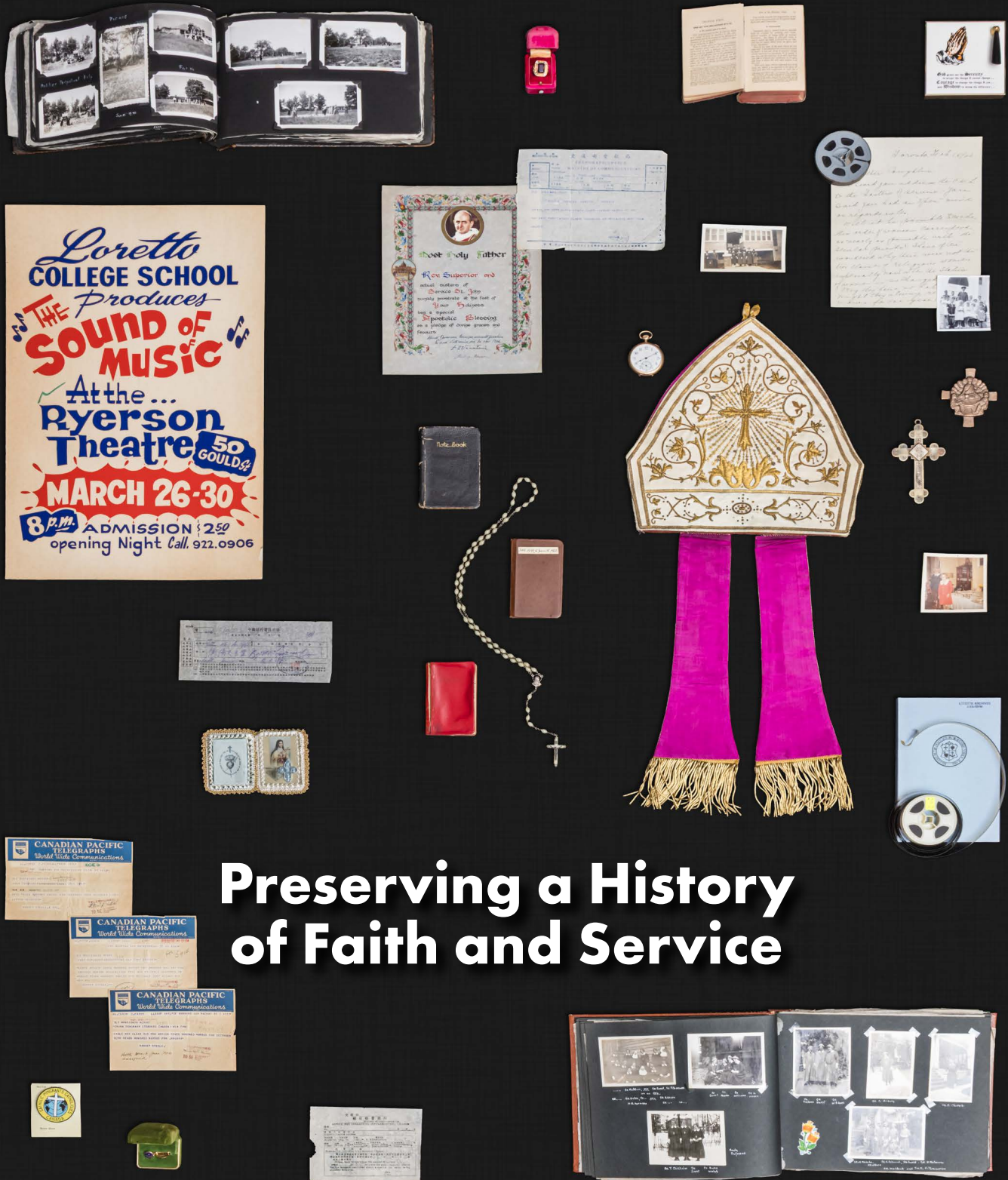
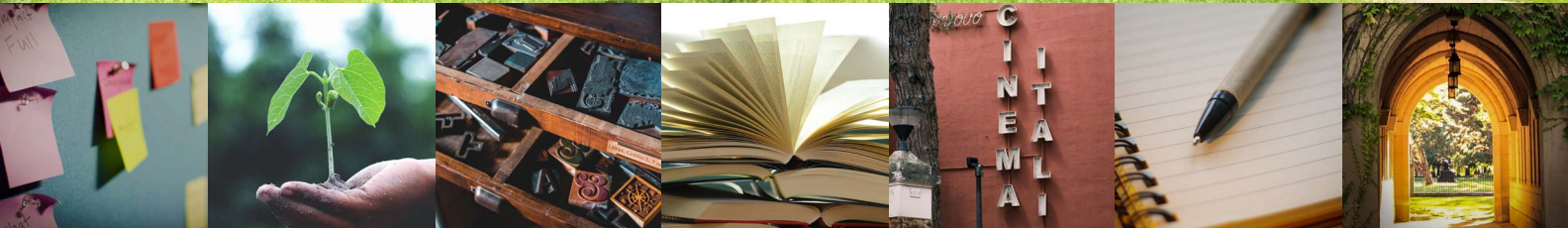


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UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ALUMNI MAGAZINE





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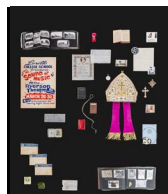
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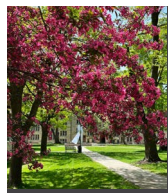
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Archive ensures the stories, records and charisms
of Canada's religious communities endure.
Photo: Horst Herget



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FROM FOUNDERS HOUSE

A Community that Sustains

WE'VE SPENT A BIT OF time and ink over the years, and in this edition of the *St. Michael's* magazine, talking about our sustainability initiatives. As alumni and friends of St. Mike's know, we embraced in *St. Mike's 180* a view of sustainability that was much more than just balancing the books (which we have done) and advancing environmental sustainability. Yes, we are proud of our response to the encyclical call in *Laudato si'* to 'care for our common home', but we are equally committed to developing the 'right relations with our neighbours' that Pope Francis articulated in *Fratelli Tutti*.

But what we haven't talked about much is something you may have experienced when you lived, studied, or visited St. Michael's; we are a community that strives not only for sustainability but to be **a place that sustains**.

The beauty of our historic campus, forged from the forested landscape of Clover Hill more than a century and a half ago, welcomes home alumni and astounds first-time visitors who literally cannot believe this pastoral oasis exists mere steps from the urban tumult of Bay and Bloor Streets. The beauty of the quad framed by Carr Hall and the Queen's Park Buildings, the Scollard Park passage next to St. Basil's Church, and the Brennan Rock Gardens, are a deliberate part of many Torontonians' morning walk to work. From my windows

in Founders House or when cycling to campus, I regularly encounter amazed visitors who pop out their cameras when they encounter the gates at St. Joseph Street and peer up the oak tree-lined beauty of Elmsley Place (aka Flower Pot Lane). It is, without a doubt, one of the healthiest vistas in our city and, arguably, the most beautiful campus landscape in our country.

And the welcome does not end with the trees and stunning neo-gothic and Victorian architecture. The intentional hospitality of St. Michael's is meant to create a campus where students want to study, where faculty and staff want to work, and where alumni, visiting scholars, parents, and first-time visitors always feel welcome. There is a long theology associated with the commitment to hospitality with which many of you will



be familiar, but we need look no further than former St. Michael's President Fr. Henry Carr, CSB. He outlined many decades ago what the Basilian Fathers were trying to build. In his words to his confreres, he said that the goal was to create a place of welcome, "... so that [students] look on this place as their own and find here the hearth of their university warmth and life."

So, along with the great Fr. Henry Carr, CSB, we remain committed to building a place of welcome, of friendship, and of life ... in other words, a beautiful home that sustains each and every person who

encounters and comes to know this place. As St. Michael's celebrates next year the 175th anniversary of its founding, I look forward to welcoming many of you home—home to the beauty of our campus, and to the sustaining warmth of this remarkable community. ♦

David G. Sylvester

*David Sylvester, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor*



A Living Landscape: Sustainability at St. Mike's

More Than a Campus Walk



BY MICHAEL SALVATORI, PHD, DIRECTOR OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

IF YOU HAVE RECENTLY WANDERED through the grounds of St. Michael's College — or even paused to recall that sensory experience — you have already encountered something deeper than a beautiful campus. Beneath the shade of century-old maple and oak trees, beside the carefully curated Brennan Hall gardens, or along the pathways that wind through the quad, there is a quiet but powerful story unfolding. It is a Story of Stewardship.

Every moment spent reading on a shaded bench, capturing a selfie among seasonal blooms, or simply passing through on a daily routine reflects the University's enduring commitment to environmental responsibility. At St. Mike's, sustainability is not an abstract ideal — it is something you can see, feel, and experience.

As President David Sylvester affirms, "Sustainability at St. Michael's is not a separate initiative — it is a reflection of who we are. Our responsibility to care for creation is deeply rooted in our mission, and it guides how we learn, build, and live together as a community."

A Campus that Lives Its Values

Sustainability at the University of St. Michael's College (USMC) is more than a guiding principle — it is a strategic priority. Embedded within the *St. Mike's 180 Strategic Plan*, environmental stewardship is recognized as essential to serving both the university community

and the broader common good.

This commitment is visible in how the campus operates day-to-day. Environmental responsibility has been integrated into planning, infrastructure, and decision-making processes across departments. Rather than treating sustainability as an add-on, USMC has woven it into the fabric of institutional life.

Sustainability in Action: Operations and Infrastructure

Across campus, sustainability is embedded in daily operations. Facilities teams have made significant progress in reducing energy consumption through building retrofits, improved insulation, and advanced energy management systems.

New construction projects adhere to high environmental performance standards, incorporating sustainable

Indigenous and native plants that require less maintenance and water. It also prioritizes ecological resilience, ensuring that the campus can adapt to changing environmental conditions while maintaining its beauty and functionality.

Michael Chow, Director of Facilities, highlights the importance of this vision: “The campus and landscape plan is about more than aesthetics — it’s about creating a sustainable environment that will serve future generations. By working with nature rather than against it, we are building a campus that is resilient, efficient, and deeply connected to its ecological context.”

This forward-looking approach transforms the campus into a model of sustainable urban design — one that balances heritage preservation with environmental innovation.

Learn more about St. Mike’s Campus Landscape Plan: stmikes.utoronto.ca/usmc-campus-landscape-plan



Regis St. Michael’s students engage in Food/Justice, Farming and Eco-Theology in the City, a course taught by Dr. Hilda Koster, Director of The Elliott Allen Institute for Theology and Ecology (EAITE).

Learning for a Sustainable World

St. Mike’s commitment to sustainability extends far beyond its physical environment. It is deeply embedded in the academic experience, shaping how students understand their role in the world.

Inspired in part by the teachings of *Laudato Si’*, which calls for care of our common home, the university integrates environmental ethics into its curriculum and programming. Sustainability becomes not just a topic of study, but a lens through which students engage with complex global challenges.

Research initiatives explore areas such as renewable energy, climate resilience, and sustainable urban development. Student organizations contribute through

// Sustainability at St. Michael’s is not a separate initiative — it is a reflection of who we are. Our responsibility to care for creation is deeply rooted in our mission, and it guides how we learn, build, and live together as a community. //

*David Sylvester, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor*

awareness campaigns, community cleanups, and advocacy efforts.

One standout example is the course Food/Justice, Farming, and Eco-Theology in the City, offered through the Regis St. Michael’s Faculty of Theology. This course examines pressing questions: Where does urban food come from? Who has access to nutritious food? How can we build more equitable and sustainable food systems?

Drawing on eco-theology, Indigenous teachings, and social justice frameworks, the course invites students to think critically about the intersection of environment, ethics, and community.

The Faculty of Theology also offers both a Certificate and a Diploma in Eco-Theology.

Learn more: www.rsmtheology.utoronto.ca

Preparing Leaders for a Responsible Economy

As sustainability becomes central to business, policy, and community development, there is a growing demand for leaders who can integrate environmental and social responsibility into decision-making.

St. Mike’s responds to this need through continuing education programs designed for alumni and working professionals. These flexible offerings allow learners to build expertise in sustainability while balancing career and personal commitments.

The Diploma in Social Responsibility & Sustainability explores how organizations can embed ethical governance, environmental stewardship, and community engagement into their core strategies. Meanwhile, the Social Impact Measurement Professional Certificate equips learners with tools to evaluate and communicate the effectiveness of their initiatives.

In a world increasingly focused on measurable outcomes, these skills are invaluable. Graduates are prepared not only to understand sustainability challenges but to lead meaningful change. Learn more: www.csr-stmikes.ca.



Scollard Park features rose gardens, flowering shrubs, mature trees, and a perennial garden of ferns and hostas, highlighting the beauty and ecological value of campus green spaces.

Good Neighbours: A Shared Environment

Sustainability at St. Mike's pushes beyond campus boundaries. As a member of the Bay Cloverhill Community Association, the university plays an active role in fostering a green, clean, and vibrant neighbourhood.

In a densely populated urban setting, the campus provides essential green space for nearby residents. Its lawns, gardens, and mature trees offer both environmental and social benefits — improving air quality, supporting biodiversity, and creating a welcoming space for relaxation and connection.

The university also contributes to the neighbourhood's energy and vitality through its student population. The presence of engaged, socially conscious young people brings life to surrounding streets and strengthens community ties.

Importantly, St. Mike's commitment to sustainability includes preserving historic buildings. By maintaining and adapting existing structures rather than demolishing them, the university reduces waste and honours its architectural heritage.

Take the Next Step

Sustainability is not a distant goal — it is a shared responsibility that grows stronger with every action we take.

As members of the St. Mike's community, alumni carry forward a legacy of leadership, innovation, and care for the common good. Today, that legacy calls for a renewed commitment to environmental stewardship.

There are many ways to get involved at home and to support St. Mike's efforts:

- Reduce your home energy use by switching to LED lighting and adjusting your thermostat

// The campus and landscape plan is about more than aesthetics — it's about creating a sustainable environment that will serve future generations.

By working with nature rather than against it, we are building a campus that is resilient, efficient, and deeply connected to its ecological context. //

Michael Chow, Director of Facilities

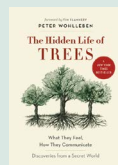
- Choose sustainable transportation options like walking, biking, or public transit
- Adopt more plant-based meals and reduce food waste
- Support responsible consumption by buying less and choosing durable goods
- Donate used books to the Kelly Library to support the Friends of the Kelly Library fundraising efforts
<https://library.stmikes.utoronto.ca/about/friends/sale/>

Every action — no matter how small — contributes to a larger movement.

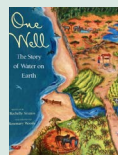
The path forward is clear. Stay engaged. Give back. And be part of building a greener, more sustainable future — one decision at a time. ♦

Reading the Natural World

For those inspired to explore sustainability further, these recommended reads offer valuable perspectives:



The Hidden Life of Trees (2016), Peter Wohlleben:
A fascinating look at how trees communicate and support one another, revealing the forest as a social network.



One Well: The Story of Water on Earth (2007), Rochelle Strauss:
An accessible exploration of global water systems and our shared responsibility to protect them.



Watch This Space (2010), Hadley Dyer:
A compelling case for the importance of vibrant, inclusive public spaces in urban life. ♦

All titles are available at the John M. Kelly Library.



Preserving a History of Faith and Service

The Catholic Religious Communities Archive ensures the stories, records and charisms of Canada's religious communities endure.

AS THE LANDSCAPE FOR MANY Canadian religious communities undergoes a dramatic shift, the John M. Kelly Library is ensuring that these communities' stories — and their charisms — will live on. The Kelly Library is now home to the Catholic Religious Communities Archive (CRCA), which is supported by a \$7-million endowment funded by six participating communities: the Sisters of Service (SOS), the Loretto Sisters (IBVM/CJ), the Scarboro Foreign Mission Society (SFMS), the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph (CSJ) in Canada, which includes the former communities of Hamilton, London, Peterborough, and Pembroke, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie.

The CRCA's primary mandate is to preserve and provide access to the irreplaceable records of religious life in Canada. As religious communities see their numbers decline, transferring the materials to the CRCA will ensure continued access for the public, whether the research focuses on the charisms — or spiritual gifts — of a particular community, or on what historical insights might be gleaned from these records about the cultural and social development of Canada.

The archive will also offer broader benefits felt immediately at St. Mike's. Students, for example, will have opportunities to work directly with archival materials and learn how to use primary sources. At the same time, the collection will provide a rich body of historical evidence about life in Canada that could support undergraduate teaching, as well as courses offered through the Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology and St. Michael's Continuing Education.

"As orders face declining numbers, they have become increasingly concerned about making provisions for their archives," says James Roussain, the William D. Sharpe Chief Librarian and Director of Special Collections at the Kelly. "We were able to meet that need and have stepped up to help. Given our own mandate and St. Mike's mission, we are a perfect fit, ensuring we can offer long-term public access to these important materials."

University President David Sylvester is honoured that these Catholic religious communities placed their trust in the university and in the Kelly Library to preserve their legacies.

"The ongoing relevance of these collections is immeasurable. They trace the very history and development of health care, education, and immigration services in Canada. The fact that these congregations were present across six continents means the print and image record in the



Francesca Rousselle,
Catholic Religious Communities
Archive (CRCA) Archivist



The Sisters of Service archives preserve a legacy of education, health care, and social services.

archives document many of the most significant global events of the last century and a half. The archives are a rich source not only for public researchers, but teaching tools for students and faculty across the campus and the country,” he says.

The CRCA is the result of nearly two decades of conversations and planning between St. Michael’s and the participating communities, says Roussain. Partnering with a university, he adds, offered them the assurance of strong stewardship and broad access to their archival records.

The endowment has allowed the university to hire a dedicated archivist, Francesca Rousselle, to oversee the growth, care, and use of these collections. And while partnering with a university has given participating communities confidence that their records will be preserved, the CRCA’s mandate also includes a commitment to public engagement.

Rousselle’s new role will support

// The SOS archival holdings, the embodiment of their historical legacy since 1922, will be accessible for the benefit of scholars, students and non-academic researchers. //

Sr. Anna McNally, Sisters of Service

long-term public programming as part of the CRCA’s mandate. Through regular lectures, exhibitions, and outreach to students, the CRCA will help share the unique legacies of the participating communities and keep their missions and purpose in the public eye.

To encourage public engagement, St. Michael’s College is partnering with the Canadian Catholic Historical Association to establish the McGowan Research and Travel Grant in Canadian Catholic Archives. Valued at \$3,000 annually, the grant will support researchers travelling to Toronto to work with records held by the CRCA and/or the Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto, encouraging new scholarship and public engagement with the history of

Catholicism, religious communities, and Catholic life in Canada and beyond.

The CRCA archival materials are remarkable for their variety, documenting everything from everyday business transactions to deeply personal insights into community members’ spiritual lives.

Visitors to the archive will encounter materials such as an SOS modified habit, designed to provide the Sisters practical clothing for their ministry and teaching in remote parts of Western Canada, through to copies of Scarboro Missions, the SFMS magazine that documented their missionary work around the globe. Rosaries and other sacramentals sit alongside architectural drawings of buildings now deemed to be of historical significance. Photographs



// We are even happier to know that our history will be available to researchers and that our photos will be displayed periodically to the public. //

Fr. David Warren, SFM

remain among the most frequently requested materials, offering a glimpse into the lives, work, and communities represented within the CRCA's holdings.

The Loretto Sisters (Congregation of Jesus) are delighted to be part of the CRCA because it expands their present archival collection's reach and purposes, says Sr. Carmen Diston, Region Leader, whose community's materials are the newest arrivals.

"It provides a long-term home for our active archival collection which documents our Canadian members' lives and ministries, along with our collaborators. (The) CRCA unites us with other religious congregations, and within the wider Catholic faith tradition, to tell the story of consecrated persons in Canada."

The SFMS, whose materials

were the first to arrive in 2024, remain pleased with their choice to entrust the university with their materials.

"We are delighted that our archives have a permanent home and are happy to know that the library will take excellent care of our archives in its Special Collections section," says Fr. David Warren, SFM, Secretary General of the Scarboro Foreign Mission Society. "We are even happier to know that our history will be available to researchers and that our photos will be displayed periodically to the public."

Sr. Anna McNally of the Sisters of Service says that the Special Collections of the Kelly Library had all the prerequisites in their search for an archival home.

"The priorities in the search for a permanent location of the archives

The Scarboro Foreign Mission Society archives document a rich history of missionary and interfaith work.

of the Institute of the Sisters of Service were clear-eyed: an archival environmental and preservation standards in a university, which is developing a research centre and is encouraging public education of the Canadian Catholic Church," Sr. Anna says.

"In doing so, the SOS archival holdings, the embodiment of their historical legacy since 1922, will be accessible for the benefit of scholars, students and non-academic researchers. This accessibility enhances the mission of the John M. Kelly Library to foster a culture of education among undergraduates, graduate students and the public to support a diversity of intellectual pursuits."

The CRCA holdings speak to broad themes in Canadian history, touching on topics that range from immigration patterns to developments in health care and education. They will hold great promise for people working on a wide range of interdisciplinary projects, says Roussain. But



The Loretto Sisters archives reflect generations of service in education, ministry, and community life.

alongside academics accessing research materials, the archives will also attract people undertaking family research or confirming childhood memories of schools they attended.

The SFMS records, meanwhile, are of particular interest to those with interests such as pre-revolution China, or missionary work around the globe.

Recently, for example, Prof. Ayako Fukushima of Japan's Kyushu University accessed the archives while conducting research on church buildings built by Scarboro Missions. She was especially interested in the Nakamachi Church of Nagasaki, built in 1896 but damaged by the atomic bombing of the city in 1945. The church was restored by the SFMS's Monsignor John Mary Fraser in 1951, incorporating the surviving original walls and spire.

"The materials held at St. Michael's College helped to reveal the design of the restoration work carried out by a Catholic

builder, Kawahara Seiji," Prof. Fukushima says.

For Francesca Rousselle, the CRCA archivist whose responsibilities include providing access to the records, as well as engaging in outreach and promotion, these records speak not only to the lives within religious communities, they also reflect the history of St. Mike's, of Toronto, of social services and of schools locally, nationally and even internationally.

"Whether the people accessing these archives are academics conducting research, students working on an assignment, or alumni looking into the family tree, we want the people using these records to appreciate that history belongs to them," she says.

Rousselle's hope is that the archives will be used not only by those interested in Catholic history

// The CRCA unites us with other religious congregations, and within the wider Catholic faith tradition, to tell the story of consecrated persons in Canada. //

Sr. Carmen Diston, CJ

but will also attract researchers who will examine the communities' impact in such areas as social services, health care, interfaith dialogue, social justice and gender studies.

"Consider, for example, how groundbreaking the religious women were who earned graduate degrees and were teaching as theology professors long before many lay women were," she says.

The range of topics covered in the archive certainly reflects the rich diversity of work undertaken by these communities. The SFMS, for example, are remembered for their missionary work in Asia, Africa, and Central and South America, as well as interfaith work in Toronto.

The SOS, a community headquartered in Toronto who worked across the country, serving as

nurses, teachers and social workers, offering housing, catechetical support, education and health-care, breaking new ground in everything from their very practical clothing to their willingness to work in relatively uncharted territory.

The Loretto Sisters (IBVM), founded in England in 1609, saw their Canadian roots planted when five Irish sisters arrived in Toronto in 1847. Archival materials document the Sisters' work in education, teaching elementary, high school and university students, while also seeing community members take on roles such as parish ministry work.

Materials from various Canadian congregations of the Sisters of St. Joseph (CSJs), familiar to many especially for their schools, university teaching and hospitals, will be received in the coming years.

The creation of the CRCA comes at a critical, and timely, moment in the lives of Catholic religious congregations in Canada. Figures from Statistics Canada indicate that while there were 10,515 members of religious congregations in Canada in 2021; by 2025 that figure had dropped to 7,050.

We're among a small handful of institutions working to preserve

// The CRCA will secure long-term stewardship for these records while supporting teaching, learning and research at St. Michael's and beyond. //

*James Roussain,
Chief Librarian, John M. Kelly Library*

these stories, says Roussain, whose hope is that the CRCA project will grow and St. Michael's College will eventually welcome the records of additional communities.

"As more congregations consolidate their archives — often outside the Greater Toronto Area — St. Michael's is uniquely positioned to ensure that local histories remain preserved and accessible within the region," says Roussain. "The CRCA will secure long-term stewardship for these records while supporting teaching, learning and research at St. Michael's and beyond."

"The CRCA will strengthen and cement St. Michael's reputation as a centre for research into religious communities in Canada," says President Sylvester.

"The archives contain material evidence of the profound impact these communities had on Canada. We are honoured to protect, preserve and promote

these invaluable items. We are also dedicated to ensuring that the materials contained in the archive are available to future generations, letting both Canadians and the broader world know about the groundbreaking work these communities engaged in."

The Catholic Religious Communities Archive will be kept within the Kelly Library's Special Collections: Archives and Rare Books department. The addition of the CRCA holdings required an expansion of the Special Collections area on the third floor of the library to ensure their proper care and housing. The renovations are currently underway, and Rousselle and the Kelly library team look forward to welcoming visitors to view the CRCA materials in the fall of 2026.

Anyone is welcome to book a consultation by appointment. ♦

Inquiries may be directed to the CRCA at specialcollections.kellylibrary@utoronto.ca.

Special Collections: Archives and Rare Books by the Numbers

301

Reading Room visits during the 2025–2026 academic year

153

Reading Room visits were from undergraduate students

1255

Items were used during these visits, coming from 27 different collections of materials



CAMPUS NOTES



St. Michael's President David Sylvester reappointed for a third term

University of St. Michael's College President David Sylvester has been reappointed for a third term, extending his leadership through June 30, 2031. The reappointment reflects strong confidence in his vision and accomplishments over the past eight years, including institutional renewal, strategic growth, financial sustainability, academic innovation, and community partnerships. His continued leadership will help guide major projects, advance the St. Mike's 180 strategic plan, launch a new institutional campaign, and prepare the university for its 180th anniversary in 2032 while building on a strong foundation for future success. ♦



David Wilson retires from the DCB

After 13 years as general editor of the Dictionary of Canadian Biography (DCB), Celtic Studies Professor David Wilson is stepping away from the prestigious position. A major bilingual project in Canadian humanities, born out of a partnership between the University of Toronto and Université Laval, Wilson helped transition the DCB from a physical text to a solely digital entity and fostered the continued revisiting of older entries in light of new evidence and changing historical understanding. Next year, he prepares to return to a part of academic life he loves: undergraduate teaching. ♦



New Superior General elected

Fr. John Huber, CSB (USMC 9T0), an alumnus of the University of St. Michael's College, has been elected Superior General of the Basilian Fathers. "I am grateful for the wonderful education I received at the University of St. Michael's College, and I look forward to helping enhance the University's Catholic mission in this new role," said Fr. Huber. ♦



RSM students seek interfaith dialogue in Rome

Dean Jaroslav Skira led Regis St. Michael's Rome Ecumenism course this summer. Students met with officials from four Dicasteries — Christian Unity, Inter-Religious Dialogue, Eastern Churches, and Integral Human Development — as well as Fr. Mark Lewis, SJ, Rector of Pontifical Gregorian University and with Fr. Jim Loughran, SA, Director of the Centro Pro Unione in Rome. Skira also took students beyond the Vatican, on visits to the Great Synagogue of Rome, and the Grand Mosque of Rome. ♦
Learn more: rometrip2026.blogspot.com



Michael McCarthy and Filomena Tassi speak at Convocation



Michael McCarthy (SMC 9T4) is an accomplished information technology executive and advisor who has held the position of CEO for diverse software businesses including Fractal Dynamics, a management consulting and risk advisory firm he founded in 2024.

Michael is also an Adjunct Professor and Executive Director of the Technology Leadership Focus in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Toronto. ♦



Filomena Tassi (USMC 0T4) is a Canadian politician, lawyer, and former high school chaplain who served as the Liberal Member of Parliament for Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas from 2015 to 2025. Tassi held several federal cabinet positions, including Minister

of Seniors, Minister of Labour, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. ♦



James Ginther heads up the CMS

Professor James Ginther was appointed as the Director of the Centre for Medieval Studies (CMS) at the University of Toronto. A Professor of Medieval Theology at Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology, Ginther plans to foster close ties between St. Michael's undergraduate Medieval Studies program and graduate studies at CMS. ♦



Elizabeth Smyth receives Significant Contribution Award

Professor Emerita Smyth received the prestigious award at the History of Women Religious of Britain and Ireland's annual conference. The H-WRBI is an international network that encourages research of women religious from medieval to current times. Smyth is a Fellow of the University of St. Michael's College and is the Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Toronto School of Theology. ♦



Toronto leads in the book arts

A new interest in 'slow' print culture has gained momentum in recent years – and Toronto is its epicentre. At the "Thinking Through Printing" symposium, people from across Canada, Europe, the U.S., Mexico, and New Zealand 'slowed down' and saw first-hand how historical production practices can shape writing, teaching, and learning today. ♦



Rethinking environmental activism

Diego Arreola Fernández came to St. Michael's College as

a Lester B. Pearson Scholar with his vision and mission already in motion. As a founder of the nonprofit Green Speaking, Diego used his studies in international relations and economics to drive his activist network – designed to empower young people and inspire environmental change. He also joined U of T's advisory committee on environmental and climate change and went to the UN Plastics Treaty Negotiations in Geneva. ♦



Honouring Indigenous Aid during the Irish famine

An exhibit co-produced by St. Michael's College was displayed across high schools in the GTA, allowing high school students to learn the story of First Nations' generosity during the Irish Famine in 1847. Research by St. Michael's Professor Mark McGowan and Dr. Jason King of the Irish Heritage Trust was adapted to align with Ontario secondary school curriculum. ♦



Regis St. Michael's Commissioning Mass

Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology came together for their annual Commissioning Mass, an event that includes prayers for those who have completed their studies and are heading out into ministry. A total of 34 graduands were commissioned. The Mass was celebrated by Regis College Rector Fr. Michael Kolarcik, SJ in the St. Joseph Chapel at Regis. Before Mass began, Krista Holder (MAMS), Braeden MacKay (MA), Fr. Gustave Ineza (PhD) offered reflections from the graduating class to those assembled. ♦



Memory and Place: St. Michael's Student Showcase Celebrates the Donovan Collection

On February 25, the Donovan Collection Committee welcomed artist Linda Martinello (right) for an evening conversation with John Geoghegan (left), art historian and curator at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. The event explored Martinello's practice and the role of place in her work. The talk was accompanied by a one-night student art showcase in Carr Hall. ♦



Thomas Merton in the house

Dr. Michael Higgins, Distinguished Fellow delivered a lecture entitled *Merton for Our Time: A Model of Interculturality* to mark the donation to the Kelly Library of more than 500 items formerly housed in the Thomas Merton Reading Room at the Vancouver School of Theology. The collection includes published works by and about Thomas Merton, along with related scholarship and audiovisual materials, including recordings of talks Merton delivered to novices at Gethsemani in the 1960s. ♦



New Director of Communications Appointed

Andy Murdoch joined the University as Director of Communications in April bringing with him an extensive background in university communications and marketing, along with a deep commitment to the arts and humanities. He joins us from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he was Director of Strategic Communications. ♦



Ice-ing on the cake

Congratulations to **Stephen Gogolev**, a St. Mike's Political Science student and athlete who placed fifth in men's figure skating at the Milano-Cortina Olympic Games and fourth at the World Championships. Already among the world's elite, Gogolev's trajectory points not just to future podiums, but to redefining Canadian figure skating. ♦



Bringing game to medical research

Raphael Kwok sees a future in designing tools for medical science. This neuroscience major has integrated interactive media design into his life sciences degree, working on a memory aid app, a measurement tool for laparoscopic surgery, and 3D modelling gall bladders for surgical procedures. His game design approach puts audience, interaction, and human experience at the centre of scientific innovation. ♦



Undergraduate research moves beyond the classroom

This year's Undergraduate Research Colloquium showcased undergraduate research at St. Michael's, with an expanded format featuring more disciplines and conversations. The Student Union's Road to Research panel explored students' paths into research. ♦



Continuing Education: Hope in Action Speaker Series

The Hope in Action Speaker Series from St. Mike's Continuing Education is a free series of bold discussions with leaders and innovators. It examines how hope drives meaningful action amid social, cultural, and global issues, empowering participants to lead lasting positive change within their own communities. Learn more: uoft.me/hopeinaction ♦



That's what friends are for

Liz Gilbert, President of The Friends of the Kelly Library (FOTKL), joins Chief Librarian James Roussain and President David Sylvester in celebrating the FOTKL's \$100,000 commitment to endow a Special Collections Acquisitions Fund in honour of the University's 175th anniversary in 2027. The fund will support the

acquisition of rare and special materials that will enhance undergraduate learning. Since their founding in 2004, the Friends have raised more than \$500,000 through their annual book sales. The 2026 sale will take place from Wednesday, September 30, to Saturday, October 3, 2026. ♦



Brian O'Riordan Creates Endowed Award for Book and Media students

Brian O'Riordan (SMC 8T1) has established the Brian O'Riordan Student Award in Book and Media

Studies, an endowed award that will support future generations of students. The award provides financial assistance for the interdisciplinary study of books, media, and the history of communication. We are grateful for Brian's generosity and longstanding commitment to the BMS program. ♦



Nouwen Legacy Trust establishing a new endowment to support the Nouwen Collections

In May, we were honoured to announce the establishment of the **Henri J.M. Nouwen Archives Endowment**, a gift that will ensure support for the long-term care and stewardship of the internationally renowned

the Henri J. M. Nouwen Archives and Research Collection. Endowment earnings will fund special projects that preserve these important holdings and make them more accessible to researchers, students, and the wider public. We are deeply grateful to the Trustees of the Henri Nouwen Legacy Trust for their vision and generosity. To support this work, contact the Advancement Office at (416) 926-7281. ♦



Leadership Gift Supports Master of Psychospiritual Studies

We are delighted to recognize **Marianne Sciolino (SMC 7T3)** for making the inaugural

philanthropic gift in support of the Master of Psychospiritual Studies program at the Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology. Marianne made the first donation to the program, marking an important milestone in advancing its mission to prepare compassionate, thoughtful leaders for ministry and service in a complex world. ♦



Drive Change at St. Mike's Golf Classic 2026

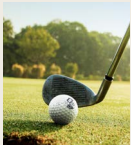
September 23, 2026 • Eagles Nest Golf Club

Get your clubs ready and join fellow alumni for one of the St. Mike's community's favourite annual traditions.

This year, we're once again aiming for 36 alumni foursomes to take over Eagles Nest Golf Club in a sea of double blue. Whether you're reconnecting with longtime friends or meeting fellow alumni for the first time, you'll enjoy a fantastic day of golf while supporting the student experience at the University of St. Michael's College.

Each foursome is \$1,800 and includes golf, meals, and hospitality. No foursome? No problem — we'll happily help match you with other alumni. Join us on the links.

To learn more, visit usmcgolfclassic.com



Mark Your Calendars

FALL 2026

September 23: St. Michael's Golf Classic at Eagles Nest Golf Club

September 30 to Saturday, October 3: Friends of the Kelly Library Annual Book Sale

September 29: Michaelmas Mass and Celebrations

October 16: The Dante Lecture

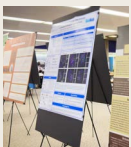
October: St. Michael's College Fall Convocation

November 13: The AI4W Conversation Series

November 14: Regis St. Michael's Convocation

November 22: Santa Claus Parade Event

December 9: Christmas Market



WINTER 2027

March 4 to 5: Undergraduate Colloquium at the John M. Kelly Library

For details on these and other upcoming events please visit stmikes.utoronto.ca.



Send Us Your News!



What's new?

We'd love to hear from you! Send your Bulletin Board updates to smc.alumni@utoronto.ca. High-res photos are encouraged.



Have you moved? Update your information through U of T's address update form: <https://bit.ly/4c5iWbt>



Northwest Gateway

A welcoming new entrance to campus

For generations of alumni, one of the defining characteristics of St. Michael's has been its campus. An oasis amidst the energy of downtown Toronto, it offers spaces to gather, reflect, enjoy nature, and consider life's larger questions.

The Northwest Gateway Project will enhance this experience by creating a distinctive sense of arrival. A new landscaped pathway will provide a beautiful and accessible entrance to campus, inviting students, alumni, and visitors into the heart of our community.

Alumni and friends are invited to shape the future of this cherished space through a contribution of \$2,000. Donor recognition will be incorporated into the pathway through engraved 8" x 16" pavers. Each stone may include a number of characters, allowing donors to honour their time at St. Mike's, celebrate a loved one, recognize a family name, or leave a message for future generations. ♦

Contact smc.annualfund@utoronto.ca to make a gift today.



ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE CONVOCATION

Congratulations, St. Mike's Class of 2T6

CONVOCATION KICKED OFF ON THURSDAY at noon with a Baccalaureate Mass in St. Basil's and continued into the evening with an academic awards ceremony (see pages 22-23 for the award winners). On Friday, June 12, a record-breaking 942 students crossed the stage at Convocation Hall. Our speakers were alumni Michael McCarthy (SMC 9T4), an accomplished information technology executive and advisor, and Filomena Tassi (USMC 0T4), a Canadian politician, lawyer, and former high school chaplain. After the ceremony, graduates took photos with loved ones, watched Canada play Bosnia and Herzegovina at the World Cup on the Front Campus, and came back to St. Mike's for a celebratory BBQ. We're so proud of you Class of 2T6 — we wish you the brightest of futures. Stay in touch! Hot tip: We interviewed new alumni for an advice series for incoming students — watch the reels on our Instagram account: www.instagram.com/ustmikes ♦

Photos: Sheila Eaton





HONOURS

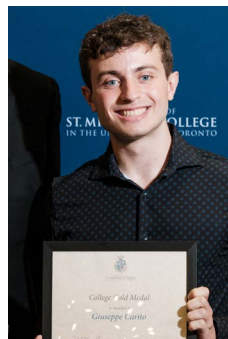
A Season of Awards

On the eve of the St. Michael's Faculty of Arts and Science Convocations, St. Michael's hosted its academic awards ceremony to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Class of 2026 in academics, service and leadership.
View all awards recipients at uoft.me/2026-awards



Governor General Silver Medal

Giuseppe Carito was this year's Governor General Silver Medal nominee, awarded to the graduating student who achieved the highest academic standing upon graduation from a bachelor's degree program. ♦



College Gold Medals

The College Gold Medals were awarded to graduating students with the highest cumulative grade point average in Arts, Science, and Commerce. This year's winners, from left, were Madelaine Kukovica (Honours Bachelor of Arts), Giuseppe Carito (Honours Bachelor of Science), and Hannah Wang (Bachelor of Commerce). ♦

HONOURS



Academic Excellence Medals

The Academic Excellence Medals were introduced this year to recognize students who achieved an exceptionally high degree of academic excellence throughout their time at St. Michael's. This year's recipients were Rahim Karim Kassam-Suleman, Hasan Zeb Khan, Raphael Chin Hei Kwok, and Haoyang Lyu. ♦



Academic Achievement Awards

The Academic Achievement Awards were presented to graduating students in each of the Faculty of Arts and Science study streams and St. Michael's sponsored programs. This year's winners were Yuchen Wang (Computer Science), Madelaine Kukovica (Humanities), Giuseppe Carito (Life Science), Justus Croskery and Yiyang Lu (Math and Physical Sciences), Hannah Wang (Rotman Commerce), and Aleema Latif and Henry Paluch (Social Sciences). Winners from the College's sponsored programs were Vivian Zhi (Book & Media Studies), Joseph Pontisso (Christianity & Culture), and Katie McBain (Celtic Studies and Medieval Studies). ♦

Photos: Aiden Fung

Alberto and Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni Centro Scuola Scholarship

Valentina Marianna Cucchi

The Sir Bertram C.A. Windle Graduate Scholarship

Michelle Wong

Ambassador of Switzerland Book Prize in French

Madelaine Kukovica

The Khoury Memorial Fund Award in Medicine

Giuseppe Carito

Fr. Henry Carr, CSB Award

Sariha Dewan
Ethan Lopez

Marina Santin Award

Sariha Dewan

Mercier-Knowlton Prize for Philosophy in Christianity and Culture

Joseph Pontisso

James O'Brien 5T0 Book Prize

Bridget Bowles

W.B. Dunphy Medal

Emily Hospedales

USMC Young Alumni Award

Sariha Dewan
Thomas Gillespie

2026 Alumni Year Representatives Awards

Sariha Dewan
Tyler De Vera
Thomas Gillespie
Madelaine Kukovica
Ethan Lopez
Katie McBain
Michelle Wong
Cameron Wright

Fr. H.B. Gardner, CSB Campus Ministry Community Life Awards

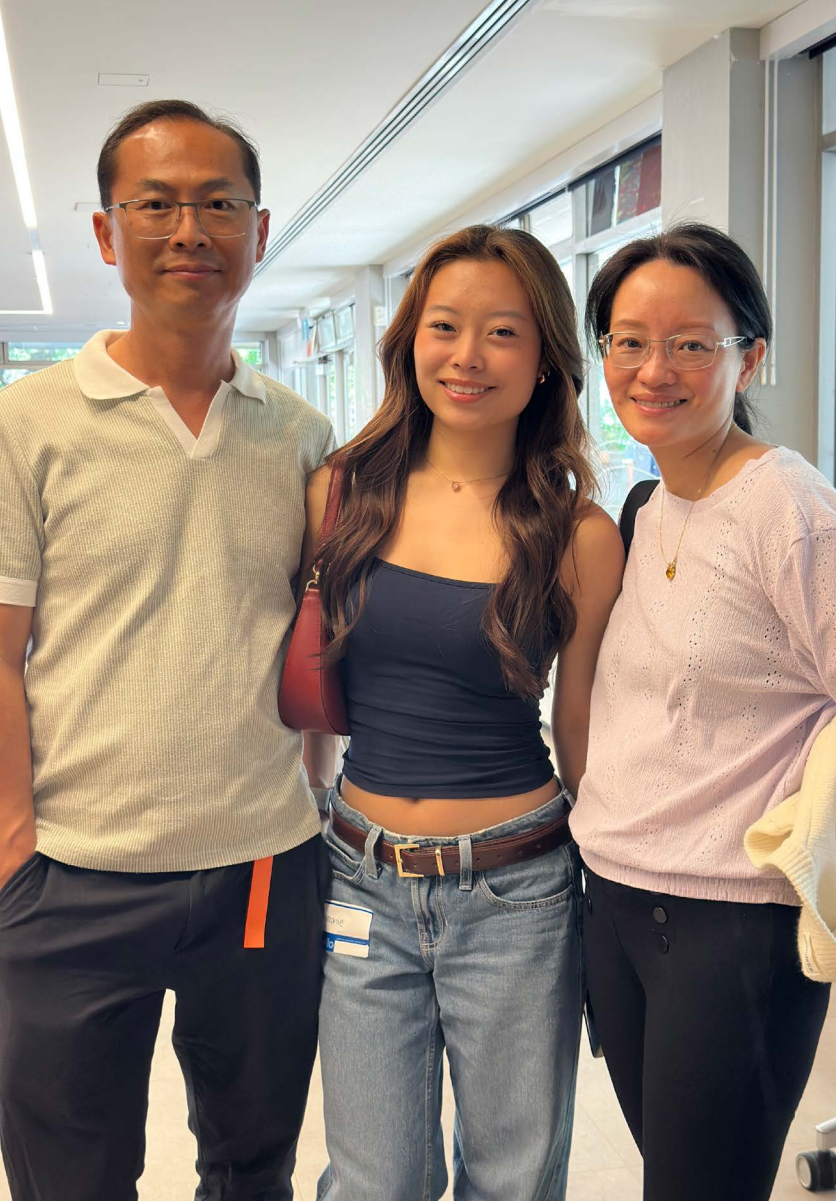
Bridget Bowles
Justus Croskery
Thomas Gillespie
Emily Hospedales

The Principal's Medal

Madelaine Kukovica

Fr. Robert Madden, CSB Leadership Awards

Giuseppe Carito
Justus Croskery
Sariha Dewan
Thomas Gillespie
Lucia Harley
Madelaine Kukovica
Ethan Lopez
Sara Moretto
Christina Shnaider
Sun Sur
Cameron Wright
Michelle Wong
Hoi Ting Wu ♦





WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST STUDENTS

Meet St. Mike's Class of 3T0

ST. MIKE'S WELCOME DAY RAISED the bar on hospitality at the University of Toronto this year. We welcomed over 430 incoming students onto campus to prepare for their first year. There were essential sessions on finances, degree and course requirements, and a parent's only session on helping kids transition to university life. Between the campus tours, residence visits, boxed lunches, and a resource fair, there was plenty of time to mingle and meet fellow newcomers. Welcome Day is a critically important first step for new students at St. Mike's: a chance to ground themselves so they can start first year confidently. It's part of our spirit of community care — all St. Mike's grads should recognize it — we support our students from the moment they're accepted to the day they graduate. Reel time tip: We interviewed incoming students about their expectations for year one — watch them on our Instagram account: www.instagram.com/ustmikes ♦

Photos: Sheila Eaton



Remembering St. Mike's Western Year



BY JILLIAN KASTER, CONTENT SPECIALIST, COMMUNICATIONS

For the students who lived it, the Western Year was more than a bridge between high school and university. It was a first taste of freedom, a crash course in independence, and for many, the beginning of a lifelong connection to St. Michael's College. ¶ Running from the 1930s until its final cohort in 1971, the Western Year was designed for out-of-province students who would not have completed Ontario's Grade 13, a requirement to be eligible for university admission. Western Year students were grouped together, attended classes mainly on the St. Mike's campus, and took courses across disciplines in preparation for their undergraduate degrees. Standards were high, acceptance to the Western Year did not guarantee a spot in the University of Toronto's bachelor's degree program, and students would have had to earn a qualifying grade point average to continue. ¶ In his recollections, Father Robert Madden, CSB indicated that credit for the Western Year was given by the University of Western Ontario, at least in the early years. This likely explains how the program came to be known as the Western Year.



"We were this group of 100 people who were all very friendly and welcoming," recalls **Marie-Elena Deeney (née Barresi) (SMC 6T8)** who entered the Western Year in 1964. "We all seemed to be really interested in learning right from the start. Since our classes were small, we really got to know each other, and it didn't take long before I felt that this was where I was meant to be."



"We were 17- and 18-year-olds who were suddenly on our own in a large university and getting to know each other made us feel secure," said **Mary Kay Brennan (SMC 7T5)**, who was a part of the final 1971 cohort.



Jo Ann and Rui Figueiredo with Father Madden at their wedding, and years later, Rui with Father Madden, who officiated his daughter's wedding.

Jo Ann Figueiredo (SMC 7T5) who was a part of the 1971-72 Western year adds, "right from the start, St. Mike's integrated us into its residences, its common spaces, and its buildings. I enjoyed it thoroughly. It was magical. I had never had so much freedom in my life. For some it was too much freedom, but I found my niche in the library, and I took seriously what I was doing."

For many students, the Western Year meant navigating real independence for the first time. "All of a sudden I had all this freedom," said **Rui Figueiredo (SMC 7T6)**, of the 1970-71 cohort. "Figuring out how much time to leave for studying was hard. And then there were a lot of distractions, like hanging around the Coop."

Keeping a watchful eye over it all was Father Madden who taught English and oversaw the program. "My father arranged for Father Madden to meet me at the airport," said Rui. "He was always around and would come to the pubs or the Coop. He helped me whenever I had any questions." Father Madden remained a presence in the Figueiredos' lives: he married Rui and Jo Ann in 1977, baptized their two oldest daughters and later officiated their weddings.



Anita E. De Ruiter (née Gervin) (SMC 6T5), Marsha Blevins, Lynn Ann Cianci (née Eby) (SMC 6T5), and Crystal Helms (SMC 6T5): "Loretto Ladies" off to a Beatnik Party.

The program drew students primarily from the northeastern United States, with word spreading largely through the Basilian Fathers. "I heard good things from a neighbor about what a great experience it was, and I thought going to a foreign country seemed like a big adventure," said **Crystal Helms (SMC 6T5)**, student of the 1961-62 Western Year class.

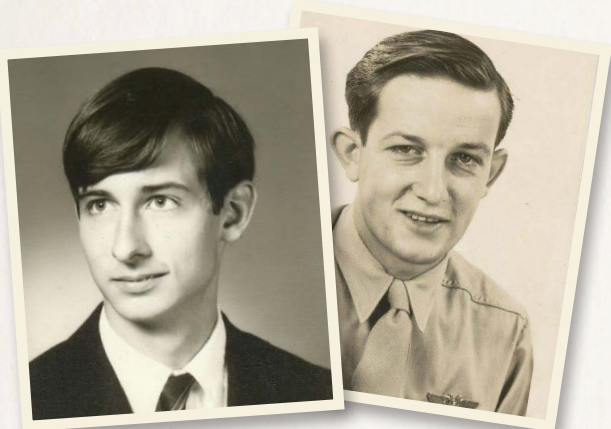


Harley Griffiths (UTSC 1971), Ray Shady (SMC 7T1), Michael Mulroy (SMC 7T1) and Joe Kunz.

Rochester, New York became one of the strongest feeder cities, thanks to its deep Basilian ties. "A lot of the guys in years ahead of me, even at my Jesuit high school, went up to St. Mike's and would report back about how wonderful their experience was," said **Ray Shady (SMC 7T1)**, who entered the Western Year in 1966 and went on to earn his Honours Bachelor of English, MA, and PhD from the University of Toronto.

By the 1960s, the program had received international attention. A 1963 issue of *Time* magazine described St. Michael's College as the "best of both worlds," offering American Catholics "the intellectual stimulus and ample curriculum of a major secular university plus the religious spirit of a Catholic college."

Time published a subsequent article in 1968 with the headline 'St. Mike's discovered Marshall McLuhan 20 years before you did'. By all accounts, St. Mike's delivered on every word. Jo Ann Figueiredo recalls sitting in on one of Marshall McLuhan's lectures. "It was stunning to sit there and know that this person, known around the world, was giving us this lecture and expecting us to understand it. It showed how young we were, and yet we were in this very sophisticated place."



Edward O'Connor (left) provided this photo of his father, John O'Connor who volunteered for the Army Air Force after completing his Western Year.

The University of Toronto's extraordinary academic reputation persuaded two generations of the O'Connor family to enrol in the Western program: **John O'Connor** in 1941-42 and his son Edward in 1970-71. These years were coincidentally both marked by foreign conflicts, and the Western Year had become known as a haven from the drafts happening south of the border. **Edward O'Connor (SMC 7T6)** recalled his father John spent his Western Year at St. Mike's from 1941-42 and was in Toronto for the attack on Pearl Harbor. At the end of the academic year, he volunteered for the Army Air Force, flying 35 missions over Europe as a belly gunner in a B-24. He went on to complete his education at Temple University in Philadelphia.

When it was Edward's turn to select post-secondary education, he was influenced by his father's fond memories of the Western Year and selected St. Michael's for its fine English literature program. At the time, the Vietnam War was still raging, and many Americans had moved to Toronto to avoid being drafted.

"I met several people who were draft resisters, it was a part of the atmosphere. For years afterwards, when people learned I was in Canada during the Vietnam War they would ask if I was a draft resister, but that wasn't the case for me. I had ended up drawing a high draft number, so I never needed to worry about being called up," said Edward.

"When I was at St. Michael's, I was surprised to learn that there were a significant number of others like that in the early 40s as well, when my father attended," he said.



Edward Ehmann (SMC 6T3) and Larry Barber (SMC 6T2) on the House 1 Steps.

Edward Ehmann (SMC 6T3), who joined the 1958-59 Western Year from a suburb of Rochester, remembers the excitement of discovering a big city for the first time. "It was a very cosmopolitan town. There was a lot to do, a lot to see, a lot of restaurants. I didn't have an automobile, so I got around mostly by walking or taking the streetcar," he said.



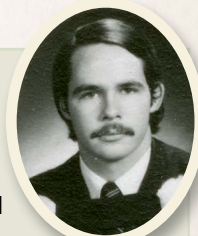
As Westerners settled into residence life, the mix of mainly American and Canadian students made for a lively dynamic. "The American students were louder and more boisterous, and the Canadians were shyer and more reserved," said

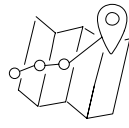
Mike Dobmeier (SMC 6T8), of the 1964-65 cohort. "But it was a good mix. When you're living together, you get to know people on a personal basis and realize that stereotypes may have some truth, but there's so much more to people than stereotypes." Helms put it more simply, "We were the chatty Americans, but we got on well with our Canadian counterparts."

For those who made it through, the Western Year was a rite of passage unlike any other. As Shady reflected, "I felt every single one of my classmates was more qualified to be there than I was. And yet there we were, this small core group of kids at the heart of a world-class institution." ♦

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MIKE DUGAN

The late **Mike Dugan (SMC 7T1)**, Western Year, left a lasting imprint on St. Michael's and far beyond it. Entering Western Year in 1958, Dugan later returned in 1986, recording reflections that capture both change and enduring belonging. His words — "Having left this place once, you can never really come back. Yet, having been here once, you can never really leave" — have become a touchstone for alumni. ♦





FROM ALUMNI & ADVANCEMENT

Returning Across the Park



BY LISA GLEVA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADVANCEMENT

EVERY YEAR AT ALUMNI REUNION, something remarkable happens at St. Michael's. When people return to the place that shaped them, the years seem to disappear. Old friends reconnect effortlessly. Stories are retold. Alumni walk familiar paths, remembering not only what they studied here, but who they became here. That is part of the enduring power of St. Michael's.

For 174 years, this has been a place where the formation of the whole person has been as important as academic achievement. Alumni speak about inspiring professors, lifelong friendships, priests and sisters who offered guidance, late-night conversations that challenged their thinking, and a community that encouraged them to look beyond themselves toward the common good.

These experiences become part of who we are—and they do not end at graduation.

One of the privileges of my work is hearing stories from alumni decades after they crossed the Convocation stage. What strikes me most is that they rarely speak of St. Michael's as a school they once attended. They speak of it as a community to which they still belong.

Long before any of us arrived, others nurtured the community we inherited. That sense of belonging is one of the great gifts of this place. Now it is our turn to ensure that future generations inherit a community where they, too, can flourish.

This summer marks the beginning of the Northwest Gateway project, the first initiative of St. Michael's new Campus and Landscape Plan. More than a beautiful



entrance to campus, it is an opportunity to make visible something that has always been true of St. Michael's: our community has been shaped by generations of people who cared deeply about its future.

The engraved border stones along the new pathway have already inspired remarkable participation from alumni across decades and across borders. Their support is a reminder that while our

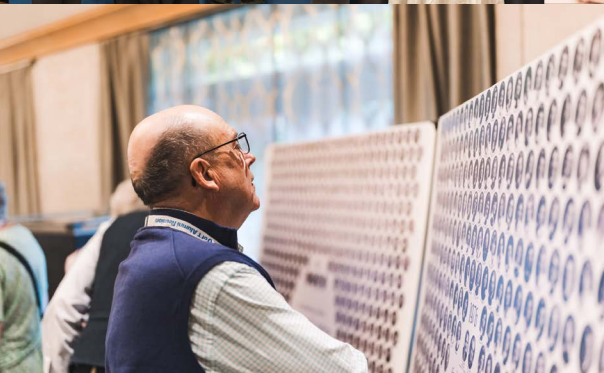
campus continues to evolve, the bonds formed here endure.

When the stones are unveiled in 2027, they will represent far more than donor recognition. Together, they will tell the story of a community sustained by gratitude, generosity, friendship, and shared purpose. They will remind future students that this place did not simply happen — it was built, nurtured, and strengthened by those who came before them.

In that sense, Reunion is about more than returning to St. Michael's. It is about recognizing that each of us is part of a story that stretches across generations — and that we all have a role in shaping the chapters still to come. ♦



Leave your mark at the Northwest Gate with an engraved brick. Reserve yours today. To contribute, please contact the Advancement Office at (416) 926-7281.





ALUMNI REUNION

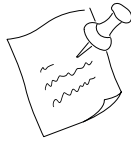
Coming Home to St. Mike's



EVERY YEAR OUR ALUMNI FEEL that inner pull to return to St. Mike's. For one weekend each Spring, they indulge in nostalgia with old friends, reconnect with one another about careers and families, and take part in discussions on St. Mike's future. This year, Larry Cimino (SMC 7T3) chaired the St. Mike's Reunion Committee. They programmed an action-packed weekend, with tours, a BBQ, trivia and pub nights, and a get together for Western Year alumni. Lectures focused on volunteerism, with a keynote by Laura Syron (SMC 8T8), President and CEO of Diabetes Canada, as well as a panel discussion on purposeful volunteering by Evangeline Cowie (SMC 2T3), Audrey Ferrer (SMC 9T8), Lorraine Green (SMC 6T2) and Jacqueline De Gagné (SMC 8T5). Our awards banquet recognized five outstanding alumni: Victoria Marianchuk (SMC 1T3), Paul Gregory (SMC 8T8), Lela Pacitti-Sander (SMC 1T5), Annamaria Enenajor (SMC 0T6), and Fr. Dr. Matthew Durham (SMC 1To, USMC 1T7). View the Reunion photos on our alumni Flickr account: <https://bit.ly/4wMgSNm> ♦

Photos: Jason Wang (SMC 2T6)





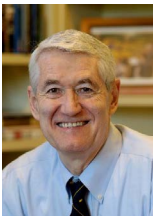
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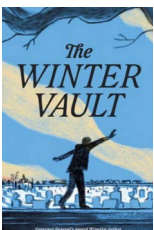


The Wetzel family has a cherished tradition of including St. Mike's in their holiday celebrations each year. Three brothers—**John (SMC 6T2)**, **Tom (SMC 6T5)**, and **William (SMC 6T9)**, all proud alumni—gather annually to mark the season together. ♦



Robert J. Birgeneau (SMC 6T3) has been inducted into the Order of St. Michael. Dr. Birgeneau is an internationally distinguished physicist. He served as the 14th President

of the University of Toronto, and the ninth chancellor of the University of California Berkeley. Under his leadership, Berkeley became the first university in the U.S. to offer comprehensive financial aid to undocumented students and the first public university to provide significant financial aid to middle-class students. ♦



Michael Bedard (SMC 7T1) announces the release of his new novel, *The Winter Vault*. An award-winning author of books for young adults and children, and recipient of the Governor General's

Literary Award (1990), Bedard also served as a librarian at Kelly Library.

Inspired by the historic Winter Vault in St. Michael's Cemetery — Toronto's oldest Catholic cemetery near Yonge and St. Clair — the novel weaves together fiction and local Catholic history. ♦



Mark McGuire (SMC 7T1) has retired from health care research and advocacy. His many career accomplishments include securing on-going Ontario

funding for community health centres serving sicker low-income urban areas and towns, and research that contributed to ending logging's continued mercury poisoning on Grassy Narrows' traditional lands. ♦



Irena R. Makaryk (SMC 7T4), Distinguished University Professor, University of Ottawa, was inducted into the Royal Society of Canada in November 2025. The previous year, she had been

elected an Honorary Academician, Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Her most recent book, *Shakespeare in Ukraine: Mirror, Prism, Megaphone*, was published in 2025 by the University of Toronto Press. ♦



Antonia Serrao Soppelsa (SMC 7T7) has been keeping busy after retirement with her blog www.somewhereyouve.neverbeen.com where

she shares her experiences, feelings and discoveries as she journeys to

untraveled places in Italy. Tonia also serves as Director of Cultural Events for the Italian Contemporary Film Festival and recently began hosting the podcast *Bits and Bites on Italian Cinema... & Other Stuff* where she explores how film connects to culture, identity, history and life itself. ♦



Congratulations to **Jacqueline De Gagné (SMC 8T5)**, recipient of the BLG Stephen Sigurdson Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2026 Canadian General Counsel Awards. The

award recognizes Jacqueline's 30-year legacy at Bayer as a trusted advisor to boards and executive leadership, a mentor to countless lawyers, and a champion for inclusive leadership throughout her career. ♦



Congratulations to **Victor Dodig (SMC 8T8)** who began his new role as President & CEO of TELUS Corp. beginning on July 1, 2026. Victor recently retired as President & CEO of CIBC after more than 11 years as "Captain of the CIBC Team" and a quarter century with the CIBC family. He and his wife Maureen enjoy splitting their time between Toronto and Vancouver while their four children are currently working in the US, all pursuing the early stages of their respective careers. ♦



Eleanor McGrath (SMC 8T9) returned to school in fall 2025 to pursue a Master's in History through the Tri-University Graduate Program at the University of Guelph.

Having completed her first year, she describes the experience as both challenging and deeply rewarding — marked by a welcoming campus community, new friendships, and the guidance of outstanding professors and librarians. Eleanor's return to graduate studies is a wonderful reflection of the spirit of lifelong learning that defines so many St. Mike's alumni, as she continues to explore areas of history that resonate personally and intellectually.



Mike Kuiack (SMC 8T9) and **Andy Smith (SMC 9T0)**. Friendships formed at St. Mike's have a remarkable way of enduring. A group of friends who first met decades ago while living in Fisher House residence remain closely connected to this day. Over the years, they have stayed in touch and continue to make time to be together — including a recent visit between two of them for a walk along the seawall in Stanley Park. It's a meaningful reminder that the relationships built at St. Mike's often last a lifetime. ♦



Catherine McKenna (SMC 9T4) has been named to Reuters' 2026 Trailblazing Women in Climate list, recognizing her leadership as chair of the UN Secretary-General's Expert Group

on Net Zero Commitments and founder of Women Leading on Climate. She will also join the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy as a Distinguished Fellow and serve on the Advisory Committee of the Lawson Climate Institute, continuing her impact in global climate leadership. ♦



Flavio Volpe (SMC 9T7), president of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association, was among this year's Order of Canada honourees, recognized

for his leadership in advancing Canada's automotive sector and mobilizing industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. He was also appointed to Prime Minister Carney's federal Advisory Committee on Canada-U.S. Economic Relations. ♦



Congratulations to **Mike Boon (SMC 9T8)**, whose podcast *Toronto Mike'd* won a Canadian Podcast Award for Outstanding News & Current Affairs Series. ♦



Janet Loo (9T9), shown here with Brendan Browne, St. Mike's Collegium member and CEO of the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), was recently

recognized with an Alumni Award from the TCDSB in honour of her contributions to Catholic education, the Church, and the broader community. A proud alumna of TCDSB schools, Janet credits these formative experiences with grounding her lifelong commitment to faith and service. ♦



Christina Wong's (SMC 0T3) debut novel *Denison Avenue* selected by the U of T Alumni Virtual Book Club. Set in Toronto's Chinatown the story follows the life of a

grieving widow navigating personal tragedy and witnessing the gentrification of the neighbourhood she has long called home. ♦



Justin Towndale (SMC 0T7) had the privilege of attending the Truth and Reconciliation Day commemorations in both Akwesasne and Cornwall. ♦



Congratulations to **Mike McNeil (SMC 1T0)** on his appointment as CEO of HealthCraft Group. Mike's path to HealthCraft was influenced by time spent with his grandparents

— and the experience of witnessing firsthand how aging, and the risk of falls, can change a life in an instant. Following Regenerative Capital Group's acquisition of the Ottawa-based company, Mike will lead its mission to develop innovative fall-prevention and aging-in-place solutions that help Canadians live safely and independently. ♦



Sara Franca (SMC 1T1) is one of this year's Bravo Award winners. As Director of Alumni & Donor Engagement in the Faculty of Arts & Science, she approaches her work

with genuine appreciation for colleagues and the institution's mission. Her thoughtful recognition of others — especially during times of transition — helps strengthen team morale and fosters a culture rooted in gratitude, collaboration, and shared achievement across the community, uplifting those around her every day. ♦



Ezi Odozor (SMC 1T2) announces the release of *And Sometimes There Are Tears*, the second book in the innovative new series *In Words of Our Own: Black Women and Being*,

co-authored by Odozor, Dr. Janelle Brady, and Njoke N. Wane. The book is currently available for preorder and will be released in August 2026. ♦



Minh Cao (SMC 1T7) is embarking on an exciting next chapter after years in Vietnam's tech startup and innovation sector.

He will pursue an MBA at Stanford Graduate School of Business and an MPP at Harvard Kennedy School, with plans to return home to advance innovation and help shape fair, inclusive, and responsible technology policy. ♦



Dr. Adam DaCosta Gomes (SMC 2T1) has earned his Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD, Honours) from the University of Toronto and is now officially registered as a

pharmacist in Canada. This milestone marks the culmination of his academic achievements and the beginning of his professional career in pharmacy. ♦



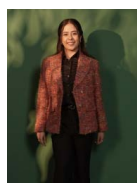
Amir Aminlari (SMC 2T4) proudly announces the successful completion of the Level III CFA examination, marking the culmination of a rigorous and rewarding

journey. Grateful appreciation is extended to family and friends for their steadfast support throughout the process. ♦



Anita Rajkumar SMC 2T4) was honoured to receive the 2026 Student IMPACT Award from the Institute of Medical Science at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of

Toronto. She is grateful for the opportunities to contribute to the IMS community and help foster a more inclusive, supportive, and equitable academic environment. ♦



TAs Growth Director at Grover Bespoke, **Paavni Grover (SMC 2T4)** represents the fourth generation of a 64-year tailoring legacy. A Master's graduate from London

Business School, she leads the brand's expansion, strategic partnerships, and digital transformation. ♦



At the U of T Drama Festival hosted by Hart House from February 25–28, the **SMC**

Troubadours

received two of the festival's most prestigious honours. Emi Sunahara-Meadows earned the Donald Sutherland Award for Best Performance for her role in *Harlow's Rhesus Monkey*, while Mashreka Mahmood took home the Robertson Davies Playwriting Award for the production. ♦

Send Us Your News!



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



Have you moved? Update your information through U of T's address update form: <https://bit.ly/4c5iWbt>

Rest in Peace

We acknowledge the passing in recent months of the following alumni who graduated from St. Michael's in the class years shown here.

1940s

Mr. John J. Broderick, (SMC 4T8)

1950s

Mrs. Kathleen E. Fitzgibbons, (SMC 5T0)

Mr. Robert J. A. Gallivan, (SMC 5T1)

Mrs. Ruth F. McGrath, (SMC 5T1)

Sister Marie Lanthier, (SMC 5T1)

Mrs. Theresa L. Duffy, (SMC 5T3)

Mrs. MarySue A. McCarthy, (SMC 5T4)

Mr. Jerome Godin, (SMC 5T4)

Mr. Michael G Dwyer, (SMC 5T4)

Mr. Pierre D. B. Taillon, (SMC 5T5)

Ms. Gloria M. E. Cormack, (SMC 5T5)

The Hon. Mr. Justice Hugh M. O'Connell, (SMC 5T5)

Dr. Gregory Brown, (SMC 5T5)

Mr. James R. Hugo, (SMC 5T6)

Mrs. Beth Willoughby, (SMC 5T6)

Mr. Gerald R. Earle, (SMC 5T7)

Sister Maria Heinrich, (SMC 5T7)

Rev. Joseph T. Walsh CSB, (SMC 5T8)

Sister Celima Lindsay, (SMC 5T8)

Mr. William B. Kinsley, (SMC 5T8)

The Hon. Mr. Justice Charles E. J. Purvis, (SMC 5T8)

1960s

Mrs. Jane L. Cornwall, (SMC 6T1)

Mr. Tom Thomas, (SMC 6T1)

Mr. Hugh R. J. Marks, (SMC 6T2)

Mr. Ted J. Krawchuk, (SMC 6T2)

Mrs. Gisele S. M. Elliott, (SMC 6T3)

Mr. William G. Fisher, (SMC 6T3)

Dr. Carole M. J. Sinclair, (SMC 6T3)

Mr. Barry E. M. McDermott, (SMC 6T4)

Sister Rosemary Albion, (SMC 6T6)

Mr. Brian G. Cranley, (SMC 6T7)

Mrs. Lillian Blakey, (SMC 6T8)

1970s

Mr. Peter J. Brown, (SMC 7T0)

Dr. John E. Lundy, (SMC 7T0)

Mr. Yaroslaw Zajac, (SMC 7T1)

Mr. Marcello Tanzini, (SMC 7T2)

Mr. Michael W. Price, (SMC 7T3)

Mr. Gordon Zakrzewski, (SMC 7T4)

Mr. Sam Marinucci, (SMC 7T5)

Ms. Angela Conetta, (SMC 7T5)

Mr. Raymond H. Kulig, (SMC 7T6)

Ms. Gayle E. Duchene, (SMC 9T8)

Mr. Nino G. Santangelo, (SMC 7T9)

1980s

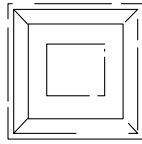
Ms. Catherine L. Boote, (SMC 8T1)

Mr. Stephen A. Jowett, (SMC 8T2)

2000s

John Louis Esposito, D.S. Litt. (SMC 0T9)

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



THE DONOVAN COLLECTION

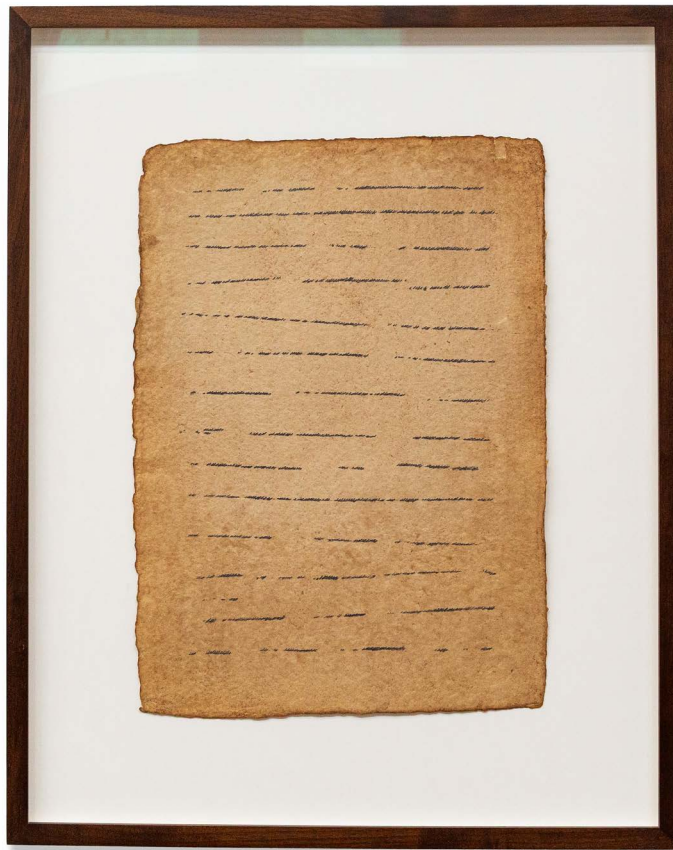
Mark-making



BY JAMES ROUSSAIN, WILLIAM D. SHARPE CHIEF LIBRARIAN AND DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND CHAIR, DONOVAN COLLECTION COMMITTEE

TIM WHITEN'S *Passages from the Book of Light (listening and seeing) III* (2014), the Donovan Collection's newest acquisition, offers itself with remarkable restraint. At first glance, it can seem spare: a single sheet of paper, marked by faint graphite lines that look almost like writing, though they never fully resolve into something we can read. But that uncertainty is part of the experience. Whiten asks us to pause, to look again, and to consider how meaning is sometimes felt before it is understood.

The title points to light, listening, and seeing, suggesting that this work is as much about perception as it is about image. The marks on the page resemble fragments of language or memory: traces of thought, speech, or prayer that remain just beyond our grasp. Rather than offering a message outright, the piece



invites reflection. It creates a space where silence matters, where ambiguity is not a problem to be solved but something to sit with.

There is a contemplative quality to the work that feels especially resonant in a university setting. It reminds us that learning is not always immediate or clear. Sometimes it begins in careful attention, in openness, and in the willingness to stay with mystery a little longer.

Tim Whiten (b. 1941) is an American-born, Toronto-based artist working across drawing,

sculpture, performance, and multimedia installation. Over a career spanning more than five decades, his work has explored ritual, transformation, and the unseen dimensions of human experience.

Passages from the Book of Light (listening and seeing) III is installed in the John M. Kelly Library. ♦

Tim Whiten, "Passages from the Book of Light (listening and seeing) III", Graphite on paper, 19.5" x 14.5" paper / 29" x 23" framed, 2014.



An endowment fund has been established to generate funds that will support the ongoing care and maintenance of The Donovan Collection. To contribute, please contact the [Advancement Office](#) at (416) 926-7281.

Image courtesy of the artist and Olga Korper Gallery.



STAY IN TOUCH

What's new? We'd love to hear about you! Send your updates to smc.alumniaffairs@utoronto.ca. High-res photos are encouraged.

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