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The Best Days are Yet to Come

The big story in this edition of the magazine is the appointment of Professor Randy Boyagoda as Principal and Vice-President here at St. Mike’s. There are many reasons for making this choice. Randy is a distinguished scholar and a dynamic teacher. He is a gifted writer and, as President of PEN Canada, a champion of intellectual and artistic freedom. His contributions to *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the CBC and other media outlets help secular audiences better understand the continuing relevance of religion in daily life. His track record as an academic administrator is no less brilliant. Sheldon Levy, whose recent presidency at Ryerson helped to redefine what an urban university can offer to its students and its city, selected Randy to lead what was arguably that university’s most important initiative. As Director of Zone Learning, Randy led an ambitious and innovative project whose success in breaking down academic silos was central to the redefinition of Ryerson.

As truly impressive as all of that is, it isn’t what I found most compelling in Randy’s candidacy. What sold me was his assertion, frequently repeated with quiet confidence and a big smile, that the best days of the University of St. Michael’s College lie ahead of us. I share that belief, and am confident that Randy’s arrival will play a big role in ensuring that it holds true.

Two things stand out for me from the hiring process. The first is that it enabled us to have an extended and fruitful conversation with colleagues at the University of Toronto about just who and what we are. Not surprisingly, this had something of a “both, and” quality. We made it clear that we are both a community of scholars dedicated to academic freedom and rigorous debate, and also vibrantly Catholic in terms of our openness to a distinguished intellectual tradition and our efforts to focus our community life on the values of the Gospel. We did not pretend that retaining our distinctiveness in the midst of a much larger, secular organization would always be easy, but we did reconfirm our commitment to doing this with a spirit of generous goodwill.

The second thing that stands out for me is that this hiring process, which is all about our future, was made possible thanks to a guiding presence that has been part of our community from its earliest days. You can’t expect to retain and cultivate all the gifts that make you distinctive without effort and investment. Among Randy’s various distinguished titles, one stands out in particular. He has been named to a new Basilian Chair in Christianity, Arts and Letters. Thanks to a generous gift from our founding order, we will be able to reinforce and expand our efforts to share the Catholic intellectual tradition with new generations of students and with our wider community. Randy’s work as a teacher will be focused on the classroom, but not limited to it. We also want to create opportunities to promote wider scholarship and research, and to bring to the campus speakers and events that will excite colleagues across campus in the University of Toronto’s Department of English as much as they will interest our own students and alumni.

Our best days are indeed ahead of us, and largely because we have stayed true to an orientation to Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge that has distinguished us from the beginning.

David Mulroney 7T8, President & Vice-Chancellor
University of St. Michael’s College
usmc.presidentsoffice@utoronto.ca
Celebrating 100 Years at St. Clare’s Church

Three students of St. Michael’s College are among a group of parish volunteers who spearheaded the successful publication of a stunning hardcover book to celebrate the 100th anniversary of a vibrant midtown Toronto parish.

The three women—alumni Christine Horgan (’00) and Mary Benincasa (’04), and current student Anne Hanley—were instrumental in creating St. Clare’s Church: Celebrating 100 Years of Faith and Service, which has been nominated for this year’s Heritage Toronto Book Awards. It contains more than 300 photographs, from archival images to full-page colour bleeds highlighting the beauty of this landmark church, as well as candid shots of the faith community over the years. But more than that, it details the full breadth of the parish’s history from its founding at the outset of World War I through 10 decades that mirror the growth of the city itself.

Horgan and her team designed the book’s content so it would be of value to those interested in Catholic history and spirituality but also to local history enthusiasts. “Now the intersection of St. Clair and Dufferin is part of the bustling midtown core of the city, but at that time it was still a rural area,” says Horgan.

The grounding the three received at St. Michael’s helped them pull the book together. As an undergraduate, Horgan majored in English literature, but also took a few Christianity and Culture courses, which nourished her interest in art and church history. Benincasa, who received her Masters in Religious Education at St. Mike’s, was a lay pastoral assistant at St. Clare’s Church for many years. Hanley is currently working on her Masters of Religious Education at the College.

The book, which is a parish fundraising project, was a true labour of love for all the book committee members. They dedicated hundreds of hours to leafing through long-forgotten papers in the rectory safe and storage rooms, interviewing long-time parishioners, and trolling the Archdiocese and City archives. “I found it truly inspiring to see how the arc of world history played out here at St. Clare’s,” says Hanley. “Whether it was Father Francis McGoey launching a rural commune in the Depression years, or Bridget Donley donating the proceeds of her needle-and-thread cart to help build the church, these stories all provide a personal glimpse into history not just of St. Clare’s, but of the time.”

One of the more noteworthy details of the origins of St. Clare’s parish is the fact that it was the local faithful who initiated the project. In 1908, a group of local homeowners under the leadership of a fellow named John Walshe approached the newly appointed Archbishop Fergus McEvay requesting that a parish be established in the Earlscourt District. His initial response was to assign a priest from a neighbouring parish, a Father Walsh of St. Cecilia’s, to the area. On Sundays Father Walsh provided catechism lessons and recited the Rosary in the McClure’s summer home on Bloem Avenue. He also arranged for a covered van to bring the children to and from St. Cecilia’s School over in the Junction District. Archbishop McEvay then instructed the locals to take a survey of the area to properly assess the situation.

Without delay some members of the recently established St. Anthony’s Parish St. Vincent de Paul Society conducted a door-to-door survey, asking the people if they were attending Mass and if their children were attending Catholic school. The outlook was grim: many Catholics were not
attending Sunday Mass and were drifting away from the faith. However, there was a positive side. According to a report by the Society, “Every family without exception has signified their intention to withdraw their children from the public schools, if convenience [were] given them in placing a Catholic school in their midst.” The survey indicated that there were 33 Catholic families in the area at the time.

Naturally the primary concern would have been how to finance such a daunting project. Two successful garden parties were held to raise money to purchase the land…. Here’s a description from one of the original parishioners, Ethel Martyn, who fortunately took the time to record a lengthy description of the earliest days in 1935:

“Well do I recall St. Clare’s first picnic in 1908, which was held opposite the church site, on the south side of St. Clair between Lauder and Dufferin Street. It was commonly known as Ryan’s pasture field, but on that day it was transformed into a veritable fairyland. There was a beautiful grove near Dufferin Street [with] refreshment booths, sale of work booth, fish pond, Punch and Judy show, and gypsy tent where one’s future was revealed for a song….

On June 30, 1909, a tract of land (nine lots) was acquired at the corners of Ravensden Avenue (now Westmount Avenue) and St. Clair by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation for the Diocese of Toronto for $6,400. According to the original deed, the land was purchased from Elizabeth and Peter Laughton. Another man named Frederick Lee and his wife, Mary, sold part of the land to the diocese for $1.…. As a name for the church had not yet been chosen, the new parish was simply called “Earlscourt Catholic Mission” (a mission tends to be an offshoot of another full-fledged parish). Father James Player, a Basilian curate from Holy Rosary Parish, was put in charge of the mission. A little more than a year later, a four-room brick school building was completed on the corner of St. Clair and Northcliffe (the site of today’s parkette), and a provisional chapel was set up in one of the upper rooms for Sunday Mass until the church was usable.

How bittersweet it must have felt for that core group of “Catholics on the hill,” as they were sometimes referred to, on that chilly day—November 7, 1915—when St. Clare’s Church was officially consecrated. For, although there must have been some joy, there would also have been an underlying feeling of anxiety given the state of affairs on the world stage, as World War I had now been raging for over a year.…

According to records, St. Clare’s parish had 110 recruits. Given that there were approximately 1,000 people in the parish at that time, that’s about 10 per cent of its membership, according to [USMC Professor and graduate] Mark McGowan, who has done extensive research in this area. Unfortunately, few Catholic parishes, except for St. Paul’s and St. Helen’s Church, preserved their honour roll or records, so there is no way of knowing how many parishioners from St. Clare’s were lost.

What was found was a single, well-preserved letter inside the rectory safe dated February 13, 1918, from the Senior Chaplain of the Military Forces of Canada, stationed in London, England. The formal typewritten letter is addressed simply to “the Priest in charge, Roman Catholic Church,” regarding a Private Sullivan who apparently lived at 1087 St. Clair Avenue West, presumably an apartment above the first-floor shop, near the corner of Lauder Avenue. The letter was informing Father McCabe of this soldier’s imminent departure to Canada and return to civilian life. It doesn’t mention whether Private Sullivan was wounded or not, but it does say that he was a parishioner of St. Clare’s…. One can’t help wondering if perhaps this letter had some special meaning for Father McCabe that moved him to save the letter, and what happened to this young man after the war.

[…With the war’s end, the] population grew by leaps and bounds. By the mid-1930s, the congregation had grown… to 2,400 members. But life wasn’t always easy. The Great Depression of the ’30s affected the people of St. Clare’s as much as anywhere else. Father Francis McGoey, a young curate assisting at St. Clare’s, decided to do something about it by starting a “Back to the Land” movement. ♦

Excerpted from St. Clare’s Church: Celebrating 100 Years of Faith and Service. For more information or to purchase a copy, please visit stclarespublishing.com. It is also available through the Toronto Public Library.

Interior of the church from the altar.
“You like us. You really like us!” That message came through loud and clear in a recent St. Michael’s Magazine readership survey. According to 88 per cent of respondents, the magazine helps alumni feel more connected to St. Michael’s, and 92 per cent gave high marks to the magazine’s content.

Said one respondent: “[St. Michael’s Magazine] is a wonderful connection to my alma mater. The solid tradition of the university has been rediscovered by me as I reconnect through the magazine and through continuing ed courses.” Some respondents said they actually use the magazine as a tool to connect future students to the College, leaving it in the guidance office of the high school where they teach or simply showing it to young people in their circle.

The survey results are great news, says Andy Lubinsky ’79, President of the University of St. Michael’s College Alumni Association (USMCAA). “Our main goal is to create meaningful connections between alumni and the College that build on the vision, spirit and traditions of USMC,” he says, “and St. Michael’s Magazine is an important part of maintaining that bridge.”

The USMCAA is constantly working to create experiences that will meet, and even surpass, alumni expectations, he adds. “Keep your feedback coming, so we can continue to do this!”

### Readership survey gives high score

### TOP 3 HOT TOPICS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Alumni stories (83%)</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Interesting programs at St. Michael’s (75%)</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Events (67%)</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

- 46% read most pages.
- 32% read some pages.
- 18% read all of the magazine.

### OUR GOLDSILOCKS MOMENT PART 1

91% said the magazine has just the right number of pages.

### OUR GOLDSILOCKS MOMENT PART 2

- 81% said the magazine’s frequency (twice yearly) is just right.
- Another 13% wanted to get the magazine more frequently.

### MAINTAINING THE LINK

- 59% said the magazine has inspired them to attend an alumni or school function.
- 47% said it inspired them to make a contribution to the school.
- 31% said it inspired them to reconnect with classmates.

### WHAT ADDITIONAL CONTENT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE MAGAZINE?

More on alumni who are doing significant work • Stories about past and present leaders, lay and religious • More about what older graduates are doing...in their later careers and/or retirement • More about the results of research that has made a contribution • Sports teams • More attention to the life of graduate students • Submissions from SMC professors on the things they teach in class • Calendar of lectures or events or courses or symposia available for alumni • More about St. Mike’s involvement in major issues of the day • A bookshelf setting out new books written by SMC alums • More information about the Catholic faith

The survey, which was conducted in February by the USMCAA, was sent to all alumni with active email addresses, and received approximately 450 responses. Of those, 88 per cent were alumni, four per cent were faculty or staff, three per cent were “friends of St. Michael’s,” and the remainder—including a self-described “old curmudgeon”—classified themselves as “other.”
Looking back over the past year, the St. Michael’s College Young Alumni Committee (SMCYAC) has been very successful in establishing a culture of engagement among students and young alumni. The many events it held have helped to grow the Young Alumni membership and engage a wider audience.

As well as the popular Shaker Pro events at Casa Loma, which help young alumni on their career paths, SMCYAC also hosted gatherings before these events, to help establish the SMC brand. On a lighter note, it hosted a pub night at Mullins, a very popular Double Blue Young Alumni Party as part of the Spring Reunion Celebrations. The Committee also launched the College’s first toy drive and the Young Alumni Santa Claus Parade Party. And the Alumni/Student Football game was expanded to an entire Sports Day, including a soccer tournament, to give the event wider appeal and make it more inclusive.

MikeTalks

The Young Alumni are very excited about the MikeTalks series, a new program launched by SMCYAC this year. We know how difficult it is for students and new graduates to fit mentoring or career information sessions into their busy schedules—MikeTalks is a regularly scheduled series of information sessions open to all students in which St. Michael’s young alumni who have gone on to an interesting career (or are establishing one) will give a brief summary of their career path so far, and how they got there. The goal is for all sessions to be filmed and posted as a series on the Young Alumni portion of the St. Michael’s website.

MikeTalks will be held once a month during the school year in the newly renovated COOP space at St. Michael’s College; the regular schedule and the format should make for a large and diverse audience!

Of course, SMCYAC will continue to develop mentorship programs with the Backpack to Briefcase team, the Career Centre at the University of Toronto and our own Campus Life.

At the first MikeTalks, held March 30, Mena Gewarges (1T0) described her journey to her dream medical career. Now in her fourth year of medical school at the UofT, Mena talked about how she got in after an initial rejection, and what med school is really like. She was brutally honest yet upbeat in her talk, telling her audience, “Never subscribe to a fear mentality or failure mentality. Just because you don’t get it the first time doesn’t mean you’re not going to get it another time.” She inspired and encouraged undergraduates to pursue their goals with commitment and dedication, and not to give up. “No amount of success will happen for you unless you’ve failed,” she said. Success isn’t some magical event that simply happens: “Success demands patience and commitment…you have to be patient with the process.”

Mena, who is aiming for a career in internal medicine, hopes to continue to inspire and encourage undergraduate students to pursue their academic goals. “Mentorship relationships are extremely important,” she said. “I wouldn’t have come this far without SMC and the kind support of Morteza Memari, Associate Registrar, and the entire SMC community!”

CURRENT YOUNG ALUMNI MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Young Alumni Members</th>
<th>Olivia Conforti (1T2)</th>
<th>Teresa Martin (0T5)</th>
<th>Phil Wigmore (1T2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Misha Boutliier (1T5)</td>
<td>Laura Fallico (1T0)</td>
<td>Cynthia Mutheardy (1T1)</td>
<td>Lily Wong (0T5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valerie Burnatowski (1T1)</td>
<td>Ainsley Gilkinson (0T9)</td>
<td>Cesare Plastina (0T9)</td>
<td>Anita Xia (1T2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ON the icy morning of March 24, a few brave souls who ventured out to 113 St. Joseph could be found settled in at the new individual study spaces on the third floor of the John M. Kelly Library. The 43 new birch tables, ranged along the north and east walls to offer a view of the changing seasons, have frosted glass panels for privacy and electrical outlets for power, all amidst silence for inspired study. This project greatly improves the comfort of the library for our undergraduate and graduate students.

The new addition is just one result of discussions with almost 200 students in the fall of 2015; through a focus group and individual surveys, students asked for additional individual study areas. “Their input has been invaluable,” says Sheril Hook, Chief Librarian at the Kelly Library. “I’m very happy that we’ve already been able to make improvements they recommended.” Working with the student community to make the library a great space for them to work and socialize has been a goal for Hook since she began at the Kelly Library in 2014.

DONORS MAKE IT HAPPEN
These new carrels come thanks to contributions from the Friends of the John M. Kelly Library and the University of St. Michael’s College (USMC) Annual Fund Campaign donors. But they are not the only library improvement projects supported by the donations of our community and alumni.

A raised seating and table area near the reference desk was made possible in part by the Class of 2015. Our goal of renovating the circulation desk to meet the standards of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act will be achieved in part with funds donated by an alumnus to improve access to services at the University.

Other improvements that have been made as a result of the students’ recommendations include a presentation practice room, new furniture in the first floor reading room, and refurbishment of the café.

The John M. Kelly Library is constantly working to enhance our students’ scholarly and community experiences. We look forward to announcing new donor- and alumni-supported improvements to our facilities and services over the coming months, and welcome the opportunity to meet with anyone interested in being part of this exciting period of renewal in the library.

A big thank you to all the alumni and friends who have contributed to the USMC 2015/2016 Annual Fund Campaign. Your support enables us to sustain our campus infrastructure, as well as the academic, campus life and financial aid programs. ♦

YOU CAN HELP TOO
The Friends of the John M. Kelly Library are volunteers who raise funds to improve the student experience. In the past six years, the Friends have contributed nearly $150,000 towards equipment and furniture upgrades. The keystone event is the Annual Book Sale, to be held this fall on September 27–30. The Friends welcome new members—and old books—throughout the year! If you are interested in learning more, volunteering with the group or donating books for the fall sale, reach out to them via their webpage at stmikes.utoronto.ca/kelly/friends.
A Cup of Joe…

…with Oriana Bertucci

IT’S TIME FOR A COFFEE BREAK WITH ORIANA Bertucci, the new Assistant Dean—Campus Life (ADCL) at the University of St. Michael’s College. Bertucci comes to St. Mike’s from the Archdiocese of Toronto, where she served as Director of Campus Ministry for Ryerson University. She is a graduate of the University of Guelph, where she studied politics, economics and French; she then moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where she studied theology and decided to pursue a call to ministry.

As ADCL, Bertucci will be responsible for enhancing the personal growth of students outside the classroom by providing support and guidance, collaborating in orientation planning, educating students on issues of importance to the university community, and overseeing our commuter don and mentorship programs.

SM’s: What attracted you to working at St. Michael’s College?
OB: I was impressed by the rich heritage here, and the small community feel that it offers its students.

SM’s: How did you wind up working in the area of campus life in the first place?
OB: I’ve been working with university-age students for my entire career. The chance to share in their journey and enhance their undergraduate experience through campus involvement is a great joy for me.

SM’s: What are some of the key things from your previous experience that you bring to your position here?
OB: Having worked on several other university campuses, including Ryerson and the University of Toronto Mississauga, I hope to bring new ideas and share the connections made at other institutions to expand student life at St. Mike’s.

SM’s: What is the most innovative thing you think is going on in campus life right now?
OB: Orientation. We are thinking outside the box, finding creative ways to integrate every student into the St. Michael’s family.

SM’s: What is your favourite part of the job?
OB: I love when students drop into my office for a chat!

SM’s: How do you take your coffee?
OB: Lots of milk…and vanilla-flavoured coffee is my favourite!
In early 2016, the US-led international coalition to defeat ISIS launched a new strategy designed to target ISIS’s financial assets. Recent air strikes conducted by the coalition have destroyed four bank facilities in Mosul, Iraq, including the Central Bank, al-Rasheed Bank, al-Aqari Bank and Abu Tammam Bank in Iraq, as well as two ISIS financial storage centres and two ISIS financial distribution centres. The air strikes have hit several key targets including oil trucks, oil refineries and oil fields, ultimately damaging or destroying more than 1,170 oil infrastructure targets under ISIS control. Further, the US believes that air strikes in Iraq and Syria have destroyed more than $500 million in cash that ISIS relies on to pay its fighters and fund its terror and military operations. Since October 2015, the coalition says it has destroyed at least 10 “cash collection points” estimated to contain hundreds of millions of dollars, though, according to the Wall Street Journal, the group operates over 1,600 “cash exchange houses” in Iraq alone. Coalition officials have stated that they plan to strike more financial targets in the coming months in order to disrupt ISIS’s ability to function as a state.

The strategy already appears to be significantly impacting the Islamic State’s financial stability. An internal document retrieved and translated by Aymenn Jawad al-Tamimi, a researcher with the Middle East Forum, indicates that the group has slashed fighter salaries by 50 per cent. The

Targeting the Islamic State’s financial assets
By Genevieve Zingg

BANKS, BOMBS & BLOOD MONEY

By Genevieve Zingg
group has abandoned its free perks, and lower-ranking fighters in Falujah, Iraq, are reportedly receiving no wages at all. As Financial Action Task Force President Je-Yoon Shin noted, crippling ISIS’s budget damages its ability to recruit and retain fighters, particularly local fighters who fight for pay rather than for ideological or religious reasons. Indeed, since implementing the 50 per cent pay cuts last month, there has been a rise in “for-pay” fighters defecting from ISIS to rival militant factions.

Faced with a sudden cash shortage, ISIS has begun relying on other sources of revenue. Islamic State militants in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul are manipulating the exchange rate between US dollars and Iraqi dinars to capitalize on local financial flows. Currency traders in Mosul have confirmed that ISIS is selling basic commodities produced in factories it controls to local distributors, and paying salaries to its fighters and employees in dinars. The group imposed currency rates last month that strengthen the dollar when exchanged for dinars, which results in profits of nearly 20 per cent. Parallel trading at better rates is inhibited by the Islamic State’s threat to confiscate the money of anyone who breaks their rules.

ISIS has further responded to the financial crunch by releasing 40 Assyrian Christian captives in mid-February in exchange for “millions” in ransom fees. Rami Abdurrahman, Director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said that businessmen and the Assyrian church have paid approximately $25-$30 million in ransoms to secure the release of 230 Assyrian Christians kidnapped in Syria last year. ISIS is releasing other Yazidi and Assyrian Christian hostages for upwards of USD $500 a person.

Since implementing the 50% **PAY CUTS** last month, there has been a rise in “for-pay” fighters DEFECTING from ISIS to rival militant factions.

**IS THE COALITION’S STRATEGY LEGAL?**

As part of a British inquiry into Islamic State funding mechanisms, panel expert David Butler said that the US-led coalition’s targeting of wellheads and road tankers has been effective. He advised the British government that disrupting oil financing must be complemented by targeting the wider network of illicit financing mechanisms ISIS exploits. Another panel expert, Iraqi Energy Institute Executive Director Luay al-Khateeb, said that the declining profitability of oil for ISIS is a result of both coalition air strikes and the group’s difficulties in managing and maintaining the oil fields under its control. Al-Khateeb acknowledged that Turkey and Kurdistan might purchase ISIS oil, and argued that strengthened border control in those jurisdictions would help target shadow economies.

While it may be effective, the coalition’s strategy is questionable under international law. According to a Pentagon press briefing, the rationale for the attacks on cash storage sites and oil refineries is that these targets are “economic assets providing fuel to ISIS operations and attacks.” In January, for instance, the US successfully struck and destroyed a cash distribution site where ISIS was allegedly storing millions of dollars. However, the building struck was located in a civilian area, prompting the question of whether money, cash and financial targets are legitimate under international law. The US military announced recently that air strikes against financial targets in Iraq and Syria had likely killed several civilians. During one of the strikes, US commanders acknowledged that they had been “willing to consider up to 50 civilian casualties” given the significance of the target. The US has further stated that it will assess all targets on a case-by-case basis, but will not rule out civilian casualties for important targets.

The question of whether a party to an armed conflict may attack a “war-sustaining” financial target is highly disputed. The law of armed conflict does not currently assign a status, either civilian or military, to money. This is a critical issue given that under international humanitarian law, parties may only target “military objectives” and not “civilian objects.” A recent report published by the US Naval War College notes that the coalition should consider exercising other options rather than continuing aerial strikes on targets in civilian areas. It notes that better border enforcement by states adjacent to Syria may be an effective solution to limiting ISIS’s ability to capitalize on stolen oil refineries and looted cash. As the strikes increase in scope and volume, the question of international law is certain to be a critical and contentious issue shaping the future of the coalition’s fight against ISIS. ♦

This article was originally written for and published by the NATO Association of Canada. Author Genevieve Zingg is a Research Analyst at the NATO Council of Canada. She is also a Program Assistant to the Deputy Coordinator of the International Criminal Court Legal Tools Project. In addition, she is the Director of Community Engagement for the Toronto chapter of Young Women in Business. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of St. Michael’s College.

Genevieve was recently selected to receive a research grant from the Institute of European Democrats in Brussels as part of a project studying the impact of the refugee crisis on the European Union, funded by European Parliament. Her research focuses on the risk of homegrown terror and radicalization in the EU if the bloc’s open-borders agreement is abolished. She has had papers accepted to the 2016 McGill Graduate Conference in Law and the 2016 International Development Studies conference at the University of Oxford, and is proud to be a formal affiliate of the Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security and Society.

St. Michael’s Spring 2016 11
Randy Boyagoda
Sixth Principal & the Vice-President of the University of St. Michael’s College
At St. Michael’s College, a great history remains a continued presence on campus. The spirit of Marshall McLuhan still stimulates discussion among scholars, artists and intellectuals at his old haunt, the Coach House. A short walk away, the greatest medievalist of the 20th century, Etienne Gilson, does his own haunting at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, which he founded.

Randy Boyagoda, soon to become sixth Principal of St. Michael’s College, and the Vice-President of the University of St. Michael’s College (USMC), has a Gilson story to tell. It seems that in the early 1930s, Gilson was trying to decide between Harvard and the University of Toronto as a permanent teaching post. “He chose Toronto over Harvard because of St. Michael’s College—because Gilson sensed that in coming to Toronto he could be part of a great research university and, at the same time, have the chance to be part of a great Catholic intellectual community,” Boyagoda explains. “There are lots of Catholic colleges and lots of great research universities in the world, but St. Michael’s in the University of Toronto is distinctive in being both. You don’t have to choose one over the other. We can offer our students and faculty the same exciting opportunity to live out the life of faith in concert with the life of the mind.”

We can offer our students and faculty the same exciting OPPORTUNITY to live out the LIFE OF FAITH in concert with the LIFE OF THE MIND.

— RANDY BOYAGODA

By Philip Marchand 6T9

Photography by Ethan Horst Mitchell
Boyagoda’s ambitions for the office of College Principal are also personal. “In this office you get to be an example of what it means to pursue the life of faith and the life of the mind together, and I intend to do so, while helping to lead and to serve the College,” he says. “In other words, I’ve been hired in no small part to show what it means to be a Catholic intellectual and teacher in a secular age.”

His words are echoed by USMC President David Mulroney. “Randy embodies the message we want to share with our students,” Mulroney says. “We as people of faith can live our faith in a secular world.” One might assume that Mulroney, who spent 30 years in public service and whose last position was Canadian ambassador to the People’s Republic of China, is particularly sensitive to messages sent and received in the public forum. He clearly has confidence that Boyagoda can negotiate the differences.

“St. Michael’s College represents a much-needed platform for ideas and debate about faith and reason in this city,” Mulroney says. “At some level, people outside the Church expect St. Mike’s to introduce new ideas. There’s a welcome to St. Michael’s College and an expectation that we will provide alternate perspectives. I’ve described St. Michael’s College as a place of servants who lead and leaders who serve,” Mulroney says. “The gifts each of us have been given are to be used in the wider world for the benefit of that world.”

When it comes to demonstrating as much, it helps that Boyagoda is blessed with an exuberant and sunny temperament. “It’s impossible to be in a room with Randy for more than five minutes and not feel your spirits lifted,” Mulroney says. “He has an infectious sense of joy and hopefulness.”

**GROWING INTO THIS MOMENT**

Boyagoda was born in 1976 in Oshawa to parents who emigrated from Sri Lanka. His father taught science at a Catholic school founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Boyagoda earned a B.A. at the University of Toronto in 1999 and subsequently an M.A. and Ph.D. at Boston University. In the latter institution he met his wife, Anna, who directs the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program for the Archdiocese of Toronto. The couple have four daughters and live in Toronto’s east end, where they are part of Corpus Christi parish.

Upon returning to Toronto in 2006 for a position at Ryerson University, Boyagoda published his first novel, a satirical chronicle and ScotiaBank Giller Prize nominee entitled *Governor of the Northern Province,* about an ex-African warlord at large in small-town Canada.

His second novel, *Beggar’s Feast,* appeared in 2011 and has been published around the world to critical acclaim. It featured a 10-year-old boy named Sam Kandy, born in a backwater village in Sri Lanka, who is determined to make his fortune as “a street hustler businessman” in an unsavoury Colombo district described as “a glorious cutthroat
Eventually Sam Kandy, having prospered mightily, returns to his native village, but the locals are curiously unimpressed.

I ask Boyagoda if there’s a little Sam Kandy in him. He laughs, “I hope not! Although, admittedly, we might share the same desire for recognition from your hometown. I mean, it sticks in my craw—I’ve had my work reviewed in The New York Times and yet I can’t get a word from the Oshawa media. It kills me. It really kills me.”

Perhaps his next novel, which he is currently working on, will alert the Oshawa media. “It’s a novel about the dangers and absurd consequences that can come of trying to live out your faith, whether it’s bourgeois Toronto, Chinese-occupied Sri Lanka or a Middle Eastern country just emerging from civil war,” Boyagoda says.

Boyagoda is almost equally as well-known for his literary and cultural commentary as for his fiction. Among his books, for example, is a scholarly work entitled Race, Immigration and American Identity in the Fiction of Salman Rushdie, Ralph Ellison and William Faulkner. As the title suggests, it is not a beach read. More accessible is his recent and well-received biography of the late Father Richard John Neuhaus, a preacher and intellectual best known for his 1984 bestselling polemic entitled The Naked Public Square. That book was an argument for the informed presence of religion in American public life.

While a graduate student, Boyagoda wrote a couple of book reviews for Father Neuhaus’s journal First Things, and he used
Neuhaus’s Canadian birth and upbringing as a selling point for editors. He recalls approaching The Walrus magazine in 2009, for example, for an article on Neuhaus. “My pitch was, ‘Here is the most influential Canadian-born person in American public life that you have never heard of,’” Boyagoda recalls. His interest in the subject eventually resulted in Richard John Neuhaus: A Life in the Public Square, which was published in 2015.

In addition to his books, Boyagoda regularly contributes essays and reviews to publications such as The New York Times, Financial Times (UK) and The Globe and Mail, in addition to appearing frequently on CBC Radio to discuss books and current affairs. He is also president of PEN Canada, the literary organization that celebrates literature and advocates for writers and free expression at home and around the world.

A MULTI-FACETED WORLD VIEW

Boyagoda comes to St. Michael’s College with more than artistic and intellectual armament, however. He has a wealth of experience gained from his years at Ryerson, a very different institution. Ryerson has its own “mission,” which Boyagoda interprets as an emphasis on experiential learning that recognizes the importance and promise of technology, innovation and entrepreneurship.

In fulfillment of that mission, in addition to teaching courses on literature, religion and politics, for the past three years Boyagoda has been directing a program called “zone learning” in his role as Director of Zone Learning. This has involved the creation of zones within which like-minded students can gather and develop their ideas and incubate their enterprises, drawing upon advice from faculty, business, community mentors and fellow students. Zone members also have the use of meeting rooms, workshops, studios and various forms of dedicated space.

“Randy took on that leadership for the university,” recalls Sheldon Levy, then president of Ryerson. “He worked with mostly faculty and deans of faculty and the various chairs. He was their champion, helping them to move into these different zones. Randy’s strength was that he could cross disciplines from the creative arts to engineering. That’s why he was chosen director. There were very few people who could feel comfortable in a variety of different zones.”

Now Boyagoda is set to embrace a different sort of mission, one that draws upon a long cultural memory and distinguished set of traditions. History can sometimes be a burden, but when it comes to this College, Boyagoda regards it as both a spiritual asset and an inspiration to do even more in the time to come. With a big smile he proclaims, “The best years of St. Michael’s are ahead!”

Philip Marchand is a noted literary critic and award-winning Canadian author. His biography, Marshall McLuhan, remains the essential book for understanding McLuhan’s life and work. Born in Massachusetts, Marchand came to Canada to study at the University of Toronto, and has spent his adult life in Toronto, with the exception of six years when he and his wife lived in Vancouver.
Established in 1994 by the University of Toronto Alumni Association and the Division of University Advancement, the Cressy Award recognizes students who have made an outstanding extracurricular contribution to their college, faculty or school, or the university as a whole. This year, 12 students from St. Michael’s College (SMC) are being honored: Rebecca Blakeney, Palakh Chhabria, Daniel Derkach, Kylie Hendriks, Jennifer Kolz, Robin Liu, Elizabeth McDermott, Natasha Milavec, Alice Pan, Housam Said Silim, Diva Turial and Seth Watt.

REBECCA BLAKENEY: Rebecca has made great contributions to the St. Michael’s community, serving as President of the Loretto College Residence’s House Council and as Events Coordinator and Co-President of the Medieval Studies Undergraduate Society (MSUS). During her time as President, Rebecca led a team of five young women who were committed to enhancing the student experience in the residence and the larger University of Toronto and civic community. As Co-President of MSUS, she was a pivotal actor in organizing lectures, workshops and events between graduate students, professors and undergraduate students, such as SMC’s Orientation Week. She has also been a member of the Friends of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies Library and Don for Loretto College Residence.

PALAKH CHHABRIA: Palakh has made immense contributions to her community and society. As Editor in Chief of The Mike, the College’s official newspaper, she was able to increase the reach of the paper through digitization while also building the SMC sense of community. Palakh has also held several roles within the UofT community, including Treasurer of SMC House Council, President of the Culinary Arts Club, Operations Assistant of TedX at UofT, as well as being a team member of the Women’s Basketball Team at SMC.

DANIEL DERKACH: Daniel has enriched student life through his contribution in a 2014 project called Profiling Opportunity: Pathways to the Future. His involvement provided students in life sciences with resources and videos to showcase the plethora of academic and non-academic opportunities available to them. He has also been involved as an Executive Member of the University of Toronto Global Brigades, a chapter of the world’s largest student-run sustainable development organization.

KYLIE HENDRIKS: Kylie has been a dynamic leader in her work for Celtic Students both at SMC and in the community. She has served as Co-President of the Celtic Studies Course Union and was one of the main architects of the Second Annual Student Lecture Series in Celtic Studies. As Conference Coordinator, she had a direct hand in bringing more than 60 attendees from across North America to SMC to share their ideas with peers who had common interests.

JENNIFER KOLZ: Jennifer has been an exemplary leader and role model. As a member of student government at the Toronto School of Theology, and peer leader at Massey and Loretto colleges and in the Canadian Theological Students’ Association, she was able to advocate for the needs and desires of students. She was elected Don of Hall at Massey College and chaired the House Committee, serving as Chief Electoral Officer for two elections and one by-election. Jennifer also assisted with allocating funds, and advocated for the needs and desires of Junior Fellows to the administration.
ROBIN LIU: Robin has been an inspiring and dedicated member of the community. As a Residence Don at SMC, he has been an actively involved member promoting social, personal and academic development to all the residences. Robin is also an advocate for music therapy. Through his role as President of Healing Sounds of Music, he organized and ran concerts at various retirement homes and hospitals. As Co-Chair of the EarthTones Benefit Concert this year, he helped the University of Toronto International Health Program raise $20,000 for the Syrian refugee crisis.

ELIZABETH McDERMOTT: Elizabeth has exhibited exemplary leadership qualities within the community. She has served as representative of the undergraduate students on the Review and Search Committee for the Principal of St. Michael’s, and was Editor in Chief and creator of the religion column at The Mike. Her involvement as a representative of the undergraduate student body included creating a report on student life.

NATASHA MILAVEC: Natasha has been dedicated to creating a community on campus through her involvement with the Newman Catholic Students Club. As an executive member, she was able to build a community at the Newman Centre for many students at the University of Toronto. Natasha’s passion for social justice has also led her to be involved with initiatives such as Out of the Cold and Street Patrol, where meals were provided for people in need, as well as travelling to Bosnia to work in a peace centre through the Intercordia Course at SMC. (picture regrettably unavailable)

ALICE PAN: Alice has been a great leader and contributor to the university community. Her involvement as Director of the St. Mike’s Leadership Conference, SMC Lead and Commuter Don has allowed for new student leaders to be inspired at SMC. Alice has also tutored for On Your Mark, a program to help children who are struggling academically and have working mothers, and was a project leader for an Alternative Reading Week project designed in conjunction with Unison Health and Community Services.

HOUSAM SAID SILIM: Housam has been a great community contributor. Through his engagement in the Hart House Social Justice Committee and the Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office, he has provided innovative and empowering programs to create solutions and conversation for students on the issues of race, gender and social justice. He has also worked with on-campus groups such as Idle No More and Black Lives Matter, and hosted a show on CIUT, a campus and community radio station owned and operated by the UofT.

DIVA TURIAL: Diva has been a great contributor to the student life at the University of Toronto. As founder of the Arts & Science Undergraduate Research Group (ASURG), she helped undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts & Science to get access to undergraduate research opportunities in various UofT departments, affiliated research centres and hospitals. She has also been the office hour holder and PSA Newsletter writer for the Psychology Students’ Association, and has been an avid mentor to students within SMC.

SETH WATT: Seth has been a strong contributor to the community. His academic involvement and work with the Rule Lab, the University of Toronto and the Lab of Cognitive Neuroscience has led him to highlight new information on testosterone and cognition by studying the diverse trans community. While earning excellent grades, his experience in research and in-depth knowledge of the issues helped make him an exceptional volunteer. ♦
On the afternoon of November 7, a new batch of students joined the alumni circle of the University of St. Michael’s Faculty of Theology and the Continuing Education Division. Honorary degrees were granted to Reverend Professor John W. O’Malley, S.J., and Reverend Canon Professor Sarah Coakley.

**TOLKIEN’S BEOWULF AND LESSONS FROM HISTORY**

Professor Andy Orchard, best known for being Rawlinson and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon at the University of Oxford, held a lecture on November 9 to discuss J.R.R. Tolkien’s *Beowulf*, his translation and commentary on the Old English epic, and the lessons to be learned from the work of this model for modern medievalists. Attendees had the opportunity to get a great education on the bold and brilliant interpretations Tolkien gave of Old English poems.

**2015 ARTS AND SCIENCE FALL CONVOCATION**

On the evening of November 10, St. Michael’s College celebrated the graduation of our newest cohort of graduates, making them part of the USMC community. Graduates were beaming at Convocation Hall as they received their diplomas, marking the start of a new journey.

**CELTIC STUDIES SPEAKER SERIES**

Dr. Anastasia Dukova presented a lecture entitled “Life Guards of the Sleeping Realm: A History of the Dublin Police” at Charbonnel Lounge on November 12. Dr. Dukova is a crime and policing historian who specializes in the history of municipal policing, with a focus on Ireland and colonial Australia. She is the author of *A History of the Dublin Metropolitan Police and Its Colonial Legacy*, which was published this year by Palgrave Macmillan.

**FACULTY OF THEOLOGY 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

The University of St. Michael’s College Faculty of Theology celebrated its 60th Anniversary and Presentation on the evening of November
HANDEL’S FOUNDLING HOSPITAL ANTHEM
On December 7 in St. Basil’s Church, alumni and friends were treated to Handel’s “Foundling Hospital Anthem” (“Blessed are they that considereth the poor”). Composed as a fundraiser for a London orphanage, this oratorio was a fitting way to launch the Year of Mercy called for by Pope Francis. For this piece, Handel drew on some of his earlier works—most notably Messiah, from which he borrowed the “Hallelujah Chorus.” This moving concert was performed by The Musicians In Ordinary Orchestra, led by Christopher Verrette, with St. Michael’s Schola Cantorum and soloists directed by Michael O’Connor.

THE KELLY LECTURE
One of USMC’s finest traditions, the John M. Kelly Lecture in Theology, was re-launched this year with a speech by Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. On March 21, more than 400 guests gathered in St. Basil’s Parish to listen to Laudato Si’: Let’s Redefine Progress. Afterwards, Cardinal Turkson attended a reception in Brennan Lounge, where he mingled with guests.

13. Held at the Kelly Café at John M. Kelly Library, it was followed by the Annual John Meagher Lecture at Charbonnel Lounge; this year Father William H. Irwin, CSB, presented “Between Church and University: The St. Michael’s Faculty of Theology at Sixty.” It was a truly great event with many in attendance.

ST. MIKE’S FIRST ANNUAL TOY & CLOTHING DRIVE
From November 15 to December 11, the University of St. Michael’s College held its first annual Toy & Clothing Drive. There was an outstanding amount of support, bringing toys and clothing to many families who were in need during the holiday season. Special thanks go out to all the donors and volunteers for their efforts in making this event such a success.

SANTA CLAUS PARADE DAY AT ST. MICHAEL’S
On November 15, Santa made a special stop at Father Madden Hall before he embarked on the Annual Santa Claus Parade. The children of the St. Michael’s alumni family also enjoyed cookies, hot chocolate and crafts. After the parade, the Young Alumni community joined together with alumni from the past 15 years at an after-party to celebrate the end to the festivities. Many families were able to reconnect with each other and show their children their past at St. Michael’s College.

CELTIC STUDIES LECTURE AND BOOK LAUNCH
As part of the Celtic Studies Lecture Series, Professor William J. Smyth and Cecil Houston presented “Toronto, the Belfast of Canada: An Appraisal of Municipal Culture and Civic Governance” in Charbonnel Lounge on November 24. Following the lecture, there was a reception and launch of Professor Smyth’s new book, The Belfast of Canada: The Orange Order and The Shaping of Municipal Culture. It was a great event, with an interesting new book being launched along with great fellowship.

MEDIA LITERACY AND THE McLuhan Legacy
On November 26, the mLab, in association with the Children’s
Own Media Museum and St. Michael’s College Science Association presented a Media Literacy Panel on how the McLuhan legacy can inform media literacy. Moderated by Arthur McLuhan, the panel included Neil Anderson, Carol Arcus, Paolo Granata, Alex Kuskis, Bob Logan and John Pungente, all experts in education, media and McLuhan Studies.

HOW POPE FRANCIS HAS REVIVED THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS
The University of St. Michael’s Faculty of Theology and Father Thomas Rosica held a public lecture “Sub Petro et Cum Petro: How Pope Francis has Revived the Synod of Bishops 50 years Later” at Father Madden Hall on December 8. It was a very insightful event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the close of Vatican II and the beginning of the Year of Mercy.

MC LuHAN ANd THE RoOTs OF MEDIa ECologY
This year’s Annual Lecture on McLuhan and the Technological Imagination was presented January 14 in Charbonnel Lounge. Professor Paolo Granata, who gave the lecture on “McLuhan and the Roots of Media Ecology,” is currently a McLuhan Centenary Fellow and Professor of Digital Catalogues for Cultural Heritage at the University of Bologna. Some of his publications include Arte in rete; Videart yearbook; Arte, estetica e nuovi media; Mediabilia; and Ecologia dei media.

BOOK AND MEDIA STUDIES LECTURE
On January 22, Professor Peter W. Nesselroth presented a lecture on “Reading Problems and How to Make Sense of Difficult Texts.” His discussion on George Steiner’s four types of difficulty in literary works provided insight into the difficulty of easy text, which paradoxically is harder to interpret. Professor Nesselroth, a professor emeritus of French and comparative literature at the University of Toronto, has published extensively on literary semiotics, and has written a new book, Lautréamont ou l’autobiographie d’Isidore Ducasse, which will be published later this year.

faITH, SCienCe, ClIMAtE CHANGE AND POPE FRANCIS’S ENCyclICAL LAUdAtO SI’: A SYMPOSIUM
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DISCUSSION ON THE 2015 SYNOD OF BISHOPS ON THE FAMILY
On November 30 in the COOP, Chancellor Cardinal Thomas Collins hosted “Supporting Our Families,” a discussion on the 2015 Synod of Bishops on the Family. He shared some insightful discussions and debates he had with his brother bishops—students, faculty, staff and alumni were treated to an interesting and insightful event!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA
There was great cheer and joy at the Annual Christmas Tea & Caroling event on December 10 in Father Madden Hall. St. Michael’s alumni and friends heard some wonderful music and sang along with St. Michael’s Singing Club, led by Dr. Michael O’Connor, while sipping on tea and enjoying traditional Christmas treats.
a two-hour symposium on January 28 to discuss climate change and the Pope’s encyclical *Laudato Si’*. Pope Francis has appealed for such a dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. The event included keynote speaker Dr. Moira McQueen and a panel discussion including Dr. Paul Seungoh Chung, Dean James Ginther, Professor Dennis Patrick O’Hara, Professor Richard Peltier and Father Leo Reilly. The moderator was Professor Robert K. Logan.

**ADVENTURES OF A VATICAN ASTRONOMER**

In the Christianity and Culture Program Lecture on February 9, Brother Guy Consolmagno, S.J., shared the knowledge he has gained in his time and experience as a Jesuit brother and a planetary scientist at the Vatican Observatory. Brother Consolmagno shared some of his adventures, and reflected on the larger meaning of common experiences as scientists: not only what they do, but why they do it. Those in attendance found it a very exciting and interesting lecture. Brother Consolmagno is Director of the Vatican Observatory and President of the Vatican Observatory Foundation. This event was sponsored by the Christianity and Culture Program.

**EUTHANASIA IN CANADA**

On March 30, the University of St. Michael’s College and the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute presented a discussion on euthanasia in Canada. The dialogue, which covered multiple topics related to euthanasia, featured Rev. William McGrattan, Bishop of Peterborough, and Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition of Canada.

**SMC NEW YORK: PRESIDENT’S RECEPTION**

Staying involved and connected with alumni is always a priority for the University of St. Michael’s College. On April 16, St. Mike’s hosted a special reception in New York City at the American Irish Historical Association’s mansion on 5th Avenue. President David Mulroney was on hand to welcome guests, who were treated to Celtic Studies Professor Emerita Ann Dooley’s wonderful reading and lecture on the great Irish poet Seamus Heaney. Guests then enjoyed an old-fashioned tea in the formal dining room, which gave them a chance to reconnect with the SMC community and each other.

**ANNUAL LENTEN TWILIGHT RETREAT: THE YEAR OF MERCY**

Father Michael Lehman led this year’s Annual Lenten Twilight Retreat on March 8. The evening began with a dinner in Charbonnel Lounge, followed by Mass at St. Basil’s Church with a discussion and reflection on the theme of mercy.

**BYRD, MASS FOR FOUR VOICES**

Great music was heard through St. Basil’s Church on March 18, with the performance of William Byrd’s *Mass for Four Voices* and *Ave Verum Corpus*, monuments of English recusant Catholicism. Soprano Hallie Fishel and John Edwards on the renaissance lute were joined by the Violin Consort led by Christopher Verrette, and St. Michael’s Schola Cantorum directed by Christina Labriola.
Former University of St. Michael’s College President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Anne Anderson, CSJ, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the In Trust Center for Theological Schools. Congratulations on your appointment, Sister Anne!

Paul Krzyzanowski (0T4) made the Rotman School of Management Dean’s List—First Class in April. This distinction is awarded to MBA students in the top 10 percent of their class.

Jason Ohler (0T7) has released his new book, *Four Big Ideas for the Future*. Jason is currently a Professor of Media Psychology at Fielding Graduate University.

David Cramer (0T7) is currently a Senior Staff Accountant at Garber Urback Chartered.

BULLETIN BOARD publishes interesting information about recent developments in the lives of St. Michael’s graduates and friends. Thank you for keeping the news bits coming; please send them to Duane Rendle at smc.bulletinboard@utoronto.ca.

We are so proud of the achievements of Asante Haughton (0T9) following his time at St. Michael’s College! Asante came back to give the keynote address at this year’s USMC Student Symposium on March 22, sharing experiences from his personal life with mental health issues. His words deepened student awareness about the issue and increased their knowledge about resources that are available to students on campus if they are experiencing difficulties.
Congratulations to Eddy Meguerian (9T7) on his induction to the 2016 University of Toronto Sports Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame honours UofT’s greatest athletes, teams and builders. Eddy has found great success after graduation, becoming a member of the Canadian National Team at the 6’2 and Under world championships as well as playing professionally in New Zealand. During his time at UofT, Eddy was a three-time provincial all-star, scoring 19 points in the 1995 OUAA championship final for the Varsity Blues Basketball Team, leading them to their first provincial title since 1958. He helped the Blues to three consecutive appearances to the national championship tournament and to three podium finishes at the OUAA level. In 1996-97, he was honoured as the East Division MVP and a CIAU all-Canadian, and was a co-recipient of the UofT men’s T- HOLDERS’ Athlete of the Year award.

Congratulations to Jadea Kelly (0T8): Her song “Hour North” was selected fifth on the “Top 10 Winter Songs by Toronto Bands” by rock radio station 102.1 The Edge. That puts her in the same league with the likes of Blue Rodeo, Drake and Feist. Jadea’s third album, entitled Love and Lust, is set to be released June 3.

Congratulations to Anna-maria Enenajor (0T6) on her new position as a Criminal Defence Lawyer at Toronto’s Ruby Shiller Chan Hasan LLP. Prior to joining this law firm, Annamaria practised litigation in the New York office of Ropes & Gray LLP, a large international law firm. There she focused on government enforcement actions and internal investigations into allegations of corruption and bribery. We wish her the best with the new firm and continued success.

Congratulations to Eric Schmidt (1T5) on his new job as a Constituency Assistant and Communications Coordinator at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. We are proud of the achievements you have attained following your time at St. Michael’s College!

Justin Jalea (0T7) and the rest of the Canadian Chamber Choir have been nominated for the 2016 Juno Awards for Classical Album of the Year.
In January, Melody Khodaverdian (077) accepted a position as a Director of Conference Partnerships at Forbes. Melody was named in Connect Corporate Magazine’s “Top 40 Under 40” in March 2016.

Nick Rossi (1T0) has a new position at CIBC as a Senior Policy Consultant, Employee Relations, Policy and Governance. Following graduation, Nick pursued a JD (Juris Doctor), Sports Law Certificate at Tulane University, followed by a JD at UofT Law School in 2013.

Jessica Bigelow (1T1) has a new position as a Caseworker for Big Brothers Big Sisters, Waterloo Region. After graduating from St. Michael’s, Jessica went on to complete a Social Service Worker Diploma and worked at Lutherwood, a not-for-profit social service organization, as a Family Worker for children and parents.

Stefan Slovak (1T1) has been appointed Director of Communications, Events and Outreach at the University of St. Michael’s College.

Congratulations to Jessica Riehm (1T3) on her new job as a Junior Commercial Advisor for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Denmark. Following graduation, Jessica went on to pursue a Paralegal diploma from Centennial College, and is now in her last years in completing a Master’s Degree in Public Policy at the University of Toronto. We are very proud of what you have achieved since graduation from St. Michael’s, Jessica!

Jiayang Chai (Zoe) (1T4) has a new job as a Donor Relations Intern at the United Nations World Food Programme in Washington, DC.

Following graduation from St. Michael’s College, Mark De Luca (1T5) went on to complete a postgraduate program in Radio Broadcasting at Humber College. This past year, he took on a position as an intern at Rogers Media 680News. We wish him great success.

Congratulations to Stephen Grimm (9T6) on his continued success in securing a $4.2 million grant, one of the largest for Arts & Science in the history of Fordham University. Starting in July 2013, Stephen led the three-year project on the nature of understanding, with support from the John Templeton Foundation and the Henry Luce Foundation. The Varieties of Understanding project brings together the combined efforts of the world’s leading psychologists, philosophers and theologians to produce a new work of study including 134 monographs, one edited collection, and 48 new articles in philosophy, psychology and theology. He completed his Masters in Theology at the University of Toronto, after which he went on to complete a Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University Of Notre Dame in 2005.
Stephen is currently an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University, specializing in epistemology, the philosophy of science, and ethics. Congratulations to Dr. Robert Birgeneau (6T3) on being named the recipient of the US National Science Board’s 2016 Vannevar Bush Award. He is being recognized for his exceptional public service and scientific leadership as a distinguished physicist and leader in the academic community. He has been a lifelong high-calibre researcher committed to the public good, and has advocated for research universities to advance equity and inclusion in higher education and science. Following his time at UofT, he went on to obtain a Ph.D. at Yale University. He served one year on the faculty there, followed by one year at the faculty of Oxford University. He joined the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1975 and was named Chair of the Department of Physics in 1988, and Dean of Science in 1991. In 2000, Dr. Birgeneau became President of the University of Toronto and became Chancellor of Berkeley in 2004. He is currently a Professor Emeritus in MIT’s Department of Physics, and a former Dean of Science and Chancellor Emeritus at the University of California at Berkeley.

Catherine McKenna (9T4) is now not only a Member of Parliament but the new Minister of Environment and Climate Change for the Government of Canada. Following her time at St. Michael’s College, Catherine went on to pursue a Masters in International Relations at the London School of Economics and an LL.B. at McGill University. She has taught at the University of Toronto and the Munk School of Global Affairs, and stayed very active within Canada’s political sphere.

Francesca Imbrogno (1T0) has been named an official “Bra-bassador” of Toronto by Free the Girls Organization and was featured on Citytv about this initiative. The organization collects gently used clothing such as bras, bikini tops and sports bras, and sends them to survivors of the sex trade in developing countries. These donations help individuals to build their own businesses selling second-hand clothing while going to school, establishing a home and caring for their families.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Ross Douthat
Thursday, September 22
Celebrated New York Times columnist Ross Douthat will deliver a talk to students at St. Michael’s about what it means to live out your faith on a 21st century university campus.

St. Michael’s College Parent Orientation Day
Sunday, September 25
10:30 a.m. Mass
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Introduction to College and Information Fair
12:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. Brunch

1 p.m. Campus Tour
For parents of first-year students.

St. Michael’s College Book Sale
Tuesday, September 27 to Friday, September 30
Tuesday 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. ($5 Entry fee)
Wednesday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
The John M. Kelly Library

Feast of St. Michael the Archangel
St. Michael’s Day Campus Celebration
Thursday, September 29
Campus-wide celebrations to mark the feast day of the patron saint of our University. Be sure to visit stmikes.utoronto.ca for full details regarding activities to mark this important day in the life of our community.

The Toronto School:
Then | Now | Next
Thursday, October 13
The St. Michael’s component of an international conference hosted at the University of Toronto, which will explore the work of Marshall McLuhan and his contemporaries, notably Northrop Frye and Harold Innis. Highlights include the opening of an exhibit at the Kelly Library devoted to McLuhan, and a keynote address on McLuhan, Glenn Gould, faith and creativity, delivered by Paul Elie, Senior Fellow at the Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs.

Save the Date
Installation Ceremony
Principal and Vice-President of the University of St. Michael’s College
Thursday, October 21
2:00 p.m.
St. Basil’s Church
(Details to be confirmed)

For details on events, contact 416-926-7260 or smc.alumni@utoronto.ca
Make a Bequest

The University of St. Michael’s College has been nurturing young men and women who have made vital contributions to society since 1852.

A gift to St. Michael’s in your estate plan will help maintain our tradition of high quality education, rooted in the values of the Church. It is also a great way for your estate to benefit from significant tax savings. For information, please contact Connie Tsui, Director of Development in confidence at 416-926-7279, 1-866-238-3339 or connie.tsui@utoronto.ca. Whether your bequest is large or small, each one is deeply appreciated.