

FALL 2025/WINTER 2026

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ST. MICHAEL'S

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



Family Roots Run Deep at St. Mike's

Families of Many St. Mike's Grads Go Back Generations



We Couldn't Do it Without You

Thank You!

We would like to express our gratitude to the alumni, donors and sponsors who helped make the 2025 USMC Golf Classic such a success and raised almost \$100,000 for the President's Excellence Fund. One of the best parts of this tournament is how it brings people together, creating connections that carry forward into so many good things.

Congratulations to Ferdinand Hamati, Daniel Hamati, Graydon Joyner, and Mathieu Tanguay, who claimed St. Mike's Golf Classic Cup. Congratulations also go to Graydon Joyner for Longest Drive Men, George Slinko for Closest to the Pin Men, Jacqueline De Gagné for Longest Drive Women and Danielle Bernard for Closest to the Pin Women.



Enjoy event day photos by visiting the SMC Alumni Affairs Flickr account. <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCveuA>



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ST. MICHAEL'S

The University of St. Michael's
College Alumni Magazine

Fall 2025/Winter 2026
Volume 69 • Number 12

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Office of University Advancement
Publication Mail Agreement Number:
40068944

*Alumni, friends, and students
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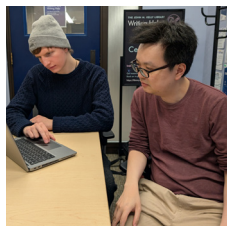
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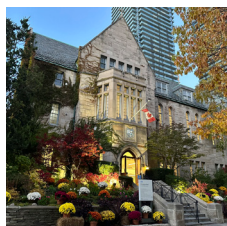
Families of Many St. Mike's Grads
Go Back Generations.
From left: Mary Grace Di Tomaso
(née Murphy), Katie Di Tomaso,
and The Honourable Guy P. Di Tomaso.



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FROM FOUNDERS HOUSE

Renewing Relationships for the Future

When we developed *St. Mike's 180*, we had three principal goals in mind:

1. To build a **Community** of scholars that matters;
2. To develop **Academic** programs that empower students;
3. To build **Sustainable** practices that will ensure our university continues to flourish well into the next century.

This third goal sought for more than financial and environmental sustainability; it was also about nurturing partnerships that would help St. Mike's amplify its educational mission, and secure new opportunities for our students and institution well into the future.

This past year has been marked by significant progress in advancing these vital partnerships, and I thought I would share just a few of the collaborations that highlight our commitment to resilient collaboration:

Our historic (congregational) relationships: First, a 'sneak peek' into a major announcement that will be coming your way in 2026. St. Mike's is in the final stages of the establishment of a national centre for teaching and research focused on a congregational archive called The Catholic Religious Communities Archive (CRCA). Renewed partnerships with several of our historic partnerships (the Scarborough Missions, the Loretto Sisters, the Sisters of Service, and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, in Canada, and Sault Ste. Marie) have led to the permanent relocation of these

remarkable archives to the Kelly Library, and the endowment of the a full-time specialized USMC CRCA Archivist who will care for and animate these collections. Future public researchers, students, and the wider Catholic community will have access to the irreplaceable historical record of these congregations who helped build our city, our country, and international relations. They capture not only the story of amazing individuals and their religious communities, but of the history of immigration, education, health care and social outreach.

The partnership with Regis College and the Jesuits: The federation of St. Mike's with Regis College in 2022 creating the Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology (RSM) established a sustainable new vision for Catholic Theological Education. 2025 has been a landmark year in this initiative, marked by new leadership, growing enrolment, international recognition for RSM faculty, and the first Common Convocation (held in November in St. Basil's Collegiate Church). In recognition of its innovative approach Regis and



St. Michael's together received \$2.8 million dollars from the Lilly Foundation to develop new offerings for the formation of pastoral ministers and indigenous programming. This public recognition is a concrete example of how, in partnership with Regis, St. Mike's is responding to the emerging needs of the Church and shaping the future of Catholic intellectual life in North America.

A Hub of Irish and Celtic Cultural Engagement: St. Michael's College is home to a dynamic Celtic Studies undergraduate program that collaborates closely with the Irish community here in Toronto and beyond. Shared public events with The Ireland Funds of Canada, a flourishing relationship with the recently established Consulate General and the Irish Embassy, and new educational programming with

the Catholic School Boards reaffirm that St. Mike's is the gathering place in Toronto for Irish and Celtic scholarship, culture and community.

None of these partnerships are new; they reflect an intentional effort to renew our historic relations to build new realities that will endure within our changing educational landscape.

Or, as our *St. Mike's 180* declares, we are a university *Rooted in the Future*. We understand and acknowledge where we have come from but, with our partners, our eyes are set on the next 180 years. ♦

David G. Sylvester

David Sylvester, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor



A New Home for Student Success

St. Michael's Academic Success Centre Opens in Kelly Library



BY JILLIAN KASTER, CONTENT SPECIALIST, COMMUNICATIONS

THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S College has brought our student services together under one roof in the Academic Success Centre (ASC). The ASC now offers writing and research support, wellness advising and learning strategy services—all in one convenient and welcoming space inside the John M. Kelly Library. ¶ This new model of integrated support has already made a difference. Second-year St. Mike's student Matthew Bain first used the writing help services last year and was impressed by the level of personalized feedback he received.

“Going into my appointment, I assumed it would be a general exercise with some basic writing pointers,” Matthew recalls. “Instead, the instructor had reviewed my essays in advance and came prepared with tangible feedback. It was a personalized experience that really helped me grow as a writer.”

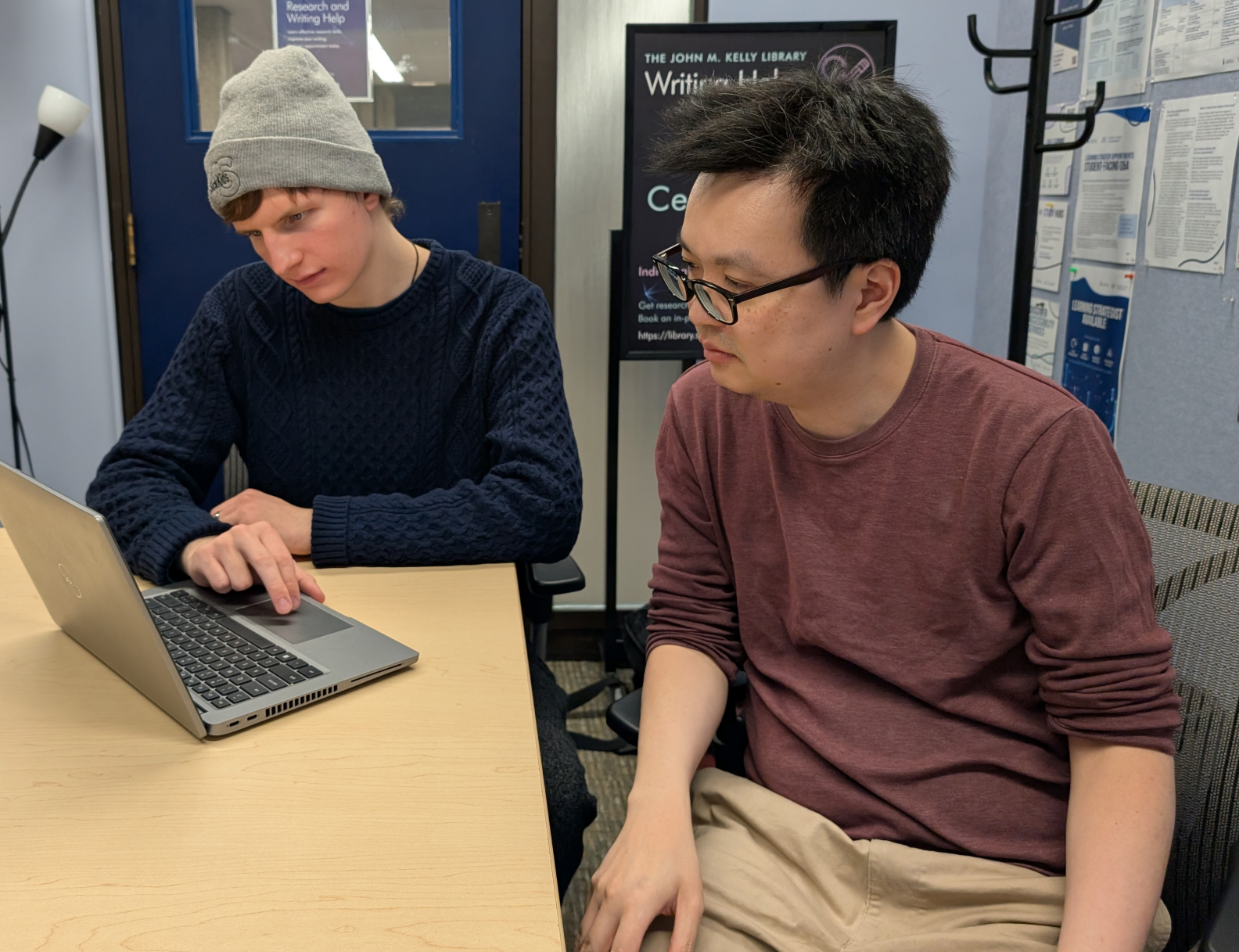
Matthew continues to rely on the writing services at the ASC, especially as he takes upper-year courses in English and political science.

“This year when I visit the Kelly Library, I've noticed pamphlets for mental health and wellness resources. The increased visibility of all these services in the library makes it so much easier to find the help you need,” he says. Thanks to generous donor support, St. Mike's has expanded its wellness outreach by having our Wellness Manager spend dedicated time each week in the Academic Success Centre, complementing the primary location in Brennan Hall. This intentional presence in the Kelly Library area ensures that many more students—especially those

who may not naturally find their way to Brennan—learn about the full range of supports available to them. Combined with the ASC's tutoring, writing assistance, and academic navigation services, this integrated model helps students access both academic and wellness resources quickly and comfortably, right where they already study. “That integration is intentional,” says James Roussain, William D. Sharpe Chief Librarian at the Kelly Library and Director of Special Collections. The ASC's design encourages collaboration among different student services so that support can be more holistic and responsive.

“Having all these services in one space allows us to refer students seamlessly. If someone comes in for research help but we realize their main challenge is time management, we can connect them with a learning strategist. It's about ensuring that each student gets the right kind of support for their unique needs,” he says.

Ultimately, the vision behind the ASC is not



Second-year St. Mike's student Matthew Bain with Ian Yamamoto, Library Technician, Access and Information, in one of the ASC consultation rooms at the Kelly Library.

just about providing resources, it's about empowering students to take charge of their own academic journey.

"The overarching emphasis is on ensuring a space that brings together many of the resources that allow students to receive the expertise and support they might need to become independent, informed scholars capable of achieving to their full academic potential," says St. Michael's Principal Irene Morra.

Roussain adds that the ASC's evolution will continue to be shaped by student voices.

"A big part of the vision for the ASC is to continue to evolve to meet student's needs. We want to

continue to collaborate with our students to define what services are needed. As a new service evolves or develops, we can put that service under the structure of the ASC so that it remains current to students' needs," says Roussain.

For Matthew, the benefits are already clear. "Having access to so many resources in the same place where I already go to study has been so beneficial," he says. "It really makes the process of getting feedback feel integrated with my coursework." ♦



Learn more about the University of St. Michael's College Academic Success Centre at the John M. Kelly Library. <https://uoft.me/kellyasc>

Blessed are the Merciful:

Alumnus Brings Hospice Care to the Marginalized

WHEN ALUMNUS FR. DR. MATTHEW DURHAM (USMC rTo, USMC rT6) finished his Master of Divinity field placement in 2009, his colleagues at The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County arranged a farewell party for him. In his heart, however, he already knew he would be back. ¶ “I remember leaving for the last time and thinking to myself, ‘I don’t think I’m done,’” he says with a smile as he sits down with *St. Michael’s Magazine* after a day that has included a trip to Queen’s Park to talk about issues in palliative care.

Not only had the Hospice, located in southwestern Ontario, been a place where he had volunteered as a teen, he had also worked there as a university student. A young seminarian when he completed his field placement, he now had extensive knowledge of the various aspects of the workings of a hospice. With experience that included fundraising, data entry, event management, staffing issues and dealing with volunteers, he now also had an inside view of the very specialized nature of offering ministerial support to people who are dying.

“I grew up in the hospice movement,” he says, noting that his first training ground remains the largest and oldest community-based hospice village in the country.

Today, the double alumnus, a priest of the Diocese of Hamilton who serves as the Bishop’s Delegate to Healthcare, is a national force in the field of hospice and palliative care, especially for the country’s most vulnerable people. He is the Founding Executive Director of Journey Home Hospice, a 10-bed hospice facility with an additional three chronic care beds in downtown Toronto. It now has a three-bed satellite site in Windsor. Journey Home, created by the

renowned Saint Elizabeth Foundation and launched in 2018, provides people who are homeless a safe, welcoming and caring place to live in the final weeks of their lives. It is the only teaching and learning hospice of this nature in the country.

Fr. Matthew is also the Executive Director, Hospice

Palliative Care & Community Development with the Saint Elizabeth Foundation, which has just launched the National Centre for Equity and Innovation in End-of-Life Care. The program flows from approaches used at Journey Home and will teach organizations across the country how to improve care for vulnerable people whose lives have been touched by trauma, whether mental health issues, poverty, or addiction.

This past semester, he was able to share some of his experiences while teaching the Introduction to Pastoral Care course at the Regis St. Michael’s Faculty of Theology, where he was warmly received by students.

The formal commitment to dedicate himself to end-of-life care came in 2012, when he made two key decisions. He left his position as Director of Campus Ministry at St. Joseph College, University of Alberta to return to the Hospice, accepting a position as Director of Community Engagement and Advancement. He also returned to St. Michael’s Faculty of Theology to work on a Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree, focusing on healthcare administration, ultimately writing a dissertation titled

“Administration as Ministry: A Hospice Case Study.”

Fr. Matthew’s sense that he wanted to minister to the dying and their loved ones was shaped not only by his early exposure to hospice care but also by the deaths of several people close to him, including his father Kim, who died not long after his son’s



Above: Journey Home Hospice rooms include personal touches.

Right: Alumnus Fr. Dr. Matthew Durham. Photo credit: Melanie Gallant, Saint Elizabeth Foundation



ordination in 2011.

“You are going to be a compassionate priest,” he remembers his father telling him, adding that his mother, Laura, and his three siblings remain strong supports for him in his ministry.

The unique nature of the DMin program allowed him to continue his hospice work while spending two to three weeks on campus each spring with his cohort. It also offered him time to reflect on how to integrate all the practical skills he had learned at The Hospice with his growing understanding that all ministry is relational, and especially so when dealing with people who are dying. Effective leadership, he increasingly realized, is not a job but an ethical commitment to journey with people.

“I enjoyed my time at the Faculty, and particularly appreciated the holistic approach,” he recalls, adding that professors like Sr. Anne Anderson, CSJ, and Fr. Joseph Schner, SJ, were strong influences in shaping his thinking on palliative care.

Over the years, his network grew as he ran into colleagues at meetings and conferences. One of those contacts, Nancy Lefebvre, was in senior administration at Saint Elizabeth Health. When the two would see each other, the suffering of people dying on the street was a recurring topic.

Then Nancy shared her vision of creating a specialized hospice — one that would shift the paradigm. Since Saint Elizabeth had a long history of offering palliative care, the next step would be the creation of a hospice palliative program to care specifically for homeless people.

The result was Journey Home, which opened in 2018, with Fr. Matthew as the Founding Executive Director. The hospice program has now grown from its original 4 beds to offer 16 total beds across both sites.

With patients facing a range of trauma, staff and volunteers are carefully trained in topics such as harm reduction and culturally sensitive approaches to care.

The site aims to comfort — and accompany — residents, with a staff of nurses, personal support workers, social workers and other professionals offering a full treatment plan that includes music and art therapy. A team of 150 volunteers offer companionship, whether working on a jigsaw puzzle, serving up birthday cake or simply listening.

Today, building on the approaches used at Journey Home, the National Centre for Equity and Innovation in End-of-Life Care will offer expert consultative and advisory services nationally on topics such as how to develop or further specialized end-of-life care programs

for the marginalized. It will also advise on the launch and management of pilot programs in places like shelters and correctional facilities, advocate for policy reforms and create ways to share best practices.

At a time when access to health care, as well as health care costs, are growing concerns, the services offered will allow existing facilities to expand access to palliative care without necessarily having to expand bricks-and-mortar facilities, Fr. Matthew notes. Ontario, for example, has just over 500 palliative beds, but projections suggest that by calling on the centre’s services the province could effectively see the addition of another 500 beds, whether in existing facilities or by bringing specialized care into people’s homes.

These days, Fr. Matthew says he is more often at meetings than bedsides but he remains mindful that although many people find talking about death difficult, doing so can only help support an approach of dignity and compassion, especially with the most vulnerable.

“It always strikes me when a new patient arrives at Journey Home,” he says. “They have only recently learned of a terminal diagnosis, which has been layered upon

“Everything is done with the residents in mind... from the individualized dinners, the walks, the games, the popcorn machine, the music, Fr. Matt sets the tone and the residents benefit.”

*Nancy McElhinney (SMC 6Ti),
volunteer at Journey Home*

perhaps a lifetime of living with traumas such as poverty, and they are at their most vulnerable. We take them to their suite and give them time to begin to ponder their new reality. Almost always, when we return to talk further with them, they look around and they will say, “Is this really for me?”

Alumna Nancy McElhinney (SMC 6Ti) volunteers at Journey Home and says she is struck by Fr. Matthew’s ability to “lighten the atmosphere, engage the residents warmly and energize the staff and we volunteer. Everything is done with the residents in mind... from the individualized dinners, the walks, the games, the popcorn machine, the music, Fr. Matt sets the tone and the residents benefit. Needless to say, I feel so privileged to be volunteering there. I look forward to my Tuesdays with these lovely people.” ♦

Family Roots Run Deep at St. Mike's

Families of Many St. Mike's Grads Go Back Generations



Matthew McGuire with daughter Brianna and wife Wendy.

Matthew McGuire (SMC 9T6)

If Matthew McGuire (SMC 9T6), now president of St. Michael's Alumni Association, looks comfortable in his role, it's because St. Mike's is a second home not only to him but to generations of his family. For many of our students and graduates, family roots run deep on campus, with many families seeing multiple generations taking the stroll down Elmsley Place.

Matthew counts himself as a third-generation St. Mike's grad, with his grandmother, his father, two aunts and brother Mark (9T8) all having spent time on campus. Now, his daughter Brianna has joined

that impressive group, having graduated in June 2025, taking the McGuire family into the fourth generation.

When Matthew toured the campus as a high school student with his friend Wendy (SMC 9T7), now his wife, he said they got the sense that "it felt right."

Matthew says his life at St. Mike's mirrored the memories his father, Dr. John McGuire, had talked about, finding a healthy balance between academics and social time, and that many of the skills he learned as a Christianity & Culture student – how to write and present effectively, for example – serve him well today in the corporate world.

His father, John, notes that he lived in Elmsley Hall in 1959 when he was a pre-med student at the University of Toronto, joining his brother, J. Hugh McGuire, who had arrived in 1957. When the entire McGuire family moved to Kingston in 1960, both John and Hugh transferred to Queen's to complete their medical education.

But the family tradition goes back a generation earlier, with Matthew's paternal grandmother, Jeanette Naud (SMC 3T1) living in St. Joseph's College. Two aunts, Patricia (SMC 5T9) and Veronica (SMC 7T2), followed in their mother's St. Joe's footsteps.

Today, Matthew recalls the excitement his family felt when Brianna received her acceptance, as well as the sense of relief that she would have all the benefits of the University of Toronto while being able to find a close, supportive community at St. Mike's, where she could "surround herself with good people."

"Wendy and I had experienced kindness at St. Mike's and we knew she'd find the same," he recalls.



From left: Mary Grace Di Tomaso (née Murphy), Katie Di Tomaso, and The Honourable Guy P. Di Tomaso.

Katie Di Tomaso (SMC 0T0)

As an undergraduate in political science and sociology, Katie Di Tomaso (SMC 0T0) was tasked with interviewing a professor about the influence of religion on politics. She knew immediately who she would contact: longtime St. Mike's professor Fr. Dan Donovan. Not only was he an inspiration to her both academically and spiritually, he was also a relative on her mother's side and she welcomed the opportunity to get to know a treasured family member better.

But Katie had other relatives who'd spent time at St. Mike's as well. Her circle includes her parents, Mary Grace (née Murphy, 7T3) and the Honourable Guy Di Tomaso (7T2), as well as Katie's brothers Michael (0T3) and Gregory (0T6). Katie's parents were the first of their respective families to attend university, which they viewed as a chance to build a better future. Speaking of her parents' experience, Katie says St. Mike's was "a place a promise," where they met and fell in love, and built a circle of friends they stay in touch with to this day.

When Katie was growing up, her parents happily shared their St. Mike's experiences with their children, emphasizing the rigours of the intellectual challenges they would find at St. Mike's, as well as wanting to see them attend a university that would nurture their Catholic faith.

Katie says she found the same "sense of joy and optimism" her parents had talked about when she arrived on campus in 1996, and a similar supportive network of peers, professors, Loretto Sisters, Basilian Fathers, and SMC administrators.

"U of T and St. Mike's foster a way of thinking grounded in big questions, courageous truth-seeking, and bold ideas. It has shaped my life and reinforces a belief, instilled at St. Mike's, that we can make a difference," she says, adding, "The Di Tomaso family has two generations of St. Mike's grads and we are hoping there will be more to come."



Alberto, Caroline and daughter Annamaria.

Alberto and Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni

For the Di Giovanni family, the tradition started in Alberto and Caroline's first year.

"Alberto and I met at the college when we were both in our first year, 1966," says Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni. "The student life and the intellectual engagement we experienced in our undergraduate years stayed with us through the years that followed."

The couple raised their three children in Toronto, "so when they applied to the University of Toronto, all three, nine years apart, chose to attend St. Mike's," she says. "That means that for our family, we have five proud alumni: Caroline Morgan (7T0), Alberto Di Giovanni (7T1), Carlo (9T6), Franca (0T0), and Annamaria (0T6) Di Giovanni. How much more Double Blue can you get?"



We are collecting stories of our multigenerational families and plan to post updates on our website. If you have stories of your family you would like to share, please contact usmc.communications@utoronto.ca.



CAMPUS NOTES

Fall was a Season of Celebration at St. Mike's



Orientation Offers an Electric Intro to Campus Life

St. Mike's pulled out all the stops at this year's Orientation for incoming students, offering an ideal balance of information about courses and tips on how to adjust to first-year life with opportunities to meet professors and learn more about campus. There was also plenty of time to chat with peers and find friendly faces. A great start for the class of 2029! ♦



Doors Open SMC Welcomes Students to Spaces Rarely Seen

Prof. Adam Hincks, SJ, welcomed students to his office in Odette Hall, talking about a day in the life of a professor.

At Founders House, President Sylvester shared stories from the College's early days and presented the handwritten list of St. Michael's very first class in 1852. ♦



Prof. McGowan Offers Invocation Address

A high point of Orientation is always Invocation, a chance for incoming students to receive a formal introduction to their

university experience, with a touch of regalia and ceremony at Convocation Hall. This year, Principal- and Professor-Emeritus Mark McGowan offered a thoughtful and humorous reflection, noting that, as a new retiree, he was facing the same sense of the unknown that the students are experiencing. ♦



Celebrating our Roots at Michaelmas

Just weeks after the fall term commenced, we came together to celebrate Michaelmas on Sept. 29, the feast of St. Michael the Archangel. The day was a microcosm of life at St. Mike's, ranging from the rich visuals and tradition of the academic procession in St. Basil's for 12:10 Mass through to fun and games — and hospitality! A shared meal led to games in the quad and an opportunity to take a moment to socialize in the midst of a busy semester. ♦

The day's events also included adding Principal- and Professor-Emeritus Mark McGowan, and alumna Sr. Evanne Hunter, IBVM, to our legacy wall, located in the middle of Brennan Hall. Prof. McGowan is added as a reflection of his visionary leadership and scholarly excellence, while Sr. Evanne is honoured for the ways in which her vocation as a Loretto Sister has animated her devotion to the power of education and advocacy for social justice. ♦



Sisters of Service Exhibit Opens at the Kelly Library

A fascinating new collection of materials documenting the history of the Sisters of Service (SOS), one of Canada's most unique religious communities, opened on the ground floor of the John M. Kelly Library this fall, curated by processing archivist Francesca Rousselle, who worked with alumna and SOS archivist M.C. Havey, (SMC 7T1). *The Big Maps: The Sisters of Service as Canadian Trailblazers*, which documents the Sisters' role in welcoming, housing and teaching new Canadians from diverse backgrounds, will be on display until summer 2026.

And while you're visiting, stop by the gorgeous new garden outside the library entrance. The entrance leading to the front doors is now sloped for easier access, offering a calming transition from the busyness of St. Joseph St. to the quiet of the library. The new green space was blessed earlier this fall by Fr. John Meehan, SJ. ♦





Fr. John Meehan, SJ, Lends Leadership to Campus Ministry

“Mission and ministry are at the heart of Catholic university,” says Fr. John Meehan, SJ, who is serving as St. Mike’s Director of Mission and Ministry while Sonal Castelino is engaged in her novitiate year with the Sisters of St. Joseph. “Campus ministry should be a place of dialogue, helping people who are different find common ground,” says Meehan, whose extensive career includes work as an academic and university administrator. ♦



Meeting Future St. Mike’s Students

We were delighted to host several high school students from the Toronto Catholic District School Board who came to campus as part of the Specialist High School Major to learn about book repair in our state-of-the-art Conservation Studio, as well as event coordination.

We also had more than 150 potential students participate in the University of Toronto’s Fall Campus Day visit to St. Mike’s, where professors, students and staff led tours, offering a taste of the unique vibe at St. Mike’s. ♦



Safe Travels, Professor McLaughlin

After a stellar career teaching and researching the Old Testament, Prof. John L. McLaughlin is retiring and moving back home to his beloved Saint John, NB., where he will enjoy the Atlantic Ocean, the fog and dulce. John earned his Master of Divinity (USMC 8T7) and PhD (USMC 9T8) from St. Michael’s Faculty of Theology and returned to teach in 2002, while also serving as an Associate Member of the Graduate Faculty in the Department of Near and Middle

Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto. He was generous with his time, including serving nine years as Director of Advanced Degree Programs and two terms as interim Dean. We’ll miss you, John! ♦



Exciting New Ventures for Regis St. Michael’s

A generous grant of \$1.4-million CDN from the Lilly Foundation will help fund the new Canadian Centre for Catholic Pastoral Leadership (CCCPL) at the Regis St. Michael’s Faculty of Theology, which will offer workshops, seminars and a variety of events for religious leaders across the country.

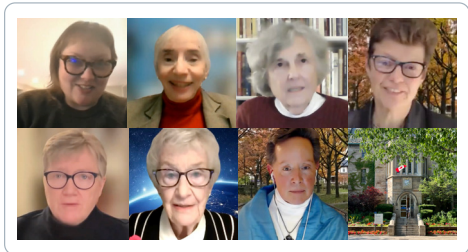
At an event celebrating the launch of the Centre, invited guests offered their insights into how the CCCPL can provide support to people working in ministry. ♦

The good news doesn’t stop there, though. Regis College was also awarded a \$1.4-million CDN grant from the Lilly Foundation to support *Walking in Service*, a new program to support the community-based formation of congregational leadership in Catholic Indigenous communities in Canada. ♦



AI4W Hosts Panel on the Role of Women in the Church

The Alumni Initiative for Women hosted another engaging Conversation this fall titled *The New Pope and the Role of Women in the Church: What’s Next?* Alumna and author Celia Wexler (SMC 7T0) moderated the panel which saw Dr. Catherine Clifford (USMC 0T2), Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology at Saint Paul University in Ottawa and voting member of the Synod in 2023-24, activist and writer Rosemary Burns Ganley (SMC 5T8), and Dr. Phyllis Zagano, an expert in the field of women in the Church, share their impressions on where the Church is headed. The AI4W Conversations Series takes place twice each year. ♦





Celebrating our Convocations

This fall saw us make changes to some long-standing convocation traditions. Congratulations, all!

St. Michael's College

Tradition ruled for our fall College convocation, with 154 students crossing the stage at Convocation Hall to receive their diplomas. Alumnus Prof. Wendell Adjetej (SMC 0T8), of McGill University, took time out of his sabbatical year to address our grads and then attended our reception, chatting one-on-one with many students keen to hear more from him. ♦





Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology

Our theology graduates, however, broke new ground with Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology (RSM) holding its first joint ceremony, with students from both Regis College and St. Michael's Faculty of Theology receiving their degrees at the same time. Sr. Carla Thomas, OP (USMC 2T5), was presented with the Governor General's Award. ♦

John Bennett Receives Honorary Doctorate

Alumnus W. John Bennett (SMC 6T7) was awarded a Doctor of the University of St. Michael's College degree, *honoris causa*, at this year's RSM convocation. Bennett has served St. Michael's in a variety of roles, including as Chair of Collegium, and as a leader and champion in establishing RSM, a federation of the University of St. Michael's College and Regis College.

He established the W.J. Bennett Family Chair of Christianity and the Arts in honour of his father, W.J. (Bill) Bennett, which builds on family connections that go back more than a century. ♦



Handing Over the SR&S Baton

St. Michael's College congratulates Kathryn Cooper on her retirement and extends our gratitude for her outstanding years of service as Program Manager of the Social Responsibility and Sustainability (SR&S) Post-Graduate Diploma Program. The SR&S diploma equips students with the knowledge and practical experience needed to advance and transition into careers in social responsibility, ESG and sustainability. Stepping into the Program Director role is Dr. Shilpa Tiwari, a global leader in sustainability, corporate citizenship, and diversity and inclusion. Seen here, Dr. Tiwari (left), Kathryn Cooper (centre) and program founder Dr. Mimi Marrocco (foreground). ♦

Diploma in Social Responsibility & Sustainability

Earlier the same morning, the latest cohort of students in our Diploma in Social Responsibility & Sustainability program received their diplomas in a new ceremony format, the first time the program had held its own event, complete with a valedictory address by Victor Huynh, Class of 2024/25.

Four summative projects earned the President's Capstone Award: Saif Alotaibi and Fayiz Nooraldeen on how the mining sector evaluates ESG; Heather Creighton on the underrepresentation of women in medical research; Tyler Morden on community-based programs to deliver HIV services; Victor Huynh on securing immigrants with employment that matches their skills and expertise. ♦

From top SR&S Graduating Class, Dr. Michael Salvatori, Director of Continuing Education, and President David Sylvester with the Capstone Award winners Saif Alotaibi (left) and Fayiz Nooraldeen (centre) and Heather Creighton (right).





Dante memories, including a photo of the Dante Reading Group students with Prof. Michael O'Connor and Librarian Noel McFerran, taken on a visit by Caroline Di Giovanni.

The Dante Garden Flourishes with Alumni Care

BY LISA GLEVA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADVANCEMENT

EVERY AUTUMN, ST. MICHAEL'S CELEBRATES one of the great achievements of Western culture: Dante Alighieri's *Divina Commedia*. The annual Dante Lecture, founded and generously endowed by alumni Alberto (SMC 7T1) and Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni (SMC 7T0) has become a luminous tradition. This year's lecture, *Dante's Musical Journey in The Divine Comedy*, explored how sound, song, and musical imagery shape Dante's poetic imagination and our understanding of the *Commedia*. Francesco Ciabattoni, Professor of Italian Literature and Director of Global Medieval Studies at Georgetown University, had guests enthralled with his talk, which was further enhanced by St. Michael's own Prof. Michael O'Connor, Campus Ministry and Music Coordinator Christina Labriola, and members of the *Schola Cantorum* offering musical examples. The event reflected what St. Michael's does best — bringing timeless works into living conversation.

The Di Giovannis wanted to share Dante's brilliant insights in a contemporary context through an annual lecture. They also began donating works from Alberto's Dante collection to the John M. Kelly Library. Over the years it has grown into a remarkable assemblage of rare manuscripts, books, and art. Today, the Dante circle of generosity continues to expand. Joseph (SMC 6T3) and Marcella (SMC 6T5) Tanzola; the William and Nona Heaslip Foundation (Nona Macdonald Heaslip, SMC 5T1); Clorinda Moretta-Pirro (SMC 6T9) and her son Paul; Edmond (SMC 8T9) and Sylvia Lisk Vanhaverbeke (SMC 9T3); and Margaret Brennan (SMC 7T1), Mary Brennan (SMC 6T6), and Joan Brennan, in memory of their father J.F. (Frank) Brennan (SMC 3T4), have joined the Di Giovannis in supporting Dante Garden, ensuring that this remarkable space remains beautifully cared

for and continues to inspire. The garden, located in the southwest corner of campus, is a sculptural translation of Dante's journey from darkness to light.

Recognizing the enduring power of philanthropy, Joseph and Marcella Tanzola also established the Dante Garden Fund, an endowment to generate resources in perpetuity to care for and preserve this treasured installation.

St. Michael's continues to welcome others who wish to help sustain this remarkable expression of art and faith.

At St. Michael's, our alumni and donors help us bring our academic vision to life. The Dante Lecture, Collection, and Garden form a continuum of scholarship, art, and reflection that invites discovery and contemplation. They link classroom learning to public engagement and offer a renewed sense of what is possible when learning, generosity and imagination come together. ♦



Donovan Seminar Builds on Famed Collection

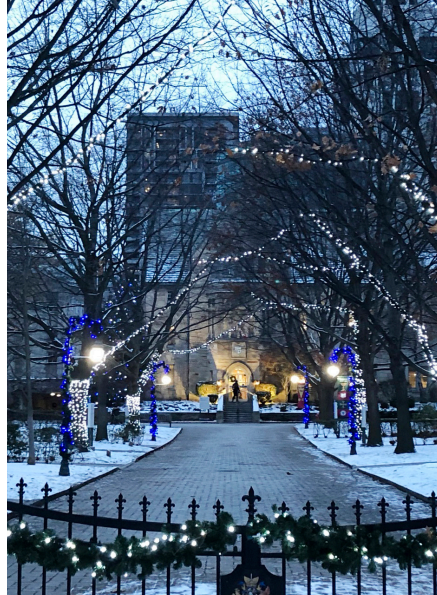
This fall, a student-curated art exhibit in the John M. Kelly Library, *Ted Rettig in Context*, was the culmination of the inaugural SMC One course, *The Donovan Seminar: Visual Art and Meaning*. Participants focused on the work of Rettig, a Canadian artist extensively represented in the collection, selecting a piece for the show and contributing curatorial statements. During the course, led by Prof. Stephen Tardif, an assistant professor, teaching stream, in St. Michael's Christianity & Culture Program, students explored the relationship between art and meaning, using pieces from The Donovan Collection as their primary material. Here, Tardif speaks with Mustafa Soufi, a student in the seminar.



SMCSU Reaching Out to Offer Help

We are grateful to the students of the St. Michael's College Student Union (SMCSU), who organized an impromptu sandwich-making event recently to share snacks with local residents living on the streets. It was a day of camaraderie and big hearts, with teamwork producing smiles all around.





Is Santa a St. Mike's Grad?

Might the Jolly Old Elf be an alum? Santa stopped by our annual Santa Claus Parade party, where the children of alumni and staff had cookies and hot chocolate, did some crafts and shared their lists with Santa before heading off to watch the parade on Queen's Park Crescent. It's always great to see our alumni families, and to meet Santa, too! Just days later, we welcomed alumni to our annual Christmas tea, where guests were treated to carols and festive baking. All this took place under our Christmas lights — blue, of course, because that's tradition. The lights will remain up into the new year so stop by and catch a glimpse of the oasis in the city, winter edition!





SMC Golf Classic on the Upswing

NEW PRICING, GREAT SUPPORT FROM alumni, donors and vendors and a concerted effort to rebuild and renew the St. Michael's Golf Classic saw the 2025 event one of our best ever, with a great amount raised, new attendees, and the return of some golfers we hadn't seen in some time. "There was definitely a buzz in the room, with alums catching up with old friends and making new ones. There was so much to celebrate this year, including double the number of women golfers," says Lisa Webb, St. Mike's Manager, Alumni Affairs.

As with so many events, the annual tournament was hurt by the extended COVID lockdown but we are now on the upswing, with this year's tournament raising a very impressive \$100,000, thanks to donors, vendors and players. Our amazing Alumni Affairs team reached out to the alumni community with an invitation to attend this classic event, which was held at the Eagles Nest Golf Club in nearby Maple, Ontario.

The result? This year's tournament brought back alumni who hadn't played in years. Alumnus

Ed Sorbara (SMC 6T4) brought three foursomes of alumni, a foursome of alumni made the trek from Rochester, others, including John Bennett (SMC 6T7), drove in from Montreal, and two alumni players were reunited after 50 years. What a special day for all! Proceeds will be directed to the *President's Excellence Fund*, which is used to enhance the student experience in a variety of ways. Want to get in on the fun? The 2026 tournament is scheduled for September 23, at the Eagles Nest course. Stay tuned for more details. ♦

Mark Your Calendars



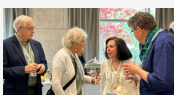
There's always something happening at St. Mike's. Here's a brief sampling of events taking place in the new year. Please check our website — stmikes.utoronto.ca — regularly, as well as our social media accounts, for updates and more details ♦



Thursday, February 12, to Saturday, February 14, 2026: The SMC Troubadours present the musical *Footloose* at Hart House Theatre for a 4-run show. For tickets, please visit harthouse.universitytickets.com



Wednesday, February 25, 2026: The Donovan Collection Event: An Artist Talk with Linda Martinello. Father Madden Hall, 6 pm



Thursday, March 5, to Friday, March 6: St. Michael's Undergraduate Research Colloquium, 1-5 pm, John M. Kelly Library, Multipurpose Room 105

Friday, June 19, to Sunday, June 21, 2026: St. Mike's Alumni Reunion



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

St. Mike's Alumni Association Wants You to Help Shape Next Chapter



BY MATTHEW MCGUIRE, USMC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD CHAIR

THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION continues to grow and evolve thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of the alumni community. The association has been focused on strengthening connections, planning for the future, and creating more ways for alumni to stay involved with one another and with St. Michael's.

This past summer, we were delighted to welcome Michael Comacho (SMC 9To) as the new St. Michael's alumni representative to serve on the College of Electors (COE) for the 2025-2026 term. Michael is joining Steve Williams and Andria Minicucci, who continue to bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the COE work. At the same time, work has begun identifying alumni who may be interested in applying for the two COE positions that will become available in June 2026. If you are interested in sharing your time and experience to help shape our community's next chapter, please get in touch with the Alumni Affairs Office.

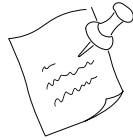
Planning is also under way for the 2026 Spring Reunion, and excitement is already building. The Alumni Association Reunion Committee, led by Larry Cimino (SMC 7I3), is hard at work preparing events and activities that will inspire connection and rekindle school spirit. The goal is to make the reunion a truly memorable celebration that brings alumni together across generations and backgrounds, strengthening the St. Mike's bond.

Our Young Alumni Committee remains a continued source of energy and creativity. Its ongoing efforts to reconnect recent graduates have led to meaningful programs and events that blend fun, networking, and giving back. The October 4 Michaelfest was a hit so don't miss next year's!



The Alumni Association wants to encourage all alumni to stay involved—whenever and however they can. We know that time is a precious commodity, but every moment shared—attending an event, volunteering, or simply connecting with a fellow graduate—makes a real difference.

We continue to build a welcoming, engaged alumni community that celebrates our shared experience and looks forward to an exciting future. ♦



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Alumni Updates

News from Alumni and Friends



Paula Owolabi (SMC 6T7) met up with fellow alumna **Margaret Anne Charles (SMC 6T7)** during a visit to Ottawa in August. Margaret is Paula's daughter Kemi's godmother and was Paula's first Canadian friend from the day they started living in residence at St. Joseph's college. ♦



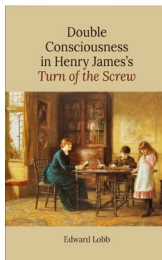
Dr. Florence Mary Williams (SMC 6T7) (deceased November 2015) mentored countless students and professionals and championed events and initiatives aimed

at creating a more inclusive science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) community. In recognition of her significant research and contributions, the *Mary Williams Memorial Award in Ocean Technology* was established at the Marine Institute in St. John's Nfld. The award is presented annually to a student who demonstrates excellence in ocean technology and a commitment to supporting fellow students. Photo: Randy Dawe. ♦



Rochester was well represented at the 2025 St. Michael's College Golf Classic by a spirited foursome of **Robert Roney (SMC 6T9)**, **Richard Roney (SMC 7T0)**, **Ray Shady (SMC 7T1)** and **Peter Sear (SMC 7T3)**. The group arrived in Toronto the evening before the tournament and shared lively stories of golf and St. Michael's over a lovely meal with President **David Sylvester**,

Chief of Staff **Greg Rupik (SMC 0T8, USMC 1T7)** and Executive Director of Advancement **Lisa Gleva**. ♦



After graduating from U of T with first-class honours in English Language and Literature, **Edward Lobb (SMC 6T8)** received an M.A. from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. from

Princeton. His first teaching job was at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina (1974-80), and his second at Queen's University in Kingston (1980-2012), where he won three teaching awards, rose to the rank of Professor of English, and served twice as Acting Head. Retired now, he recently published his

third book, *Double Consciousness in Henry James's Turn of the Screw*. If you would like more details, we will happily put you in touch with Edward. ♦



Douglas Moggach (SMC 7T0), one of Canada's most distinguished scholars of philosophy and political thought, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal

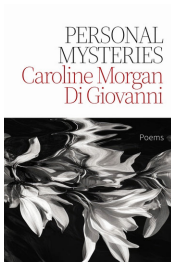
Society of Canada (2025), one of the country's highest academic honours. This reflects the global impact of his prolific, interdisciplinary work, reshaping modern understandings of German philosophy, especially Hegel and nineteenth-century political thought.

We also recognize the exceptional prestige of his appointment as an Honorary Fellow at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, where he recently spent two terms as a visiting scholar. Moggach has held additional visiting fellowships at Clare Hall, Sidney Sussex,

BULLETIN BOARD

King's, and St. John's Colleges, as well as academic appointments in Pisa, London, Beijing, Modena, and Münster. He currently serves as Distinguished University Professor at the University of Ottawa and Honorary Professor of Philosophy at the University of Sydney.

St. Catharine's College hosted a book launch to celebrate his newest publication, *Freedom and Perfection: German Political Thought from Leibniz to Marx* (Cambridge University Press, 2025). ♦



Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni (SMC 7T0) has long been a vital voice in literary Toronto. With *Personal Mysteries* (Mosaic Press), she turns inward, offering a vivid and deeply personal collection

of poetry that explores spiritual insight, emotional depth, and the resilience of the human soul. These poems travel across time and place—from medieval seascapes to modern war zones, from childhood memories to biblical reflections. ♦



Elaine Adam (SMC 7T2), Susan Adam Metzler (SMC 7T4), and Maria Gallo (SMC 8T8) held a small but mighty St. Mike's reunion in Dublin in September! ♦



Chuck Holland (SMC 7T6), John Koncan (SMC 7T6), Lorna (Cerar) Holland (SMC 7T7), and Mark Huryn (SMC 8T1) had a catch-up that included a tour of residences including McCorkell, More and Fisher houses. Chuck and Lorna



The Hon. David Lametti (SMC 8T5) has been named Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations. Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada from 2019 to 2023, Mr. Lametti is an accomplished leader with wide-ranging experience representing Canada domestically and internationally, having served our country with distinction for decades. We look forward to watching him represent Canada's strengths on the world stage. ♦

met at SMC — one of many SMC couples we've had the pleasure to hear about! They are excited for a meet-up at Reunion 2026. Be sure to update your contact information with us. ♦

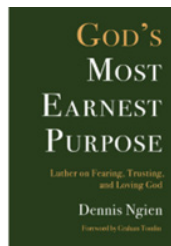


Michael Camacho (SMC 9T0) recently began his term as a Board Member, College of Electors (COE) at the University of Toronto. Michael says it's great to be back at the university,

especially as it coincides with his son Ford starting his Master of Science degree in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at U of T. He looks forward to working with St. Mike's COE colleagues **Andria Minicucci** and **Steve Williams**. ♦



Tim Hutzul (SMC 9T2) recently started his own legal consulting practice and spends the bulk of his time as General Counsel to Canada Soccer, helping them get ready to co-host the 2026 World Cup. ♦



Appointed the Inaugural Holder of Alister E. McGrath Chair of Christian Thought & Spirituality at Tyndale University, **Dennis Ngien (USMC 9T3)**, has now moved to the role of Research Professor of Theology.

A Distinguished Professor and Research Fellow at Christ School of Theology in South Dakota, he is the author of *Grace and Law in Galatians: Justification in Luther and Calvin* (Cascade Books, 2023); *Paragon of Excellence: Christ's Sermons on I Peter* (Fortress Press, 2023), and the forthcoming *God's Most Earnest Purpose: Luther on Fearing, Trusting and Loving God* (Fortress, 2026). He has also been appointed as Associate Member, Blackfriars Hall, Oxford University. ♦



Technology executive **Anne Steptoe (SMC 9T7)** was appointed SVP, Software Development at Propel Holdings. ♦



Dr. Maria Gallo (SMC 9T8) was recently appointed to the Dean's team leading strategic projects, Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin. Maria is also a Founding Director of Global Bluenosers, a diaspora non-profit connecting Nova Scotians around the world. ♦



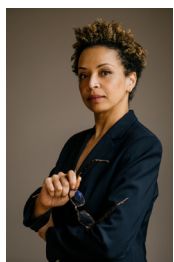
Senator Francesca La Marca (SMC 9T8) currently holds the position of Italian Senator elected abroad in the Electoral College of North and Central - the only Canadian-born Senator to have held a seat in Italian Parliament. ♦

BULLETIN BOARD



Katherine Henderson, who received an eco-theology certificate from St. Michael's Faculty of Theology in 2005, now serves as president and CEO of Hockey Canada,

the first woman to hold the role. Before that, she was CEO of Curling Canada. She is currently the elected co-chair of the Winter Caucus of Sport (Canadian Winter Olympic and Paralympic Sports) and will be heading to the Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics. ♦



Managing Partner at Ruby, Schiller & Enejajor, **Annmaria Enejajor (SMC OT6, Class Rep)** was recently recognized in Best Lawyers in Canada™ 2026 for criminal

defence, administrative and public law, appellate practice, cannabis law, and professional malpractice law. She has been listed among Toronto's "50 Most Influential Torontonians" by *Toronto Life* and "32 Women of the Year" in *Chatelaine Magazine*. ♦



Victoria Asikis (SMC IT1), Alumni Association Board member and 2025 Spring Convocation speaker, has recently taken on the role of start line and finish line race announcer for Run Ottawa.

A dream of hers since she started running more than 15 years ago, Victoria is thoroughly enjoying connecting with her community in Ottawa in this new role and cheering on runners as they reach their goals. ♦

Alex Greco (SMC IT1), Senior Director, Manufacturing and Value Chains at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and one of the founders of St. Mike's volunteer group the Young Alumni Committee, has been appointed to the Seneca College of

Applied Arts and Technology Board of Governors. ♦



Emily VanBerkum-Farahat (SMC IT2, USMC IT5) and John Paul Farahat joyfully welcomed a baby boy, Dominic, in May. They are delighted to be a new family of three! ♦



Congratulations to **Yvonne Jeffery**, who earned a Certificate in Corporate Social Responsibility from St. Michael's in 2013, (SMC IT3), on being named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top

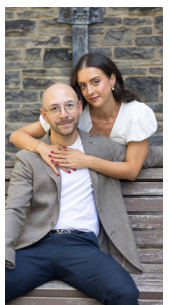
100 by the *Women's Executive Network (WXN)*. So well deserved! ♦

Congratulations to **Matthew Brown (SMC IT5)** on joining the Ministry of the Attorney General as a Senior Policy & Business Analyst. In his new role, Matthew will help support the modernization of the justice system in Ontario. ♦



Maria Rio (SMC IT7), 2025 recipient of the St. Mike's Young Alumni Impact Award, married Graeme Kennedy in Punta Cana this October 14th. Maria is the CEO of Further

Together Fundraising, a firm helping nonprofits fuel their work through a social justice fundraising lens. ♦



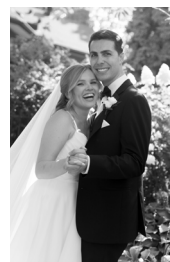
Alessia Colavecchia (SMC IT8) is excited to share her recent engagement! She and her fiancé, **Michael Rendal (SMC IT2)**, are looking forward to tying the knot in July 2026. The two couldn't be more thrilled to return to

St. Mike's for their engagement photos ♦



Since graduating, **Muhanna Al Lawati (SMC 2T2)** has joined the World Trade Organization in Geneva, the first Omani and GCC national to take up a role at the Secretariat as both an intern and

a full-time employee. He says his academic background at U of T and his experiences at St. Mike's shaped the path that led him to where he is today. ♦



We are thrilled to announce that **Sam Gearing (SMC 2T0, Class Rep)** and **Emma Lailey (SMC resident 2020-2021)** were married at St. Basil's on August 9, 2025. Sam and Emma met while

Dons at St. Mike's. Sam received his Juris Doctor from the University of San Francisco School of Law in May 2025 and has moved back to Toronto. In 2021, Emma received her MEd in Curriculum and Pedagogy from OISE; an MA in English from U of T in 2022; and is currently earning her MEd in Higher Education at OISE. ♦



Sherissa Mohammed-Ali (SMC 2T3) recently received a Master of Public Health degree at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Her thesis analyzed

the association between alcohol consumption and anal human papillomavirus in the HPV infection in men. ♦

Send Us Your News!



What's new? We'd love to hear from you! Send your Bulletin Board updates to Alumni Affairs: smc.alumni@utoronto.ca High-res photos are encouraged.



Have you moved? Update your information through U of T's address update form: <https://bit.ly/3BmgvCo>

St. Michael's Pays Tribute



Mourning Lex Byrd

It is with deep sadness that we share news of the passing of Coach **Lex Byrd**, a beloved figure in the history of St. Michael's College. Coach Byrd, who died this past July, led the college's intramural football team to

eight Mulock Cup championships between 1978 and 1993. The former CFL player is being remembered as a mentor, motivator and friend whose dedication to his players and to the spirit of competition embodied the very best of St. Mike's. Many former players attended his service and shared fond stories of the man who, in their words, not only taught them how to win on the field but how to lead in life. ♦



George Wickes (SMC 4T4)

We are fondly remembering alumnus **George Wickes (SMC 4T4)**, whose remarkable life spanned service, scholarship, and deep affection for St. Michael's. Born in Antwerp in 1923 and raised in a bilingual French-speaking household in Rochester, New York, Wickes left St. Mike's during the Second World War to serve in the U.S. Army.

¶ After advanced Vietnamese language training, he was recruited into the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), where he undertook high-risk intelligence work across Southeast Asia. His assignments took him from Calcutta to Rangoon, Saigon, and finally Hanoi, where he interviewed Ho Chi Minh and gathered intelligence on the Vietnamese independence movement. Decades later, his courage was recognized with the OSS Congressional Gold Medal, and he was featured in Ken Burns's documentary on the Vietnam War. After the war, Wickes completed his U of T "war degree," followed by graduate studies at Columbia and UC Berkeley, and went on to a distinguished 60-year academic career at Duke, Harvey Mudd College, and the University of Oregon. A prolific scholar and international

lecturer, he remained connected to St. Mike's throughout his life. Our final correspondence with him—about replacing an embroidered St. Michael's crest—captured the warmth of that bond. Wickes had just completed a revised edition of his memoir *Memories* when he died. ♦



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, as well as Honorary Degree recipients and friends of the University of St. Michael's College.

1940s

Dr. R. D. O'Connor (SMC 4T9)
Mr. Bernard J. J. Smith (SMC 4T8)

1950s

Mrs. Mary Le Clair (SMC 5T5)
Mrs. Margaret M. Markson (SMC 5T8)
Mrs. Margaret M. Crouse (SMC 5T6)
Mr. Joseph A. F. Valenti (SMC 5T8)
Gerald L. Timmins (SMC 5T2)

1960s

Ms. Daphne A. Dolan (SMC 6T1)
Rev. James N. Carruthers, CSB (SMC 6T4)
Mr. Joseph W. Mik (SMC 6T2)

Mr. William H. J. Karner (SMC 6T2)
Mr. Fred P. J. Kielburger (SMC 6T2)
Dr. W R. Fawcett (SMC 6T3)
Dr. Patrick H. Fitzgerald (SMC 6T6)
Mr. J. D. Day (SMC 6T3)
Mrs. Nan S. Williamson (SMC 6T5)
Mrs. Elaine H. Sweenie (SMC 6T5)
Mrs. Colleen M. H. Kurtz (SMC 6T1)
Ms. Julia A. Ryan (SMC 6T6)
Mrs. Elisabeth C. J. Kriegler (SMC 6T1)
Mr. Robert A. V. Gallagher (SMC 6T2)
Mrs. Harriet M. Wolff (SMC 6T7)

1970s

Ms. Beverly G. Atkinson (SMC 7T2)
Mr. Michael Kuttner (SMC 7T1)

Miss Mary S. Nutson (SMC 7T2)

1980s

Miss Heather S. McClory (SMC 8T2)

1990s

The Honourable Hilary M. Weston (SMC 9T7, Honorary Doctor of Sacred Letters)

2000s

Ms. Sheila R. Colla (SMC 0T5) ♦

To share an update please contact 416-926-2331 or smc.alumni@utoronto.ca



FROM ALUMNI & ADVANCEMENT

Investing in our Future



BY LISA GLEVA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADVANCEMENT

EACH YEAR AS LATE AUTUMN arrives, we share financial reports with donors who have established endowments at St. Michael's. It's a time to express gratitude, to share the impact of their generosity, and—at least for me—to reflect on what these enduring gifts make possible. ¶ We often hear about “university endowments” as symbols of size, status, or prestige. But at St. Michael's, we see their impact up close. We see it in scholarships that open doors for students right here at St. Mike's. We see it in SMC One programs that engage first-year students and ignite their curiosity. And we see it in the partnerships and academic initiatives that allow us to deepen our commitment to Catholic scholarship and to education in the humanities that forms both intellect and character.

At St. Michael's, we are always thinking about how to make a difference that lasts — and how what we do contributes to building up the common good. Every decision we make — from how we support students, to how we care for our buildings, to how we invest philanthropic gifts — comes with the same guiding question: how can we ensure that what we do today will continue to serve generations to come? What we build now stands on the good work of those who came before us, and it will, in turn, shape what is possible for those who follow.

Within *St. Michael's 180: Rooted in the Future*, one of our core pillars is Sustainability—leading as an institution dedicated to social justice and to sustainability in all its dimensions: environmental, social, and financial. It's about ensuring that the mission and values that define St. Mike's continue to thrive long into the future. That's what sustainability means for us.

As stewards of the University, we think about this every day. We strive to build programs that are strong enough to last, to invest wisely, and to ensure that we can continue advancing our mission in ways that can be sustained. That's why endowments are so powerful. They allow the generosity of our donors to take root and grow, supporting the things that make St. Michael's

distinctive—its close-knit learning community, its integration of faith and reason, and its commitment to the common good.

Endowments provide the steady foundation that allows St. Michael's to plan boldly, nurture excellence, and weather change without ever compromising what we stand for. They reflect a thoughtful commitment to the generations ahead—ensuring that St. Michael's continues to educate students who are intellectually alive, socially engaged, and spiritually grounded.

For me, that is the true power of philanthropy: it sustains the things that matter most. Every endowed fund, every planned gift, every act of generosity helps St. Michael's continue to form people of wisdom and purpose—ready to serve the common good.

The future will always bring change. But with faith, imagination, and the enduring support of our community—our students, staff, faculty, alumni, partners, and friends—St. Michael's will continue to flourish. Each person contributes in their own way, bringing their talents, time, and generosity of spirit to sustain what makes this place so special. It's something I see every day, and it reminds me that the strength of St. Michael's lies not only in its history or its endowments, but in the people who continue to shape its future together. ♦





The University of St. Michael's College

Donor Report 2024-2025

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

ST. MIKE'S MAKES A LASTING IMPRESSION. Time and again, alumni share memories of extraordinary professors, engaging classes, supportive staff, and lifelong friendships formed in the quad, the COOP, or the classroom. Your stories remind us of the profound impact of the St. Mike's experience. Every gift to St. Michael's helps us sustain exceptional, innovative programming while providing students with the support they need to thrive. We are deeply grateful for the unwavering loyalty and generosity of our alumni and friends, who make it all possible. ♦

ANNUAL GIVING BY GRADUATING YEARS

Class of 1944

George Wickes †

Class of 1946

Mary C. Burghardt

Class of 1947

Geraldine O'Meara

Class of 1949

Gerard S. I. J. MacLean

Class of 1950

Margaret Mullen †

Class of 1951

(1 Anonymous)

Class of 1952

(2 Anonymous)

Florence & Joseph Chiappetta

Thomas & Alice Flynn

Class of 1953

Jean Kallmeyer

Annemarie & Bob Powell

Viggo B. Rambusch

Class of 1955

(1 Anonymous)

Rose Blackmore

Cyril Doherty

Owen Ireland

Mary Le Clair

Ann K. Szammers

Mary C. Tuer

Class of 1956

(2 Anonymous)

John F. X. Callahan

Rosemary E. Condie

Sylvia M. Driscoll

Edmund J. J. Fitzgerald

J. D. King

Anne M. Leonard

Dennis J. Murphy

Edward & Stella Rzadki

Joanne C. Turner

Norma M. Walsh

Class of 1957

Paul Cosgrove

William McIntyre

Grant W. Nadon

Catherine Sbrolla

Cynthia Teeter

M. Ann Vasilash

Class of 1958

(2 Anonymous)

J. Louis Abello

Catherine Ager

Gene Bammel

Bernard P. Barry

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“ My time working at St. Mike’s has helped me truly appreciate the strength and warmth of this community. I’ve seen how much care goes into supporting students not just academically, but personally and emotionally as well. That’s what inspired me to give to the Being Well at St. Mike’s fund. I believe that when students feel supported and cared for, they’re able to do their best and make the most of their university experience. ”

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“Your generosity has been a beacon of hope, relieving financial stress and inspiring me to achieve my fullest potential. On behalf of myself and my family, thank you for your kindness and support.”

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// As a first-gen college student, I wanted to get as much of the college experience as possible. I applied to only two schools — St. Mike’s and St. John Fisher in my hometown of Rochester, NY. Fisher did not have a dormitory at that time (1962) and I wanted to have as much of the college experience as possible. Living in Elmsley Hall for two years and in More House for one provided me with three fantastic roommates - and a wonderful education in U of T’s honours psychology program. Two of my brothers followed me to SMC, married Canadian citizens and still live in Toronto. My gifts to St. Mike’s are a way of saying “thank you” for all the blessings I have received. //

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/// As the child of a single mother, growing up in a rural community, I've always understood that money was tight in our family. I knew that I would need to rely on loans, grants and scholarships to pay for most of my time at university. When I met with financial difficulty, I looked for assistance, and thanks to the tremendous staff in the Registrar's Office and your generous contribution, I can focus more on my academic growth instead of the financial stress of university life.///

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// I established the Ernie and Dora Schnell Bursary at St. Mike's to honour my parents and their fervent belief in the value of Catholic education. It's wonderful to hear about the students who benefit from this bursary, knowing that they will have a bit easier time funding their education and will, without a doubt, become valued members of our communities. //

Ken Schnell, Former Manager, Annual Campaigns, USMC, Retired, Heritage Society Member

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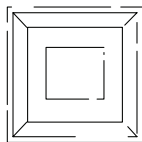
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THE DONOVAN COLLECTION'S newest arrival, *On My Way* (2025) by Luca Soldovieri, draws you down a path, a journey that unfolds inward rather than out. It traces something internal: movement, memory, maybe even dislocation. The work's softly blurred window and shifting tonal layers evoke the feeling of passing through an in-between state, where identity is still forming. It feels especially at home on a college campus. Soldovieri's art captures both tension and openness, a sense of becoming with-out yet knowing the destination.

Each artwork in her practice is made from materials sourced from her own life and surroundings or found second-hand. These items are hand-crushed, sifted, ground, or sanded into FINE dust before being recom-bined on new surfaces.

She brings these fragments, collected from spaces, objects, and experiences, into conversation, allowing them to tell stories together. Each work is accompanied by a "material poem," a list that catalogues the elements used. These poetic inventories offer a second narrative, revealing traces of memory and sensation embedded within the image itself.

In *On My Way*, the luminous form seems to hover between presence and absence, gesture and silence. What emerges is less a depiction than a feeling, an interior landscape inviting us to sense rather than see the paths we take toward personal growth. Luca Soldovieri's *On My Way* is installed in the John M. Kelly Library. ♦

"On My Way," Luca Soldovieri (b. 2001), 30"x 20". Adhesive and powdered material on panel, 2025. Image courtesy of the artist and Olga Korper Gallery.



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