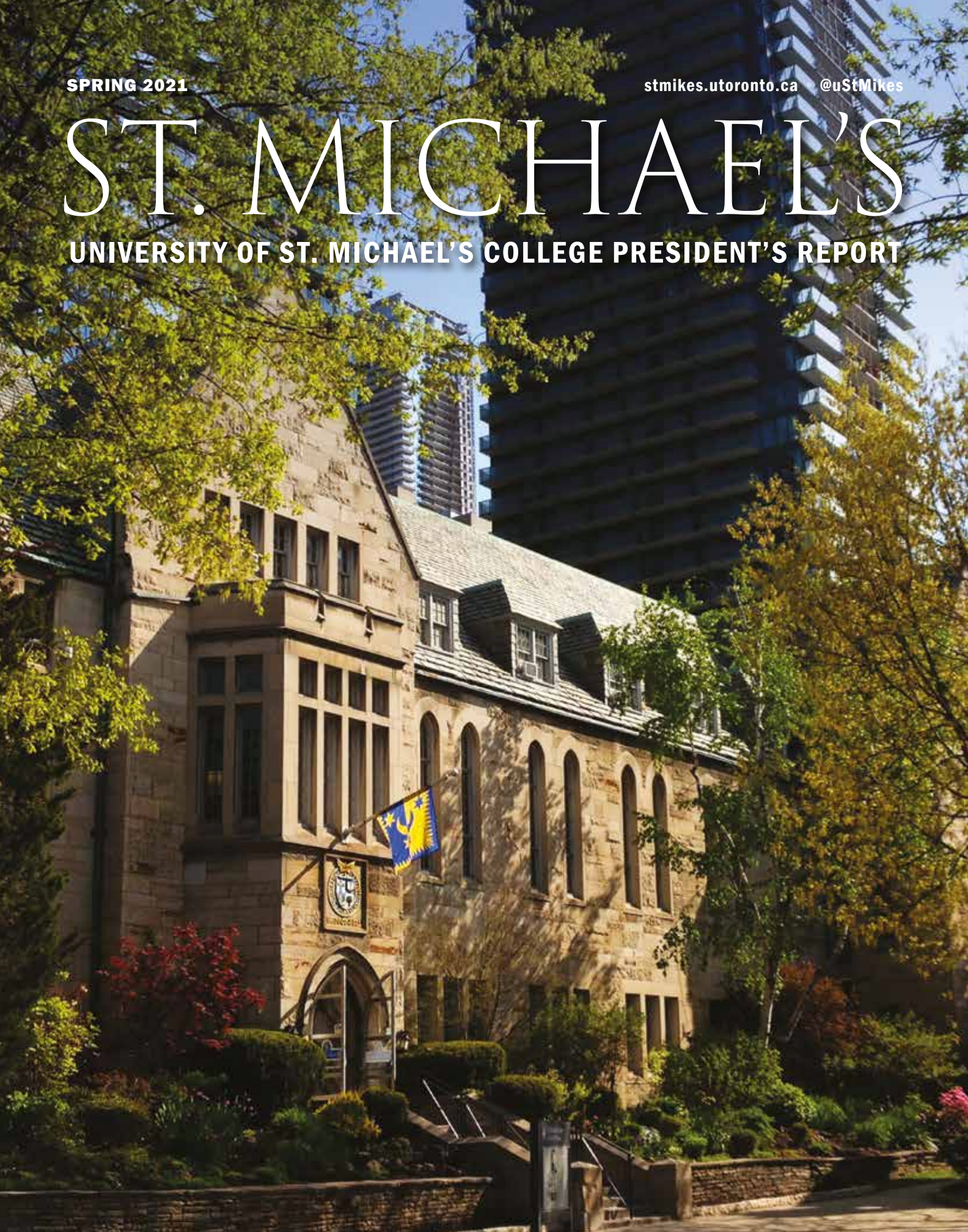


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ST. MICHAEL'S

UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



ST. MICHAEL'S

The University of St. Michael's College President's Report

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Reclaiming Our Role in Society

OUR ROOTS RUN VERY DEEP. For over a century and a half, St. Mike's has defined itself as an educational community committed to exploring the truth in all things, and to helping young people find themselves and their way in the world. We take great pride in this place and its people, a community that has nourished and inspired generations of students who, in turn, have gone on to serve the broader community and shaped the very fabric of Canadian society.

Now we look to the future. St. Mike's 180 affirms that we will remain committed to our history, our eyes clearly focused on the challenges ahead. Our three-fold efforts begin with a commitment to building up all aspects of St. Mike's, our people and our campus. Our goal is to become a space within the University of Toronto that embraces and celebrates our diversity and allows our students, staff and faculty every opportunity to flourish, academically, of course, but in all aspects of their humanity. Our teaching and research will continue to focus, in proven and new ways, on exploring the challenges of our day and convening important conversations that befit a Catholic university called to build up the Church and society. Finally, we will look at everything we do through a lens of sustainability, yes to protect the environment, but also to renew our historic partnerships and to explore new relationships within the many communities to which we belong.

As Sr. Nuala Kenny states so eloquently, "St. Michael's can help reclaim the role of the university in the building of society." We aspire to nothing less. To do so, we must understand that the term Catholic in a university setting like St. Michael's needs to be a verb and not an adjective; not simply a body of knowledge, but a way of doing

things: how we teach and learn and how we put that knowledge in the service of the common good.

I learned long ago that a president's role is really quite simple: to support good people with good ideas, and then to get out of the way. At St. Mike's, we are blessed with remarkable faculty, staff, trustees, and alumni. Our students are, quite rightly, at the centre of everything we do, and are inspiring agents of innovation and change. They love this place, they are smart and creative, they seek justice, and they are not afraid to serve. So, this is really what St. Mike's 180, our new strategic plan, is all about, unleashing the power of our community for the good of St. Mike's, the good of all of U of T, and for the world. And, in this President's Report, I would like you to meet just a few of the many good people in our community, and to learn about our hopes for the future and a few of the initiatives we have begun together to renew our university and reclaim the role of St. Michael's in the building of society. ♦



*David Sylvester, PhD
President and
Vice-Chancellor*

David G. Sylvester

DEAN OF STUDENTS

Welcome Equals Wellbeing and Happiness

*“We want St. Mike’s
to be a welcoming place
to live, work and study.”*

*Duane Rendle
Dean of Students*

DEAN OF STUDENTS DUANE RENDLE has three key goals as he works daily with students. He focuses on building a welcoming community, promoting student wellness and respecting diversity. “We want St. Mike’s to be a welcoming place to live, work and study,” says Rendle, who cites ongoing plans to renovate dorm rooms as one of the many ways the university is trying to fulfill these goals. Recent renovations in Elmsley Hall, which still had its original 1950s built-in furniture and green linoleum flooring, transformed those rooms to spaces that are especially popular with students.

A committee is currently examining how best to renovate the Queen’s Park building, to provide students with dorm rooms and classrooms that have modern amenities and a refreshed aesthetic.

But a welcoming environment at St. Mike’s is much more than just bricks and mortar. For example, Rendle sees one of his team’s roles, which includes both residence and commuter dons, as educating students on issues of importance to the university community. He cites the online harm reduction course his office created a few years ago, Alcohol ABCs (Always Be in Control), as a way to provide students with strategies on how to consume alcohol safely. He is also an advocate for modelling responsible behaviour.

“You want to learn from your mistakes while you’re at university, not when you’re at your first job,” he says. “This is a safe, supportive community where people look out for each other.”

Being welcoming at St. Mike’s also means truly caring for students’ wellbeing and happiness and finding ways to support it.

Rendle offers particular praise for SMCSU, the St. Mike’s student union, for reaching out to Interim Principal Mark McGowan and President David Sylvester on the important issue of student mental health. The students respectfully advocated for increased access to counselling as well as expanded training for student leaders, so they can correctly recognize the signs of mental distress and refer students to appropriate resources.



Learning from each other is a key aspect of life at St. Michael's.

“There is a maturity about these students that is really impressive. When they identify issues that are adversely affecting students’ mental health, they offer thoughtful and creative recommendations on how they can be addressed,” he says.

As for Rendle’s third pillar, respecting diversity, he says: “We function in one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world, which is a tremendous asset in our increasingly interconnected existence. We want our students to learn from each other, to support each other and to celebrate what makes them unique. That’s why we are expanding our EDI

(Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity) training and making it available to more and more of our student leaders.”

While he doesn’t list it as a fourth goal, Rendle also says he wants to see graduates share the talents that were fostered and nurtured while on campus with the rest of the world.

“My own experience living at St. Mike’s was transformational. Yes, I learned a lot in my classes, but it was the experiences I participated in outside of the classroom that made me the person I am today.” ♦

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE STUDENTS

A World of New Opportunities, Experiences

“Try as many things as you can. Explore and be open to opportunities you might not have considered before. Each experience is a chance to learn more about yourself.”

*Cianna Choo
Former President
of SMCSU*

CIANNA CHOO ATTENDED HER ST. MIKE'S ORIENTATION in the fall of 2018 and never looked back. “I fell in love with St. Mike's instantly. The pride you feel walking along Bloor St. screaming cheers,” she recalls. “I knew I wanted to be involved.”

Soon she found herself immersed in activities and has done everything from sitting on a search committee to serving as one of two orientation coordinators for incoming students this past fall.

Today, the 3rd-year Neuroscience, Molecular Genetics and Microbiology student has just finished her term as president of the St. Michael's College Student Union (SMCSU).

“Whether during COVID or during regular, on-campus times people are looking for a place to fit in while also looking for people who challenge them to think differently,” Choo says in explaining the attraction of St. Mike's for students. SMCSU wants to engage St. Mike's students no matter where they are studying on campus, and we have a goal of seeking collaboration. We have around 5,000 students and not all are on the same path.”

One of the places where SMCSU

is seeking that collaboration is at the St. George Round Table (SGRT), a student union comprised of divisional student society heads at U of T.

“I feel I'm being heard at St. Mike's,” Choo says, but with so many students studying across U of T, it is important that she, as a student spokesperson, raise St. Mike's students' ideas and concerns to U of T's community as well.

At St. Mike's, SMCSU continues to brainstorm and talk to President Sylvester on important issues such as increasing health and wellness supports for students.

“When you're struggling academically or personally, it is really important that wellness services are accessible and that St. Mike's can respond immediately,” she says.

SMCSU's eye on collaboration also means being conscious of the balance of caring for both residence and commuter students.



“St. Mike’s is unique in that it continually strives for engagement amongst its students. The SMC community can be felt on every corner of campus, and there are always lots of opportunities for students to get involved. Through the challenging and unique times of the pandemic, I take pride in how the SMC community has ensured that its students are connected even through online means. I find that I can always rely on the SMC community, and there is never a shortage of friendly faces every time I visit the SMC campus.”

Athalia Shah, Third Year Canadian and European Studies Double Major, French Language Minor

“We are passionate about ensuring that what we give to residence students we give to commuter students too. We are hoping to balance these plans by increasing gathering spaces for commuters, such as creating a larger commuter lounge.”

While attentive to traditional student activities such as Friday night socials to bring students

together at St. Mike’s, the student leadership team is also focused on issues such as carving out more support for international students.

“International students pay high fees and are often far from home. They are our students and we need to help them feel welcome, feel at home.”

Whether speaking with commuter students or residence students, those from across the globe or from suburban Toronto, Choo says her advice to new students is the same: “Try as many things as you can. Explore and be open to opportunities you might not have considered before. Each experience is a chance to learn more about yourself.” ♦



Christianity and Culture Club: “Tightly Knit and Supportive”

By Dr. J.O. Richard

The **Christianity and Culture Club** is an informal, student-run weekly gathering during the Fall and Winter semesters. What prompted Dr. Tardif and me to set it up in 2018 was the realization that our students lacked a comfortable space dedicated to unwinding

and engaging in deep (or not-so-deep) conversation over food and coffee.

From early on, it also turned into an opportunity for the program’s faculty to get

to know their students better. Theology graduate students, alumni, and administrative staff sometimes attend too. This all coincided with the reopening of the Basilian Fathers Common Room, a lounge officially reserved for faculty and special events, but not used to full capacity. With the support of the President’s Office, we were granted access, on the condition we did not make a mess; with the

support of the Principal’s Office, students were granted funds to purchase snacks, on condition we did not invite mice. We’ve been tidy and I’m happy to report no complaints so far!

Since COVID, the group has transitioned online. Parlour games have replaced the chessboards, breakout room, and the little couch-islands of the lounge. While we are eager to resume our meetings in person (no chessboard on

Zoom, sadly), our dynamic student leaders have kept the C&CC alive and kicking. It brings me joy and great satisfaction to see our initiative take on a life of its own, becoming a site of recruitment. Indeed, for students who chance upon **Christianity and Culture** courses, our weekly meetings become gateways into our tightly knit and supportive community. I look forward to the day when we can look back and call it a tradition. ♦



The Christianity and Culture Club is just one of many clubs and associations St. Mike’s offers, with a clubs fair held every fall for students to become acquainted with ways they can become involved. (Some events have been delayed or moved online during the pandemic.) Here are some examples.



The Book and Media Studies Student Association represents students in the two streams of the program, hosting workshops, social events, and lectures.



Build SMC is a student-run club that hosts Minecraft events and provides an online space to come together in creativity.



The Celtic Studies Student Union offers lectures, workshops, Irish cultural events, and an annual Academic Journal, the *Garm Lu*.



Clean SMC promotes clean initiatives to support sustainable development across the college, focusing on three main goals: building awareness, increasing community involvement in sustainable activities, and developing environmentally friendly projects.



The Italian Undergraduate Student Cultural Association

(IUSCA) works to establish, maintain and further ties with Italian culture among undergraduate students via academic, cultural and social events.



The Medieval Studies Undergraduate Society

offers lectures, workshops, an annual Medieval Studies Undergraduate

conference, and other events.

Pair-A-Dice is a board game club designed to help students meet their peers and create friendships.



Rosa Sanctissimi is a weekly ecumenical prayer group that uses scripture and Divine Liturgy to guide discussion and community prayer.



SMC Inclusive's primary purpose is to represent

people who identify as queer or transgender (LGBTQ+), encouraging the queer and trans community and playing an active role in fighting discrimination through both education and social means.



The St. Michael's College Troubadours, St. Mike's drama society, has a goal of putting on a full season of productions (about four shows throughout academic year), showcasing voices and stories of U of T.

University of Toronto Students for Life offers workshops, talks, and

events that discuss Catholic Social Teaching and especially the dignity of the human person.



USMC Wellness hosts de-stressing, community-driven and community-building events, providing spaces, resources, and a community for students to take care of their wellness in all forms, whether physical, mental, emotional or spiritual.

Promoting Wellness via Tips, Social Supports

*By Sabrina Quartarone
Vice-President, St. Mike's
Wellness Council*

The **St. Mike's Wellness Council** is a student-run initiative promoting health and wellness on campus. The seven executive council members collaborate with volunteers and other St. Michael's student groups to plan community-building events that enhance the physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being of students.

Signature events include Nutrition and Physio Day, Study Space,



Movie Night, Basil's Café, Games Day, Arts Night, Wellness Brunch and Multicultural Week. The council also focuses on health advocacy and improving access to the wellness resources

available on campus and in the community. Fostering an accessible and inclusive environment to support all forms of wellness is especially important for today's students. The pandemic

has contributed to reduced physical activity, increased social isolation, heightened stress and deterioration of mental health for many. Students have the additional challenge of adapting to online education and a declining job market.

The Wellness Council has acknowledged these concerns and responded with an enhanced online presence and virtual events to highlight the positive aspects of this situation. The council members are dedicated to providing students with helpful tips, social support and resources as we navigate these unique times together. ♦

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

Helping Students Flourish at St. Mike's

97

In the 2020–2021 academic year, St. Michael's students came from 97 countries around the globe—from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe

5078

Total undergraduate student enrolment at the University of St. Michael's College, with 3523 domestic students and 1555 international students

150

Students studied in more than 150 subject areas, a range that includes Biology, Caribbean Studies and Drama to Mathematics, Portuguese, Statistics and Religion

\$851,877

The amount St. Michael's offered in undergraduate scholarships in the 2020–2021 academic year

\$14,185,609

Total OSAP funding for the 2020–2021 fall and winter semesters

GIANCARLO MAZZANTI WAS SITTING IN A TOWN SQUARE in Germany when he was tapped on the shoulder by a passerby. The man had seen Mazzanti's St. Mike's jacket and, as a fellow alumnus, wanted to make the connection. The anecdote, Mazzanti says, reflects the significance of profile the University of St. Michael's College has not only locally but also worldwide.

"We have a great reputation around the world," he says, noting it's not unusual for him to hear from potential students in Switzerland, Hong Kong and New Jersey all in the same week. "We have a wonderful history, but we are also creating history, both with stellar students and with members of our alumni who are leaders in the public eye, whether in politics, health care, education, business or any of the endless places St. Michael's alumni find themselves."

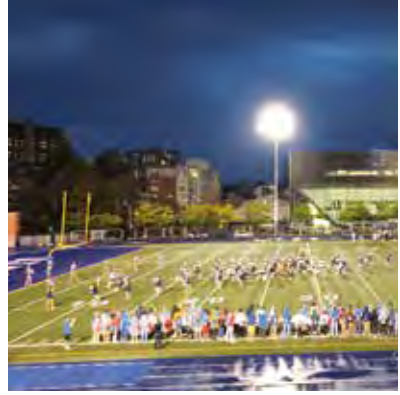
Mazzanti, the university's Registrar and Director of Student Services, says there are many reasons why St. Mike's is such a draw for students, from its reputation as Canada's top Catholic university to its convenient location in the centre of Toronto and its status as a federated college within the University of Toronto, which is consistently ranked among the top schools in the world.

Students are drawn by a reputation for strong academics, including the SMC One programs for first-year students, which promise unique course offerings and, in healthy times, international travel. Another draw is the recent increase in the number of full-time faculty members, all with exceptional profiles.

"These are the type of professors who appeal to high-flying students," he says. "We are part of current conversations and our courses speak to that."

The John M. Kelly Library, one of the U of T's largest, offers plenty of study space and a ground-floor café. Students like to know they are just steps from the library, he says.

But Mazzanti thinks another crucial reason students are drawn to study and live at St. Mike's is a reputation for a caring, welcoming environment that helps them achieve their best



We look forward to the day when we can welcome students back to campus and resume not only classes but social activities.



Left: Students appreciate the John M. Kelly Library's many roles.

Right: School and social life go hand in hand at St. Mike's—from study time to selfies.

academically and socially. The result is that students graduate having developed skills that serve them—and their neighbours—throughout their lives.

“The richness of our community offers a diversity of debate, a chance to learn about other people’s lives and experiences, whether you’re sitting in the dorm common room or stretched out on the grass in the quad. This kind of knowledge is essential to our students’ futures.”

Students are also able to access a strong range of supports at St. Mike’s.

“Consider our First Year Check-in Program, which pairs incoming students with professors. Students have the opportunity to reach out to the professor assigned them for an informal chat or two,” he says. “It’s not specifically about academics, but it’s a great way for students to get used to speaking with professors, and for them to know they have someone they can go to if they are finding it hard to navigate university.”

But the first-year program is just one of many supports the school offers students. As demonstrated so well during the pandemic, when they quickly adjusted to the new normal of connecting with students all over the world, St. Mike’s academic advisors are dedicated to helping students with

course and program selection and scheduling.

And there is plenty of help for students who are finding the adjustment to university expectations challenging. St. Mike’s provides access to academic learning strategists and wellness counsellors, who can all help students discover their own most successful ways of learning, how to adapt to university expectations, and how to get the most out of their academic life.

Similarly, the writing centre offers one-on-one appointments for students looking for guidance on all aspects of the writing process, from researching and outlining to drafting and editing. There are also supports in place for math and computer science students.

And while not all students applying to—or attending—St. Mike’s are Catholic, Mazzanti says there is a deep appreciation for the school’s roots, and an awareness among those of other religions that St. Mike’s is a school that understands the importance of faith and respects those who practise, regardless of background.

“We invite conversations with people of all faiths. We are a microcosm of the world as it could be,” says Mazzanti. “That’s who we are, and it is a privilege to be of service to others.” ♦



CAMPUS MINISTRY

Ministry Embracing Gift of Diversity

While campus ministry will still organize liturgies and support the prayer life of Catholics on campus, there will also be an enhanced effort to answer others' spiritual needs.

CAMPUS MINISTRY IS AT THE HEART of a strong Catholic university. To ensure we are able to offer spiritual resources and support to all on campus regardless of spiritual tradition or background, the university recently conducted a review of our services, planning a revitalization of campus ministry and the appointment of a new Director.

Theology professor Dr. Jean-Pierre Fortin; St. Basil's Pastor Fr. Morgan Rice, CSB; theology student Ann Sairah Mathew; Greg Rupik who is executive assistant to President Sylvester; and Emily Van Berkum, Dean of Loretto College, made up the committee that created, with the help of expertise from the University of Toronto, a campus ministry revitalization survey. The

questionnaire was sent out this past December to more than 5,000 people to discover the current make-up of the St. Michael's community and to hear how they envision Campus Ministry at St. Mike's.

"Certain themes were quite common. There is a huge concern about mental health, for example, and a desire that we as a community be more inclusive," says Fortin, who





Fr. Morgan Rice, CSB, pastor at St. Basil's Church, seen here with St. Mike's students.



“We need to build on our mission and values and ensure our ministerial approach is grounded in Catholic Social Teaching. We want to be examples of what it means to be Catholic.”

*Jean-Pierre Fortin, PhD
Associate Professor of Practical Theology,
Faculty of Theology*

notes that St. Michael's has a significant Muslim population, as well as of Christians from traditions other than Roman Catholic.

To talk about building a more inclusive community “is not about losing our identity but about embracing the gift of diversity,” he says. “We have to be Catholic in a way that speaks to the community. We need to build on our mission and values and ensure our ministerial approach is grounded in Catholic Social Teaching. We want to be examples of what it means to be Catholic.”

That means, for example, that while campus

ministry will still organize liturgies and support the prayer life of Catholics on campus, there will also be an enhanced effort to answer others' spiritual needs—for example, working with members of various traditions who want to arrange their own events.

Survey results will help tailor the job description that will be posted later this spring for the hiring of a new Director of Campus Ministry. Long-term goals for the revised office include an assistant to the director, as well as new space to call home. ♦



Be Open to Others

A work-study placement with U of T's Multi-Faith Centre led Christianity and Culture grad,

Ann Sairah Mathew, to serve as the student representative on the

campus ministry review committee.

Mathew, now working on a Master of Divinity degree at the Faculty of Theology, says her exposure to the discussions the committee had, as well as meetings with her peers at the Multi-Faith Centre, have strengthened her desire to work in the area of multi-faith dialogue.

“It's always been a topic close to my heart, thinking of immigrant

families who need help, whether it's immediate worship space or a community to belong to,” she says.

Ann was able to bring the knowledge and experience gained at weekly meetings with her peers at the Multi-Faith Centre to the committee discussions at St. Mike's, an experience she says has helped her become more creative in thinking. She felt the conversations were particularly helpful

as the team received survey answers from various communities.

“I get why people get turned off by religion when people say ‘I'd rather do my own thing,’” she says. “We need to be open to others without denying our own traditions. When you say no to some things and yes to only certain others you shut yourself off. Leaning to one side isn't helpful.” ♦

ADVANCEMENT AND ALUMNI PROGRAMS

Each and Every Gift Makes a Difference

ST. MICHAEL'S ALUMNI AND FRIENDS are a vitally important part of St. Michael's past, present, and future. Your loyalty and generosity help St. Michael's provide students with personal, academic, and spiritual tools to help them succeed on and beyond campus, graduating with compassion, courage and a deeper understanding of the world and themselves.

\$1 million

More than 1,200 alumni, friends, and families donate a total of \$1 million to St. Michael's Annual Fund each year

100%

of gifts designated to St. Michael's reach their designated purpose

89%

of all donors to St. Michael's are alumni

71%

of St. Michael's donors renew their support

Donations to St. Michael's Annual Fund meet immediate and ongoing needs by supporting scholarships and bursaries, teaching excellence in our undergraduate and graduate programs, learning and wellness services, and the maintenance and enhancement of our residences, library and classroom facilities.

Each and every gift makes a difference. Annual Fund gifts ranging from recurring gifts of \$10 per month or one-time donations of \$50, to five-year pledges of up to \$25,000 add up to a million dollars per year. All these gifts support the mission of St. Michael's and advance the strategic vision of St. Mike's 180. ♦

Transformational Investments in Teaching Excellence

The Comper Professorship in Mediaeval Studies, Sutton Family Chair in Science, Christianity and Cultures, William J. Bennett Family Professorship in Christianity and Culture, Basilan Fathers of USMC Early Latin Theology Professorship, and Faculty of Theology Diploma in Interfaith Dialogue have been established through the incredible generosity of St. Michael's Alumni and Friends.



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

To learn more about giving to St. Mike's please visit:
stmikes.utoronto.ca/giving



Top: Andrew Krupowicz, Class of 2004, (bottom centre) met with students at the Alumni Workshop on March 2, which focused on entrepreneurship.

Right: The Tony J. Desanti Lobby in the renovated Brennan Hall is named in Tony's memory, and in grateful acknowledgement of his wife Mary Ponikvar-Desanti's generous gift, made in honour of Tony's enduring gratitude to St. Michael's.



Major Gifts and Pledges

Major Gifts and Pledges of \$25,000 and more are directed to projects and programs that advance strategic priorities. In recent years, gifts and pledges at this level have endowed teaching positions, launched a new diploma program, established named scholarships and bursaries and helped fund the renovation of student residences and meeting spaces.

Bequests in wills and other planned gifts have also played a vital role in our ability to develop programs, facilities and services to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's students. Bequests received in recent years have endowed the head Librarian position, funded the creation of the Conservation Studio in the John M. Kelly Library and established a \$500,000 endowment designated to student aid.

To learn more about getting involved please email smc.alumni@utoronto.ca

“Students’ enthusiasm is infectious. Their curiosity and questions – ‘what is it like in the real world?’ – are always welcomed. For me, they are an opportunity for personal reflection. This was certainly the case in February when I was invited to participate in a virtual meeting with future grads as part of St. Mike’s Mentorship Series.”

Nick Pantaleo, Class of 1980, retired executive of Rogers Communications Inc., former partner at PriceWaterhouseCoopers and participant in the student mentorship workshops



Alumni Leadership

St. Michael's is blessed to be supported by a dedicated community of Alumni and Friends who volunteer their time, talent and expertise as Advisors, Advocates, Organizers, Coordinators, Hosts and Sponsors.

Class Representatives facilitate communication with and among classmates, help to plan and promote events and engage their peers in their alma mater. Contributing writers to *St. Michael's Magazine* and the *InsightOut* blog share memories, perspectives and wisdom. Mentors share insights, career advice and encouragement with students through workshops, panels and roundtables.

Alumni Service

Alumni serve on Governing Bodies and Committees

- Collegium and its committees (Finance, Investment, Governance)
- Senate
- Governing Council of the University of Toronto
- St. Mike's Alumni Association Board
- Young Alumni Committee
- Friends of the John M. Kelly Library
- Friends' Annual Book Sale Committee
- Alumni and Friends Twilight Retreat Planning Committee
- St. Mike's Golf Classic Committee

The annual Golf Classic, co-chaired in recent years by David Scandiffio, Barry McInerney and James McGovern brings alumni together to raise funds for student-focused initiatives.





St. Mike's 180 consultations began at the 2019 Alumni Association AGM when President David Sylvester hosted a Q&A with alumni.

“Alumni welcomed the opportunity to help shape the St. Mike’s 180 plan through their participation in consultations, conversations, and the all-alumni survey. Now, the Alumni Association Board looks forward to playing its part in advancing the plans and priorities that have emerged from this consultative process.”

*Andy Lubinsky, Class of 1979,
President, Alumni Association Board*

“In this challenging year, the increase in virtual programming offers opportunities to expand outreach and alumni engagement. The Young Alumni Committee looks forward to continuing to focus on how to best create valuable programming for young alumni, whether that be through workshops and events, mentorship, or networking opportunities.”

*Cesare Plastina, Class of 2009,
Member, Young Alumni Committee*



All St. Michael's volunteer leaders are deeply appreciated and new volunteers are warmly welcomed.

**To learn more about getting involved please email:
smc.alumni@utoronto.ca**

St. Michael's Stands Up to Protect LGBT Youth

Tyler Clementi Foundation Statement, May 12, 2021

THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE is the first Catholic university in Canada to offer support for a statement from American Catholic Bishops calling for protection of at-risk LGBT youth. St. Michael's signed the document—God Is On Your Side: A Statement from Catholic Bishops on Protecting LGBT, released by the Bishops in partnership with the Tyler Clementi Foundation, with unanimous support from the Executive Committee of St. Michael's Board Collegium.

“Offering our concern and support for the wellbeing of LGBT young people, including our own students, is entirely in keeping with our core values at St. Michael's,” says University President David Sylvester. “As our strategic plan notes, we affirm and respect the intrinsic value of each person, and we treat everyone in a fair and equitable manner. That means caring for, and safeguarding, all people.”

Citing Gospel teachings on love, mercy, and welcome for all people as their motivation, the 14 Bishops who have signed the document so far represent dioceses from California and Wyoming to Mississippi and Michigan. Other signatories include Catholic parishes, orders, and schools, as well as individuals.

“The Catholic Church values the God-given dignity of all human life and we take this opportunity to say to our LGBT friends, especially young people, that we stand with you and oppose any form of violence, bullying

or harassment directed at you,” the Bishops write. “All people of goodwill should help, support, and defend LGBT youth; who attempt suicide at much higher rates than their straight counterparts; who are often homeless because of families who reject them; who are rejected, bullied and harassed; and who are the target of violent acts at alarming rates.”

Recent statistics from the Centre for Suicide Prevention, a branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, show that LGBT youth are seven times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers. Figures from Statistics Canada indicate that LGBT youth are “much more likely than their heterosexual counterparts to be victims of violent crime.”

The Tyler Clementi Foundation was established by Tyler's family to prevent bullying, emphasizing the importance of inclusion, dignity and respect. Aggressive cyber-harassment led the 18-year-old Rutgers freshman to take his own life. ♦



“Offering our concern and support for the wellbeing of LGBT young people, including our own students, is entirely in keeping with our core values at St. Michael's.”

*David Sylvester, PhD
President and
Vice-Chancellor*

St. Michael's Signs ACCUC Call for Kamloops Action

Statement on Residential School Discovery, June 7, 2021

THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN CANADA (ACCUC) is saddened and appalled to learn of the terrible discovery of 215 children's bodies at the former Kamloops Residential School. We are deeply disturbed by the role our church has played in this case and in the residential schools in general, and we understand that this discovery is likely only the first of more to come. To the entire Tk'emlups te Secwépemc First Nation and to the Indigenous community of Canada, we offer our deepest condolences and prayers.

As the leaders of Canada's Catholic universities and colleges, we feel it is imperative that the suffering and loss of life experienced at the residential schools are never forgotten. As centres of learning, we re-commit our institutions to the importance of Indigenous education, and to listening and working with our Indigenous communities towards the goals of conscientization, reconciliation and healing. To these ends, we also request that the complete records of the residential schools be preserved and made available to all those who seek to learn from this horrific chapter in history.

Most urgently and with a filial heart, we join other Canadian Catholic organizations in urging the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to request Pope Francis formally apologize to the survivors, their families, and

to all of the Indigenous communities of Canada. We believe that the Holy Father's apology will be important for addressing the Church's reprehensible involvement in the federal residential school system, as well as serving as a critical start for the process of healing the multiple wounds of our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

About Us

The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in Canada (ACCUC) is an organization of over twenty postsecondary academic institutions located across Canada. The ACCUC acts as the official voice for Catholic higher learning in Canada, as it seeks to spread "the spirit of learning" throughout the country.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Meehan, Ed.D.
Chair, ACCUC
President and
Vice-Chancellor,
St. Jerome's University

John Cappucci, Ph.D.
Vice-Chair, ACCUC
Principal and
Vice-Chancellor,
Assumption University

Chantal Beauvais, Ph.D.
Rectrice, Université
Saint Paul/Saint Paul
University, University
of Ottawa

Shawn Flynn, Ph.D.
President,
St. Joseph's College

Andy Hakin, Ph.D.
President and
Vice-Chancellor,
St. Francis Xavier University

Rob Harasymchuk, M.B.A.
President,
St. Peter's College

Dr. Sami Helewa, S.J.
President,
Campion College

Michael Higgins, Ph.D.
President and
Vice-Chancellor, Corpus
Christi/St. Mark's College

Cheryl Jensen, M.Ed.
Interim Principal,
Brescia University College

David Malloy, Ph.D.
Principal, King's University
College, Western University

John Meehan, SJ
President and Vice-
Chancellor, Université
de Sudbury/University
of Sudbury

Brigitte Quintal, B.C.L.
Présidente/President,
Collège Universitaire
Dominicain/Dominican
University College

Dawn Russell, Q.C.
President and Vice-
Chancellor,
St. Thomas University,
Fredericton,
New Brunswick

Carl Still, Ph.D.
President,
St. Thomas More College

David Sylvester, Ph.D.
President and
Vice-Chancellor, University
of St. Michael's College

Gerry Turcotte, Ph.D.
President and
Vice-Chancellor,
St. Mary's University

Jason West, Ph.D.
President, Newman
Theological College

Thomas Worcester, SJ
President, Regis College
CC:

**The Most Reverend
Richard Gagnon**,
President, Canadian
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

**The Most Reverend
Ivan Jurkovič**,
Apostolic Nuncio to Canada

**His Eminence Gérard
Cardinal Lacroix**, Primate
of Canada and Archbishop
of Québec ♦

3

Three SMC One Seminars for first year students:

- The Gilson Seminar in Faith and Ideas
- The McLuhan Seminar in Creativity and Technology
- The Boyle Seminar in Scripts and Stories

4

St. Michael's College (SMC) sponsors the following undergraduate programs:

- Book and Media Studies
- Mediaeval Studies
- Christianity and Culture
- Celtic Studies

In the St. Michael's sponsored programs for the 2020–2021 academic year:

SMC students were majoring in

- 104: Book and Media Studies
- 22: Christianity and Culture
- 8: Mediaeval Studies
- 6: Celtic Studies

SMC-registered students seeking a major, minor, or specialist in

- 136: Book and Media Studies
- 37: Christianity and Culture
- 20: Mediaeval Studies
- 16: Celtic Studies

The total number of students in each of St. Michael's sponsored programs from across the University of Toronto:

- 483: Book and Media Studies
- 50: Christianity and Culture
- 43: Mediaeval Studies
- 36: Celtic Studies

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Hi-Tech Meets Heart in Serving Students

FOR INTERIM PRINCIPAL MARK MCGOWAN, the purpose of a university is clear: to help students—and the world—pursue the important questions. “The research toolkit that is part of the humanities teaches you to seek out data and weigh evidence in the pursuit of truth,” McGowan says. “These skills are portable and can go with you throughout your life, whether you are presenting at a school board meeting or at the board room table.”

For St. Michael's, responding to life's big questions means a continued focus on opportunities for students and faculty to study and conduct research, attend major conferences, share their results, and engage with the broader academic community.

“Faculty research and student research energize each other,” McGowan says, noting that events such as the recent research colloquium for St. Mike's students on “Citizenship, Community, and Belonging”, as well as a university-wide colloquium on “The Role of the Catholic University in the 21st Century”, are indicative of the ways in which this engagement spills out of the classroom and into the broader life of the university.

“It is vitally important to continue to build a research culture on campus, engaging faculty in meaningful, innovative work while also

encouraging students,” he says. “This is not just in-the-moment work but efforts that have long-term payoffs.

“There are many ways and resources to help answer the big questions,” he continues, citing for example important grants that have been awarded to support both faculty and student research and to fund attendance at major conferences, enhance classroom space for new approaches to teaching and ways for students to connect and, of course, the ongoing attention to the John M. Kelly Library, one of the University of Toronto's finest.

Efforts continue to build up the four undergraduate programs St. Michael's sponsors—Book and Media Studies, Mediaeval Studies, Christianity and Culture, and Celtic Studies as well as the three first-year seminars—the Gilson Seminar in Faith and Ideas, the



The Global Classroom offers students a virtual hands-on experience exploring the Scriptorium.

Global Classroom

In non-pandemic times, some of the most exciting moments of the St. Mike's school year revolve around the trips students in the first-year Gilson, Boyle, and McLuhan seminars take to Rome, Ireland, and California. Reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the classes, travelling allows students in-person exposure to sites such as the Blackfriars Archeology Field School in Ireland, Rome's Sistine Chapel or some of the great tech start-ups in California's Silicon Valley.

When the pandemic settled in and travel was put on hold, **Interim Principal Mark McGowan**, **Dr. Paolo Granata** and **Dr. Alison More** worked quickly to come up with a next-best approach. Out of their brainstorming came what is known as the Global Classroom, retrofitted space in Teefy Hall that will allow students a virtual hands-on experience. The high-tech classroom will allow students to examine artifacts from around the world and while it will first be put into use for the Boyle Seminar, Dr. More says its applications are limitless for students and her colleagues.

She envisions using the set-up to do things like access invaluable mediaeval documents from Maynooth University in Ireland, or to create a mediaeval digital scriptorium. An added benefit, she notes, is the ability for her students to build community with peers in other locations, broadening their horizons and friendships. And the applications are broader. Thanks to alumnus

Dr. Tony Comper, students in Dr. More's "Mediaeval Book" class will have a virtual visit with an artist in Spain who replicates mediaeval manuscripts, allowing them a close-up look at the process of working with vellum. Because of the crossover, students in the Boyle Seminar will be invited along.

The interactive nature of the high-tech classroom opens all sorts of possibilities, More says, including inviting international speakers into the classroom virtually, something that would be prohibitively expensive if air travel and related expenses were required.

While the students await completion of the high-tech classroom, More has resorted to a more traditional method to allow her students a hands-on experience—snail mail. Each student in the Boyle Seminar was to receive a package with such items as a feather for a virtual session on quill making, scraps of parchment, and images of mediaeval saints for students to research and then talk about in class.

"One of the goals of the program is to give students a sense of what people were doing and thinking, of how they lived," she says.

The mediaeval care package, she notes, will give students a tactile sense of life in the Middle Ages, serving as a placeholder until the classroom opens, and students can do things like virtually examine the *Book of Kells* "without the sea of tourists." ♦

Dr. Stephen Tardif, seen here with students, loves the notion of giving back to a new generation.

McLuhan Seminar in Creativity and Technology, and the Boyle Seminar in Scripts and Stories—which weave themselves naturally into St. Mike’s undergrad programs.

McGowan notes, for example, that an increasing number of cross-appointments for St. Michael’s faculty members to the University of Toronto allows them both the joys of teaching in an intimate college classroom while also the exposure of working at U of T, the top-ranked Canadian university in the SQ World University Rankings 2021, with U of T ranking 25th in the world.

The resulting benefit, he notes, isn’t just for professors. Dr. Alison More’s cross-appointment to U of T’s Centre for Medieval Studies, for example, means she can easily reach out to colleagues at the Faculty of Music, the Department of Art History, or any of the divisions that might have crossover with her own work, expanding not only her scope but that of her students at St. Mike’s.

As the university looks to the future, McGowan notes there will be an increased emphasis on hiring with diversity and inclusivity in mind, building a team reflective of the student body.

This comes as the university considers and adopts ways for faculty and staff to work even more closely together.

“I don’t think in terms of divisions but see ourselves as one unit,” McGowan says, citing professors teaching at both the undergraduate level as well as in the Faculty of Theology.

“We are blessed with a strong teaching faculty, and a collection of really good people working throughout the university. This is just the beginning for us.” ♦



“I am thrilled to be cross-appointed with the English Department at the University of Toronto. The cross-appointment of teaching-stream faculty will allow us to facilitate exciting exchanges between the departmental methods and structures of U of T with the collegiate approaches—and the community—that make St. Mike’s so distinctive. Having connections with both the program and the department in which I majored as an undergraduate is a very special thing. It represents the privilege—but also the responsibility—of delivering to another generation ‘what I also received’ (1 Cor 15:3).”

*Stephen Tardif, PhD
Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream
Christianity and Culture Program*

New Role for Book and Media Studies

The **Book and Media Studies** program has been selected by the Faculty of Arts and Science as the first humanities program to participate in the new **Arts and Science Internship Program** (ASIP). Launching in Fall 2021, ASIP will combine 12–20 months of paid work experience with specialized professional training in fields relevant

to the program of study. This will allow students to gain practical work experience and career skills while building professional networks as part of their degree. Book and Media Studies is one of the four undergraduate programs sponsored by the College and is among

the largest programs in FAS. The program offers an interdisciplinary, historical investigation of the role of printing, books, reading, and electronic and digital media in cultures past and present. Its topics include manuscript and book production,

Internet publishing, book illustrations, advertising, censorship, reading and entertainment alongside the development of mass media—the advent of radio and the emergence of television, global telecommunications, social media, and the Internet. ♦

Applying Lessons Learned at St. Mike's

By Daniel Seljak,
SMC 2014

Numbers in the Humanities was a mandatory course requirement for Book and Media studies back when I graduated in 2014. While I was looking forward to taking a course with Professor McGowan, I resented the mandatory nature of the course and dreaded the idea of having to do any kind of applied work with numbers; there was a reason I'd chosen the humanities. But I was surprised at how much I enjoyed it; the hands-on project work directly applying the concepts in class to historic neighbourhoods in Toronto was immediately compelling and interesting. My final



assignment was on a small stretch of Toronto's original Chinatown and how its demographics shifted in a couple decades. I still reference it today.

I now work in marketing and business development at Gensler, the world's largest architecture and design

firm, where the lessons I learned in navigating Toronto's archives and applying the data discovered have made me a useful internal resource when it comes to describing how a new project incorporates or is sensitive to local context. I've also started applying those same lessons to

sorting through boxes and records left by my grandparents in an effort to create an online communal archive of the early Slovene diaspora in Toronto.

Do I still resent that the course was mandatory? Sure. But I would definitely recommend taking it. ♦

Office of the Principal and Vice-President Report

January 2020 to February 2021

Highlighting Faculty Service to the Academy and the Community

Faculty and Staff

New Faculty

Adam Hincks, SJ
Sutton Family Chair in
Science, Christianity
and Cultures

Post-Doctoral Fellows

Bernadette Guthrie
Étienne Gilson
Post-Doctoral Fellow

Nathan Pinkoski
Étienne Gilson
Post-Doctoral Fellow

Status Appointments

Status appointments were
secured for:

Iris Gildea (Women and
Gender Studies),
Stephen Tardif (English),
Alison More (History)

Selected New Courses and Program Developments

Book and Media Studies

The program underwent
a complete renewal. Book
and Media Studies was
also selected by the Faculty
of Arts and Science to
be the humanities pilot
for the Arts and Science
Internship Program (ASIP).
Learn more: www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academics/asip

The program welcomed
guest lecturers:

Sam Tanenhaus and

Emilie Nicolas. Tanenhaus
taught “Trump and the
Election” and a seminar in
literary journalism. Nicolas
taught “#BlackLives and
the Media”.

Christianity and Culture

“The Bible and the Big
Bang” (course approved;
scheduled for 2021–2022)
“Vatican II: Then and
Now,” a seminar taught
by Fr. Dan Donovan in his
50th year of teaching at
St. Michael’s College.

Mediaeval Studies

A number of new courses
were developed by program
coordinator Alison More,
including courses on
gender and sexuality,
women’s lives, barbarians,
and Vikings.

First Year Foundations

This year, Professor Reid
Locklin proposed a new
First Year Foundation
course, “Christianity, Truth,
and Reconciliation” to be
offered in 2021–2022.

This course has also
been approved, with
some differences, as an
SMC One seminar and
will be offered as such in
the future.

SMC One Seminars

The Boyle Seminar in
Scripts and Stories was
awarded a major grant
from Universities Canada

to develop a “Global
Classroom.” Please
see sidebar.

Conferences, Lectures and Events

Thomas D’Arcy McGee
Beacon Lecture,
October 2020.

America Votes
2020—Election Night,
November 2020.

Celtic Studies Speaker Series

Ambassador Eamonn
McKee, February 2021.

USMC Research
Colloquium, March 2021.

Thomas D’Arcy McGee
Beacon Fellowship, March–
April 2021.

Faculty Members Professional and Academic Activity

Publications

Journal Articles 11

Book Chapters 9

Grants and Awards

Alexander Andrée
SSHRC Institutional
Grant (U of T). Currently
holding multi-year SSHRC
Insight Grant

Mark G. McGowan
Research Fellowship,
Library and Archives,
Maynooth University,
Ireland, Humanities
Research Institute (2020)
Universities Canada,

Outbound Mobility (Global
Classroom Project for
St. Michael’s College)
Special Award, Ontario
Catholic School Trustees
Association, for significant
contributions to Catholic
Education in Ontario.

Paolo Granata

Outreach and Education
Grant, “Advancing SDGs
at U of T”, School of Cities.
The aim is to grow on
existing initiatives, form
new partnerships, and
produce a blueprint for
advancing the UN Global
Goals at U of T in areas
ranging from integrated
learning to open research,
and civic engagement.

Reid Locklin

American Academy
of Religion, 2021,
Collaborative International
Research Grant
“Loneragan in the Post-
Colony,” Project Director.

Alison More

SSHRC Insight
Development Grant,
2020–23 (with Isabelle
Cochelin, CMS)

Felan Parker

SSHRC Insight Grant
(co-investigator with
Benjamin Woo), “Swarming
San Diego-Comic Con”
2020–2023

Service and Leadership

Alexander Andrée
Associate Director, Centre
for Medieval Studies
General Editor, Toronto



Faculty members (seen here: Dr. J.O. Richard) teach, research, write, take on extracurriculars, and offer their gifts to the community.

Medieval Latin Texts (PIMS), General Editor, *Publications of the Journal of Medieval Latin* (Brepols)

Iris Gildea

Peer-Reviewer for *Feminist Media Studies* and *The Journal of Autoethnography*

Paolo Granata

Founder and Director, Media Ethics Lab, University of Toronto
 Founder and Director, 3D Gutenberg Lab, University of Toronto
 Founder and Director, The Toronto School Initiative, University of Toronto
 Consultant, Canadian Commission for UNESCO Strategic Plan 2021–2026
 Chair of the Working Group on “AI for Sustainable Development Goals: Equity, Diversity, Inclusion”, Canadian Commission for UNESCO
 Chair of the Working Group on “Culture for Sustainable Development Goals”, Canadian Commission for UNESCO
 Executive Committee, Canadian

Commission for UNESCO. Culture, Communication and Information Sectoral commission, Chair

Adam Hincks, SJ

Literary Trustee, Estate of Bernard Lonergan
 Adjunct Scholar, Vatican Observatory

Reid Locklin

Coordinator, Truth and Reconciliation Reading Circle, May 2019–present

Mark McGowan

International Advisor, Strokestown Park Museum and Archives Committee
 Historical Advisor, Irish Heritage Trust, Great Famine Voices Project
 Heritage Whitby Advisory Committee
 Treasurer, Canadian Catholic Historical Association

Felan Parker

Co-founder, board president, programming and operations, Toronto Outdoor Picture Show and Christie Pits Film Festival, Toronto, Ontario
 Streaming SMC, livestreamed video

game commentary series with University of St. Michael’s College faculty members, 2020–2021
 Executive Committee, Knowledge Media Design Institute (KMDI), Faculty of Information, University of Toronto. Steering committee, DM@Xtra Policy is Power working group, University of Toronto/York University.

Jean-Olivier Richard

Jesuit History Research Group, co-founder, University of Toronto

Stephen Tardif

Co-Editor, *The Hopkins Quarterly*, 2018–present

David Wilson

Associate Editor, *Canadian Journal of Irish Studies*
 Editor-in-Chief, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

Faculty of Theology Looks to Future

103

Students
enrolled

33

Graduate
students

59

Basic degree
students

1

Diploma/non-degree
student

\$488,500

Amount of total financial aid
for Faculty of Theology
students—basic and advanced
degree, domestic and
international students in the
2020–2021 academic year

IT'S AN EXCITING TIME FOR St. Michael's Faculty of Theology. The coming months promise many developments for the Faculty, including a revitalized Elliott Allen Institute for Theology and Ecology, a new scholar in the Patrick and Barbara Keenan Chair in Religious Education, and the possibility of an alliance with Regis College, the Jesuit theologate just a block away.

"We are excited to be renewing our focus on Catholic education, ecotheology, and feminist theology, all areas we have long been known for," says Dr. John L. McLaughlin, the Faculty's Interim Dean. "At the same time, we are pleased with the progress of recent additions, such as our Diploma in Interfaith Dialogue, and especially the support we are receiving from the Archdiocese's Office for Interreligious Dialogue."

The talks between Regis and St. Mike's are just one of many examples of how the Faculty is thinking creatively to best serve not only its students but also the community and the church, McLaughlin explains.

"A closer alliance with Regis would allow us to be more systematic in our course offerings by avoiding duplication and increasing the choices we can offer. Regis and

St. Mike's complement each other," he says. "There are many other benefits to consider, including the presence of Jesuit seminarians, who could assist in campus ministry."

As the Faculty looks to the future, it wants to build on its long standing reputation for delivering a solid theological base while also considering modern challenges. The course catalogue reflects that, with recent and coming course offerings ranging from a close look at *Laudato si'* on the clergy abuse scandal in the Church through to topics such as the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

"We know our students are out in the world, teaching and ministering—whether in academia, or parish ministry or chaplaincy, and we want them to be equipped with a solid grounding in theology, as well as an understanding of how to apply that knowledge to the present day,"



McLaughlin notes.

All this takes place while Faculty members continue to publish and research, as well as serve the academy and the community through a variety of appointments. Sr. Anne Anderson, Dr. Darren Dias, Dr. Michael Attridge, and Dr. J. P. Fortin serve on the Canadian Catholic Bishops' Interreligious Dialogue panels, for example, while McLaughlin recently completed a leadership stint with the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies and continues editorial roles at various academic publications. And, notes McLaughlin, he and his colleagues continue to connect via conferences such as the recent, USMC-wide conference on "The Role of a Catholic University in the 21st Century." "We have an impressive track record on conferences," he says, smiling. "Just days after we hosted our conference on Women and the Diaconate in May 2016, Pope Francis announced he was opening up discussions on the topic. We really understand where the church is and where it wants and needs to be." ♦

Diploma in Interfaith Dialogue

This fall will see the first cohort graduate from **St. Michael's Diploma in Interfaith Dialogue**, a program designed to encourage meaningful dialogue among people of various faith traditions.

The diploma, which is open to all, regardless of post-secondary qualifications, consists of 10 courses and is subsidized by a generous donation from the Scarborough Missions.

"The diploma is a great example of how we can make a positive difference, especially in an area as diverse as the Greater Toronto Area," says Interim Dean John L. McLaughlin.

"We as Catholics are called to learn about our



"We live in a world where many think theology doesn't have a place. But when you look at the challenges we face, whether racism, ecological damage or any other problem in the world, theology is more relevant than ever because it teaches how we interact with the world. I've been really impressed with how St. Mike's both speaks to the tradition of the Church while also being a voice in the world."

*John Fraresso,
Master of Theological Studies student*



brothers and sisters of differing faiths," says program participant Marilyn Grace. "I strongly urge anyone interested in growing and learning about other faith traditions to enrol in this informative and challenging program." ♦

*Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.
For more information, please contact
Programs Coordinator Anthony De Feo at
inquiry.usmctheology@utoronto.ca*

Faculty of Theology Report

July 2019 to December 2020

Highlighting Faculty Service to the Academy and the Community

Faculty and Staff

New Faculty

Dr. Sean Argondizza-Moberg, Assistant Professor of Greek Patristics

Dr. Cynthia Cameron, Patrick and Barbara Keenan Chair in Religious Education

Dr. Hilda Koster, Associate Professor of Ecological Theology

Post-Doctoral Fellow

Hosted **Dr. Stephanie Brenzel**, whose stay was jointly funded by the Toronto School of Theology and the Centre for Jewish Studies at U of T

Transitions to Permanent Status

Diana Cappuccitti-Addeo, Dean's Executive Assistant

Anthony De Feo, Programs Coordinator

Selected New Courses

(Sexual) Abuse in the Catholic Church (mentioned in *Academica* Group's top-ten list of noteworthy things that are happening currently in higher education in Canada)

Theology of Radical Evil and Suffering
Ecofeminism,
New Materialism
and Ecological Theology

Black Lives Matter in the Classroom

Events and Activities

Conferences and Meetings

Ontario Conference for Christian Unity, Religious Relations with the Jews, and Interfaith Dialogue (along with the Ontario bishops), October 2019

Boundaries of Christian Faith in the 21st Century: Intersecting Borders of Geography, Culture, Theology, June 24–26, 2020. (Postponed due to COVID-19)

Virtual Forum: Eco-anxiety as a Theological Challenge (Co-hosted with Trinity College), November 23, 2020

International Conference on Women Religious (Postponed due to COVID-19)

Mission in a New Key (Sponsored by the Religious Schools of Theology in Canada, Dominican University College and St. Paul's University, Ottawa, Regis College and University of St. Michael's College, Toronto). (Postponed due to COVID-19.)

Lectures

Dr. James Heft, SM: Alton Brooks Professor of Religion, University of Southern California, November 8, 2019

10th Annual John Meagher Lecture

Dr. Colleen Shantz: "Did the Early Christians Believe the Bible?" November 28, 2019

Annual Keenan Lecture

Dr. Christopher Hrynkow: "Not Merely One Minority Amongst Others: Post-Secondary Catholic Education in Treaty Six Territory, Settler Solidarity, and a Preferential Option for Indigenous Peoples" Thursday, March 26, 2020. (Postponed due to COVID-19)

Weekly Liturgy

Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. from September to April. Continuing online this semester.

Faculty Members Professional and Academic Activity

Publications

Monographs 3 (reprints)
Edited volumes 3 (involving 4 members)
Journal articles 6
Book chapters 3
Journal boards 8

Conferences

Presentations 24 plus 3 keynotes
Steering Committees 4

Leadership Roles

Anne Anderson, CSJ: In Trust Center for Theological Schools. Vice-Chair, 2018–20; Incoming Chair, January 2021

Darren Dias, OP: Canadian Theological Society. Vice-President (and President-elect)

Colleen Shantz: Canadian Society of Biblical Studies. Vice-President (and President-elect)

External Grants and Awards

3 multi-year SSHRC Awards (Attridge, Dias, Ginther)

The Faculty's **Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies** was awarded the "Sheptytsky Medal," the highest honour conferred by the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church, in December 2019

Other

External reviewer for St. Jerome's Master's in Catholic Studies (Dias)
Henry Mandelbaum Scholarship Committee (Attridge)



Faculty of Theology students are a close community within the Toronto School of Theology.



“Theology matters because it has the capacity to cultivate empathy.

Empathy is almost embodied in the experience of theological education. Whether it is in an ecumenical context or an interreligious one, you come face to face with the ‘the other’ and learn very quickly the importance of putting yourself in someone else’s shoes, particularly as it concerns the oppressed and marginalized.”

Doctoral student Mia Theocaris, whose dissertation will examine Christianity and the Holocaust

Faculty Members Church and Community Activity and Service

Appointees of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Anne Anderson, CSJ
Roman-Catholic/
Jewish Dialogue

Michael Attridge
Roman-Catholic/Lutheran
Church Dialogue

Darren Dias, OP
CCCB/Canadian Council
of Imams Working Group

Jean-Pierre Fortin
Roman-Catholic/Lutheran
Church Dialogue

Presentations

Michael Attridge
Ontario Diocesan
Ecumenical Officers on
Interfaith Education

Darren Dias, OP
Keynote, Catholic
Crosscultural Services AGM

Retreats

Darren Dias, OP
Catholic Charities,
Archdiocese of Toronto,
Easter retreat, May 2020
GCGC retreat: Hope during
COVID, June 2020

Colleen Shantz
USMC Alumni Retreat
Spring, 2020 (Moved
online due to COVID-19)

Darren Dias, OP
TV Masses for the Daily
Television Mass and Salt
and Light

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

CSR Students Aid African Water Project

21

CSR celebrates
21 years

35

Participants annually
from across Canada
and around the world

ST. MIKE'S 180 STRATEGIC PLAN was brought to life this year as students in the Graduate Diploma in Social Responsibility and Sustainability (G. Dipl. SR&S) worked to increase climate change resilience for local populations half a world away in the lakeside community of Sô-Ava, in Benin, Africa. The project focused on increasing awareness around climate change, improving Sô-Ava's water quality, demonstrating the impact of collaborative governance through research, and on advancing the local economy.

This social impact project stemmed from a partnership between the SR&S program and Umalia Inc., a Quebec-based societal engagement company specializing in building multi-stakeholder partnerships for social impact. The students' attention and efforts were directed to the Benin-based Climat'Eau, a project Umalia has led for the past three years, involving local Beninese partners, the Sô-Ava municipal government and the Sô-Ava Collective of Civil Society Organizations, the Canadian company Technologies Ecofixe, and Université Laval.

Five teams, members who were all working full time in organizations across Canada, the US and around the world, applied their skills to five areas: governance, business ecosystem

development, environmental and water quality, climate change, and funding. Over a four-month period they spoke to partners and individuals from the community and conducted research on the impact of the three-year project.

Teams recommended:

- A community knowledge-sharing hub to centralize, standardize and disseminate knowledge gained throughout the project for the long-term empowerment of communities
- Integrating climate education into the community through a student mentorship program in schools to drive climate change awareness, increase the number of children in school and encourage



SR&S students shared their wisdom and skills on a project benefitting people thousands of kilometres away.

intergenerational learning

- Leveraging a communal union of producers as potential “orchestrators” of a broader business ecosystem
- A governance model that is multi-dimensional, participatory and flexible
- Building long term social and environmental impact funding through global strategies of achieving sustainable development goals and the circular economy.

“Our team realized that a project of this nature...is very complex and detailed to plan and execute,” noted Tamar Epstein, General Counsel Canada, Corporate Secretary; Director, ESG, International Petroleum Canada in Alberta. “The primary intention of the project was to improve the community’s resilience to climate change by

bringing cleaner water to the communities where the installations occurred. However, the project was multi-faceted, involving mobilization and education of water brigades, use of new technology including solar panels, understanding potential related impacts and the formation of multi-disciplinary partnerships comprised of local, international, public and private members. Taking all of these factors into consideration requires significant commitment to the time period from idea to implementation.” This project is an example of collaborative experiential learning that SR&S students participate in.

St. Michael’s SR&S program accepts 35 participants annually from across Canada and around the world. The program enables participants to take their career in Social Responsibility and Sustainability to the next level. Graduates receive the post nominal letters G. Dipl. SR&S. ♦

JOHN M. KELLY LIBRARY

Library is Students' Home Away from Home

390,000

Students welcomed through the Kelly Library on an average year

305,000

Volumes plus extensive collections of journals, manuscripts and DVDs

75,000

The Kelly Library circulates 75,000 items, second only to the Robarts Library

708

Requests fulfilled by the InfoExpress team

4

The Kelly Library ranks fourth in size on the St. George campus

1

The John M. Kelly Library is the largest federated college library (both in size and collection)

WITH ONE OF THE LARGEST collections on the University of Toronto campus, plenty of research support, and a friendly place to grab a snack, it's no wonder the John M. Kelly Library ranks as the top home-away-from-home spot for many in the St. Mike's community. When a recent survey of students, faculty, staff, and alumni asked, "Which community/venue makes you feel most engaged in life at St. Mike's?" close to 40 percent of respondents offered Kelly as their answer, beating out all other campus locations.

"We want Kelly to be a place where students can find more than what a traditional library offers," says Chief Librarian Sheril Hook.

Students are particularly conscious of Kelly's commitment to them, Hook says, noting that the library's top priorities include expanding collections and study spaces, as well as finding additional ways to engage the university's significant Indigenous and international student communities, helping all students—and especially those far from home—to feel welcome.

One of the many ideas that has emerged is to create more language tables in the Kelly Café. During certain times of the week a café table is set aside for French conversation, and there is nothing to say the concept

couldn't be expanded, she notes.

Hook cites the creation of virtual exhibitions, moves to expand international collections, and even offering touches such as international board games as ways to meet students' needs, both academic and social, providing the research support they need while adding in a touch of home and an invitation to participate in community.

While serving St. Michael's own students, expanded collections also help the broader University of Toronto community, as well as the needs of international researchers, enhancing not only the library's reputation in the academic world, but also that of St. Michael's as an institution.

Early in the pandemic, for example,



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*The Kelly Library is
a home away from home
for students.*



Kelly librarians began co-operating with other Toronto School of Theology librarians on a series of Zoom presentations for graduate students about library collections and services, including sessions about HathiTrust, the library catalogue, the Atla Religion Database, Oxford Bibliographies, bibliographic citations, and Zotero.

“We want to create community, and build our collections and programming to be more inclusive,” she says.

“One of the things we are looking at is supporting peer-to-peer mentoring for English language learners,” says Hook, noting that sometimes writing

centre help is not enough for students who do not feel confident in English. Having peer-to-peer support for help with language acquisition, especially for instructions and technical terms, can reduce the anxiety of working through challenges.

During the pandemic, Kelly quickly moved to online research consultations, and the uptake has been impressive, she says, adding that librarians are in touch with students as far away as Ethiopia and Somalia.

“Our goal is to empower students in their learning,” Hook says. “We are ready to help them in whatever ways we can that work for them.” ♦

Research and Writing Support at the Kelly Library

For Instruction Archivist **James Roussain**, one of the great pandemic paradoxes is that even though library access has been restricted for months, staff are seeing—and serving—more students for research help because appointments have moved online. Kelly librarians routinely dedicate a minimum of five hours a day to

research support for St. Mike’s students, as well as for anyone enrolled in St. Michael’s courses.

Virtual appointments have “allowed us to expand our services exponentially,” says Roussain, adding that the number of email inquiries have soared as well.

In the 2019–2020 academic year, for example, the total number of research help consultations was 257. As of the end of February this year, the library had already

offered 241 appointments.

As well, the library received 339 email research questions (in the period from May 2020 to the end of February 2021) compared to a total of 85 email questions for the same period last academic year (May–April, 2019–2020), and 72 in the year before.

Meanwhile, the Writing Centre, which is located in the library, advises students on writing and analysis, had 239 online



Writing and research help offer our students support to succeed.

“I have received both research and writing help. All my experiences at the writing centre have been extremely positive, and especially during the pandemic. The writing centre has always been so understanding if my situation conflicted with my appointments, and they were always willing to help me regardless of these tough times. Additionally, even when I have questions after or during my appointments, writing centre staff are so open to taking the time to help me understand different things, e.g., how the online library works, or citation and grammar tips, etc.”

Third-year International Student



appointments in Fall 2020.

“Because our reference librarians are generally available 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., some people previously couldn’t make an in-person appointment because of work, commuting or other scheduling conflicts. I hope that when things normalize we maintain a hybrid model because it allows students choice,” he says.

Navigation is at the heart of many of the students’ questions, says

Roussain, who also serves as the library’s Interim Head of Public Services.

Often, first-year students who access library help have never written a research paper and don’t know what resources the library has or how to find them. Kelly’s resources alone, before rolling in the vast U of T collections, can seem very daunting at first, he notes.

Each year, Roussain attends

Academic Orientation and visits first-year classes to introduce himself to students and tell them about library services.

“I tell them I know it’s hard and that there’s so much that’s new, but that we’ll work together. Sometimes students wait until 3rd or 4th year to come and when they do, they tell me they wished they’d booked an appointment sooner.”

“We are here to help everyone,” he says. “This work is fun. I really enjoy it.” ♦

FACILITIES

Smart Practices, Long-Term Gains

32,900

The paper recycled in the past year would have saved enough water to fill 32,900 water cooler bottles

859

By recycling paper and cardboard this year, the property has saved 859 mature trees from being cut down

817

The aluminum cans recycled in the last year saved enough energy to power a 17 Watt energy efficient light bulb for 817 years

67%

St. Mike's is capturing 67% of recyclable and reusable materials, while also diverting half of materials from landfill

43

The total material diverted from landfill this year is equivalent to the weight of 43 Tesla model S vehicles

THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE knew it was a wise fiscal move to become a member of the Shareholder Association for Research & Education (SHARE). Belonging to the non-profit investor advocacy organization, which St. Mike's joined in 2016, seemed a good way to prioritize sustainability and climate justice in the university's investing strategy while building relationships with like-minded institutions.

What hadn't fully been anticipated, says Effie Slapnicar, St. Michael's Chief Administrative Officer, was the degree to which conversations about ethical investing would have trickle-down effects on the community, prompting much broader conversations and initiatives about sustainability across the university.

"Belonging to SHARE is a good way for us to use investments to advance the ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) issues we want to raise," says Slapnicar, who says an E, S & G committee was struck at St. Michael's in 2017 to review quarterly reports generated by SHARE, as well as to discuss related questions. "Often people think that you need to sacrifice earnings to make a change, but SHARE serves as a mediator, allowing us a seat at the corporate table to raise environmental

and social concerns we have. We are maintaining healthy returns while also addressing questions of sustainability."

Now, St. Michael's has gone a step further and become a charter member of the University Network for Investment Engagement (UNIE), a collective of Canadian universities under the SHARE umbrella whose role is to engage corporations on questions of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and pursuing sustainable finance, responsible climate policy, and just transitions through the initiative.

"We believe that collectively, with other Canadian universities participating, we will have a stronger voice in areas of climate change that are important to our community," Slapnicar says. "As shareholders, we have the opportunity to use our position to influence corporate



Clean SMC

Juliano Baggieri, president of **Clean SMC**, the students' environmental conservation club, says the St. Mike's community is "incredibly receptive" to creating and participating in sustainability initiatives on campus.

Baggieri, who also serves as a student representative on the university's Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) committee, often hears from peers who want the school to tackle major issues, whether it's divestment from fossil fuels or installing solar panels in campus



buildings. He dutifully shares their concerns and ideas at the committee table, while also explaining to those asking that such issues take time to resolve. Students, he stresses, are equally engaged with smaller, incremental steps to keep the St. Mike's campus cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable.

Clean SMC, for example, takes to social media to "highlight sustainable ideas such as reusable bags, utensils and aluminium straws to cut down on waste," says the fourth-year student, who is off to law school

in the fall, pondering a career in environmental law. Recently, the group collaborated with the University of Toronto Discussion Club to talk about how COVID has affected international relations and institutions, and earlier it hosted an online environmental pledge drive that saw students promise to take steps such as reducing reliance on single-use plastics or reducing the amount of time spent on warming up the car.

Pre-COVID, the club hosted regular events such as campus clean-up days, a tradition they hope to resurrect post-pandemic.

One of the group's most talked-about projects was the installation of a bee hotel outside of Carr Hall, designed to encourage pollinators to visit the famous rock gardens outside of Brennan Hall and then take a little of that beauty and share it with the broader community.

Now Clean SMC is pondering providing bins on campus specifically for coffee cups. While disposable coffee cups often are mistakenly tossed into recycling bins, because the cups are coated in plastic they contaminate other recycling if they get mixed in, defeating the initial purpose, Baggieri explains.

Education—and a cooperative approach—are key to supporting change that will create a greener, healthier campus, he says.

"When I see a student put a coffee cup in the wrong container, if I point out the problem, the student recognizes the mistake and corrects it. The St. Mike's community is incredibly supportive of efforts to improve our sustainability." ♦

behaviour, and together with our colleagues across Canada we want to use that influence to accelerate Canada's transition to a zero-carbon economy."

UNIE, which involves a number of stakeholders, including York, McGill, McMaster, and Carleton universities, will focus both on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and accelerating the transition to a low carbon economy.

"These universities are showing leadership in addressing the climate crisis. Working together in one program amplifies each institution's voice and leverages their power to bring about change," says Kevin Thomas, Chief Executive Officer at SHARE.

While ongoing financial fitness is a critical factor in ensuring the long-term health of St. Mike's, the ESG Committee also discusses more local issues.

"We often find ourselves asking what we can do in our own backyard (to promote sustainability) and what we can control," Slapnicar says. "We have a responsibility not only to our current students but to our future ones, too, as well as to many, many other people, including all those who see our beautiful campus as an oasis in the middle of a big, bustling city."

"Sustainability is important to us and it affects how we approach things. For example, it influenced our hiring of Director of Facilities Michael Chow, as he really understands sustainability and has an eye for projects while also appreciating the need to work within a limited budget," she says.

Duncan Buttenshaw, St. Mike's new Director of Finance, is another example of how our environmental and social goals are reflected in our hiring, Slapnicar says, noting that Buttenshaw is in the final stages of his MBA with a specialization in Social Impact from the University of New South Wales.



Now, as the university eyes such issues as more efficient recycling and environmentally friendly furniture and supplies, it also thinks about its procurement policy as a way to enhance St. Mike's social impact. For example, a company that embraces diversity might be given added points in the procurement process, she notes.

As an example, Slapnicar notes that when the university was looking at new furniture for the recently renovated Brennan Hall, the original plan was to order from the United States. But when it became apparent the order would be delayed, the university found Canadian-made furniture, saving money and cutting the environmental toll of a long delivery haul, an idea now being actively embraced.

"It's astounding the way sustainability is being woven into the culture here," says Slapnicar, who says it fits with a community she finds to be "consultative."

"Who better to ask than the people on the front lines? Often I will hear a senior manager respond to a discussion by saying, 'I'll need to consult my team and get back to you' and then the person will return with great ideas because the community cares and is always ready to help," she says, noting the additional value of staff feeling appreciated, knowing their ideas are valued and acted upon.

"Our campus reflects the past and the future and we are respectful of that," she says. "We know both the students and the broader community value our grounds, so we respect the heritage aspect while always working with an eye to a more beautiful, efficient campus. We are so excited about the changes coming." ♦



Caring for our beautiful campus is a vital component of our dedication to sustainability.

Creating a Sustainable Campus

From St. Basil's Church, the oldest operating building on the University of Toronto campus, through to Sorbara Hall, a relative youngster at a little more than 20 years old, St. Michael's building stock presents a range of challenges and opportunities for enhanced energy conservation.

And **Michael Chow**, Director, Facilities and Services, is just the person to oversee ongoing projects. Chow graduated from Ryerson's Architectural Science program and has a designation from the University of Toronto as a Canada Building Science Specialist.

"Sustainability is more than just green initiatives and reducing utilities consumption," he says. "We must also consider sustainable operations of the campus and ensuring reliability, redundancy and resiliency of our most critical systems. From a Facilities perspective, this means helping to create an environment that students, faculty, and staff find welcoming and inclusive, a place people are proud to be part of."

"We are always looking for environmentally friendly products and projects," he says. "A lot of issues are changing the way we think. There are always immediate things to consider—financial implications, for example—but there are also long-term environmental and social implications in the decisions we make, so we need to be proactive as we plan and budget. All our decisions factor in sustainability."

Some of the recent green moves on campus have included installing occupancy sensors in dormitory common rooms so lights aren't burning when no one is in the room, and single-touch metered faucets that turn off by themselves. Sorbara Hall now has two waterless urinals, which, along with decreasing the building's water usage, also require less maintenance. LED lighting upgrades in Alumni, Carr, and Elmsley halls are expected to reduce energy consumption annually by approximately 55%, 58% and 63% respectively.

Upgrades in the boiler plant, replacing equipment providing hot water for the Queen's Park Building, Elmsley and Brennan halls, as well as heating for Elmsley, will significantly reduce steam usage, natural gas consumption and carbon dioxide emissions. And, thanks to recycling efforts, 2019 survey results indicate St. Mike's is capturing 67% of recyclable and reusable materials, while also diverting half of materials from landfill. ♦



Matt Donovan, "Monarchs 2," 2016, Lego, 63" x 63", The Donovan Collection

Monarchs: The Value of Working Together

by Fr. Daniel Donovan, Professor Emeritus, USMC 1958

THE FIRST THING ONE NOTICES about “Monarchs 2” is just how colourful it is. The yellow, in particular, evokes the exuberance of life and spring and new beginnings. Once we recognize, however, that the image is of a swarm of Monarch butterflies, the theme of life takes on more complex meaning. In spite of ongoing threats, the butterflies continue to survive and to provide us with moments of delight with their beauty and delicacy.

The closer one comes to the work, the more it seems to break up, “giving way,” as the artist puts it, “to a painterly composition of colours, shapes and patterns reminiscent of abstract painting.”

To be appreciated, the work requires some physical interaction. It is one thing to contemplate it from a single fixed position and quite another to see it from various distances. At a certain point, the image distills into a host of colourful pixel-like forms made of thousands of small Lego tiles.

For me, the work evokes the way in which many small and apparently all but insignificant things can be brought together to achieve something of real value, like a university. That St. Michael’s has survived and flourished through its long and sometimes challenging history is due to countless individuals—faculty and staff, students and alumni. If we are to pass on to future generations the great and beautiful thing that our predecessors and we have created, it will only be because of the contribution, large and small, of everyone. ♦

Congratulations to Fr. Donovan on 50 years of teaching at St. Mike’s!



St. Mike's 180 **Rooted in the Future**

St. Mike's 180: Rooted in the Future is the University's strategic plan, designed to illuminate the way to our 180th anniversary in 2032.

Its focus rests on academics, community, and sustainability.

Find out more: stmikes.utoronto.ca/stmikes180





Foundational Statements

The Catholic Intellectual Tradition: A Search for Intellectual, Spiritual and Social Wholeness

ROOTED IN THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING of the dynamic relationship between faith and reason, the Catholic Intellectual Tradition may be described as an ongoing, two-millennia “conversation” that continues to explore and understand the complex relationship between humanity and the cosmos. This systematic search for truth and meaning recognizes the inestimable contribution that science, philosophy, history, works of literature and art, and trans-cultural devotional practices can contribute to the dialogue. Essentially, this tradition develops new knowledge through critical engagement of its rich heritage with reality as we humans experience it. It stands at the forefront of many of the great scientific discoveries in history, and addresses questions about the transcendent, such as “who is God” and “why does evil exist?” This search for wholeness underscores St. Michael’s foundational commitments both to interdisciplinary teaching and research, to community, and to promoting and building up the common good. ♦

Vision

The University of St. Michael’s College will be a recognized leader in promoting respectful dialogue and action on care for our common home (*Laudato si’*) and solidarity with the human family (*Fratelli Tutti*).

Mission

Grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition, and committed to the education of the whole person, the University of St. Michael’s College challenges all its members to exercise transformative leadership in service of the common good and care of all creation.

Values

Human Dignity

We affirm and respect the intrinsic value of each person.

Community

We foster and celebrate an environment of hospitality and inclusivity.

Social Justice

We treat everyone in a fair and equitable manner.

Service

We invite all persons to develop their unique gifts to build up the common good.

Sustainability

We are accountable for making wise use of the resources entrusted to us.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1
Community

Providing a supportive and challenging community for all its members

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2
Education

Empowering students, faculty and staff to develop their unique gifts and carry those forward in service to the world

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3
Sustainability

Stewarding our resources and relationships wisely in service to our University community and the common good



Next Steps

THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY GROUP HOLDS ongoing oversight of the institutional and divisional decisions related to the activities and timelines in St. Mike's 180: Rooted in the Future, our strategic plan. The plan is designed to take us forward toward 2032, when the University of St. Michael's College will celebrate its 180th anniversary. Reports to Collegium continue on a regular basis. Please check our website at stmikes.utoronto.ca/stmikes180 for updates as we look to the future. ♦

Approved by the Collegium of the University of St. Michael's College on December 9, 2020.



Land Acknowledgement

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

UNIVERSITY OF
ST. MICHAEL'S
COLLEGE





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Stay in touch!

Want to stay connected with the St. Mike's community? Please head to stmikes.utoronto.ca for all the latest news on the University, our students, our faculty, and our alumni. Our site includes important dates, key address and phone numbers, and all the news you need to know to be on top of what's happening at St. Mike's.

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June 2021



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