

# St. Michael's

Summer 2019  
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University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto Alumni Magazine

## Looking to the Future

USMC President David Sylvester welcomes alumna Catherine McKenna, federal environment minister, back to campus

# St. Michael's

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# A Season of Renewal on Clover Hill

Transformational changes are both visible and invisible

IT HAS BEEN A REMARKABLE YEAR at the University of St. Michael's College. Since my arrival on campus last July, I have been privileged to participate in and expand upon a season of institutional renewal on Clover Hill.

Some of the changes are evident to the eye and speak to the physical revitalization of our campus. One of these changes, the completion of the Brennan Hall Project—made possible by the overwhelming support of our alumni, friends and current students—has positioned St. Mike's at the forefront of providing a model of integrated student services. This is a rather fancy way of saying that we have located all those important support services (academic advising, mental health counselling, campus ministry, student government, etc.) in the space where students gather, that is, in and around the Dodig Family COOP. And we haven't forgotten our commitment to preserving and advancing the natural beauty and environmental needs of our campus. As I write, this amazing oasis in urban Toronto is bursting again with foliage and flowering plants. As our ubiquitous squirrels have re-emerged and songbirds sing in a new season of life, strategic investments are being made to maintain the distinctive beauty of the campus, and renovations are underway to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality for student residents, beginning in Sorbara Hall.

Much of the renewal at St. Mike's focuses appropriately on our academic programs and



faculty: the redevelopment of our undergraduate programming is bearing real fruit and our Year One programs have captured the attention of our colleagues at U of T, as well as prospective students and their parents from around the world. There is nothing quite like the educational opportunities now offered by our Gilson, Boyle and McLuhan Seminars, and the quality of these intensive international experiential programs is unparalleled. Five additional new seminar courses have been approved, and in the coming year more than 25 per cent of our incoming students will participate in this unique seminar experience, a notable increase from two per cent three years ago. Our Faculty of Theology, one of the top in North America, is leading discussions regarding important issues facing the Catholic Church today, including interfaith dialogue, clerical abuse and the role of women.

Some of this renewal is invisible to the eye, but no less important. Recently, I authorized a complete rebuild of our website to ensure that

the virtual window into our campus, our programs and our events connects alumni and institutional partners from around the world with up-to-date information about St. Mike's. In another move, recognizing that the health of our organization depends on a strong legal foundation and responsible long-term planning, we have undertaken a full review of the governance of St. Mike's—from stem to stern—and a revitalization of our foundation. Through the summer, our senior leadership team has been outlining our next strategic plan—and you, as alumni, will be called upon to contribute your voice to that of our students, faculty and staff to co-create the future of St. Michael's.

While, like the change of seasons, renewal is in the air at St. Mike's, what hasn't changed is the fundamental commitment of this University to provide an education that is transformational, one that calls every member of our community to renew themselves, and to develop and put at the service of others the gifts they have been given. So, as you delve into this edition of our alumni magazine, I invite you to reflect on the profiles, the stories and the news, to discover this common theme of how St. Mike's has planted and continues to plant the seeds of change; how St. Mike's continues to inspire its graduates to become the people they are called to become, and to then go out and change the world. ♦

David Sylvester, PhD  
President & Vice-Chancellor



# Leading by Example

Aashni Shah is opening doors in the tech industry for women  
and visible minorities

BY CHRISTINE HENRY (USMC CLASS OF 1996)

*With files from the University of Toronto*



**W**HEN CANADIAN SCIENTIST DONNA Strickland was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in October 2018, she was only the third woman to win that prize, and her achievement demonstrated how far things have come in male-dominated

STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) industries. St. Mike's grad Aashni Shah (HBSc 2016) is one of the many gifted women following in Strickland's footsteps, striving to achieve remarkable things, foster change and transform the world.

An emerging young STEM leader, Shah is a busy and ambitious computer scientist and tech expert. Currently working in Kitchener, Ont., as an engineer on the Cash App team at Square (a financial services and payments company), she is also CEO of the successful

non-profit Elixir Labs, which teaches other non-profits around the globe to use tech tools to prosper (see sidebar on page 6).

Shah was among the 50 Canadian women celebrated as part of an “Inspiring Fifty” group of women in the tech and innovation sectors in 2018. “I feel extremely honoured and humbled to be alongside such incredible and well-recognized people in the industry. Some are women I’ve met in the past, and look up to for inspiration.”

In addition to her career accomplishments, Shah is determined to make the STEM world safer and more inclusive for women and under-represented minorities.

“I am pushing for change, not just for women but for every person in my industry,” she says. “As an immigrant woman of colour—a very visible minority in most rooms I walk into—I know many of the issues that different groups of people face. No one should be mistreated, lose out on opportunities or avoid standing up for what they believe in because they fear retaliation based on their gender, the colour of their skin, or any other factors. Not to mention the untapped power in diverse thoughts and ideas coming together—this can only happen in inclusive environments that give everyone a fair chance to share their thoughts and ideas.”

Shah feels strongly that women and under-represented minorities should learn to code. “People today have every tool and resource they need to start learning the fundamentals of coding,” she says. “This is enough to kick-start many different careers, whether it’s being a software engineer, a product manager, a designer, or merging your technical knowledge with other industries like art, medicine or even archaeology. Whether you plan to be a programmer in the future or not, tech is entering many parts of our lives, and understanding the basics of how tech works is a vital skill for everyone to have.”

#### THRIVING ON CHALLENGES

Shah has always had a passion for education and travel, even while growing up in Kenya. When it came time to choosing which university to attend, “I knew I wanted to come to



In March 2018, Shah mentored a group of Grade 7 girls who were participating in a competition, part of a Skills Ontario initiative, where they learned how to code and develop new apps.

Canada or the US,” she says. She was accepted into a number of schools—so what was the deciding factor? “I decided to focus on what the city as well as the school had to offer. The Toronto and U of T combination is thriving with tech and non-tech communities—it was exactly what I was looking for,” she says. “Toronto is a great international city with lots of exciting activities happening every day.”

She was instantly drawn to the beauty of the St. Mike’s campus, and the residence

“No one should be mistreated, lose out on opportunities or avoid standing up for what they believe in because they fear retaliation based on their gender, the colour of their skin, or any other factors.”

space. “I liked the dorm room feel,” she says. “I wanted to stay in residence at least for my first year. I liked it so much that I ended up staying for one more year!”

She also appreciated the range of extra-curricular activities across the university. In fact, she was President of the Computer Science Student Union (CSSU) and founder of UofTHacks, Canada’s first student-run hackathon, to name a few. “Leading these extracurricular activities felt like running a company on top of my regular school work,” she says. “But it was worth it—it really helped me connect with students and professors, as well as the local and global tech scene, and opened me up to more opportunities than I had expected. I also learned a different set of skills, like leadership and organization, which I have applied to every role I’ve taken since.”

Throughout her time at St. Mike’s and U of T, and after graduating with her computer science degree, Shah landed incredible jobs at companies around the world such as Amazon, Oanda, Microsoft and, most recently, Square.

These jobs also taught Shah some hard

lessons: like many other women and under-represented minorities before her, she faced pay inequity, pushback and discrimination. She learned to develop a tough skin, not just for herself, but for every other woman or person of colour who may face similar issues. “It also helps that I have extremely supportive family and friends who have always had my back. Without them, working in this field could be devastating.”

Shah talks openly about her experiences in hopes that she can help others learn how to identify toxic environments, and make the right set of choices for themselves. “Before, I’d be scared of raising my concerns. Now, partly because I’ve seen what happens if I stay quiet and partly because of the great

environment I work in [at Square], I feel more comfortable raising issues or concerns I have, and knowing that they’ll be addressed.”

#### A NATURAL LEADER

Shah is well aware that she’s in a position to be a role model to other women, and it is something she takes seriously. “In my mind, I’m only at the start of my career, and when I have people come to me—people like my little cousins, students and industry professionals—and call me their role model, I’m flattered, and empowered to be the best version of myself,” she says. “I always want to have a positive impact on anyone who looks up to me. I try to show my authentic self: a person who is following her passions and

standing up for what she believes in.”

When Shah is asked for advice—as she often is—she recommends seeking out a mentor. “Find someone who knows a bit about the type of work you do, but not someone in your reporting chain [i.e., if you’re in school, not a professor; in the workplace, not your manager].” Shah herself mentors students and recent grads, telling them: “Follow your passions and trust your gut.... If something seems like a scary and big problem, break it down into smaller building blocks. Don’t let anyone else decide what you can and can’t do. Most of all, don’t dwell on your mistakes—learn from them, and remember to celebrate your achievements as well.”

Speaking of achievements, what’s next for Shah? “That’s the million-dollar question!” she says. “While I was a student, I always knew what my next steps were: study for an exam, do an assignment, get into a good university and graduate with a good job. Now that I have that job, there is no ‘blueprint’ to follow. It’s scary in a sense as I have to ‘adult’ now, but it’s also exhilarating.”

Her professional goal is to get more tech knowledge. “I’m relatively new in the industry, and have so much more to learn.... I’m really happy that the people I work with encourage me to expand my skills daily.” She also wants to keep pursuing passions such as photography, travel and scuba diving.

Although she’s come a long way since graduation, Shah says she will always value her experiences as a St. Mike’s student. “My time at St. Mike’s really helped me become myself,” she says. “It brought me in front of a new group of people, and gave me a space to figure out the type of person I want to be.” ♦



#### Giving Back Through Elixir Labs

Elixir Labs, which was founded in 2016 by Aashni Shah and Aswin Pranam, is a volunteer-run, non-profit start-up that partners with other non-profits to build technical solutions for social good. It currently works with End Slavery Now to help combat slavery by raising awareness of slave-trade-free products, and with The Pangea Network, which provides educational and financial resources to empower women in rural Kenya, helping to grow their businesses and their communities. “We’re working on projects that are making a visible impact in many people’s lives by building a bridge between the tech and non-profit worlds,” Shah says.

*Learn more about Elixir Labs at [elixirlabs.org](http://elixirlabs.org).*

#### Christine Henry

(USMC Class of 1996) has worked in communications and marketing, often in education and health care (corporate and advancement), for almost 20 years.





# THE KELLY CAFÉ

## A Cup of Joe... ...with Laurie Morris

**S**HORTLY AFTER LAURIE MORRIS WAS NAMED USMC'S DIRECTOR of Communications in February, we sat down for a chat. There was lots to talk about—her experience includes 14 years in various director-level roles with the Associated Press, where she helped shape the direction of one of the world's most trusted news organizations. Most recently, Morris was at Simon Fraser University in B.C.

Morris arrives here with a mandate to develop USMC's communications strategy and direction. "Laurie's collegiate experience will be invaluable as she leads us forward in telling the story of our community in partnership with the University of Toronto, the Toronto School of Theology and our community partners," says St. Michael's President David Sylvester.

*St. Mike's: Why did you choose to come to St. Mike's?*

**Laurie Morris:** A key reason I chose to come to the University is its mission and commitment not only to academic excellence but to the development of the whole person. At the same time, as a communications professional, I'm excited by the chance to share the stories that reflect the unique and compelling attributes of St. Michael's—the warmth, the richness and the welcoming of a student-centred community; its history of working with community partners, new Canadians and marginalized peoples; and the enduring legacy of the men and women who have built a community of faith and learning that has made a difference not only to Canada but across the world.

*SM's: What unique skills do you bring to this job?*

**LM:** My skills are not necessarily unique to communications professionals, but I think my experience in strategic communications, media relations and brand development, combined with a certificate in Corporate Social Responsibility from St. Michael's, gives me a unique perspective that will help to advance our position with

internal and external audiences and to expand the reach of the University beyond the campus.

*SM's: What do you think are the biggest challenges for university communications departments in general?*

**LM:** Universities are big, complicated places operating in diverse markets. The challenge for communicators is to define what is unique and relevant about their particular institution based on what resonates with stakeholders, and to reflect those attributes or messages in institutional and recruit-

ment campaigns. Another challenge, particularly on social channels, is keeping the message consistent as well as timely and audience-specific.

*SM's: We know you've just started, but what do you see as the biggest challenges for the communications department at St. Mike's?*

**LM:** From a strategic standpoint, I think one challenge is to help people better understand the University of St. Michael's College narrative. We are a Catholic institution of higher learning that is federated with the University of Toronto, one of the world's leading research universities. We occupy a unique space in the post-secondary landscape, so

it's important for our audiences to understand the ways in which we are fulfilling our mission of higher education in the service of truth and the common good.

*SM's: Okay, let's switch gears. Tell us one fun fact about yourself.*

**LM:** At one point early on in my career, I was certified as a fireworks handler. One of the most important things I learned during the certification process was that I had no desire to be responsible for something so dangerous. There are usually less fireworks in communications.

*SM's: How do you take your coffee?*

**LM:** I'm embarrassed to say that my caffeine fix has always come from Diet Coke. ♦



# Learning About Donald Trump

*Vanity Fair* explains to US readers how a St. Mike's course put the President of the United States into historical (and sometimes hysterical) perspective

By JOEL STEIN

*Last fall's USMC course on "Trump and the Media," led by journalist and visiting professor Sam Tanenhaus, has garnered a great deal of media attention, including a spot on CBC Radio as well as CBC's The National, an article in The Globe & Mail, and a visit from Steve Paikin of TVO's The Agenda. Here is an excerpt from a Vanity Fair article on the seminar course.*

WHEN DONALD TRUMP WAS elected president, we knew that someone was going to have to explain it to Canada. Journalist Sam Tanenhaus seemed like a solid choice. Having written books about conservatives that are beloved by his fellow liberals, Tanenhaus had a shot at explaining far-right nationalism to a people flummoxed by their southern neighbors' love of guns, refusal to compost, fear of socialized medicine, and preference for any sport ever invented over hockey. So for his "Trump and the Media" course at the University of Toronto, Tanenhaus figured he'd begin slowly, starting with a nice chunk of Tocqueville and working his way to the J.F.K.-Nixon debates. He'd begin the first class by asking his students if they knew any Trump voters in the States. And when no one's hand went up, he'd patiently explain that nearly half of Americans voted for him and then go on from there.

But, to his surprise, up went a sea of hands. "Right now, you have more to tell me than the newsroom of *The New York Times*," Tanenhaus said about the place he'd worked for a dozen years. (He is also a contributor to

*Vanity Fair*.) After that first session, Tanenhaus decided to rip up the syllabus and informally rename the course "Trump in Real Time." For two hours each week, he leads a discussion about Trump and the news cycle, sometimes in literal real time. The 180 students—140 of them women—watched the Brett Kavanaugh hearings on a huge screen as they were happening, with Tanenhaus occasionally waiting for the commotion to die down. Turns out that even college students in Canada think it's weird to like beer that much.

You, a fine upstanding member of the mainstream-media-reading cognoscenti, probably had one of two reactions to hearing about a college course on Donald Trump. One is gasping. "I know an American professor who became hysterical at the mere mention of Trump's name in a course title," says English professor and critic Randy Boyagoda, the university administrator who came up with the idea for the class [and the Principal and Vice-President of the University of St. Michael's College]. The other reaction is more common. "You say 'Trump' in a serious context and they laugh. It's a lizard-brain

reaction of the elites," says Boyagoda, who just finished writing a novel in which Trump takes a post-presidency job as the host of an extreme-weather channel. Boyagoda knew that danger lies in indulging such smugness, and he warned Tanenhaus that the students might be expecting him to spend two hours a week making fun of Trump.

That is not what is happening in the class.

These students are from the first generation steeped in reality TV, Twitter, memes, and GIFs. They are immune to Trump Shock, a trait which allows them to coolly analyze the first president to grab the levers of those media. "I'm more excited to hear them talk about social media than to spend my time talking to journalists," says Tanenhaus. He's standing a few feet from the lectern, doling out advice to the scrum of students who surround him before and after class.

■■■■■■■■■■

...Marshall McLuhan—the 1960s media theorist who coined the terms "the medium is the message" and "global village"—would be horrified by a class staring at a large





For two hours each week, Sam Tanenhaus led a discussion about Trump and the news cycle, sometimes in literal real time.

monitor, parsing cable-news flotsam and Twitter jetsam. McLuhan is also the most likely to have taught this class; his old office is just a couple of buildings away. McLuhan was a professor at St. Michael's, one of seven colleges at the University of Toronto, from 1946 to 1980. His legacy inspired the Book and Media Studies program, also at St. Michael's, that is now offering "Trump and the Media." When students line up for office hours, they wait by a cardboard cut-out of a seated McLuhan before they go in to discuss their assignments, such as the one in which they had to tweet in the style of @realDonaldTrump.

■■■■■■■■■

...[Tanenhaus's] teaching style is more reporter than lecturer, preferring to ask questions rather than opine, and impressively canvassing the class's expertise. He calls on a Saudi Arabian student to explain how the Jamal Khashoggi murder is being hidden from the citizens of her country. And he wants to hear from the Canadian student who drove to Michigan to volunteer for a Democratic congressional candidate.

He remembers there's a kid taking classes in video editing who can analyze how the White House posted an altered clip, in which, to create the illusion of physical interaction, several frames had been frozen at the moment Jim Acosta's arm touched a female intern's.

Not only do these students know a lot about the world, they know a lot about American politics. While Tanenhaus and yours truly struggle to name the 10 Canadian provinces (Prince Edward Island? Really?), these students know the deadline for Florida to review ballot signatures. But while they can vigorously debate nuances of statistician Nate Silver's poll analysis or whether Trump is an anti-Semite, the liberal Canadian students never seem to take his side. That said, when the teaching assistants graded the midterms, they were startled: a fair number of students, on paper, expressed pro-Trump opinions.

All the students, though, appear to love the course. Some seem besotted when Tanenhaus mentions texting with Steve Bannon or knowing Ben Jacobs, whose

body-slammings by Montana Republican congressman Greg Gianforte was praised by Trump. "And lo and behold," Boyagoda says, "the class is inspiring students to become journalists." At least half a dozen, including fourth-year student Max Levy, who sits transfixed in class sipping a kale-mango smoothie in a reusable bottle, say they have put aside law-school applications.

The university, in fact, is so pleased with Trump 101—the enrollment, the media attention, the student engagement—that Boyagoda is hoping to apply the principle to other topics. He's thinking of trying a #MeToo and the Media course next. Or he could just let Tanenhaus keep going until either he—or Trump—gives up. It's the only way the professor's going to get to that Pat Moynihan essay. ♦

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Excerpted with permission from "From CNN's Sound-and-Fury Graphics to Kavanaugh's Keggers: Everything I Learned in the University of Toronto's Course on Donald Trump," by Joel Stein: *Vanity Fair*, vanityfair.com, January 10, 2019.

# BENEFITS *of* *Boredom*

In his latest book, global thinker and St. Mike's grad Mark Kingwell argues that our addiction to technology is costing us an invaluable experience

BY SAM HODGKINS-SUMNER

**I**N THE FALL OF 2017, I HAD RECENTLY transferred to U of T. I had also just switched to another major: the noblest of them all, philosophy. I was new, and a bit confused, and found myself scrolling through the department's lengthy course listing, wondering what to pick. Eventually I decided on "Introduction to Continental Philosophy," taught by M. Kingwell. The last name had a familiar ring to it; maybe I'd seen it on the spine of a book at Indigo or something. Little did I know that I was signing up for a course with Mark Kingwell, who many believe is one of the biggest Canadian public intellectuals of the past 20 years.

Bringing philosophy down from its lofty perch has been Kingwell's M.O. over the past couple of decades. His work is at once accessible to the non-specialist, and a considered, critical exchange of ideas with other thinkers. He has written 17 books (and many more articles and essays) on everything from being a virtuous citizen in the 21st century, to the life of Glenn Gould, to the existential lessons that can be learned from baseball. According to his entry in *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, these varied

works serve to "support his ongoing effort to engage the public, an undertaking that is consistent with the central themes of his work on citizenship and political participation."

Kingwell graduated from the University of St. Michael's College in 1985 with high distinction in philosophy and English. While an undergrad, he wrote for *The Mike* and often hosted Kelly's Korner open mic nights. After receiving a master's degree from Edinburgh University, and a master's and PhD from Yale, Kingwell eventually returned to teach at the University of Toronto, where he has been for more than 25 years. He contributes regularly to *The Globe and Mail* and *Harper's*, has been interviewed numerous times by the CBC, and is a member of both the Royal Society of Canada and the Royal Society of the Arts (U.K.).

## A TAPESTRY OF IDEAS

As Kingwell engages with the cultural issues of our time, one of his sources of inspiration is the Catholic social teaching and liberation theology he was exposed to as an undergraduate at St. Mike's. In particular, Penny Leroux's *Cry of the*





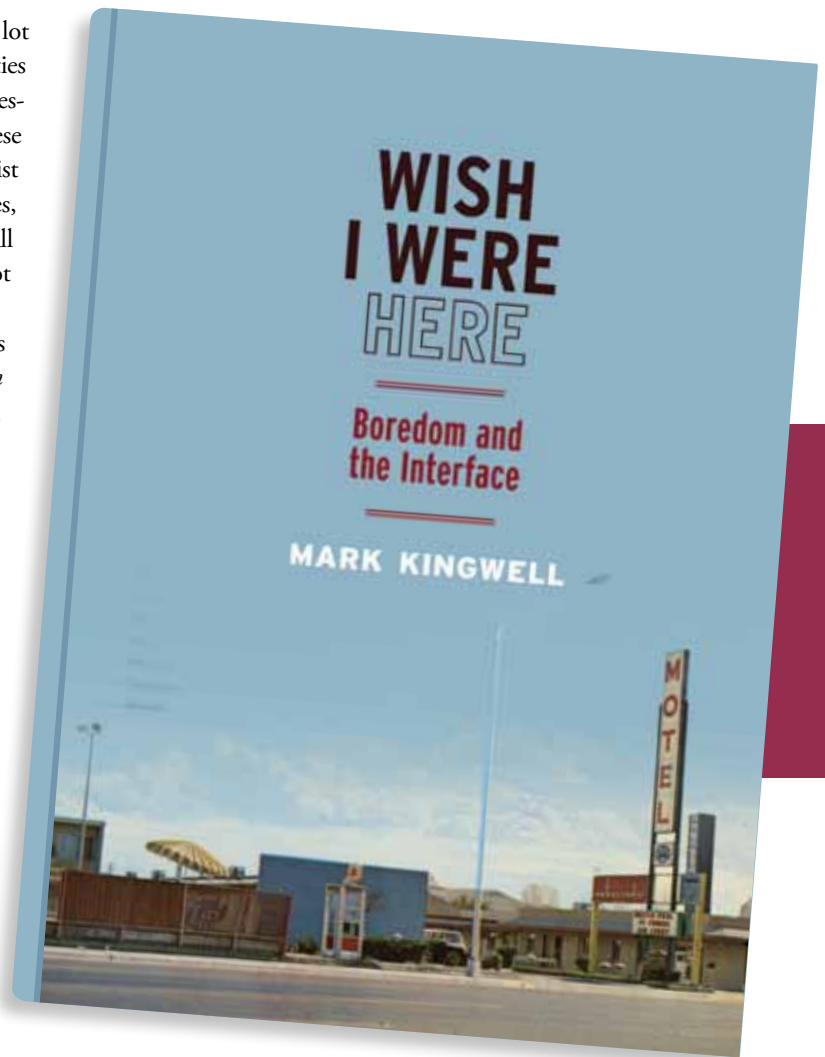
*People* made a mark on him. “It became a real handbook for a lot of us,” Kingwell told me. “The book addressed global inequalities and inequalities within nations, and how to think through questions about what should be done.” Kingwell knows that these questions of justice and solidarity with the marginalized persist in Canada as we confront injustice towards Indigenous peoples, for example; likewise, they persist at an international level. “All of these questions are rooted in the early thinking that I got from the Catholic tradition.”

Now, Kingwell is tackling the current era of smartphones and drone-people. His new book, *Wish I Were Here: Boredom and the Interface*, dwells at the intersection of technological media, social alienation, political crisis and spiritual malaise. It examines the cultural forces that try to keep us distracted, and proposes that the boredom we often flee from with our technological toys can in fact be an invaluable experience. In the book, Kingwell deftly weaves together seemingly disparate threads, considering philosophers, artists and technocrats alike—from Aristotle to Woody Allen, Mark Zuckerberg and Slavoj Žižek.

Kingwell’s seminars are like his books: a tapestry of deep ideas that pull in examples from everyday life. In the “Introduction to Continental Philosophy” course, I found his lectures engrossing: he put thoughts from the past into conversations with our present situation, and also drew on anecdotes from his own political activity and love for art. (He played Radiohead at the start of lectures, too, which was cool.) I got the sense that teaching wasn’t just an arduous-but-necessary part of the professorhood for Kingwell; he seemed genuinely invested in making his material resonate for undergrads, and in listening to our thoughts and struggles.

Having enjoyed that first class with Kingwell, I took a seminar on art and politics with him this winter. It was an enlivening, exhilarating course: the ideas flowed freely like wine at a symposium. We touched on everything from ideology in advertising, to the political power of theatre, to *Mission Impossible*’s philosophical merit, to feminist and Indigenous perspectives on aesthetics. So, naturally, when this magazine asked me to interview Kingwell about *Wish I Were Here*, I was excited to do so.

The experience was all a bit surreal: I had never interviewed one of my professors, let alone read a proof of their work before it was published. I prepared frantically, writing and rewriting questions. As the interview approached, I grew increasingly nervous. Yet, upon entering Kingwell’s office at Trinity College in the University of Toronto, I was struck by its eclectic and personal character. There are, of course, books lining shelves and stacked all over the desk—but also a not-unimpressive collection of Toronto Blue Jays bobbleheads, a laptop with numerous decals, and a lot of art. This all gives the space an idiosyncratic feeling, which set me at ease as we started our chat.



### BOREDOM AS A GOOD THING

Although Kingwell is low-tech in his personal life (he doesn’t text or have any social media profiles), he is no Luddite. Rather, he opposes the ideology that lurks behind our technological products. He writes that the goal of smartphones is ultimately to keep us “consuming ourselves as perfect consumers” as we scroll through Instagram or swipe on Tinder; he knows these technologies seek to keep us from boredom and all the good it might bring.

Central to *Wish I Were Here* is the proposal that modern distraction and fear of boredom endangers our ability to think deeply, and to be happy. For Kingwell, boredom is often the origin of philosophy, for he writes that it involves “the abyssal experience of everyday desire coming up against the question of meaning.” This basically means that when we are profoundly bored, we can begin to ruminate about our life, its meaning, and our mortality. However, the lack of boredom and distraction that dominates in the 21st century presents a new challenge—a crisis, even. We occupy a number of what Kingwell calls “Interfaces” in our day-to-day lives: spaces that join and allow for interaction among platform, content and user. These Interfaces—be they airports, train stations or, most

importantly, screens—can alienate us from our own desires. Not just our deep desire to make sense of the world, but also our desires for intimacy, pleasure and connection. Or so Kingwell claims.

“It’s an endless deferral,” Kingwell told me. “What I’m trying to isolate is the specifically technologically-induced-and-enhanced kind of desire, which doesn’t even allow for momentary satisfaction.” Most of our appetites can be sated, if only momentarily—when hungry, we eat; when the heart yearns, we seek the object of our love—but technological Interfaces update their feeds constantly, and thus encourage us to keep scrolling endlessly. This “bottomlessness” makes us sick, like Homer in that episode in *The Simpsons*

Central to *Wish I Were Here* is the proposal that **modern distraction and fear of boredom endangers our ability to think deeply, and to be happy.**

where he is eternally force-fed doughnuts in hell. The Interface is relentless; it gives us no time for pause. Just think of Instagram’s never-ending feed, or of Amazon’s Alexa, that spectral presence ready to pump information into our kitchens and living rooms without end. As Kingwell said, “This is the nature of the endless tease [on the Interface]: it doesn’t allow you to have a comfortable and productive relationship with your desires.”

This comfortable relationship to desire he’s getting at is not necessarily about instant gratification. In fact, it’s often about the exact opposite. Kingwell noted that happy people are “comfortable and cognizant of their desires, and recognize that they won’t all be met.” Character is all about knowing which desire to indulge when, and accepting when we don’t get what we want. Yet high-risk high-reward platforms, such as application-based games, can inculcate in us an impatience that makes it difficult to exercise such discernment. As Kingwell told me: “It’s almost certain that [screen use] will condition my relationship between consciousness and some other kind of Interface—my partner in my marriage, or my family, or my co-workers.” How can I resist the urge to snap at my partner when her quirks irk me, if I’m conditioned to instantly get what I want on the Interface? Who can stay lovingly engaged with the inane and repetitive babbling of a toddler when Twitter is so much more stimulating?

Due to these dangers, Kingwell thinks we need structures that help us to better order our desires. After all, we have limits on soft drink size, and speed limits for our roads. There need to be analogous structures for technology, Kingwell said: “It’s a push-and-pull between our individualism—we want to be free to pursue our projects—[and the fact] that we need help, we need channelling, we need

rules. Rules are good.... They help us achieve the happiness we want.”

Kingwell’s instinct is being echoed by numerous other voices: even the notoriously stubborn Mark Zuckerberg recently acknowledged that Facebook needs regulation that helps prevent harmful content from being uploaded onto the site.

### HOPE FOR REDEMPTION

In a culture where we can scroll *ad infinitum*, we’re never bored; we aren’t afforded opportunities for philosophical reflection on—or the satisfaction of—our desires. And maybe we don’t even see the point in such reflection, surrounded as we are by competing ideologies that deploy alternative facts like weapons of war. In the face of this crisis of malaise and meaninglessness, Kingwell sees his philosophical work as “part of a bigger question”; he thinks professors must fight for truth in a society that has lost belief in it. And that’s what *Wish I Were Here* ultimately aims to do. It is an apology for careful thought in a time of chimerical images, and it exhorts its readers to resist the forces that tempt them to consume without end. It unpacks how those forces operate on us, and the political situation that creates them. It argues for deep satisfaction over constant stimulation.

Although Kingwell has moved away from theism, his writing retains the influence of his Catholic upbringing and education. He told me he recognizes the power of religious language: “There is a kind of moral structure, and conceptual structure, that is, in my view, detachable from specific theistic belief that informs all kinds of political and cultural thought.” He has retained these concepts of justice, redemption, truth-seeking and concern for human flourishing; they underpin all of his work, *Wish I Were Here* included.

And Kingwell closes *Wish I Were Here* with one of the three theological virtues: hope. He writes that as we confront the problems of our time, we must remember that we have agency as members of a political body. We cannot give in to despair when dealing with the ostensibly unstoppable. An important distinction for Kingwell lies in two French words for the future: *l’avenir* and *le futur*. The former means “what is to come,” while the latter connotes destined events that loom like a wall of time. Of the two, Kingwell chooses *l’avenir*. “I think even that distinction offers hope: it implies that we can shape the future,” he said at the close of our conversation.

As part of a generation that is slowly waking up to the negative effects the Interface has had on our maturation, I appreciate Kingwell’s insight. It’s encouraging to have teachers who are concerned with issues relevant to their students’ lived experience, who are concerned with students’ growth as thinkers and people. It’s inspiring to be taught by someone who keeps hope. ♦



**Sam Hodgkins-Sumner** is finishing up his B.A. in philosophy at U of T, with a minor in the Christianity and Culture program at St. Mike’s. He is excited to start working as the E.A. to Principal Boyagoda this summer.

# *Living* YOUR *Passion*

USMC grad—and Federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change—Catherine McKenna talks with students about her recipe for changing the world

BY PAUL KRZYZANOWSKI (USMC CLASS OF 2004)

**W**HEN LOOKING AT PEOPLE WHO LIVE A POLITICAL LIFE IN the public eye, it's often easy to see them simply as a product of sound bites and scripted talking points. But the reality is that politicians, like everyone else, are a culmination of a lifetime of experiences.

For Catherine McKenna, her time since graduating from the University of St. Michael's College has been spent adding layer upon layer of experiences to help her in her current role as a Liberal Member of Parliament and as Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change. St. Mike's had the pleasure of having McKenna visit in early April for a discussion with President David Sylvester and undergraduate students in the Environmental Studies program as well as graduate students studying at the Elliott Allen Institute for Theology and Ecology.

## LEARNING USEFUL HABITS

McKenna graduated from St. Mike's in 1994 with a degree in international relations, and French language and literature. During her time at the University of Toronto, she distinguished herself by dedicating whatever free time she had to athletics, eventually becoming captain of the National Champion Varsity Swim Team. "Doing countless laps at the pool at Harbord and Spadina taught me some of the most useful lessons for politics and leadership," she recalls. "It taught me the importance of setting a long-term goal and working hard every day to achieve it—through the successes and failures."

PHOTOS: STEF+ETHAN PHOTOGRAPHY







UNIVERSITY OF  
**ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE**  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



The next few years after graduation turned out to be a rapid primer of international experience. After a quick master's degree at the London School of Economics, McKenna returned to Canada to pursue a law degree at McGill University. She eventually decided to write the New York bar exam, which proved to be a springboard to practising law internationally. Soon afterwards, she found herself working for the United Nations in East Timor, negotiating a treaty with Australia.

In hindsight, these experiences offered the fresh St. Mike's alumna several interrelated perspectives on a common set of issues. In London, McKenna learned not to overlook the global nature of problems, or Canada's potential role in finding workable solutions for them. "Getting outside of Canada gave me a much broader perspective on the world's challenges," she notes, "but also helped me better understand the critical role that Canada has in tackling them." In addition, her law degree at McGill left a strong impression about the value of global multiculturalism. McKenna's legal education involved not only studying common and civil law, but also foundations of Islamic law: a path she took not knowing that, years later, this would aid her time and time again.

One of the secrets to McKenna's success in taking on such a barrage of opportunities is her passion. "I've always tried to work on things I'm passionate about," she says, recalling that her career took many very different twists and turns, becoming an excellent example of how chance has a way of favouring those who are prepared to take on new things. "Some of these opportunities were planned and many were not," she admits, "but I've always thrown myself into each position, worked hard and pushed myself, and looked at how I can make a difference."

In hindsight, this long road prepared McKenna for her election to the House of Commons in 2015 as the representative of the Ottawa Centre riding. Most of us now know her as the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and are familiar with her frequent appearances in media interviews as the price on pollution has become a hot-button issue as provinces align their policies with federal standards.



"Getting outside of Canada gave me a much broader perspective on the world's challenges, but also helped me better understand the critical role that Canada has in tackling them."

### RECONNECTING WITH ST. MIKE'S STUDENTS

Though McKenna's roots at St. Mike's were set 25 years ago, her current position in government still brings her back to reconnect. As the minister responsible for Parks Canada, McKenna is responsible for national parks, historic sites and marine conservation areas, and works with one of the University's past-presidents, Richard

Alway, a name that will be immediately recognizable to many alumni. Alway currently chairs the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, which advises the government on nationally significant aspects of Canadian history that should be commemorated. "It's been a pleasure to work closely with [Alway] in this role highlighting Canada's incredible people, places and events," says McKenna, noting that they not only share a connection to St. Mike's but are both natives of Hamilton, Ont., occasionally sharing stories of their hometown.

So it's also not surprising that McKenna was excited to connect with students in the undergraduate environmental program and Elliott Allen Institute during her April visit to the University of Toronto and St. Mike's.

During the meeting, a select group of students enjoyed a spirited discussion with her about the many ways environmental problem-solving skills can benefit them as they start their careers. According to McKenna, degrees from both undergraduate and graduate programs in environmental and ecological studies will set a foundation for a wide variety of roles in the near future.

One of the more important motivations that genuinely drive



McKenna is that climate change puts the most vulnerable people at risk. In this worldview, economic issues related to climate change are truly related to fundamental social justice issues. “Climate change disproportionately affects poorer people,” she pointed out to students, citing recent examples of elderly citizens without air conditioning being severely affected by extreme heat waves. For coastal communities that depend on stable ecosystems to support fisheries, climate change can impose a true existential threat.

Having a grasp of the impact on people is an important part of suggesting climate change solutions. McKenna acknowledged to the students that there are real economic factors at play not only with the immediate monetary impacts of changing climates but also in real human dimensions over the longer term. “Look at people facing job losses; there is fear,” said McKenna. Practical questions such as ‘Will I have a job?’ or ‘Will I have a community to live in?’ are common ones she has encountered throughout her interactions with people across Canada.

Lastly, McKenna had a message for students in traditional economics majors who might be thinking about career paths in banking or finance. She remarked that plenty of opportunities abound for St. Mike’s grads to effect positive societal change. “It’s interesting that economics is so key in tackling climate change,” she said, explaining that students of economics and finance will have tools to better understand the risks posed by climate change to the economy and the opportunities that solving those problems will bring. The students heard that future climate change problem solvers would have to go beyond thinking about financial matters alone, and leverage their creativity to ensure that economic transitions are better for the environment. McKenna finished by warning that “no changes are going to happen immediately,” adding that future problem solvers would need to think very hard about who would have to pay for economic changes and that jobs would have to be considered.

### TAKING THE LONG VIEW

Looking towards the future, it’s clear that people like McKenna understand that making a difference is a long game. One of the key problems with moving the world away from using carbon-based fuels is the enormous lock-in related to the world’s energy infrastructure. “I wish the transition could happen overnight,” McKenna said, “but we will be using oil and gas for the next few decades. We have a demand problem worldwide.” Most people would agree that the task of weaning the world off carbon-based energy is a monumental one, but it has to start somewhere. In Canada, the nascent assemblage of carbon pricing models across the provinces is one small part of a much larger comprehensive plan to decrease

environmental impacts. In fact, putting a price on carbon was led by British Columbia in 2008, and McKenna credited the province as the catalyst behind the national movement: “We couldn’t have had a national plan without this leadership.”

“I’ve always  
tried to work  
on things I’m  
*passionate*  
about.”



Nearing the end of her visit, McKenna wanted to leave the group with a ‘big picture’ view, reminding the students that the whole country, and indeed the world, is dealing with the issue together. For Canada, she added that climate change solutions aren’t going to come about by hitting a patchwork of regional targets and that the productive direction is to consider alignment of climate change policies as a national challenge. That may very well be what drove her to effect change as a politician at the federal level.

One of her final comments to those present was a warning against inaction. “I worry about young people not voting and not having a voice,” said McKenna, adding that many youth are not yet aware of how influential they’ll be over the coming decade or two. As she said, millennials are for the first time the largest voting bloc. These final thoughts are reminiscent of the responsibility mentioned by Pope Francis in his 2015 homecoming trip to South America: “We received this world as an inheritance from past generations, but also as a loan from future generations, to whom we will have to return it.” ♦



**Paul Krzyzanowski** (USMC Class of 2004) is currently the Director of the Genome Research Platform at the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research in Toronto. His group aims to make genome sequencing accessible and affordable for cancer researchers and clinical trials across Canada and worldwide.



# A

## Memorable

## Moment

St. Mike's warm welcome  
in 1956 changed a life



Mary Ponikvar-Desanti and David Sylvester, USMC President and Vice-Chancellor, at the dedication of the Tony J. Desanti Lobby.

WHEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE THEIR TIME ON ST. MIKE'S CAMPUS, some of the phrases our alumni use most frequently are: "A welcoming place" and "It felt like home." Those sentiments are echoed by other University of Toronto alumni who lived in residence at St. Mike's while studying across Queen's Park on the main campus.

A very special welcome story was shared this March at an event in honour of the late Tony J. Desanti, a 1960 graduate from the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering, who called St. Mike's campus home during his studies at U of T. As his wife, Mary Ponikvar-Desanti, shared, "Tony remained grateful throughout his life for the warm welcome and the home and friends he found here. He often attributed his success to the welcoming environment at St. Mike's."

In 1956, when Tony arrived at the University of Toronto as a new undergraduate student from North Bay, Ont., he unexpectedly discovered that he did not have a space in student residence. Discouraged, he was leaving the student housing office when he met a gentleman and asked where he might find a room. The gentleman asked if Tony was Catholic, and directed him to St. Michael's College across campus. Tony was disappointed to discover that all of St. Michael's residence rooms were also booked. As he was leaving, a Basilian priest (we believe it was Fr. Madden) emerged from the office to say: "We've just had a cancellation!"

"Tony often said he felt that God was with him on that day. His home away from home became St. Michael's. He achieved his academic goals, was among the top in his class, and made many lifelong friends here," said Mary.

Al Kneider (USMC Class of 1958) remembers those times fondly. "Tony and I came from similar roots. He was from North Bay; I was from a very small town called Dunnville. We knew no one in this big city. We ended up in Elmsley House at St. Michael's on the third floor with Tony down the hall with Tony Petricola, and myself almost across



Tony (far right) and friends in the 1950s.

the hall with two other guys—Dave Feduzzi and Mike McLellan.

"We developed a friendship that would last throughout our years at the university and beyond. Our history goes back to the old days of fun, food and laughter at this very special place we still hold in our hearts."

Today, the Tony J. Desanti Lobby in the newly renovated Brennan Hall is named in Tony's memory, and in grateful acknowledgement of Mary's dedication in fulfilling his wish that a gift be made in honour of his enduring gratitude to St. Michael's.

At the dedication of the space, Mary reflected, "Just as Tony walked through these arches and front door of Brennan Hall and was welcomed so many years ago, so too this entrance will continue to welcome others in the same way and will become their home away from home." ♦

### We love hearing St. Mike's memories.

If you have a story to share about finding your home at St. Mike's, please send us a message at [smc.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.alumni@utoronto.ca).

# KELLY LIBRARY AT

# 50

## A RETROSPECTIVE ON OUR FUTURE 1969-2019

BY JESSICA BARR, SHERIL HOOK  
AND JAMES ROUSSAIN



It's 1969 and the John M. Kelly Library has just opened its doors, drawing the College's scattered print collections into a modern space for a modern time.

We have three floors of resources, analog and digital, on shelves and on screens—**collections** to draw both local and international seekers of knowledge.

There are expert staff, exemplary faculty and enquiring students—a shared **community** of inspiration and creation.

Here are compelling exchanges, original research, quiet study and splendid studios—an environment to support **innovation** in our community and our services.

The brutalist architecture may loom, but the inside is warm and welcoming—a **space** for learning and growth.

It's 2019 and the John M. Kelly Library is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Some things have changed and some endure. Gone are the ashtrays, detached long ago from the Italian-made chairs, which remain, albeit in new colours.

Collections, community, innovation and space: these four themes will shape our future as they shaped our past.



## COLLECTIONS

Books, journals, photographs, manuscripts, and all manner of digital and analog resources: these are our collections, capturing your interest and igniting your imagination.



## COMMUNITY

Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and all those looking for a place to study, socialize, or relax: this is our library community, the reason we are here.

## 1963

Then President of St. Michael's College, Fr. John M. Kelly, proposes that the libraries of St. Michael's College, St. Basil's Seminary and the Institute of Mediaeval Studies unite within one central university library.



## 1984

Fr. Joseph Sablé donates the Sablé Collection, a large collection of 19th-century French works.

## 1968

Construction begins on the new library building, which was designed by architect John J. Farrugia.



## 1978

The library is officially named the John M. Kelly Library, in recognition of Fr. Kelly's many contributions to the University over more than 50 years.



## 1969

With the help of many dedicated volunteers, the books are moved from Carr Hall to the new library space in July. At this time, the new library contains 140,000 volumes, but it has the capacity to grow to 350,000 volumes.



## 1973

The statue in front of the library is unveiled on June 6. Designed by William McElcheran, the statue features the faces of scholars and teachers, including William Shakespeare, Dante Alighieri, Étienne Gilson and Marshall McLuhan.



## 1999

Renovation begins on the research commons on the ground floor of the library, including the installation of 45 networked computers. This coincides with the removal of the card catalogue.





## INNOVATION

Developing new services to support our community, preserving our collections, and drawing on the present to create our future: this is innovation, piloting the library forward into the next 50 years.



## SPACE

A quiet place to study, a spot to grab a coffee, and room to grow and learn: this is our space, offering a warm environment and a wealth of academic inspiration.

# 2000

The Library acquires the Henri J. M. Nouwen fonds.



# 2013

Alberto and Caroline Di Giovanni donate the Dante Collection.



# 2004

First annual Book Sale occurs, organized by the newly formed Friends of the Kelly Library group.



# 2007

The Kelly Café opens.



# 2006

The Library acquires the Reliance Press, the Adana Press and the CMC Jobber Press, along with other printing artifacts, to support the Book and Media Studies Program.



# 2019

The Kelly Library initiates a year-long celebration of its past 50 years!



# 2017

The John M. Kelly Library Conservation Studio opens.



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Fr. John M. Kelly, a dynamic educator and administrator, served as President of the University of St. Michael's College from 1958–78. He was an advocate for enhancing the academic environment for students, including the construction of a new library on campus. The John M. Kelly Library is named after him in honour of his outstanding contributions to our community over his many years of service.

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ILLUSTRATIONS: LANA LIU. TIMELINE PHOTOS: UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE ARCHIVES (1968, 1973, 1978, 1999); JOHN M. KELLY LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS (1984, 2000); DANA ROBERT (2000); SHEILA EATON (2007, 2013, 2017, 2019). BOTTOM PHOTO (THIS PAGE): LAURA BOMBIER



Fr. John M. Kelly (1911–1986)

# SAVE THE DATE | KELLY LIBRARY CELEBRATION

October 23, from 7 p.m.



Anthony De Sa

The John M. Kelly Library will be bringing its celebratory year to a close on October 23 beginning at 7 p.m. with a talk by alumnus and author Anthony De Sa, followed by the opening of an exhibition highlighting the past 50 years of the Library's history and a reception.

Special guest speaker Anthony De Sa (Class of 1989) will be speaking at this event. De Sa was shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and Toronto Book Award for his debut 2008 book, *Barnacle Love*, and his latest book, *Children of the Moon*, was published this year. You'll have a chance to purchase his books at a reception following the event.

Details to follow on our website at [stmikes.utoronto.ca](http://stmikes.utoronto.ca).

# USMC Professor's *Global Gift*

After his death, Fr. Mario D'Souza's  
extensive library finds a new home  
...in Pakistan

BY CATHERINE MULRONEY, USMC CLASS  
OF 1982, CLASS OF 2010 (MDiv)





FR. MARIO D'SOUZA'S OFFICE WAS a book lover's paradise. Many evenings the Basilian Professor (and former Dean) in the Faculty of Theology could be found at his desk, the soft glow of his green glass banker's lamp illuminating whatever work he was immersed in. On his desk, a pile of modern British fiction from the Kelly Library to be taken home for some pleasure reading, and an illuminated copy of the Qur'an lying open on a carved olivewood stand—a nod both to his homeland of Pakistan and to the grandfather who had worked on a translation of the Islamic holy book.

But it was the extensive theology collection ringing the room on the third floor of Muzzo Alumni Hall that truly spoke to Fr. D'Souza's life as a man of letters. Neatly ordered shelves bore everything from the collected works of philosopher Jacques Maritain to the books Fr. Mario himself had produced, including *A Catholic Philosophy of Education: The Church and Two Philosophers*, which was published in 2016, and *Being in the World: A Quotable Maritain Reader*, which he edited in 2014.

After Fr. Mario's death in September 2017, Fr. Darren Dias, OP, an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Theology, took on the responsibility for determining what should be done with this treasure. He conducted some research, consulted with the D'Souza family and Fr. Mario's religious community, and then proposed a way to honour his Faculty colleague while also finding a new home for the theology library.

This spring, the books were packed up by a team of theology students and are now awaiting shipment to the National Catholic Institute of Theology in Karachi, the city where Fr. Mario was born. A small plaque will be included noting that the books once belonged to Fr. Mario D'Souza, CSB.

Paul Harris, executor of the estate, had been a friend of Fr. Mario's since 1985, when the two worked together as students in the Kelly Library. He says the decision is a wise

“

Often when we do a donation of books overseas we have to do a calculation of value to shipping costs, but there is no question that this *collection is worth the effort.*

”

one, particularly because of Fr. Mario's vocation to religious education and his concern for respectful multicultural dialogue.

“Pakistan was an important part of his life and the place where he first considered becoming a priest,” Harris notes.

When Fr. Darren presented him with the idea, Harris not only agreed but offered to pay the shipping costs. The Harris family is also creating a scholarship in Fr. Mario's name at the Faculty of Theology.

Theology Librarian Noel McFerran estimates the collection at about a thousand volumes, with a replacement cost of about \$30,000.

“Often when we do a donation of books overseas we have to do a calculation of value to shipping costs, but there is no question that this collection is worth the effort,” says McFerran. “There are excellent reference works, foundational theological texts, and collected works of people like Newman, Aquinas, Maritain. The library includes Josephus and Augustine through to later 20th-century theologians like Ratzinger and John Paul II.”

Fr. Indrias Rehmat, Academic Dean at the Catholic Institute in Karachi, says his school is “extremely joyful” to receive the books, which he says will benefit the students' study and research.

Fr. Mario, who was world-renowned in the area of religious education, spent the bulk of his academic career at the Faculty of Theology, including a stint as Dean. He also served as President and Vice-Chancellor of Assumption University in Windsor, Ont.

Born in 1956, Fr. Mario spent some years of vocational discernment as a young man in Ireland, and immigrated to Canada in 1982, at a time of rising religious tension in Pakistan. He was joined by his mother and brother in Calgary shortly afterwards. In 1984, he ventured east to Toronto and joined the Basilian Fathers.

In the introduction to *A Catholic Philosophy of Education*, Fr. Mario wrote about his experiences as a Catholic student attending



Faculty of the National Catholic Institute of Theology in Karachi at the Institute's graduation ceremonies in 2018.

Fr. Mario “grew up in a *culturally diverse city* where there was respect for other cultures and religions.... He was *very open-minded, very liberal about cultures*. He would have loved that this is where his books ended up.”

a Catholic school in Karachi alongside many Muslim classmates. The only time Catholic and Muslim students were separated, he recalled, was for instruction in their respective religious traditions. The book cites a Sister Principal of a local school who, when asked whether she felt she had to downplay the Catholic aspect of teaching because of a multicultural classroom, replied, “Oh no, to educate well is always to do God’s work—that is enough.”

Fr. Mario “grew up in a culturally diverse city where there was respect for other cultures and religions,” says Harris. “He was very open-minded, very liberal about cultures. He would have loved that this is where his books ended up.”

It is a fitting final chapter for a life well lived at St. Mike’s. ♦

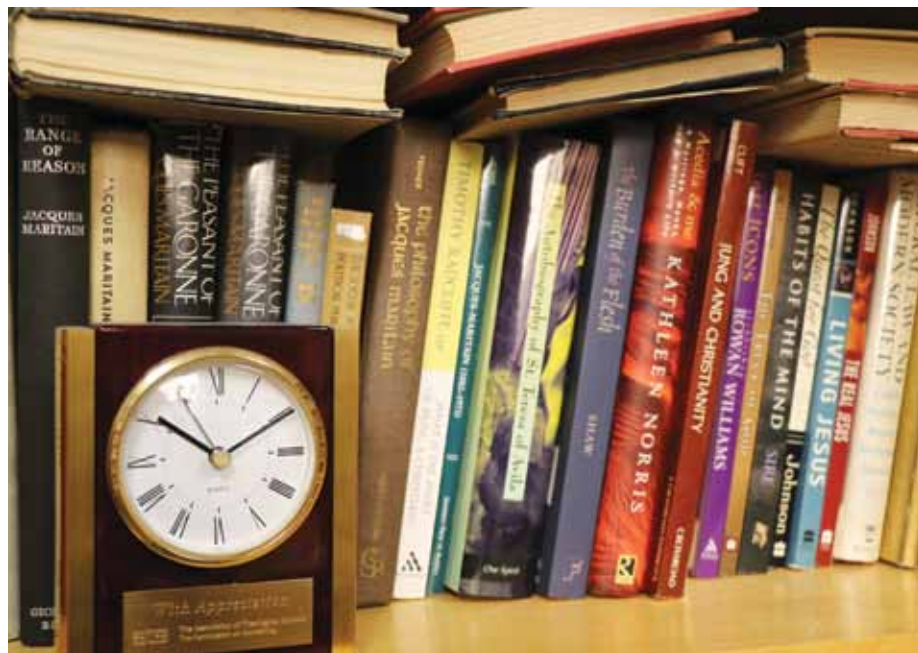


PHOTO (BOTTOM): SHEILA EATON

# A Piece of **HISTORY** Comes Back to St. Mike's

An alumna's jacket  
brings back memories  
of past sporting glories,  
and opens that world  
to younger generations  
BY MARTYN JONES



Vicky Charron Houghton (right); with Jessica Barr, University Archivist, John M. Kelly Library; and Duane Rendle, Dean of Students.

WHEN ST. MICHAEL'S ALUMNA VICKY (BAECHLER) Charron Houghton (Class of 1949) went through her closet on a fall Sunday in 2018, her hand fell across a keepsake from her undergraduate days: a U of T blazer festooned with athletic patches. Feeling mischievous, she sent a photo of the jacket to her family and told them she intended to auction it off to one of them, with bids starting at \$30. Her children accepted the challenge, and her daughter Mary opened bidding. When her son John countered with a \$40 bid, the game was afoot. The playful competition offered a fitting tribute to the achievements that earned Charron Houghton the jacket in the first place.

Her student days were far from ordinary. She was a stand-out athlete committed to trying every sport she could: volleyball, basketball, softball. She played hockey for one year as well, but was forced to use figure skates because that's all she had at the time. "That's why I only played for one year," she





says, laughing. She was the only player on the ice to play with that disadvantage.

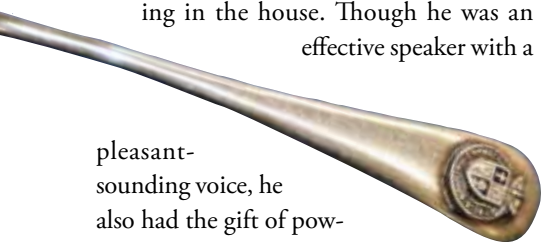
Hockey misadventures notwithstanding, Charron Houghton's athletic prowess brought her to the attention of the SMC Athletic Society, which in 1949 named her the first-ever Female Athlete of the Year at St. Michael's College. The Society prepared an unusual token in honour of the award: a sterling silver spoon. "Maybe they just decided to do it at the last minute," Charron Houghton muses. The spoon is engraved on the handle and the basin with her name, the school year of the award and the SMC crest—the mid-century design of which is reflected in the school's current logo. The unique award is a hit with Charron Houghton's family. "I've shown the spoon to my grandchildren more than I have the blazer," she says.

Charron Houghton studied liberal arts at St. Michael's during the 1940s, a very interesting period in the school's history. She took numerous English and Latin courses, and after her graduation kept in touch for many years with her Latin professor, Sr. Blandina Hitchen, CSJ (who was also Dean of St. Joseph's College, 1948-1953).

She recalls the Sisters of St. Joseph teaching most of her English courses, and she took at least one class with SMC celebrity Marshall McLuhan. She did not find the media theorist's teaching very impressive, but suggests McLuhan may simply not have been interested in psychology, the subject of the course.

Charron Houghton's husband, Doug Charron, also attended St. Michael's during the same period, and he lived in House 2 under the donship of Fr. John Kelly. Charron Houghton remembers hearing stories of Fr. Kelly practising his sermons and singing in the house. Though he was an effective speaker with a

pleasant-sounding voice, he also had the gift of powerful volume, which sometimes surprised the boys who happened to be in the building during his rehearsals.



Vicky Charron Houghton with USMC President and Vice-Chancellor David Sylvester.



After a few rounds of bidding among her children and some back-and-forth conversation about where the garment should go, Charron Houghton's daughter Anne finally won the auction, and she promptly approached USMC Alumni Affairs to see about making it a donation to the College archive. The response from the school was immediate and enthusiastic, and not long after, Charron Houghton came to St. Michael's with the jacket in hand. Over the course of an afternoon, she met with St. Michael's President

David Sylvester, University Archivist Jessica Barr, then-Alumni Affairs Director Leslie Belzak and Dean of Students Duane Rendle to share stories of her time at the school, all while the group looked at related memorabilia from the period.

The blazer was on display with some of those other items for this year's Spring Reunion (May 30–June 2), during which the College also celebrated a remarkable milestone: the 70th anniversary of Charron Houghton's graduation from St. Michael's. ♦

# Thank You for Your “Boundless” Support

True to the nature of St. Mike’s, fundraising campaign was truly a community effort!

IN 2011, WHEN THE UNIVERSITY OF Toronto launched “Boundless”—the most ambitious fundraising campaign in Canadian history—we at the University of St. Michael’s College embraced the opportunity to promote our ongoing fundraising efforts by launching our very own “Boundless Community” campaign.

We set a determined and ambitious goal, to raise **\$50 million** during the University of Toronto’s Boundless Campaign period. It was a bold plan!

I am delighted and most grateful to report that you, St. Michael’s loyal and generous community, rose to the challenge. A total of 6,006 of our alumni and friends donated to St. Michael’s Boundless Community campaign. More than 90 per cent of donors gave between \$50 and \$1,000—but no matter the amount, it all added up. Every gift made a difference.

And while your donations stayed at St. Michael’s, they helped the University of Toronto exceed its Boundless goal of \$2 billion.

Your gifts have advanced many important priorities at St. Michael’s:

- Programs and research: \$23,700,332
- Student aid, student experience and faculty support: \$17,144,815
- Facilities and infrastructure: \$6,449,571
- Gift intentions: \$2,731,553

Your Boundless Community gifts have enriched student experience and success by supporting transformative new Year One Programs, travel grants and experiential learning opportunities, scholarships and bursaries,



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**On December 31, 2018, St. Michael’s  
\$50 million Boundless goal was reached!**

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learning supports and enhanced study spaces in the John M. Kelly Library, and centralized student services in a revitalized Brennan Hall. Your generosity has enabled us to welcome six new assistant professors to our undergraduate programs, develop outreach programming in interfaith dialogue through our Faculty of Theology, and much more!

**The future is bright.** St. Michael’s now ranks at the top of the University of Toronto

on key indicators of success, including the number of students taught by continuing status faculty and the number of applications to SMC Year One programs.

Your loyalty and confidence inspire us as together we move forward into an exciting new era of Catholic post-secondary education. Everyone at St. Michael’s joins with me in saying **thank you** for giving so generously in support of our students and our special community. Our gratitude is boundless!

Kathryn Elton  
Chief Advancement Officer  
kathryn.elton@utoronto.ca

# 2019 Cressy Awards



**Damian  
Di Biase**



**Haseeb  
Hassaan**



**Marianne  
Kalaczynski**



**Erin McTague**



**Elicia Pavan**



**Giuliana  
Sframeli**



**Karina Michele  
Stellato**



**Maria Olivia  
Teotonio Wren**

**T**HE GORDON CRESSY STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS ARE presented to students of the University of Toronto who have made outstanding extracurricular contributions, either to their individual college, faculty or school; or to the university as a whole. Here are this year's honorees from the University of St. Michael's College (all but one from the Class of 2019).

**JOSHUA BOWMAN** was President of the Indigenous Studies Students' Union and Co-chair of the Honouring Our Students Pow Wow, as well as an executive on the Arts & Science Students' Union.

**DAMIAN DI BIASE** founded "Clean SMC," a student environmentalist group that seeks to promote sustainable living. He also served as an Orientation Leader, Student's Union Representative and Commuter Ambassador for St. Mike's.

**JAIMI FOSTER** was Coordinator of the St. Michael's College Mentorship program and President of two USMC clubs: the American Culture Club and the Pickleball Club.

**HASEEB HASSAAN** was President of the Arts & Science Students' Union, and founder and Chair of the Student Success Day Conference.

**LAZAR JOKSIMOVIC** co-founded and directed the Global Society for Genetics & Genome Biology, an international organization for research on rare and fatal genetic diseases. He also co-founded the *Journal of Innovations in Genetics* and served as Academic Chair for the U of T Ophthalmology Club.

**MARIANNE KALACZYNSKI** was Co-President of the Slavic Languages Students' Union and the Medieval Studies Undergraduate

Society, as well as Mentor and Logistics Director for the History Students' Association.

**HAN LU** was Editor of *The Attaché Journal* and served as Committee Director at the 2017 Secondary School Interactive Crisis Simulation Conference. She also served as Secretary General of the North American Model United Nations Conference.

**ERIN MCTAGUE** was Chief Returning Officer of the St. Michael's College Student Union, President and Intramural Coordinator of the St. Michael's College Residence Council, and Munk One Program Ambassador.

**ELICIA PAVAN (USMC CLASS OF 2015)** is most proud of being Arts Commissioner, Floor President, Orientation Leader and Student Mentor while she was at USMC.

**GIULIANA SFRAMELI** was President of Delta Delta Delta, University of Toronto Chapter; and Director of Events for Rotman Commerce Women in Business.

**KARINA MICHELE STELLATO** served as Commuter Don, Senior Mentor with USMC Mentorship, and Marshal at Orientation Week at St. Michael's College. She also served as an Events Coordinator for the Italian Undergraduate Student Cultural Association.

**MARIA OLIVIA TEOTONIO WREN** was Events Coordinator for the Celtic Studies Student Union and the Medieval Studies Undergraduate Society, aligning study and extracurricular life to make what is learnt in class come alive. She also served as a Student Representative for the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies Friends of the Library Committee. ♦



# CAMPUS NOTES



## PEACEMAKING GROUP SHARES ITS VISION WITH ST. MIKE'S COMMUNITY

On December 14, members of the peacemaking organization Association Rondine visited campus to introduce their important work to our community through a performance entitled “Dissonanze in Accordo.” For more than 20 years, Association Rondine, a one-time finalist for the Nobel Peace Prize, has assembled students from conflict zones around the world to live and study in community. The presentation in Alumni Hall featured spoken-word pieces, written and presented by students in the Association Rondine program, interspersed with music composed and performed by program participants. Professor Franco Vaccari, President and founder of Association Rondine, shared the organization’s vision and introduced the students, who spoke about their experiences in war-torn countries and how the Rondine program has helped them to see their former enemies as human beings. Students from the U of T’s Faculty of Music joined the Rondine Ensemble onstage, and though that evening was the first time the two groups of musicians had played together, they offered a pitch-perfect, seamless performance. Allyson Larkin, an Associate Professor at King’s University College, spoke about King’s partnership with Association Rondine, and St. Michael’s President and Vice-Chancellor David Sylvester offered words of welcome and appreciation. It was an inspiring evening.

## MCLUHAN AND BOYLE SEMINARS OFFER INTERNATIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Two unique first-year seminars made their debut at St. Michael’s last year. Following the successful launch in Fall 2017 of the Gilson Seminar in Faith and Ideas, the introduction in Fall 2018 of the McLuhan Seminar in Creativity and Technology,



and the Boyle Seminar in Scripts and Stories, was extremely well received by students.

Both seminars, taught by St. Mike’s assistant professors,

offered students experiential learning opportunities.

Assistant Professor Paolo Granata, a scholar of the works of Marshall McLuhan, explored with his students how the humanities relate to other fields of thought in addressing the individual, social and cultural experiences and the effects of technological

innovation. The capstone for the McLuhan Seminar was a trip to Silicon Valley to visit companies and organizations that are driving the world’s tech economy forward with cutting-edge research and innovation. Once back in Toronto, students had a better understanding of the relationship between creativity and technology and how it will inform their future academic career, by pursuing ideas for change whether through research or through start-ups—or both.



The Boyle Seminar in Scripts and Stories honours the work of Leonard Boyle, OP, by bringing first-year students to the intersection of Celtic and medieval cultures. Taught by Assistant Professors Máirtín Coilféir and Alison More, the seminar gave students hands-on experience with material culture of the Middle Ages through an examination of precious manuscripts—a special experience that is often unavailable until late in one’s academic career. A highlight of the seminar was a trip to Ireland to see first-hand the contributions made by the Celts to medieval life in Europe.

## KELLY LIBRARY LAUNCHES 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WITH CANADIAN FINE PRESS EXHIBIT



Alumni and friends gathered at the Kelly Library on January 22 to celebrate the opening of the Canadian Fine Press Exhibit. The St. Michael's exhibit—one of five exhibits presented on the U of T campus—highlighted a range of letterpress publications, hand-printed ephemera, chapbooks and other fine press works from the university's special collections and libraries, and featured the work of Glenn Goluska (1947-2011), a St. Michael's alumnus (Class of 1969).

The exhibit ran from January to May, making available a range of artisanal printed items, including material from Toronto-area fine presses, in the display cases on the main floor of the Kelly Library.

To open the exhibit, Robert MacDonald, Director of the Okanagan Institute, gave a lecture titled "All Crazy for Type, Ink, Paper and Glue: Instructive Narrative Meanderings in Printropica, Bibliophrenia, and Typomania," which focused on his own adventures in the print trade and provided a number of

insights about the characters he encountered in his time in the industry. Special thanks to St. Mike's alumnus Chester Gyski (Class of 1969) for supporting the lecture and exhibit.

Also launched as part of the Canadian Fine Press Exhibit was a special chapbook *A Tetrad*, designed and printed by the Kelly Library Print Studio to honour the legacy of Marshall McLuhan. The chapbook was printed in two editions, and is both a digital and a hand-printed instance of McLuhan's tetrad concept.

## 2019 STUDENT RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM: CITY AND WILDERNESS

On Saturday, January 26, the second annual St. Michael's College Student Research Colloquium was held for undergraduate students at St. Mike's, graduate students from the Faculty of Theology, and other U of T students registered in USMC courses. This year's theme was "City and Wilderness: Opportunities, Tensions, Responsibilities." As Tristan Sharp—a post-doctoral fellow at the Faculty

who was one of the organizers of the event—explained, the event was designed to offer a student-friendly bridge from basic university essay writing to more sophisticated research and presentation.



Student contributions were wide-ranging and varied, including Samuel Hodgkins-Sumner's paper "The Fall of Satan in Augustine's *City of God* and Milton's *Paradise Lost*" and Maryrose Doucette's "The Benedict Option: Tensions Between the City and the Wilderness in the Modern Christian Life." (Rod Dreher, author of the book that Doucette discussed in her paper, even got involved, using Twitter to respond directly to her presentation after being tagged in a thread of tweets about her argument.) In his words of welcome to attendees, St. Mike's President and Vice-Chancellor David Sylvester observed that the colloquium was the start of a "really good weekend for student research and research in general at St. Mike's."

## POP-UP BOOK DISTRIBUTION: FIRST BOOK CANADA

Our campus hosted a unique and heartwarming event from March 2 to 9. Partnering with First Book Canada,

## NEW INTERFAITH DIPLOMA THANKS TO SCARBORO MISSIONS DONATION



The University of St. Michael's College Faculty of Theology has launched a new Diploma in Interfaith Dialogue that is designed to introduce students to the spirituality of

many of the different religions and faith communities who are our neighbours, leading to meaningful dialogue and new points of connection with other people. The new program, which will begin offering courses in the fall of 2019, was made possible by an \$800,000 donation from the Scarboro Missions, which after a century of national and international ministry has turned to St. Michael's to help carry on its work. Fr. Jack Lynch, General Superior of the Scarboro Missions, noted that the Faculty's proposed use of the funds carries on the community's mission of empowering the laity. St. Michael's envisions Catholic schoolteachers and lay leaders as two key constituencies for the diploma, but its benefits will extend to a much larger, multicultural and multi-faith world. For more information on the new diploma program, please visit <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/program/diploma-interfaith/>.



St. Michael's transformed Father Madden Hall into a Pop-Up Book Distribution location. Over the course of the week, more than 20,000 books were given to schools and community groups that support low-income families across the Greater Toronto Area. Students from grades 1 and 2 at Rose Avenue Junior Public School celebrated the

distribution of books with a festive "Reading Celebration" in the Kelly Café at the John M. Kelly Library.

The Reading Celebration featured noted children's author Cinders McLeod, who shared with the young audience her recently published book *Spend It!*, part of her Moneybunny financial literacy series for young children. Students in attendance received a copy of the book along with several others.

Pop-Up Book Distribution events offer children quality reading material, an essential ingredient for academic success that can be difficult for disadvantaged families to access.

## IN THE MIDST OF LIFE: A CONCERT FOR LENT



The St. Michael's Schola Cantorum presented "In the Midst of Life: A Concert for Lent" on March 14, and the performance was enthusiastically received by an audience full of St. Michael's alumni and friends as well as community members. Led by Chris Verrette and directed by Assistant Professor Michael O'Connor, the singers and instrumentalists presented a moving program of music that included funeral anthems and other music for voices and strings by Henry Purcell, Thomas Morley and John Merbecke. St. Michael's extends its thanks to the Schola Cantorum, who donate the proceeds from their three annual concerts, and directed the freewill offering to support students facing unexpected financial difficulties. We also offer our gratitude to all who attended and expressed their appreciation for the beautiful music through their donations.

## 2019 ANNUAL CHRISTIANITY AND THE ARTS LECTURE



St. Michael's Principal and Vice-President Randy Boyagoda opened the 2019 Christianity and the Arts lecture at Alumni Hall on the evening of Wednesday, April 24, just three days after the terrible Easter Sunday bombings that killed scores of worshippers in Sri Lanka. Boyagoda, a novelist and *New York Times* contributor as well as a Professor in the Christianity and Culture program, admitted to revising his talk—titled "Bad Catholics Make for Good Fiction: Faith and Writing Today"—after the terrorist violence opened his eyes to the relative safety of his own comic fiction. He closed with a case for the importance of openness and risk-taking in the Catholic literary project. Professor Laura Colantoni, Chair in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Toronto, interviewed Boyagoda after his lecture, and guests enjoyed a reception in Father Madden Hall afterwards.

## DR. MIMI MARROCCO RECEIVES 2019 ALWAY AWARD

Earlier this summer, Mimi Marrocco (Class of 1969) received the 2019 Alway Award in recognition of her decades of service and important contributions to the life and reputation of St. Mike's.

After earning a BA from St. Mike's, Marrocco received an MA in 1970 and a PhD in 1978, both from the U of T, where she later taught as a member of the English Department. She worked for over a quarter century as Director of Continuing Education at St. Michael's, and served as faculty leader for the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) Certificate program.



An industry leader as well as an educator, Marrocco has served on academic and community boards, including stints as President of both the Ontario Council for Lifelong Learning and the Canadian Association of University Continuing Education.

She has served in many roles for Catholic educational and charitable institutions, and continues to serve in board and/or committee member roles with organizations such as the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto, the Toronto Hunt Club, and the Advisory



Committee of the Canadian Business Ethics Research Network at York University.

The Alway Award is named for Richard Alway, a member of the USMC Class of 1962 and our first lay president. It is given in recognition of alumni whose significant contributions to society bring esteem to them and to the College.

#### O'HARA TRAVELS THE GLOBE FOR ECOTHEOLOGY

The itinerary for Dennis Patrick O'Hara's final working trip before his retirement at the end of June couldn't have been more appropriate. The Faculty of Theology professor travelled to South Korea, where he offered a congratulatory address to the founding meeting of the Korean Thomas Berry Association (KTBA).



It's a trip that has brought the ecotheologian full circle, as O'Hara was first influenced by Berry's writings while working on his graduate studies, leading him to specialize in theology and ecology. Over the years, O'Hara has emerged as a world leader in Berry's work, teaching hundreds of students and supervising multiple theses in ecotheology and ethics. Many of those students come from South Korea, where Berry has a strong following, expressly because of O'Hara's reputation and research.

While in Seoul to help launch the local Berry association, O'Hara also delivered a

talk to 50 seminarians at the Catholic University of Seoul, and another sponsored in part by Kyung Hee University. He also met with many of his former students and their associates, discussing local environmental concerns.

O'Hara retired June 30. He will be missed.

#### VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME – SEPT. 24-29

Every fall, the Friends of the John M. Kelly Library host a used-book sale to raise funds for the University of St. Michael's College Kelly Library. The sale features more than 50,000 donated books, music, movies and other items, and this year, a donation of bags from Book Sale supporter Carole Hood has provided an eye-catching way to help get things organized.

Proceeds go towards improving the physical spaces within the Library, and preserving and enhancing the existing collections for the benefit of current and future students of St. Mike's.



Friends of the Kelly Library are looking for volunteers to assist with setting up/packing up and restocking the tables. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Rick Hayward, by email at [kelly.friends@utoronto.ca](mailto:kelly.friends@utoronto.ca).

BOOKMARK THE DATES – SEPTEMBER 24-28, 2019

# ST. MIKE'S ANNUAL BOOK SALE

## 2019 BOOK SALE HOURS

<b>Tuesday, Sept 24</b>	1 pm – 8 pm	\$5 entry fee (first day only)
<b>Wednesday, Sept 25</b>	10 am – 8 pm	
<b>Thursday, Sept 26</b>	10 am – 8 pm	
<b>Friday, Sept 27</b>	10 am – 8 pm	½ price books all day
<b>Saturday, Sept 28</b>	10 am – 3 pm	\$15 a box all day

Carr Hall, 100 St. Joseph Street  
(ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE JOHN M. KELLY LIBRARY)

Every fall, the Friends of the John M. Kelly Library host a used book sale, featuring more than 50,000 donated books and other media items, to raise funds for the St. Michael's College Kelly Library. In addition to thousands of scholarly, classical and religious publications, the special editions include curiosities, rarities, signed first editions and exquisite art books.

**To learn more about how to donate material or to volunteer, email [kelly.friends@utoronto.ca](mailto:kelly.friends@utoronto.ca).**

**More information online: [stmikes.utoronto.ca/booksale](http://stmikes.utoronto.ca/booksale)**

### ST. MICHAEL'S ALUMNI REUNION 2019: OLD FRIENDS, NEW MEMORIES

St. Mike's alumni returned to campus for Alumni Reunion 2019 from May 29 to June 2, where they had the opportunity to catch up with classmates, make new friends, and reacquaint themselves with the college that remains an important part of their lives.

The Alumni Affairs team organized 18 different events scheduled around reunion celebrations hosted by the University of Toronto, and in the final count, more than 600 people attended St. Michael's special events. This year, the honoured classes ending in '4 and '9 came back to campus to celebrate their milestone anniversaries, including alumni returning from as far back as the Class of 1949.

Some alumni traveled from as far away as New Zealand, England and Houston to participate, while others found themselves returning from a short distance away as they settled back into residence at Elmsley Place or Loretto College for the weekend.

The reunion kicked off with a SHAKER gathering at Ripley's Aquarium with St. Mike's young alumni in attendance, and concluded with a full house for Sunday's Mediaeval Symposium by Assistant Professor Alison More.

Highlights from Alumni Reunion include:

- **Lectures and presentations from St. Mike's faculty**, including Assistant Professor Felan Parker's engaging Stress-Free Degree lecture on Fortnite and video game culture as well as a standing-room-only presentation by Assistant Professor Alison More, who had just returned from conducting an international learning experience in Ireland with students from the Boyle Seminar in Scripts and Stories.
- **Anniversary Masses**, one celebrated by Fr. Morgan Rice, CSB (Faculty of Theology Class of 2009) in the Loretto College Chapel, and another at St. Basil's celebrated by Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB (USMC Class of 1969), who travelled from Vancouver to enjoy his 50th anniversary of graduating from St. Michael's.
- A revival of the **st. mike's pub**. The Class of 1994, in conjunction with the Class of 2009, marked their 25th and 10th anniversary, respectively, by turning the Firkin on Bay into the st. mike's pub, a former campus hangout space.



- A capacity-crowd **All Alumni Double Blue Party** in the newly renovated Brennan Hall Lounge and the Dodig Family COOP. Alumni had the opportunity to travel down memory lane with a display of photos and flip through yearbooks from the honoured years.
- **"Canadian Writing Now,"** a panel discussion hosted by Principal and Vice-President Randy Boyagoda and English Chair Professor Paul Stevens. One of the authors on the panel, Anthony De Sa (USMC Class of 1989), dedicated his reading to Fr. Robert Madden, CSB, and shared a story of Fr. Madden going out of his way to offer kindness and support after Anthony's father passed away.
- **The Honoured Years' Dinner and Medal Ceremony** for alumni who graduated 55, 60, 65 or 70 years ago.

President David Sylvester wrote: "Many thanks to the staff, faculty and students who contributed to the success of Alumni Reunion. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with generations of St. Mike's graduates. Our alumni felt warmly welcomed; thoroughly enjoyed the gatherings, lectures and tours; and commented on how lovely the grounds and facilities looked. The weekend was a tremendous community effort, which showcased St. Mike's at its best."

If you'd like to see more photos from the weekend, please email [smc.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.alumni@utoronto.ca). ♦

# BULLETIN BOARD



**Ann Marie Sweeney (USMC Class of 1958)** and her son Jim enjoyed catching up with USMC President David Sylvester at the Vancouver alumni gathering, held on February 26 at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel. Special thanks were extended that evening to **Bruno Wall (USMC Class of 1982, 1983 MA)**, who generously hosted the event.



**Harvey Fox (USMC Class of 1969)** and his wife, Janet Becker, travelled from Phoenix, Arizona, to celebrate his 50th anniversary class reunion during Alumni Reunion. It was great to visit with Harvey over the weekend, and everyone looked forward to seeing the incredible shirts that Janet crafted.



Faculty colleagues, former students, friends and admirers gathered at the Basilian Common Room on June 26 to celebrate **Richard Toporoski** (U of T 1965 MA, 1969 PhD), who served as an Associate Professor of Classics at St. Mike's for almost 38 years (1968 to 2006). This gathering, hosted by USMC President David Sylvester, provided a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge Prof. Toporoski (pictured, seated at centre) as an outstanding teacher and much-admired member of the St. Mike's community.



**Lorraine Hennessey (USMC Class of 1969, 1988 MRE)** and her husband, **Eric Hennessey** (OISE Class of 1986), who met on St. Mike's campus more than 50 years ago, came back this spring to celebrate Lorraine's 50th anniversary class reunion. They had fun posing in front of the wings in the south lobby of Brennan Hall, a popular spot for photos during the Alumni Reunion weekend.

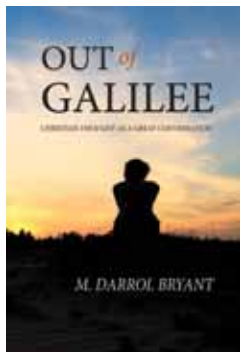


**Alberto Di Giovanni (USMC Class of 1971)**, who served as Chairman of the Premio Italia Nel Mondo Awards Dinner on October 25, 2018, was pleased to meet Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the special guest speaker that evening. **Darlene Madott (USMC Class of 1975)**



## BULLETIN BOARD

snapped this photo. Rumour has it **Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni (USMC Class of 1970)** invited the Prime Minister to the Friends of the Kelly Library Book Sale (September 24 to 28) and the 2019 Dante Lecture, taking place on October 17.



**Darrol Bryant (USMC 1972 MA, 1976 PhD)** has recently published his new book, entitled *Out of Galilee: The History of Christian Thought as a Great Conversation*, which explores over two millennia of Christian thought. Hot off the press, the book is already receiving very favourable reviews.

**Angelo Bolotta (USMC Class of 1973, 1974 BEd, 1988 MEd)** had his book, *Daring to Dream*, published late last year. It is described as a handbook to empower dreamers who are looking to make progress in social, economic and ecological justice.



**Joe Mihevc (USMC Class of 1976, 1979 MA, 1988 PhD)** has joined the University of

After a distinguished career serving on City Council for the City of Toronto,



**Marianne Sciolino (USMC Class of 1973, 1976 MA)** and her husband, Chester Lane (both of Sciolino Artist Management), stayed on campus and visited with USMC President David Sylvester when they were in Toronto last December to attend a concert at Koerner Hall, presented by a string quartet Marianne represents. David says he looks forward to seeing them again on September 19 at a St. Mike's alumni gathering that will take place on Marianne and Chester's rooftop garden in New York. For details about the event, contact [smc.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.alumni@utoronto.ca), or call Matt Doyle at 416-926-2331.

Toronto as a sessional lecturer. Joe will share his insights and experiences with city government with students at the Scarborough Campus.

The U of T held its annual Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on May 23, and alumnus **Mark Bragagnolo (USMC Class of 1977)** was one of the 2019 inductees. Mark was an all-Canadian running back on the 1974 Yates Cup and Atlantic Bowl championship Varsity Blues football team, and would go on to play for eight seasons in the CFL.

**Sandra Pellegrini (USMC Class of 1981)** has launched a new venture: the Wengage. As her

website ([wengageapp.com](http://wengageapp.com)) explains, Wengage is an app that lets women connect with other women who share their interests and would rather have good company than go alone to an event or miss out. University students who are new to Toronto can use the app to build their social network as they navigate the large city.



**Sheila Deluzio and Anita Farrell (both USMC Class of 1985)** were delighted to meet up with

USMC President David Sylvester while taking a stroll down memory lane through campus this summer.



The Honourable **David Lametti (USMC Class of 1985)** was sworn in as the 52nd Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada on January 14, 2019. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in economics and political science while a student at St. Mike's.



Congratulations to **Gale A. Yee (USMC 1985 PhD)**, who was recently elected President of the Society of Biblical Literature, one of the oldest and largest learned societies in the US. She will be giving her Presidential Address at the November 2019 meeting of the society in San Diego, California.

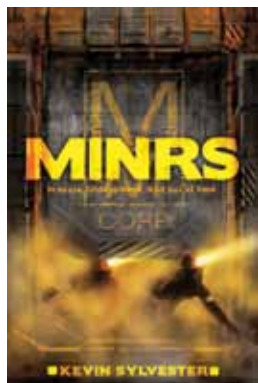


**Laura Rock Gaughan (USMC Class of 1986)**

had her first book, a short story collection entitled *Motherish*, published in the fall

of 2018 by Turnstone Press. Laura's fiction, essays, book reviews and interviews have appeared in Canadian, Irish and US literary journals. Since the book was published, she has had the pleasure of seeing friends from St. Mike's at launch events and readings.

Congratulations to **Victor Dodig (USMC Class of 1988)**, President and Chief Executive Officer of CIBC, on being awarded a Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) from Ryerson University at the June 2019 Ted Rogers School of Management convocation. Victor addressed the graduating class on the theme of "Building a strong and inclusive world," and encouraged students to lead with purpose as they launch their careers.



Bestselling children's books author **Kevin Sylvester (USMC Class of 1989)** has had his book *Minrs* selected as a contender for the 2019 Global Read Aloud prize. Each year, the Global Read Aloud chooses a book for students to read aloud while connecting digitally with students in other classrooms around the world.



**Renata Brum (USMC Class of 1991, 1994 MA)** participated last fall in the Exercise Collaborative Spirit at Garrison Petawawa, which allows civilians to spend a day in the life of Canadian Army soldiers. A former member of the USMC Collegium, Renata is currently serving as a Canadian Immigration Consultant through her new company, Brum Immigration.



In a special celebration for their 25th reunion this summer, **USMC Class of 1994** reps **Michael Camacho, Mike McCarthy, Grace McSorley** and **David Scandiffio** organized a revival of the "st. mike's pub." USMC grads from the '90s, as well as grads from 2009 celebrating their 10th anniversary, took over the Firkin on Bay to relive their time at St. Mike's.



Whether you are a graduate, a parent, a returning student or just a fan, official St. Mike's merchandise shows your pride and support. St. Mike's hoodies, sweatpants, water bottles and more are available for sale online from the U of T bookstore.

[uoftbookstore.com](http://uoftbookstore.com)



**David Scandiffio (USMC Class of 1994)** was one of the honoured players in attendance on October 28 at the Varsity Blues Football game for a special halftime presentation to celebrate the 1993 Yates and Vanier Cup winning team. David played offensive guard during the legendary season that saw the Varsity Blues win the Vanier Cup for the second time in the team's history.



**Fr. James Murphy, CSB (USMC 2001 M.Div)** was recently selected as the President of St. Thomas High School in Houston, Texas, after a wide-ranging search. Fr. Murphy will be the third president in the school's storied 119-year history. Many alumni will fondly remember Fr. Murphy from when he was the Chaplain at St. Mike's.



**Paul Krzyzanowski (USMC Class of 2004)**, Director of the Genome Research Platform at the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, has recently

published his research findings on high-grade serous ovarian cancer and genetic fusion in the publication *Scientific Notes*. Paul, a talented writer as well as researcher, is author of this issue's feature story on alumna **Catherine McKenna (USMC Class of 1994)**.

**Kevin Fawcett (USMC Class of 2008)** has joined the faculty at Ryerson University as an Assistant Professor with the Department of Economics after completing his PhD in economics at the University of Toronto. Kevin is an avid golfer and has participated in the USMC Golf Classic for the past two years.



Congratulations to **Apostolo Zeno (USMC Class of 2009)**! He and his wife, Sara, welcomed son Anthony Richard Zeno on April 7. The proud dad, who previously worked at St. Mike's as part of our residence and conference services team, is now a Project Manager at George Brown College.



St. Mike's extends warmest thanks to **Leslie Belzak** (above right) for her outstanding commitment to our alumni community and her many years of service, most recently as Director of Advancement, Alumni. We wish Leslie well as she has moved on to new professional opportunities.

**Jean-Pierre Fortin (USMC 2010 MA, 2014 PhD)** will be joining the St. Michael's Faculty of Theology this fall as an Assistant Professor in Practical Theology and Pastoral Formation. "I hope to be able to inspire students to engage in a transformative search for truth leading to a new way of life in and for God," he says.



Congratulations to newlyweds **Charles (Chas) Williams (USMC Class of 2013)** and **Caroline Williams (Murphy)** (Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design 2014), who met

at St. Mike's when Chas was a Residence Don and Caroline lived on campus. The College still has a special place in their hearts. They were married in July at St. Basil's by **Fr. Morgan Rice (USMC 2009 M.Div)**.



Wedding bells were also ringing for former Don **Andrew Gubasta** (Engineering 2014) and his wife, **Carly Gubasta (Whitfield) (USMC Class of 2016)**. Many USMC grads attended their wedding this summer, including a few former dons. (Pictured, from left): **Danny Russell (USMC Class of 2015)**, **Michael Bazzocchi** (Engineering 2013), groom Andrew Gubasta, bride Carly Gubasta, **Sufyan Katariwala (USMC Class of 2013)**, **Ellen Piazza (O'Malley) (USMC Class of 2014)** and **Emily Van Berkum (USMC Class of 2012, 2015 M.Div)**.



**Theri Kay Reichlin (USMC Class of 2016)** has relocated to the United Kingdom, where she has accepted a position in Cardiff as a civil engineer.



Theri completed her Masters of Forest Conservation at the University of Toronto in 2018.



St. Mike's alumnus  
**Tanguy Jozs (USMC Class of 2017)** has recently launched

BookBird, an app to help students buy and sell used textbooks. Tanguy is proud to see his app available on the App Store and Google Play. In addition, he will soon start working at the Boston Consulting Group.



Members of **USMC's Young Alumni Committee** attended the SHAKER event at Ripley's Aquarium during Alumni Reunion. More than 1000 young alumni from across the University of Toronto enjoyed the evening and the opportunity to connect with fellow grads. The Young Alumni

Committee was joined at the SHAKER by its newest member, **Phuntsok Chomphel (USMC Class of 2017)** (pictured, centre).

**Luke Kyne (USMC Class of 2018)** and his classmates have developed "fan," a handwashing companion device for health-care workers that uses sensor technology and instant feedback to guide users through three simple stages of proper handwashing. A working prototype is currently being tested in a clinical environment, while Luke and colleagues raise funding to grow their start-up.

**Natalie Doummar (USMC Class of 2018)** recently served as a volunteer with the 2019 World Youth Day in Panama. The week-long event brought Catholic youth together from around the world. Natalie wrote about her experience for *The Mike*, describing it as "a big stepping stone in my faith journey." ♦

**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 Matt Doyle at [smc.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.alumni@utoronto.ca).

#### REST IN PEACE

Allen, R. Douglas	USMC 1945	LaBute CSB, Rev.		O'Connor, Michael J.	USMC 1949
Bauer, Mary R.	USMC 1963	Marvin Walter	USMC 1967	O'Flaherty IBVM,	
Berault, Marshal A.	USMC 1948	Le Sage, John	USMC 1953	Sr. Wilfreda	USMC 1944
Bianco, Brigita	USMC 1966	Lee CSB, Rev. M. Owen	USMC 1953	O'Hare, Dr. Colmán	USMC 1973
Bradley CFC, Rev.		Lefebvre, J. Arthur	USMC 1972	Orange, Jacqueline C.	USMC 1966
Matthew A.	USMC 1969	Letterio, Biaggio J. B.	USMC 1954	Osbaldeston P.C.,	
Brennan, Mary S.	USMC 1951	Livingstone, Neil	USMC 1953	The Honourable	
Broadhurst, David G.	USMC 1963	Lynch, Dr. Abbyann	USMC 1951	Gordon F.	USMC 1952
Bush, Gabrielle L.	USMC 1970	Magi, Janice L.	USMC 1973	O'Shea, Q.C.,	
Cardwell, Mary C.	USMC 1948	Markes, Andrej F.	USMC 1977	Joseph Donald	USMC 1947
Creighton, Sally J.	USMC 1958	McCarthy IBVM, Sr. Anne	USMC 1977	O'Toole, Dr. Raymond	USMC 1980
Curry, Gerald J.	USMC 1960	McDonald, Dr. Paul A.	USMC 1968	Phoenix, Paul J.	USMC 1949
Daly, Kathryn H.	USMC 1968	McDonough, John E.	USMC 1951	Podgorski, Edward	USMC 1972
Drury, John J.	USMC 1948	McDougall, Eleanor D.	USMC 1960	Potocnik, Peter B.	USMC 1966
Duffy, Michael E.	USMC 1954	McGarity, Daniel P.	USMC 1945	Przybylo, Joseph Michael	USMC 1973
Gentile, Robert John P.	USMC 1968	McGee, William J.	USMC 1944	Reddall, William P.	USMC 1957
Grieco, J. Charles A.	USMC 1958	Mikloshazy SJ, Dr. Attila	USMC 1999	Renaud, Jacques A.	USMC 1963
Guest, Valma B.	USMC 1970	Mischey, Eugene	USMC 1969	Stevens, Thomas J.	USMC 1950
Harrop, Rose Marie	USMC 1962	Molinari, Dr. Mary	USMC 1978	Swan CSB, Rev. Peter J.	USMC 1938
Henry, William J.	USMC 1988	Morton, David J. H.	USMC 1965	Tamai, Joseph	USMC 1967
Herceg, Dale A.	USMC 1974	Myatt CSJ, Sr. Margaret	USMC 1973	Tennier, Margaret M.	USMC 1953
Johnson, Catherine M.	USMC 1950	Nastasiuk, Alex	USMC 1952	Tretjakewitsch,	
Kelly Volker, Elizabeth	USMC 1957	Natale, Louis F.	USMC 1972	Dr. Leon	USMC 1957
Kline CSB, Rev. Edwin J.	USMC 1956	Nelligan Q.C., John P.	USMC 1942	Watson, Mary Lou	USMC 1951
Kosar, Stephanie A.	USMC 1958	O'Brien, Clare P.	USMC 1973	Wilhelm, Marie T.	USMC 1947

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