving in this new role. She has the professional and people skills to care for the community while possessing a deep understanding of, and appreciation for, the community in which she is working.”

VanBerkum-Farahat is now dealing with both immediate issues while also planning for the longer term, as wellness services continue to evolve to better meet student needs. At all times, she is mindful of the heart of her role as a conduit for others to gain greater self-awareness.

“I offer recommendations and referrals, but it’s about more than that: it’s about co-identifying solutions based on the other individual’s self-knowledge, and empowering them to take that next step, however it may look. Ultimately, we all benefit from that culture of care.” ♦

# Kelly Library's Collections Grow — and So Does its Audience

**T**HE FACT THAT THE CHAIRS in the John M. Kelly Library frequently need reupholstering makes James Roussain very happy. ¶ It's a sign, says Roussain, the Interim William D. Sharpe Chief Librarian at the Kelly Library, that students are not only making frequent visits and putting the facilities to good use but also that they are making themselves at home.

And there are plenty of exciting developments to draw students in, he notes. A significant recent archival donation has furthered research opportunities for everyone from Church historians through to sinologists, while the arrival this past summer of the Regis College Library collection, now added to the existing theology resources at the Kelly, has created one of the largest theological collections in North America.

Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology students will find the harmonized collection more convenient, allowing them to source books and conduct research under one roof, while also accessing the vast knowledge of Noel McFerran, Kelly's Theology Librarian, who oversees the theological collection.

Theology students will be among those interested in the arrival of approximately 100 linear metres of archival materials from the Scarborough Foreign Mission Society, including photographs, texts, and digital materials. The donation will further the Kelly Library's mission as a key research centre in Canadian Catholic history.

The donated materials document

the work of the Society in pre-Cultural Revolution China, Latin American, the Caribbean, Africa, and Canada. The donation stems from the order's efforts to reposition itself after determining that the SFM would wind down over the coming years, with any vocation inquiries redirected to other communities.

"We already have a number of researchers requesting access to this collection and we haven't yet posted a preliminary finding guide for the Missions," says Simon Rogers, who is archivist for Kelly's Special Collections. "A doctoral researcher in the U.S. and a filmmaker are looking into using these collections to produce new works on the social history of the SFM abroad."

An accompanying financial pledge will support a contract archivist, as well as the purchase of space-efficient shelving to offer improved access to researchers while ensuring the records are stored in a way that ensures their continued preservation.

"The timing of the donation of the SFM archives is very good for both organizations, coming at the end of the SFM activities, and affording us an opportunity

to present that rich history in its entirety to a new audience. It will also help make USMC a go-to destination for serious research into Catholic social history in conjunction with other important new collections like the Canadian Catholic Historical Association papers and the Bernard Daly personal papers," Rogers adds.

"We are delighted that our archives now have a permanent home and are happy to know that the library will take excellent care of our archives. We are even happier to know that our history will be available to researchers and that our photos will be displayed periodically to the public. The Scarborough Foreign Mission Society made a good choice when we placed our archives in the care of St. Michael's," says Fr. David Warren, SFM, Secretary General of the Scarborough Foreign Mission Society.

This donation aligns with the mandate of the library's Special Collections: Archives and Rare Books and complements existing materials within its collections, says Roussain. The Henri J. M. Nouwen Research Archives & Special Collection, for example, also housed at the Kelly Library, is called



upon from researchers from around the world.

Furthering the reputation for Kelly as a key spot for research into Canadian religious communities, the Sisters of Service have also reached an agreement with the University to have their archives relocated to the Library, offering researchers an invaluable view into the Sisters' work with immigrants to Canada, as well as rural communities in Western Canada.

"We want to preserve the past and making documents available to researchers helps in that process," Roussain says.

But the Kelly's work is also very much in the present. Given the library's status as a central hub on campus, there are always moving pieces, notes Roussain. Thanks to the Friends of the Kelly Library (FOTKL), for example, the dedicated volunteers who oversee the annual book sale every year, funds

raised from their efforts helped create the new multi-purpose room on the ground floor, with the rare books formerly housed there moved to with the special collections storage on the second floor of the library.

The new facility, Multipurpose Room 105, includes cutting-edge audio-visual equipment, as well as new flooring, and furniture on wheels so that the room can be set up to accommodate everything from student club meetings and library instruction sessions to presentations by Community Wellness Manager Emily Van Berkum-Farahat.

All the activity means there is always wear and tear of library furniture, says Roussain, offering another round of thanks to the FOTKL for funding the project, adding that re-covering furniture rather than constantly replacing it embraces the university's

commitment to sustainability. Funds from the group's efforts also supported the installation of additional electrical outlets on the second and third floors, as well as additional lighting in key study spots, because as the Facilities Team can attest, our students are always hard at work.

Over the summer, Facilities staff tested the public announcement system in the library because Library staff had noticed students weren't heeding the announcement to let people know that closing time had arrived.

Turns out the issue wasn't the PA system but the reality that today's students are more often than not studying while listening to music, their ear buds and headphones blocking out the noise of the outside world. All while perched, of course, in those comfy, newly upholstered chairs. ♦



*Alumna Sabrina Hyde with student Rayan Awad Alim*

## AMPLify: Bringing Students Together with Alumni Mentors

**F**OR ALUMNA SABRINA HYDE, SERVING as a mentor through St. Michael's new AMPLify program is a great way to give back and reconnect with her alma mater. "I decided to become a mentor because I felt disconnected," Hyde said while attending the AMPLify launch party in early October. "I know I would have appreciated something like this when I was a student. It would have been nice to have someone to talk to about work-related concerns."

Hyde graduated with a BSc (Hons) in immunology and cell and molecular biology in 2017, then completed an MSc in molecular genetics and, finally, earned a master's degree in public policy from the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy at the University of Toronto.

Today, she works as a policy officer for the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. Her path took her in a different direction than she had imagined in first year, a reality that she thinks would be useful for students and recent graduates to hear. She also imagines a place for herself in advising women working

in male-dominated fields.

One of the students Hyde chatted with at the launch party was Rayan Awad Alim, a 3rd-year computer science student who came to the launch because she's considering her options post-graduation and is thinking about doing consulting work.

"I'm here to see what the program is like and what it has to offer," she said. "It seems like a really useful idea."

The response from curious students and mentors "exceeded our expectations," says Karina Stellato, who is Campus Life Coordinator and a member of the team who is behind the project's launch. Since October, there have been 142 mentee registrations, with 61 recent grads, as the program is open to graduates as far back as 2020 and 81 students.

The initial AMPlify meet-and-greet was abuzz with student participants and many of the 56 alumni members who signed up to serve as mentors. Attendees wore colour-coded name tags to make it easier to find others from the same field and interests, allowing students to put faces to interests and taking a bit of the awkwardness out of the initial introduction. An appealing spread of snacks and beverages also helped create a relaxed mood.

What mentors and their pupils are entering into is not the standard experience, says Stellato.

Students have secure access to a protected directory of mentors where they can see career details and watch brief introductory videos. Mentors and students are not matched up in advance but students are encouraged to connect via email or LinkedIn to any number of people on the roster, Stellato says. This broadens students' choice and allows them to reach out for a variety of reasons. While some

will want to speak with someone directly employed in the student's chosen field, mentees may also want to connect with a mentor who built a career far from home, or even to someone who graduated without knowing exactly what their career path would be.

Mentors, who have between five and 15

“I’m here to see what the program is like and what it has to offer. It seems like a really useful idea.”

years' experience, work in a broad variety of fields, including those that fall under STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education), teaching, law, consulting and various roles in the civil service.

From the mentor perspective, meetings are intended to be casual — a quick coffee, perhaps, or an exchange over LinkedIn — rather than a formal schedule of meetings, and email advice is happily welcomed. Should mentors find themselves receiving more requests than their schedule allows, they have the option of having their names hidden on the secure list, being added back as time allows.

There are plans to expand the program as it settles into place, Stellato says, and there will be other social events planned throughout the year to allow students and mentors to get together as a group.

*St. Michael's Magazine* plans to check in with participants throughout the year to offer a sense of this exciting new program and how it is panning out. Should you wish to become involved, please check [stmikes.utoronto.ca](http://stmikes.utoronto.ca) in June, when we'll be accepting a new cohort of volunteers. ♦



## CAMPUS NOTES

# News from St. Mike's

*There's always something happening at St. Mike's. Social events, lectures, ceremonies — never miss out on life at your alma mater. Check the calendar on our home page at [stmikes.utoronto.ca](http://stmikes.utoronto.ca) to keep on top of everything that's coming up.*

### **Pomp, Circumstance — and Congratulations**

Congratulations to all 142 students eligible to participate in the Fall Arts & Science convocation, as well as to all who took part in the University of St. Michael's College convocation for the Faculty of Theology and Continuing Education. At the latter, Archbishop Donald Bolan of Regina and Profs. Ann Hutchison and James Carley, distinguished scholars from the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, all received honorary degrees. Archbishop Bolan also delivered the convocation address. At the event, Roland Bertin, a founding member of St. Michael's Investment Committee, was named an Honorary Fellow. ♦



*Convocation award winners, Nov. 2023*





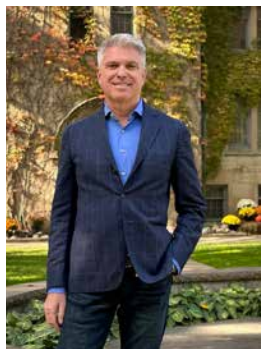
## Orientation a Big Hit

From attending the traditional Invocation through to winning the annual bed race – ahem, again! – St. Mike’s packed Orientation festivities with lots of learning and tons of fun. Shared meals and social time helped forge introductions that will lead to life-long friendships, while the informative sessions planned by staff and our amazing student Orientation team mean our students are well launched into life at St. Mike’s. More than 970 incoming students attended Orientation, with 150 upper-year students serving as leaders, marshals, mentors, and coordinators.

While the tone was a little different at the Regis St. Michael’s Faculty of Theology, it had similar results, with students able to gain key details about life at the faculty while being introduced to the people they will study alongside. ♦

## Celebrating Michaelmas

September 29th is the feast day of St. Michael, our patron saint, and so the campus was particularly alive with festivities as we marked Michaelmas. After an academic procession and the 12:10 Mass at St. Basil’s, events moved outside, with food trucks, cake, and games. Later in the day, the COOP was home to a magic show, and then St. Michael’s Schola Cantorum performed a concert in St. Basil’s. ♦



## New Director of Continuing Ed

**Michael Salvatori** (SMC 8T9), a career educator and author with extensive experience in university administration and teaching as well as at the secondary and primary school levels, has joined the University of St. Michael's College as the new Director of Continuing Education.

As Director, Dr. Salvatori will lead the renewal and expansion of the University's Continuing Education division. While overseeing existing programs such as the Diploma in Social Responsibility & Sustainability and the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Certification, he will also design, deliver, and administer new non-degree courses, workshops, and other learning opportunities for a broad audience of adult learners, including Catholic teachers.

"I look forward to the opportunities to enhance St. Mike's role in providing meaningful, engaging, and contemporary ongoing learning opportunities for students, alumni, and the greater community," he says. ♦



## Ciao Roma!

An innovative new course from the Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology, *Catholic Perspectives on the Ecumenical and Interreligious Movements*, saw students travel to Rome this past summer to focus on a theological and historical overview of the issues that divide Christians, as well as the bonds that unite them. During the course, students engaged with experts from the Angelicum and other Roman universities, as well as from the Vatican's Dicastery for Inter-Religious Dialogue. Costs were generously supported by the Driscoll fund, donor money earmarked for the study of ecumenism. ♦

## Drs. Browne, DeGagné, Join St. Mike's Collegium

The University of St. Michael's College is pleased to welcome **Dr. Brendan Browne** and **Dr. Mike DeGagné** to the Collegium, the University's governing board. Dr. Browne currently serves as Director and CEO of the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), while Dr. DeGagné is the President and CEO of Indspire, the national organization which supports Indigenous post-secondary students and recognizes Indigenous excellence through the annual Indspire Awards. "Dr. Browne and Dr. DeGagné bring exceptional governance and educational experience to the Collegium and will help St. Mike's advance two strategic priorities: how the University can engage fruitfully in the journey of Reconciliation and how best to leverage our position as a leader in Catholic education to serve teachers, school administrators and the community," President David Sylvester said. ♦

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TCDSB AND INDSPIRE



*Brendan Browne,  
Director and CEO,  
TCDSB*



*Mike DeGagné,  
President and CEO,  
Indspire*



## Chief Delorme Visits Campus

**Chief Cadmus Delorme**, former Chief of Cowessess First Nation, spent a day with the University of St. Michael's College community in September for a series of events, delivering a message of hope regarding

ways to participate in the journey toward Reconciliation. But, he cautioned, "Reconciliation can only come from uncomfortable conversations."

Delorme, a Cree and Salteaux who now serves as the Board Chair at the University of Regina, spoke with students, faculty, alumni, collegium members, and staff about the role universities can play in helping to heal the scars left by residential schools. He also spoke of ways individuals can engage with the 94 Calls to Action included in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 2015 report in response to the legacy of residential schools.

"We all inherited this moment," he said during an evening lecture. He noted that while today's Canadians did not create the residential school system, for example, or participate in the Sixties Scoop, which saw Indigenous children taken from their homes to be adopted by non-Indigenous families, we have inherited the responsibility to go forward in search of the truth. ♦



### A New Book for Prof. McGowan

Congratulations to Prof. Mark McGowan on the successful launch of his latest book, *Hunger & Hope: The Irish Famine Migration from Strokestown, Roscommon in 1847*. Dr. McGowan is seen here with former Celtic Studies program student researchers Chiara Fallone, Elizabeth McDermott, and Julia Maher. ♦

### A Year of Honours for Prof. Wilson

Celtic Studies Prof. David Wilson was awarded the 2022 C.P. Stacey Award for best book in Canadian military history and the Floyd S. Chalmers Award in Ontario History by the Champlain Society for his latest book, *Canadian Spy Story: Irish Revolutionaries and the Secret Police*. This past summer he was named the Thomas D'Arcy McGee Ireland and Canada Person of the Year 2023 and received his award at the Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School in County Louth, Ireland. ♦



PHOTO: PATRICK SPEIGHT

#### LIVES LIVED

### Remembering Prof. Mariel O'Neill-Karch



The University of St. Michael's College mourns the loss of Prof. Mariel O'Neill-Karch, a treasured professor and colleague. An alumna of SMC, she became a professor in the College's French Department before joining the French Department at the Faculty of Arts & Science. Dr. O'Neill-Karch, who

died October 29, was appointed Acting Principal for the 1997-1998 academic year.

As former colleague Prof. Mark McGowan recalls, "Her brief tenure in the office witnessed the appointment of many new fellows, the implementation of the SMC College Review, the creation of the annual SMC Symposium, and the overhaul of the awards system. Her activity caught the eye of Dean Amrhein who appointed her Vice-Dean. Later she would serve two terms as the beloved Principal of Woodsworth College. She helped streamline the U of T Convocation ceremony and was a leader within the Principal's group. When she retired, USMC bestowed upon her an Honorary Doctor of the University degree in 2007, the first to receive the University's newest honour."

PHOTO COURTESY OF WOODSWORTH COLLEGE

A tribute from longtime colleague Prof. Yves Roberge was read at her memorial service, citing everything from her "specialization in French Literature and culture with a very special emphasis on Quebec and Franco-Ontarian theatre" through to her generous donation of what is now the O'Neill-Karch Collection housed at Kelly Library, which stands as an important source for research in 19th century French literature.

Colleague and friend Prof. Janet Paterson said in a tribute that "what is striking about Mariel's career is that she was so successful in many different fields – teaching, research, administration, in the Department of French, the Faculty of Arts and Science and at Woodsworth College. Her contribution to the university was enormous."

Her gifts, however, reached far beyond the realms of the classroom and administrative offices, though. As Prof. Paterson added, "If Mariel inspired me by her wonderful personality and her remarkable professional accomplishments, she also personified for me the concept of living well, living a full and joyful life."

The University of St. Michael's College sends its condolences to Dr. O'Neill-Karch's husband, Prof. Pierre Paul Karch, and to her family, friends and colleagues. ♦



### Learning About Ministry with Migrants

St. Mike's joined with its Cloverhill Collective colleagues on Nov. 2 to host an evening with Sr. Norma Pimental, MJ to listen to her stories of working with migrants on the U.S.-Mexico border. ♦



### Poet Michael O'Siadhail Offers a Reading

St. Mike's Celtic Studies program is always a warm and welcoming host. This past September we had the delight of welcoming award-winning Irish poet Michael O'Siadhail (seen here with Professor Emerita Anne Dooley and with his rapt audience) to the Basilian Common Room, where he offered an engaging talk, read some of his work, and fielded questions. ♦

### Visiting Our Rochester Alumni

We had a great time hosting an alumni reception in Rochester in early November, where we got caught up with many old friends. President Sylvester and Lisa Gleva, our Executive Director of Advancement, updated the crowd on all the exciting developments at their home away from home. ♦



### AI4W Group Holds Visioning Session

A group of enthusiastic alumnae and staff gathered at Loretto College in November for a visioning session with the Alumnae Initiative for Women (AI4W) group. Many great ideas were discussed on the topic of creating dedicated spaces for women on campus. Stay tuned this winter and spring for more news from AI4W as the group grows and the ideas continue to flow. ♦



### The Kelly Library Book Sale

This year's book sale, organized and hosted by the Friends of the Kelly Library, grossed \$45,000, an amount topped only by the proceeds from the 2019 sale.

The highly anticipated annual event made the most of all the space in the Kelly Café, lining table after table with books, movies, and music, while Room 105 housed an enticing array of special books.

St. Mike's is extremely grateful for all the work the Friends of the Kelly Library do. If you would like to get involved, visit [library.stmikes.utoronto.ca/about/friends/](http://library.stmikes.utoronto.ca/about/friends/) or email [kelly.friends@utoronto.ca](mailto:kelly.friends@utoronto.ca) ♦



### The 2023 USMC Golf Classic

The 2023 USMC Golf Classic, held on Sept. 20 at the beautiful Eagles Nest Golf Club in Maple, Ont., raised more than \$55,000. The USMC Golf Classic supports the President's Excellence Fund, allowing St. Mike's to invest in projects from renovations and upgrades to improve student experience and reduce our carbon footprint through to scholarships that recognize excellence, bursaries that support acute

financial need, and areas such as wellness counselling and a renewed campus ministry program. Since its inception, the tournament has raised around \$2.6 million. We thank everyone who made the Golf Classic such a success. ♦



*The St. Michael's community is alive  
with the joy of the Christmas season.  
Wishing you peace and happiness  
today and in the New Year.*



## Rest In Peace

*We acknowledge the passing in recent months of the following alumni,  
who graduated from St. Michael's in the class years shown here.*

### 1940s

Bennett, Rev. Christopher J. SMC 4T7  
Davis, Dame Marjorie SMC 4T9  
Dugo, Rev. Lawrence Joseph SMC 4T4  
Dugo, Vincent SMC 4T4  
Keating, Mary J. SMC 4T9  
Smith, Allen John SMC 4T4  
Webster, Edward W. SMC 4T5

### 1950s

Bean, Rev. Gordon Alva SMC 5T1  
Boulet, Gerald F. SMC 5T1  
Broadhurst (née Spence), Arden  
SMC 5T4  
Coleman, Gordon SMC 5T8  
Day, The Honourable Gerald Francis  
SMC 5T6  
Mathers, John F. SMC 5T5  
O'Donoghue, Paul H. SMC 5T2  
Oldaker (née Quinn), Patricia SMC 5T0  
Rovazzi, Luigi SMC 5T3  
Thorn, Carol A. SMC 5T8  
Young, William A. P. SMC 5T9

### 1960s

Breen, Mary J. SMC 6T6  
Craigen (née Lemieux),  
Geraldine Marie SMC 6T3  
Fuerst, Tom SMC 6T9  
Gallo, Victor SMC 6T6  
MacDonald, Marie SMC 6T1  
MacNamara CSJ, Sister Marie SMC  
6T9, USMC 7T4  
McGivney, John A. SMC 6T1  
Mitchell, William H. SMC 6T4  
Oggero CSB, Rev. Roy Joseph  
SMC 6T1  
O'Neill-Karch, Prof. Mariel SMC 6T2

### 1970s

Cull, Peter SMC 7T5  
Gallagher, Pauline SMC 7T4  
Hodson, Henry H. SMC 7T7  
Mackiw, Christine I. SMC 7T4  
Martial, Paul Jean SMC 7T5  
Rippon, Norm E. SMC 7T5  
Shanly (née Halloran), Margaret Anne  
SMC 7T4

Sibbald CSJ, Sister Mary SMC 7T8,  
USMC 8T8  
Ziegler, Ph.D., John Joseph USMC 7T5

### 1980s

Chinchar, Rev. Gerald "Jerry"  
USMC 8T2  
Dashney, Kevin J. SMC 8T0  
De Angelis, Bishop Nichola USMC 8T0  
Wright, Howard A. SMC 8T3

### 2000s

Donegan, Lawrence SMC 0T9

### 2010s

Mahdi, Khalid SMC 1T3

### Friends

Candido, Robert G. U of T 7T4 ♦

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*To share an update please  
contact 416-926-2331 or  
[smc.alumni@affairs@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.alumni@affairs@utoronto.ca)*



## BULLETIN BOARD

# Keeping up to Date with our Alumni

*News from Alumni and Friends*



**Victor Dodig (SMC 8T8)**, President & CEO of CIBC, received the **2023 Rotman Lifetime Achievement Award** recently. Rotman's award recognizes a seasoned graduate's significant contribution to their organization, industry, and community. Victor was joined by President David Sylvester (pictured here together) at the Reunite at Rotman ceremony, where President Sylvester was one of Victor's tribute speakers for the award ceremony.



In October, **Anne and Charlie Campisi (SMC 7T7)** and **(SMC 7T8)** brought their family back to campus to celebrate Charlie's 70th birthday. Anne planned a special day for Charlie, which included stops at places that have been meaningful in his life. One important stop was St. Mike's. The family checked out the campus and Charlie and Anne even recreated their wedding photo on the steps of St. Basil's, this time with their children. They had lunch in the Canada Room, including birthday cupcakes for dessert. Charlie, Anne, and family were greeted by Dean Duane Rendle, President Sylvester, and members of the Advancement team.

Congratulations to **Denis Stokes (SMC 7T9)** on publishing two collections of poetry with Scarlet Leaf Press. *Tunnel Jumping* explores Scarborough origins, experiences while growing up in Toronto, especially involving work in the subways. It is rich with elegies for fathers, grandmothers, aunts, and friends. There is a sequence drawing from a trip to Africa.



**Ray Shady (SMC 7T1)** met up with fellow SMC grad **Bob Roney (SMC 6T9)** for a round of fall golf. The two hit the links on a beautiful day and sported their SMC pride, as seen here by their caps!

**Kim Richard Nossal (SMC 7T2)**, professor emeritus of political studies at Queen's University, has published *Canada Alone: Navigating the Post-American World*, an exploration of the implications for Canadians of a Republican victory in the 2024 presidential elections.

**MK Brennan (SMC 7T5)** has been busy over the past three years. She's

been able to co-edit two anthologies with poems and art from individuals around the world. Proceeds from the books are donated to the Trussell Trust in the UK and Music4All. She's also written three books of her own poetry in a series titled *Ramblings Through Time*. Proceeds from these books are donated to Annunciation House in El Paso, TX. A second series is now in the works.

**Sister Patricia A. Smith (RSM, USMC 7T7)** gave the commencement address at the Mercy High School commencement in June 2023. It marked the 60th commencement exercise for the girls' high school in Baltimore, Maryland, where Sister Patricia became a faculty member in 1962. Sister Patricia is a respected theologian, leader, and teacher, earning her doctorate at St. Michael's Faculty of Theology in 1977.

**BULLETIN BOARD**



**Stephen O'Sullivan (USMC 1T7)** became the new Director of Education for the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board in August. O'Sullivan has been a Catholic educator for 23 years and earned his Master of Religious Education degree at St. Michael's Faculty of Theology. The school board oversees 30 elementary and six secondary schools, educating around 15,000 students across the City and County of Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland County, and Clarington.

Although mostly referenced in Canada, *The Blackstock Children* engages especially with Ireland. These are a wide-ranging set of poems of first encounters, ancestral grace and wound, meditations upon child poverty through the experience of Dickens composing *A Christmas Carol*, explorations of grief and spirituality. But there's room for some *craic*.

In both books, the echoes and influences of many St Michael's masters can be overheard... J.M Cameron, Fred Flahiff, Julie Riebetanz, Frances Nims, Dave Belyea...O'Driscoll, Meagher, O'Connor... The list is almost endless. The gratitude is palpable and, in some cases, acknowledged. It would be wonderful to hear from fellow scholars "more worthy than him" at [deniss@nipissingu.ca](mailto:deniss@nipissingu.ca)



**Kevin Crowley (SMC 8T4)** has published a novel called *Sir Middling U*, a satire about contemporary campus culture. Kevin will soon be retiring

from a career in journalism and corporate communications. He and his wife Catherine plan to relocate from Ontario to the Gulf Islands, B.C.



Proud mother and former Member of Parliament for Mississauga South (2011-2015)

**Stella Ciccolini Ambler (SMC 8T9)** dropped off

her son and fellow St. Mike's grad, **Ben Ambler SMC (2T1)** at the University of New Brunswick's law

school this past summer. Ben began his law studies in Sept. 2023.

**Alisa Carli (SMC 9T0)** was ranked one of Canada's Top Wealth Advisors in the *Globe & Mail's* ranking for 2023. Carli is the co-leader of the Kubicek Carli Wealth Management Group with BMO Nesbitt Burns and has been in the financial services industry since 1990. Carli graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1990 and lives in Toronto.

**Dr. Antonio Calcagno (SMC 9T2)** has been named to the Royal Society of Canada. Being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in the Academy of the Arts and Humanities means Dr. Calcagno, a professor of Philosophy at King's College, is recognized as one of Canada's top scholars. It's another achievement in his impressive academic career. Specializing in social and political theory, Dr. Calcagno has authored five books, edited seventeen books, and published more than 100 articles.

**Dr. Francesca La Marca (SMC 9T8)** was elected in Sept. 2022 to the Italian Senate. She holds the seat for North and Central America, as Italy holds constituencies abroad. Dr. La Marca studied Italian, French, and Philosophy during her undergraduate degree before going on to complete an MA and Ph.D. at U of T in French.



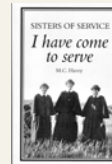
**Grace Ji-Sun Kim (USMC 0T1)** is celebrating several 22nd anniversaries. It's the 22nd anniversary of earning her PhD, she's recently published her 22nd book, and her daughter recently turned 22! Her daughter Lizzy is

pictured here with Grace's 22nd book, *Christianity in North America*.



**Justin Jalea (SMC 0T7)** and soprano Megan Chartrand were married on July 17, 2023, at Église Saint-Zotique in Montreal. They had been engaged since

2019 but the couple decided to wait out the pandemic so they could celebrate with family and friends unmasked. A 36-voice choir of their friends sang gloriously at the ceremony, which was followed by dinner and dancing at Place des Arts.



**M.C. Havey (SMC 7T1)** is the author of *Sisters of Service: I have come to serve*, a history of a

community of untraditional women religious missionaries, founded in 1922. With a mandate as the Church's presence among the immigrants in Canada, the sisters adapted their way of life to the circumstances and the people among whom they lived and worked. The sisters' non-monastic lifestyle and unconventional methods were unique and trailblazing in immigration services, teaching, nursing and social work. In June 2023, M.C. Havey received the Edward J.R. Jackman Award for Distinguished Service from the Canadian Catholic Historical Association.

**LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!**

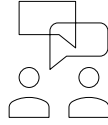


**What's new? We'd love to hear about you!**

Send your updates to [smc.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.alumni@utoronto.ca)  
High-res photos are encouraged.



**Have you moved?** Update your information through U of T's address update form.



## FROM ST. MIKE'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# Meet the New Alumni Board



BY DR. MARIA GALLO, PRESIDENT, USMC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**A**FTER A YEAR OF BOARD renewal, I am thrilled to present your new St. Mike's Alumni Board. These impressive members span seven decades and various locations, experiences, and St. Mike's connections. ¶ Our ambitious vision is: To enable alumni to nurture a lifelong, meaningful connection with St. Mike's and with fellow alumni, students, and the wider USMC community.

We all share a special St Mike's experience. Are you ready to meet old St. Mike's friends (and make new friends!)? Curious about developments on campus? Reconnection is a way to promote wellness, inspire the next generation, and have fun too!

Save the date! Alumni Reunion — Wednesday May 29th to Sunday June 2nd 2024: celebrating graduates of 5T4, 5T9, 6T4, 6T9, 7T4, 7T9, 8T4, 8T9, 9T4, 9T9, 0T4, 0T9, 1T4, 1T9 with events open to all alumni.

Let's make this the best reunion yet! We want to set a new standard for College reunions focused on your interests!

Planning is in full swing, including an

80s/90s St. Mike's Pub, stimulating lectures, honoured years events, and more! Do you have ideas for Reunion? Contact Larry Cimino 7T3 Alumni Reunion Committee Chair [ciminolc@gmail.com](mailto:ciminolc@gmail.com)

Your challenge: Can you help us to reach more of the St. Mike's community? Encourage your St. Mike's friends to update their details—[address.update@utoronto.ca](mailto:address.update@utoronto.ca) — to reconnect with the College.

See you at Alumni Reunion next May!

Do you have ideas to build alumni connection? Contact me at [m.gallo@alumni.utoronto.ca](mailto:m.gallo@alumni.utoronto.ca) or book a time for an online meeting — let's explore! Hoikety Choik on C! ♦



## Meet Your Alumni Board Reps

This year brings us an embarrassment of riches with our alumni board. To read more about each board Member, including incredible accomplishments, awards and updates, please visit [stmikes.utoronto.ca/alumni/alumni-board](http://stmikes.utoronto.ca/alumni/alumni-board).



**Dr. Maria Gallo, 9T8**  
President of the Alumni Association, Alumni Board Chair, Member of all Board Committees



**Karen Chambers, 8T8**  
Past President, Alumni Awards Committee Member



**Dr. Elizabeth Paupst, 9T2**  
Service Liaison, Alumni Reunion Committee Member



**Alessia Colevecchia, 1T8**  
YAC Vice-Chair, Alumni Board Member, Alumni Reunion Committee Member



**Michael Kelly, 1T5**  
Board Member, YAC Member, Alumni Awards Committee Member



**Claudia Jiang, 1T7**  
Board Member, YAC Member, Alumni Awards Committee Member



**Justin Jalea, 0T7**  
Board Member, Alumni Awards



**Jesse Mitsopoulos, 1T7**  
Board Member, YAC Member, Alumni Awards Committee Member



**Katherine Pulella, 1T8**  
Board Member, YAC Chair, Chair – Alumni Awards Committee Member



**Cesare Plastina, 0T9**  
Board Member, Alumni Awards Committee Member



**Matthew McGuire, 9T7**  
Board Member, Nominations Committee Member



**Alistair Vaz, 0T6**  
Board Member, Chair – Nominations Committee



**Giulio Fazzolari, 1T4**  
Board Member, Nominations Committee Member



**Larry Cimino, 7T3**  
Board Member, Chair – Alumni Reunion Committee



**Stephanie Orange, 6T2**  
Board Member, Alumni Reunion Committee Member



**Chris Wheeler, 8T7**  
Board Member, Alumni Reunion Committee Member



## HONOURS

# Fr. Robert Madden, CSB, Leadership Awards

*Celebrating the academic and extracurricular  
achievements of the Class of 2022*

FATHER ROBERT MADDEN WAS A MUCH-ADMIRER PROFESSOR, chaplain and rector at St Mike's who served as the Director of Alumni Affairs in his retirement. The Father Robert Madden Leadership Awards are presented to students who have made significant contributions to the University of St. Michael's College community by demonstrating leadership, cooperation, and solidarity in student-run organizations or community endeavours. Here are the recipients of this year's Fr. Robert Madden, CSB Leadership Awards. ♦



**Roxanne Atindehou**

**Alessia Baptista**

**Shameel Chankar**

**Evangeline Cowie**

**Alessia DeBattista**

**Sajal Mohsin**

**Daniella Morrone**

**George Nader**

**Sophia Poulimenakos**

# Arbor Winners Announced



*Congratulations to our newest  
Arbor Award winners*

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S College is delighted to announce that three members of our alumni community have been named Arbor Award recipients. The award is the highest honour granted to volunteers by the University of Toronto. The awards will be presented on January 16, 2024. ♦



**Sister Mary Anne McCarthy**

Sister Mary Anne has served as a representative of the Sisters of St. Joseph on the St. Michael's Collegium and has brought her decades of experience in leadership and mission work to the St. Michael's strategic planning process. Her input on St. Michael's new Mission, Vision, and Values, which were approved in 2021, has helped steer St. Michael's sponsored University of Toronto programs towards sustainability and the common good. Sister Mary Anne has been an emblematic part of the living legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph at the University.



**John Kostoff**

Over the past seven years, John has shared his experience as a Catholic educator with the University of St. Michael's College. His expert review of St. Michael's Division of Continuing Education in 2016 has helped form the foundation of the revitalization of the division itself. John has been an invaluable member of the St. Michael's Collegium, serving as a board member representing Catholic educators. John has notably brought St. Michael's College and the University of Toronto into direct conversation with the University's alumni and future students.



**Edward Unger**

From 2019 through 2023 Ed served as an integral member of the Investment Committee of the University of St. Michael's College. His experience in the Financial Services industry provided insight to help us grow our endowment over the years within a volatile economy. His work on the committee included addressing our endowment's social impact and helping us in balancing our returns with our focus on environmental, sustainable and governance (ESG) issues.



## FROM ALUMNI & ADVANCEMENT

# Your Gifts Offer a Promising Future

*Philanthropy and the St. Mike's community*



BY LISA GLEVA, CFRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADVANCEMENT

**W**E ARE TRULY HONORED TO have you as partners in our mission and we celebrate the tremendous impact you continue to have on life at St. Mike's. Grounded in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and committed to the education of the whole person, the University of St. Michael's College challenges all its members to exercise transformative leadership in service of the common good and care of all creation.

Donors and alumni are integral to our mission as we prepare students holistically, developing the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and change-makers who understand their place in the world and their responsibility to others.

This is what sets St. Mike's apart. We support the health of our students' minds, bodies, and spirit, providing conditions that allow students to thrive in all aspects of their university experience, thus helping them develop skills that will last a lifetime.

Our work together emphasizes the importance of service to others, and your generosity has a ripple effect, inspiring others within our university community to become involved in our shared pursuit.

Our heartfelt thanks for your exceptional generosity and your commitment to St. Mike's. Your gifts celebrate a very special past and provide a promising future.

Thank you. ♦





## University of St. Michael's College

# Donor Report 2022–2023

*We are filled with gratitude for the loyalty and generosity of St. Michael's alumni and friends*

**S**T. MIKE'S MAKES A LASTING IMPRESSION. We hear that frequently from alumni who remember extraordinary professors and classes, helpful support staff, and lifelong friendships that began in the quad, in the COOP, or in the classroom. Your memories mean a great deal as they remind us of the impact of the St. Mike's experience. Each and every gift to St. Michael's helps us continue to create exceptional and innovative programming while offering students the support they need to excel. We are filled with gratitude for the loyalty and generosity of St. Michael's alumni and friends. ♦

### \$1 MILLION + (CUMULATIVE LIFETIME GIVING)

*We acknowledge with gratitude the following donors, who have donated \$1 million or more to the University of St. Michael's College. Their generosity & extraordinary commitment is deeply appreciated.*

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*Continues to the "Chancellor's Club" and "Vice-Chancellor's Club" on page 36*

### ANNUAL GIVING BY GRADUATING YEARS

*We are grateful to all the alumni listed here. These gifts, which honour their years on campus, mean a great deal to the St. Mike's community – especially to today's students who benefit from your generosity.*

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“As a first-generation student, being granted admission to the University of Toronto was a dream come true but also nearly unimaginable due to our financial situation. My continued and future education could not be possible without financial support from donors such as yourselves, and now thanks to your generous donation, I can focus on my studies to reach my goals for the future.”

— *St. Michael's Student*

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—Friends of the John M. Kelly Library

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2022/23 FISCAL YEAR

*Generous gifts received each year from members of the Chancellor’s & Vice-Chancellor’s Clubs are vital to advancing priority programs and projects at the University of St. Michael’s College. We thank the following leadership donors most sincerely for their loyalty and generosity.*

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*Continues to the  
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“Your kindness and generosity have not gone unnoticed and I promise to work hard and make the most of this opportunity. I hope that one day I will be able to help others achieve their goals, just as you have helped me.”

— *St. Michael's Student*

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“SMC welcomed me into an active intellectual community that was both challenging and nurturing. I loved the collegial atmosphere and the warm relationships with faculty and other students. I donate to the College to assist young women who will, hopefully, benefit as I did from Saint Mike’s supportive environment.”

—Anne McClure (SMC 6T8), Chancellor’s Club

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*Continues to the  
“Vice-Chancellor’s Club”  
on page 40*



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“I cannot stress enough how grateful I am for your assistance. Your donation has not only provided me with financial aid, but it has also given me a renewed sense of motivation and confidence in my academic pursuits.”

— *St. Michael's Student*

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— Linda Knowles, USMC Friend and Heritage Society Member

For more information or to donate to this bursary, please visit <https://www.csr-stmikes.ca/news/ron-knowles-bursary-award-announced>

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—Emily VanBerkum-Farabat (SMC 1T2, USMC 1T5)

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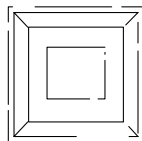
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## THE DONOVAN COLLECTION

# Leave to Me Your Memories



BY FR. DANIEL DONOVAN

**L**EAVE TO ME YOUR MEMORIES, this, the eighth work by Meryl McMaster to be included in the Donovan Collection at USMC, speaks volumes about Meryl's life and art and about the situation of many Indigenous people at present in Canada and elsewhere.

All eight works deal with the question of identity and, more specifically, with the Cree identity which is hers through her father. The older women behind Meryl are her grandmother, her great grandmother, and her great, great grandmother. They embody a rich and complex heritage which Meryl has increasingly made her own.

The present work is different from earlier ones, which are almost always of Meryl in a costume which she has created for herself and in a landscape which evokes Indigenous peoples who have lived on it. The title of the piece as well as the striking image that Meryl has brought together of the three women relate her to the history of her people. They stand as guardians and models whose responsibility it is to pass on what

they have received and developed to Meryl and through her and her children to future generations.

The nest-like crown on Meryl's head and the egg in the elongated pipe she is holding relate the broader question of heritage to Meryl and to the fact that at the time she was working on this series of images, she was pregnant with her second child.

The title of the work assures the women that Meryl is committed to responding in creative and imaginative ways to what she has received from them and from the peoples they represent. The juxtaposition of Meryl and the remarkable chorus of grandmothers that surrounds her invites us to reflect on Meryl's experience and its broader implications for her and for all Canadians. ♦

*An endowment fund has been established to generate funds that will support the ongoing care and maintenance of The Donovan Collection. To contribute, contact the Advancement Office at (416) 926-7281*

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“Knowing that St. Mike’s donors are giving back to a community that once nurtured them inspires me to one day be able to do the same.”

— Yusuf Durmus, BCom, SMC 2T4

Financial support from a bursary and compassionate encouragement during the pandemic ignited Yusuf’s determination to support St. Mike’s and represent his fellow students by becoming the Vice President of the St. Michael’s College Student Union.

As a learner at an institution that educates the whole person – physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually – Yusuf’s dreams have come into sharp focus.

Inspired by the generosity of St. Michael’s alumni and friends, Yusuf aims to give back to the community that’s supported him during his journey at St. Mike’s.

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