Not only did the Bombers Win the Grey Cup but our own soccer team took the intramurals this Fall!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapel Service – Every Monday and Tuesday 12.15pm, College Chapel

All The Kings Men – 1st Sunday of the Month at 7pm, College Chapel

Food for the Journey – Saturday, 18th January 9am with Jade Weimer

Lunch & Lively Conversation – Wednesday, 19th February with Dale Barbour – Walking the Red and Assiniboine Rivers

Marjorie Ward Lecture – 5th March at 4.30pm in the Robert Schultz Lecture Theatre – Professor Joan Sangster, author of 100 Years of Struggle

Music Competition – Thursday, 26th March; 3.30pm, College Chapel

Journey into Passiontide – Sunday, 5th April, 3pm, College Chapel

The Great Vigil of Easter – Saturday, 11th April, 8.30pm in the Chapel

For more information on these and other events held at the College please call Amy at 204-474-9612.
Warden’s Word!

Meeting and Greeting Alumni in Toronto.

Being the Thirteenth Epistle by Christopher Trott

Over the past six months the College has suffered the loss of three Fellows who have been important in the life of the College over the course of its recent history: John Wortley, “Wally” Fox-Decent and Lance Roberts. For those of us working at the College we felt the loss of Lance Roberts most keenly since he was still an active Fellow.

With the death of these Fellows as well as the retirement of the cohort of Fellows that led the College through the sea-change years of the 1960’s and 1970’s we can sense that we are in a period of transition. Of course, institutions like the College go through cycles of changes on a regular basis. Our students move through the College in four-year cycles (actually it is longer than that for many, especially those who go on to professional degrees) so one of the features we have to deal with is continually teaching new student councils. Our Visiting Fellows are here for a maximum of seven years as they complete their doctorates or work their way into their first jobs. Senior Fellows tend to be here for the long haul – I have now been at the College for eighteen years!

We all resist change and all of us want to remember the College as being the same place that it was when we first came to the College. We sometimes hear from alumni how disappointed they are that things that are part of their fondest memories no longer happen at the College whether they be wearing gowns, required attendance at Chapel, canoe races. Yet, I think one of St John’s real strengths has been its ability to change and adapt to the times. If we read Prof. Bumsted’s history of the College he talks about how the College has continually reinvented itself.

We now have a half-time Chaplain – more chaplaincy hours than we have had in 30 years. There are services every Monday and Tuesday at 12.15pm. Attendance is small and growing, but those who attend really want to be there and want to participate. We now offer three accredited theology courses a year. We are providing the contextual training for priests, deacons and lay people to minister in this Diocese. Our residence is full and we have a waiting list. There are as many hijinks as there were in your day there, but, as in your day it is best not to talk about many of them. Our day students fill our carrel rooms, take advantage of our writing tutors at a higher rate than elsewhere in the University, and continue to win the top prizes across the various disciplines.

This Convocation issue brings this into sharp focus. We celebrate those from our past who have reached milestones since their graduations and are the memory keepers of the College. We celebrate our honorary degree recipients, Don Proch and Flora Beardy, who have made valuable contributions to the community in ways that uphold the values of the College. We celebrate our graduating and current students who uphold our traditions and stretch us to work in new ways.

Plus ça change …
The reasons that we hold convocation on All Saints Day may be an historical accident—a story best told elsewhere—but also seem to me to be providential. I can’t think of many feast days better suited to mark the principal gathering of a community like St John’s College. On All Saints Day we are reminded of the saints recognized by the faithful throughout Christian history. We consider the saints, not as superheroes who have done the impossible, but as everyday, imperfect folks, just like you and me. They are ordinary Christians who have managed extraordinary displays of the grace and love of God in their lives. These extraordinary showings of grace and love are recognized by their communities and held up as examples. Examples of what is possible when humanity fearlessly takes up God’s offer of abundant blessing and shares it with the world. Christian life is often described as a race: an athletic effort toward a finish line. The founders and benefactors of St John’s College saw a need for education in this part of the world and believed strongly that education is best accomplished in a community; they believed that the race should be run as a relay rather than a competition. There are many blessings that come from living in a community. There is the blessing of living surrounded by loving and supportive people. There is the blessing of being seen and known and having the opportunity to cultivate deep relationships with other people. There is the blessing of being called to tasks which demand one’s fullest effort and push one’s limits. There is the blessing of plenty of failures which remind one that this race cannot be finished without assistance. And here is where the saints come in. All Saints Day is not a reminder of a distant group of superhuman runners waiting to grudgingly add one or two of us to their ranks. No, it is a reminder to look up from our own feet as we run and see the multitude of saints lining the racecourse. They cheer us on, offer us water when thirsty, and help us to our feet when we stumble and fall. Because when the saints look at us, they see us as their community, their communion. They see us at our very best and witness the extraordinary displays of Godly grace and love that we show forth in our own lives day by day. This day, and always, for all the saints of St John’s College, thanks be to God.

It’s been busy in the Chapel!

Food for the Journey is an event organized by St John’s College to explore faith and spirituality. The first Fall Food for the Journey was held October 26 with The Revd Andrew Rampton speaking on “Queer, Quaint, Quarrelsome; The Surprising Saints of the Church”. On November 26th, Elder Dr Ellen Cook and Dr Jane Barter led us in a discussion about the National Inquiry’s Report: “Thinking as Church about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women”.

Chaplain’s Corner

All Saints Day at St John’s College with Rev. Andrew Rampton
153rd Convocation 2019
Celebrating with our alumni on the anniversary of their graduation!

Robin Mather, Janet Schubert, Sandra Millen and Bruce Kirk are all celebrating their 50th graduation anniversary! We are glad they could join us and share some stories from their time at the College.

George Baldwin is a graduate of 1959 and he too has many stories of the College to share!

Two honorary degrees were awarded:

The degree of Doctor of Canon Law (honoris causa) was conferred on Flora Beardy, presented by Dr. Robert Coutts. Dr. Beardy gave the Convocation address sharing with all her life journey and how important one’s language is to developing respect for self.

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF – DON’T EVER GIVE UP,
Dr. Flora Beardy

The degree of Doctor of Canon Law (honoris causa) was conferred on Don Proch, presented by Senator Patricia Bovey.

Inset: Chief Constant LeRoy brought greetings from Treaty 5 territory and reminded us all “to think of us when you have warmth and light and what we had to go through”
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES, SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY AWARD WINNERS

Lisa shared her experiences of being a part of St John’s College during the What St John’s College Means to Me portion of the lunch.

“COMING IN WITH A PRECONCEIVED NOTION OF WHAT AN ANGLICAN “CHRISTIAN COLLEGE” SHOULD BE, I WAS IN FOR A WONDERFUL SURPRISE, WHICH NOT ONLY CHANGED AND SHAPED MY VIEW, BUT HAS ALSO HELPED ME TO HAVE AN ENTIRELY NEW APPROACH TO THE WORLD.”

Lisa Onwuekwe, ‘19

82 Students received scholarship or bursary awards this year – thanks to our generous donors who have invested in the future!

Congratulations to all our 2019 Graduates!

Receiving the St Luke’s Award from Colin Briggs is Alice Teufack.

Susanne Schwickart presents the James Frost Cross Memorial Trophy to Colleen Robertson.

Riley Kolodie presented Oghogho Okoro with the Erin Palamar Bursary in Nursing. Riley is Erin’s nephew.

The Dr. June Marion James Bursary was presented by Dr. June James to Marvellous Oyeyode.
Before Convocation, 108 people enjoyed a delicious lunch in the Galleria.

Led by the Esquire Bedells the procession into the Chapel begins.

The Ceremony begins!

Edna Poulter presents the Ted and Edna Scholarships to Thomas Richard.
The Easter Dilemma

Last fall a storm erupted on “Anglican Twitter” one gloomy Saturday about whether or not one must believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ in order to be Christian. Several hotly asserted this to be so; others suggested that there is a wealth of faithful theological work that would allow for a more metaphorical understanding of Christ’s resurrection. It is remarkable that the event that lies at the heart of Christianity, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, continues to be so hotly discussed and debated two thousand years later.

The source material here is of little help. While the gospel according to John is well known for standing on its own, the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) tell the story of Jesus’s life in ways that are so similar that many scholars now believe them to have shared a source document and/or to have known and used one another’s writing. Yet when it comes to the account of the resurrection, even these diverge. In Matthew, Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” come to the tomb, there is an earthquake accompanying the appearance of an angel who rolls back the stone sealing the tomb, sits upon it and delivers the news to the women that Jesus has been raised (Matthew 28:1-6). In Mark’s version, the two Marys are joined by Salome, find the stone already rolled away, and a young man in white sitting in the tomb who tells the women Christ has been raised (Mark 16:1-6). Luke speaks of Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary and “the others with them,” a stone rolled away, and two men in gleaming white reminding the women that Jesus had said he would be raised, proclaiming that this has happened (Luke 24:1-9). Finally, John tells the story of Mary Magdalene on her own finding the stone rolled away, running to find two male disciples who enter the tomb to find abandoned grave clothes and then leave, and then Mary encountering Jesus whom she does not recognize and who urges her not to touch him (John 20:1-17). The traditions vary even more widely when describing the responses of Jesus’s followers to the resurrection and the post-resurrection appearances of Christ (if any).

There are respected theologians and biblical scholars on all sides. Those who believe that Easter was a metaphorical event, often pointing to John’s account, argue that this gives Christ’s resurrection far more power. This viewpoint argues that the power of God moves beyond the mere physical realm, overcoming the physical reality of death, and that Christ’s presence with each person and in all of creation was made possible in that resurrection. Those who hold to the bodily resurrection quote St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 15, where he speaks of a ‘resurrection body’ or ‘spiritual body’ being substantially different from the bodies we have in this world (thus Mary not recognizing Jesus), and asserting that without the resurrection of the physical, the physical could not be redeemed. (Some go so far as to suggest that those with a metaphorical understanding might be unintentionally supporting an unhelpful docetic or gnostic spirit/body dualism.)

In two thousand years, Christians haven’t come to one mind on the question of Jesus’s resurrection, and it seems unlikely that this is going to happen any time soon. Yet all acknowledge the truth that in that resurrection the power of God has overcome the powers of evil and death.

St John’s College held two major educational outreaches this Fall.

Prof. Diarmaid MacCulloch, Professor of the History of the Church, was this year’s speaker at the Wilmot Lecture held October 1, 2019. Prof. MacCulloch is the author of numerous books on church history.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Donald Phillips taught a course in the fall on “The Practice and Theology of Worship”. The course was held at St John’s College but was offered through Canadian Mennonite University.
Congratulations to College Fellows on their outstanding accomplishments:

Esyllt Jones, Dean of Studies and Senior Fellow on the launch of her new book “Radical Medicine: The International Origins of Socialized Health Care in Canada”.

Warren Cariou, Senior Fellow, won the the Faculty of Arts Outstanding Professor Award!

Melanie Unrau SJC Fellow on successfully defending her dissertation “Tend the rusted steel like a shepherd”: Petropoetics of Oil Work in Canada” in the Department English, Theatre, Film & Media, on August 7, 2019.

Dawne McCance Senior Fellow, on her appointment as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Dr McCance is a Distinguished Professor in the department of religion in the Faculty of Arts.

On July 2, 2019 Her Excellency the Rt Hon. Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada announced the appointment of Thomas Ralston Denton, C.M., O.M., C.D., B.A. LL.B, LL.D and Honorary Fellow of St John’s College to the Members of the Order of Canada.

We received a note from Candace Ritchey Chapman whose husband Lawrence Ritchey was a Fellow. Says Candace: … greetings from PEI with all good wishes to the Johnians in the blessed Advent and Christmas season! Along with the wonderful gift of a third grandchild, Philippe, from second son Matthew and Svetlana, we are also delighted with the news of a requested second edition, by the publisher (Rowan), of (the late SJC Honorary Fellow) Lawrence (Ritchey) and Charles Horton’s two-year music theory textbook, “Harmony Through Melody.” The second edition, along with the newly digitalized workbook, will make its debut this coming year!

My family joins me in wishing everyone at SJC and beyond a wonderful 2020!

STAFF NEWS:

On March 25th we welcomed Miriam Chavez to the position of receptionist. She is taking over from Amy Craddock who moved to the new position of Event Communication Coordinator & Faculty Assistant.

In October, we said farewell to Adekunle Adesanmi SJC 4th year engineering student, as he takes on a position with the UofM Co-operative Education & Industrial Internship Program. Over the past three years, Ade has been invaluable, working in both the Development Office and with Elnora Wiebe, Assistant Bursar. While completing his academic studies, Ade will be working in a mechanical engineering position with BBE Hydro Constructors in Gilliam, MB.

Elnora Wiebe, Assistant Bursar, retired as of November 30, 2019. Elnora worked at the College for 15 years in the accounting department alongside Ivan Froese, Bursar. She is not severing her ties with St John’s completely and will be working 10 hours a week for the next while.

Welcome to Lin a new addition to our kitchen staff.

Lawrence Ritchey
We welcome Nick Procyshyn as our new Assistant Bursar. Nick is coming to us from the Manitoba Metis Federation where he has worked as a Finance Officer.

Congratulations to Amy Craddock, our Events/Communications Coordinator & Faculty Assistant on her marriage to Bret Backhouse this past summer. The wedding was held July 27th in the St John’s College Chapel, officiated by The Rev’d Andrew Rampton, Chaplain.

In September 2019 Doug Rowland, ’61 and his wife Helen McKiernan each received a Sovereign’s Medal Volunteer. The list of Doug’s volunteer work is varied and extensive! We congratulate Doug and Helen on their contribution to their community.

Our congratulations to Shirley Render ’64 on being named one of the 2020 inductees into Canada’s Aviation Hall of Fame. An induction ceremony will be held June 2020 in Calgary. Shirley is one of Canada’s foremost aviation historians and champion of Canada’s aviation heritage. Shirley is the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, a YM-YW Women of Distinction Award, and the University of Winnipeg Distinguished Alumni Award.

On 9th May, 2019 former SJC Librarian Jim Blanchard, ’76 was presented with the Lieutenant Governor’s Historical Preservation and Promotion award. Jim has written four books and a number of articles focused on local Winnipeg history. He recently held a book launch on his third instalment on the popular history of early Winnipeg, A Diminished Roar.

Congratulations to Norma Jones ’77 on her multi-medal standing finish at the Manitoba 55+ Games held on June 11-13th in Swan River, MB. Norma won 5 Gold medals in 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m and 3000m, 5 Silver, and 1 Bronze in swimming.

At the March 23, 2019 IDEA dinner held in Winnipeg, Dr. Hartley T. Richardson ’77 President and CEO of James Richardson and Sons Ltd., was presented with the University of Manitoba’s 2019 International Distinguished Entrepreneur Award. He is the third Manitoban to receive this award.

The Rev’d Dr. Stephen Sharman, ’78 presented to the Sheptytsky Institute of St Michael’s College in the University of Toronto on the 8 October 2019. The title of the talk was ‘Dionysius and Bede:'
We extend our congratulations to Jill Bueddefeld ‘10 on the successful defence of her doctoral dissertation on October 21st. Her thesis was entitled, “Exploring Nature-Based Tourism and Visitor Learning at In-Situ and Ex-Situ Destinations” and Prof. Mary Benbow, SJC Fellow was her advisor.

Summoned from the Realm of the Morning to have reached the Land of the Setting Sun.' As well, his article, 'Dionysius the Areopagite among the Philosophers: Bede’s use of Dionysius in his commentary De templo’, was published in Sobornost volume 41:1 2019 pages 69-80. Another article, ‘A Note on the Knowledge of Greek in Early Anglo-Saxon England’, was published in The Canadian Journal of Orthodox Christianity Vol XIV No 3 Fall 2019, pages 57-66. Father Sharman thanks the staff of the Libraries of St John’s College and St Paul’s College whose assistance and friendship made these articles possible.

Congratulations to Diane Lee-Olenic ‘04 on her ordination to the Diaconate at the St John’s Cathedral in Winnipeg in November, 2019 and good wishes in her ministry.

Not only does Judy Jayasuriya, ‘10 work at the Uof M as the business manager in the Faculty of Medicine but she also teaches at the Asper School of Business. This past year she led her MBA Case team of students through to second place at the Ethics in Action Case Competition held at Dalhousie University. Congratulations Judy!

We congratulate Kevin Boreskie ‘15, ’18, on winning first place in the UofM 3-Minute Thesis competition for his presentation on “Exaggerated blood pressure response to exercise: A simple solution”. On April 17th, Kevin attended the 3MT Western Regionals in Prince George. Kevin wrote: “Unfortunately, it looks like I won’t be heading to nationals, but Western Regionals was a great opportunity and I got to hear about some very cool research in a wide variety of areas. It was a great experience. Thank you very much for your support from home!”

Congratulations to Rebecca Sherbo ‘14 on being named one of the 2019 Schmidt Science Fellows, a prestigious year-long post-doctoral placement that comes with a stipend of $100,000. Rebecca recently earned her PhD from UBC.
We also congratulate Avery Simundsson ‘14 on winning Third Place in the 3MT completion. Avery is currently in the Master’s program in Biosystems Engineering and presented her research on “The use of sound in autonomous agricultural vehicle control”.

Allison Balasko ‘16 was awarded the Vanier Scholarship on May 16, 2019. This award helps recruit and keep in Canada top doctoral students from across the country and around the world. Each recipient receives $150,000 over three years towards their research.

Congratulations to Luther Konadu ‘19 on becoming the national winner of the 17th Annual BMO 1st Art competition. This competition awards $15,000 to the national winner. Also, on Oct 19th, Luther won the prestigious third biennial Salt Spring National Art Prize competition in Salt Spring Island, BC. The Prize includes $15,000 and $5,000 artist residency on the Island. While at the College, Luther worked in the Development office and placed first in the 2016 Annual Art Competition. Little did we know the heights to which Luther’s talent would grow!

Congratulations to Israel “Izzy” Idonije, O.M., on receiving the Meritorious Service Medal (Civil Division). Izzy was a student at SJC for 2 years (1998-99) and lived in Residence.

Ifeanyi Nwachukwu

At the UofM May Convocation Ifeanyi Nwachukwu ‘19 received the Governor General’s Gold Medal for the highest academic achievement for any doctoral degree. Ifeanyi graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy in human nutritional sciences.

The President’s Student Leadership Program is a week-long program aimed at developing future leaders in various business sectors for the province. Of the 27 students from University of Manitoba, Red River College, University of Winnipeg, and University College of the North 4 students are members of St John’s College:

Kevin Boreskie ’15, ’18 PhD program Faculty of Applied Health Sciences
River Steele Guillias Bachelor program - College of Nursing
Gursevak Kasbia Bachelor program - Faculty of Education
Nina Lam Bachelor program - Faculty of Arts-Global Political Economy

This year two SJC students took part in the College of Nursing Summer Research Internship program. Aderinsola Obafisoye, a fourth-year student who moved from Nigeria in 2015 to study nursing. She worked with Dr. Nicole Harder, a professor who leads the human simulation learning program, on the psychological outcomes of simulation learning.

Veronika Zot, a second-year master’s student, worked with Dr Benita Chen on community-based mental health crisis services and the development of an end-of-life chart auditing tool for personal care home residents.

Six SJC students were recognized by the UofM for outstanding contributions demonstrating leadership and initiative in education in their communities:

Allison Balasko ’16, Vibhuti Arya, Rashawna Blair, Kayla Lariviere, Oreofe Okunnu, and Thomas Roberts

We congratulate the following SJC members who received the 2018-2019 Louis Riel Bursary from the Manitoba Métis Federation endowment fund:

Paul Artimowich
Diana Craig
Charlene Hallett
Kayla Lariviere
Carly McLellan
Thomas Roberts
Paula Robinson
Branden Truthwaite
Jenna Vandal
Daniel Wallach
Kyle Wiebe
The annual SJC Art Competition was held February 28, 2019 with an incredible range of art by students. Our thanks to Diane Whitehouse, Liv Valmestad and Alana MacDougall for volunteering as our judges. The students’ artwork was displayed in the Daily Bread Café for the month. Congratulations to First place winner Gozie Bamson SJC nursing student, on her piece “Blinding Addition”. Second place was a tie between Glory Okafor SJC nursing student, for “Fly on the Wall; How One Girl Saw Everything (2018)” and Chukwuduben Ukaigwe for “Imaobong in Ecstasy”, and People’s choice went to Annelies Sikkenga for “Frozen Mist”.

Bach’s Birthday Recital – March 21 – l to r: Revd Andrew Rampton, Ericka Olsen, Lance Roberts, Chris Trott.

This was an annual event held to honour retired staff and Fellows of the College and a great opportunity to enjoy the music of Bach! We were treated to a lovely recital with The Revd Andrew Rampton Chaplain, on organ and Erika Olsen current University of Manitoba student on violin. Many of our retired Fellows were in attendance and enjoyed the performances. A reception followed in the senior common room.

Erin Millions SJC Fellow, (recently awarded best PhD dissertation in Canadian Studies) organised a conference last March called Beadwork Circle and Panel Discussion: “Indigenous Beadwork, Indigenous Women: Beadwork and Sewing as Art, History, and Traditional Knowledge”. The event received a lot of positive feedback.

On June 26th there was a Thank You Reception held at the Diocese of Rupert’s Land Centre to celebrate two long-standing volunteers; Gordon Pawling and John Deacon ’63 who have held the positions of Treasurer and Registrar of the Diocese for many years.

The Health Career Quest Camp had another successful summer with 15 students and their supervisors taking part in an 11-day math, health and science experience. St John’s College provides all participants with room and board in the residence. A great opportunity for the Northern Manitoba students entering Grade 12. The program gives students a look at the academic components and life skills that could lead them into a career in health care.

The 35th Annual Marjorie Ward Lecture on March 6, 2019, was given by Katherena Vermette who spoke on “Gene Rations: Métis experiences in Winnipeg history”. This lecture centered around recent Métis history in Winnipeg. Katherena Vermette is the author of poetry and children’s books and won the Governor General Literary Award for Poetry for her work North End Love Songs.
At the first Fall-term Chapel service held Sept 9th, The Revd Andrew Rampton, Chaplain held the service in Commemoration of Edmund Peck with Warden, Dr Christopher Trott, giving the Homily. Edmund Peck was an Anglican missionary to the Canadian North and developer of the Inuktitut syllabary.

The Opening of Term BBQ was held September 17th in the Daily Bread Café Patio. All staff, Fellows and students from both St John’s and St Paul’s Colleges enjoy gathering together and sharing a delicious lunch.

Lunch & Lively Conversation held September 20th was given by our new Senior Fellow Annette Desmarais on the matter of “Food Sovereignty and Why it Matters”. Annette is a Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Social Justice and Food Sovereignty. The group had a stimulating conversation about the who, what, how, and why of food sovereignty - a global movement that is creating a social just and ecologically sustainable food systems around the world.

St John’s College Residence Student Council creates a close community by organizing special activities and events. On September 21st a Welcome Back Banquet was a semi-formal event and on October 26th they held a Halloween Party on Oct 26th with everyone in full costume.

The annual Matriculation Ceremony was held September 22, 2019 followed by a reception. Matriculation is open to all new Fellows, Staff, and Students, who are invited to sign the register of the College which dates back to 1866.

On September 27th, St John’s College students, staff and Fellows gave their support by joining a Climate Strike. The group gathered together under the College banner on the Manitoba Legislative grounds.

Dean of Studies Eysllt Jones held the Opening of Term Reception in the Senior Common Room on September 17th welcoming all staff and Fellows and introduced our new and visiting Fellows to the College:
- Annette Desmarais, new Senior Fellow from the Department of Sociology
- Karine Levasseur, Visiting Fellow from the Department of Political Studies
- Francois Jordaan, Visiting Fellow
- Derek Oliver, Adjunct Fellow from Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Shadia Drury, Adjunct Fellow from Department of Political Science
Tribute to Three Influential Johnians

On 22nd August The Revd Dr. John Trevor Wortley DD, and Honorary Fellow of St Johns College died of heart disease. It was a happenstance meeting of Blake Wood, Dean of Divinity whilst Blake was holidaying in England that led to John moving to Winnipeg. Blake Wood invited John to teach at St John’s College and thus in the Fall of 1964 John arrived. During his two years here John served as Chaplain, Dean of Men’s Residence, Dean of Men, Lecturer in both Classics and Divinity, Secretary of the Faculty Association and a member of College Council. After a few years John returned to England to take a PhD in Ancient Church History. Upon his graduation he returned to Winnipeg becoming a member of the History Department at the University of Manitoba. John was made an Honorary Fellow of St John’s College in 1999.

Norman Waldron “Wally” Fox-Decent, CM CMM OM CD, died peacefully in his Montreal home on September 5, 2019 at age 83. Wally was a fellow of the College and taught political studies at the University of Manitoba for 33 years. We received several reminiscences of Wally’s time at St John’s:

From Ted Gammon, ’67
One day in his class I was sitting in the front row and I fell asleep. He came up to me and said “Mr. Gammon would you please rejoin the class”. Later that week we had a meeting in his office and he advised that I go to bed earlier each night. I was hitting the sack at midnight.

From Harold Averill, ’67
He and Edward Moulton, who taught the history of India, were my two favourite pros at SJC. I learned a lot from both of them and have never forgotten how effective they were at engaging the students. I took two of Wally’s courses and the room was always packed, with students even sitting on the window sills. I heard about JFK just as I was leaving the residence for Minnedosa for a few days. I poked my head into the staff luncheon room in the basement of the residence on my way out and told the assembled staff that he had been shot. Wally sprang to his feet, exclaiming his shock and horror.

Remember the College’s centennial canoe race with Wally in one with a motor on the back? We have truly lost a character. Few pros were better at making a room come alive with his lectures.

From Keven Van Camp, ’66
My fave memory of him was squeezing into his class the Monday following the JFK killing...he was in peak form. I also remember his performances at the prof’s debates.
For many years I would run into him on flights to and from the north as he was arbitrating various disputes. The course I took from him in 3rd year was my most enjoyable undergrad one at SJC.

On September 14, 2019, Dr. Lance Roberts, died peacefully with his family by his side. Lance was a respected and long-tenured professor of the Sociology Department at the University of Manitoba and a Fellow of St John’s College. Starting as a Junior Fellow in 1988 Lance soon became woven into the fabric of the College. He quickly recognised that the interdisciplinary environment of the college afforded the opportunity to conduct collaborative research. In fact, Lance undertook several: working with Dr Barry Ferguson, History, on a 3 year SSHRC programme and Dr. Rod Clifton, Education, measuring the quality of life of university students to name but two. Lance was especially beloved as a teacher as evidenced by the many teaching awards he received. As well, he actively recruited fellow professors to become members of the SJC family.

Lance was more than academics to the College and joined in many of the College activities attending the dining-in experiences over the years. This past decade Lance became Curator of the art collection during which time the collection was expanded and an art book produced. Lance’s interest in the arts also included music. He was the driving force behind Bach’s Birthday an annual celebration of the music of Bach held in the Chapel every year. This event, financially supported by Lance, was held in honour of former Fellow Lawrence Ritchey and celebrated retired Fellows and Staff. Over this past summer he held discussions with current music Fellow Kurt Markstrom to
discuss the possibility of changing Bach’s Birthday into a music competition. We are pleased to announce that this has come to fruition and will be held on the 26th March, 2020 in the Chapel at St John’s College.

A fund has been set-up in Lance’s name. Should you wish to make a contribution please visit our website http://www.umanitoba.ca/colleges/st_johns/ and hit the donate now button. Or, send in a donation to the College indicating Lance’s Fund. Thank you.

On November 4, 2019 Ian Campbell Wees ‘47 died at the age of 92 years. Ian is survived by his wife of 62 years, Eleanor (nee Belyea).

Kathleen Williamson, daughter of Mary Williamson ’54 sent us a letter letting us know of her mother’s death on July 12, 2018. A memorial was held at St Mary the Virgin Anglican Church in Victoria, BC. Originally from England, Mary came to Canada and graduated with a BA and Bachelor of Pedagogy from the College.

On March 13, 2019 Joan L. Williams ’60 died at the age of 83 years. Joan attended the College in 1953-54 and received her nursing degree in 1960.

We received a letter from Carolyn Whyte to let us know of the death of her husband The Revd. Robert Whyte ’60 on October 30, 2014. Bob attended St John’s from 1957 to 1960 and received his BA. He served the Anglican Church of Canada in the Diocese of Qu’Appelle, Rupert’s Land and Fredericton. He served in the Canadian Armed Forces as Chaplain to the Black Watch Regiment.

Johnian John Heffer ’63 let us know of the death of his brother-in-law Richard A. Lamontagne on December 30, 2018. Richard attended the College in the ’60s, and graduated with a BSc ’67, and BSc (Mech)’73 from the University of Manitoba. Richard was predeceased by his sister Linda (Lamontagne) Heffer (SJC ’61-’64) in Nov 2012.

Robert Frederick Moody ’65 died on April 20, 2019 at his home in Denver, Colorado. On March 1, 2019 William (Bill) Archibald Harshaw ’65 died at the age of 75 yrs. Bill helped designed what would become Ontario’s Trillium Drug Plan for which he received the Order of Ontario.

Marjorie (Boyd) Holt ’66 died on July 17, 2019. She leaves to mourn her husband Ross Holt who attended the College in ’60’s. Marjorie was predeceased by her parents, Dr Frederick and Marjorie Boyd ’37.

Our condolences to Lucy Adamson and family on the death of her husband Arthur Herbert Adamson who died September 3, 2019 at the age of 93 years. Arthur was an Associate Professor at St John’s College 1957-61 and taught French.

Robert D. McDonald ’67 died May 15, 2019. Bob graduated with a BA from SJC and a law degree in 1970 from University of Manitoba. He had a successful 48-year career with Fillmore Riley. Bob was fondly nicknamed “Gooley” when living in the College residence. He will be fondly missed by his fellow Johnians: Woody Milroy ’63,’65, Brian Kenny ’63, Keven Van Camp ’66, Harold Averill ’67, Ted Gammon ’67 and Dave Yeo ’68.

Our condolences to Clive ’69 and Diana Morrison, parents of Matthew Morrison who died on June 6, 2019 at the age of 42 years. Matthew took his first year of education at SJC in 1994.

Our condolence to Robert ’71 and Rita McEwen on the death of his brother Thomas (Tam) McEwen who died on May 6, 2019 at the aged of 76 years.

On July 15, 2019 Paul Ernest Johnson ’79 died after a stroke in April. Paul was a proud member of SJC and studied music, majoring in voice and organ. He was an accomplished singer and member of many choirs. Most recently, he sang with All the King’s Men.

Our condolences to the family of Allison Theresa Peters ’80 who died on March 18, 2019. Allison attended the College in the 80’s, lived in residence and graduated with BA (Hons) Eng, and L.L.B in 1987.

Our sincere condolences to Jeff and Jillian ’87 Lamotho on the death of Jeff’s father Jerome Lamotho who died on June 15, 2019 at the age of 83 yrs.
In Memoriam continued

On October 20, 2019, Shawn Leonard Lamoureaux '90 died at the age of 51 years. Shawn lived in residence while studying for his BA in Criminology and B.Comm (Honours) '93. He went on to have a successful career as a Chartered Accountant with PriceWaterhouse.

On November 11, 2019 Young-Hee Wong, mother to Diane Lee-Olenic '04 died after a lengthy illness.


Condolences to Heather Lampman Skublics and Paul Lampman (former Dean of Residence and Chaplain 2003-10) on the death of Heather’s father Ernie Skublics who died April 9, 2019. Ernie was the Chaplain at St John’s College from 1976-77 and taught Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Manitoba.


On October 18, 2019 John Oliver, died at the aged 83 years in Selkirk, MB surrounded by his loving family. Our condolences to his brother Robert “Bud” and Doreen Oliver, who have been Friends of the College for many years.

The College wishes to extend condolences to our staff and fellows on the death of their loved ones:

Janice and Ian Park, Food Services Manager, on the death of his sister Barbara Mary Park on April 1, 2019.

Diane Brydon Senior Fellow, on the death of her husband Bill Brydon on May 21, 2019.

Edwin and Elnora Wiebe, former Assistant Bursar, on the sudden death of her brother Edward Hildebrand on November 21, 2019.

Condolences to Heather Lampman Skublics and Paul Lampman (former Dean of Residence and Chaplain 2003-10) on the death of Heather’s father Ernie Skublics who died April 9, 2019. Ernie was the Chaplain at St John’s College from 1976-77 and taught Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Manitoba.