



## **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO COLLEGIUM**

**JUNE 24, 2015**

### **St. Michael's College Convocation**

June 11th, 2015 was Graduation Day for some 780 of our St. Michael's College Students. Among all of the festivities and congratulations, we had an "Awards Ceremony." Among the awards, Misha Boutelier of USMC received The Governor General's Silver Medal. Only three of these were awarded in the entire University of Toronto (includes Mississauga and Scarborough campuses). We also awarded three College Gold Medals and seventy Silver Medals - a remarkable accomplishment for our students. Scholarships, awards and prizes, too numerous to mention here were also awarded at this ceremony. The Spirit of USMC was evident from the beginning of the Baccalaureate Mass throughout the day until the last round of applause at the Awards Ceremony.

### **Health & Wellness Initiative**

We continue to work closely with the University of Toronto on the "student experience". You may recall that the first step was the consolidation of Student Services in Brennan Hall (completed August 2014). For the Academic Year 2015-2016, we are working with the University of Toronto to bring two embedded specialists to the USMC Campus. The Wellness Counselor and Coordinator of Health and Wellness (HW) will provide support to students with a wide range of concerns ranging from relationship problems to debilitating depression and anxiety, stress and other disabling issues that surface in the lives of students. The second position is that of a Learning Strategist who is responsible for developing multi-layered learning communities of students and peer mentors that foster academic skill development for an academically diverse population of full-time and part-time students. These new resources will benefit all USMC students with a particular focus on ensuring that our International Students receive the assistance that they need to adapt to a new culture and environment.

### **UTQAP Reviews College Programs**

The planned UTQAP review of our Mediaeval Studies, Celtic Studies, and Book and Media Studies Programs, was postponed to academic 2015-2016 due to the CUPE strike. The programs are well positioned to undergo these reviews. The self-study report is currently being drafted for both Celtic Studies and Mediaeval Studies. The date for the Book and Media Studies review has not yet been determined, but we have been preparing for it and

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are ready to move into review mode as soon as the timeline is announced. All three programs are generally stable and healthy. The UTQAP Review of Christianity and Culture was completed in academic year 2014-15.

### **Faculty of Theology**

The Faculty of Theology has issued letters of acceptance for the first cohort of the newly minted conjoint PhD with the University of Toronto(UofT). At the same time, the Toronto School of Theology (TST) is preparing the materials for the U of T Governance Cycle for a conjoint MA which will be a one year degree and hopefully available for student admissions in 2016.

The Faculty also announced the appointment of Ms. Catherine Mulroney as Programs Coordinator, effective March 25, 2015. Ms. Mulroney earned her Master of Divinity degree from the Faculty of Theology in 2010, and as an alumna has chaired the Student Financial Aid Committee since January 2014. Prior to coming to USMC, she was editor-in-chief of *Living with Christ*, a Novalis publication, while simultaneously volunteering for various groups and activities within the Archdiocese of Toronto. Catherine brings with her an extensive knowledge of the Faculty of Theology as well as of our immediate ecclesial context. Ms. Mulroney will be the academic advisor for all Basic Degree and some Advanced Degree students; she will also work to strengthen our relationships with traditional markets in an effort to increase student enrolment.

In partnership with the Institute for Research on Vatican II in Canada and the Dominican Institute of Toronto, the Faculty co-sponsored a three-day international conference from May 7-9, 2015 on "Vatican II and the Promise of Renewal". This celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Dominican Order and the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council brought together more than 30 scholars from North and South America, Europe, Africa and Australia. Among them were Bruno Cadore, OP; Gilles Routhier, Peter C. Phan and Robert M. Doran, S.J.

We also welcome Dean-elect Professor James Ginther who begins his tenure with USMC on August 1, 2015.

### **Labor Negotiations**

We have completed negotiations with UTFA and USW ((2014-2017) and are currently in negotiation with CUPE. We anticipate that these negotiations will conclude in early July. Binding arbitration resolved the U of T Teaching Assistants' Strike. All members returned to work on March 27, 2015. The College Division provided exemplary support to the students who were affected during the work interruption.

### **Federation Framework Agreement**

The Presidents/Provost and Bursars from the Federated Colleges (Victoria, St. Michael's and Trinity) have had an initial meeting with U of T for a mid-review of the Operating Agreement. These meetings will resume in Fall 2015.

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### **Installation of Defibrillators**

USMC and our Joint Health & Safety Committee is pleased to announce that six of our buildings are now equipped with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). This allows us the opportunity to address sudden cardiac arrest on-site and can mean a difference in saving a person's life on the spot. We have an AED located in the main entrance in Elmsley Hall, Brennan Hall, Kelly Library, Odette Hall, Alumni Hall and Carr Hall.

### **Campus Master Plan Completed**

This plan established and developed in consultation with all USMC stakeholders provides a roadmap for the evolution of our campus over the next twenty-five year planning horizon. It stands as a vision of the future that acknowledges our rich history and thoughtfully points the way to a more purposeful, well-designed campus and one that services our needs as we advance into the future of learning, service and discovery. As well, it captures and co-ordinates within it the accumulated demands of deferred maintenance.

### **Alcohol ABC's Recognized**

In the summer of 2014, the Dean of Students teamed up with an award winning E-learning company to create a course on alcohol education that all incoming resident students were required to complete. The online program is called *Alcohol ABC's* (Always Be in Control) and covers a number of important topics designed to keep students safe should they choose to drink while attending university. The course is divided into seven chapters including: Alcohol 101; Effects of Alcohol on the Body; Peer Pressure & Social Norming; Binge Drinking & Alcohol Poisoning; Sexual Assault & Alcohol; Harm Reduction Strategies; and Residence Alcohol Policies. Last year the program was piloted to residents. In August 2015, it will be expanded to include commuter students as well. Thanks to two nominations from central U of T, *Alcohol ABC's* recently received an 'Innovation Award' at the *Canadian Association of College & University Student Services (CACUSS)* annual conference in Vancouver.

### **Renewal in the Library**

In the ongoing development of a Learning Commons, the reference desk was re-located and a new reference desk, new chairs, and new computers with dual-monitors for working with patrons were purchased and installed. With donor funding from "The Friends of the Library" and from the Dembroski Library Fund, new furniture was purchased for the Learning Commons. Tables and chairs all have electrical outlets. All pieces come with either casters or sleigh footing and tables fold and flip to allow us to move or re-arrange.

We repurposed a vacated office on the second floor to create a "presentation practice room" for students. With a generous donation from "The Friends of the Library", we purchased a conference table, chairs, moveable white board and media cart with an LCD screen for this space.

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### Major and Planned Gifts

The Development Team established closer partnerships with the Advancement staff at the Faculty of Arts and Science and other Divisions in the University of Toronto to co-ordinate our efforts in the cultivation of prospective donors who may have multiple interests in the University. Various joint initiatives are underway including a matching opportunity made possible by a generous donor which allows St. Michael's donors to establish awards to encourage and recognize St. Michael's commerce students who are involved in extra-curricular activities. This donor-centered approach will continue to allow USMC to generate the greatest impact on student experience at St. Michael's as well as U of T.

In addition, USMC benefited from a number of realized bequests in 2014-15 with the total gift amount just shy of \$1 million dollars. The University is very grateful to the alumni and friends who have made legacy gifts. Of note, were gifts from the estate of Richard Yee, the estate of Helen M. Sebisty and the estate of Alice Cameron, all of which were directed to student financial aid. With the approval of the Collegium, the gift received from the estate of Ethelmae Sweeney was directed to support financial aid as well as a teaching position in the Book and Media Studies Program. When completely realized, this gift will be one of the largest estate gifts ever accepted by USMC.

### LOOKING FORWARD

- We will welcome David Mulroney as the 7<sup>th</sup> President of USMC as of **July 1, 2015**
- The USMC Golf Tournament is at Eagle's Nest this year on **July 21, 2015**
- **"Friends of the Library"** Annual Book Sale will take place in the Kelly Library **September 29 - October 3, 2015**
- The USMC Convocation for the Faculty of Theology and the Continuing Education Division will be held on **Saturday, November 7, 2015**. Prof. John O'Malley, S.J. and Prof. Sarah Coakley are our Honorary Degree recipients.
- **"The Faculty of Theology at 60"** – a lecture by former Dean, Professor William Irwin, csb in Charbonnel Lounge at 7 pm on **November 13, 2015**.



Professor Anne Anderson, csj  
Past President & Vice-Chancellor Emeritus, USMC