



IN LUMINE



This Issue

Warden's Word	2
Chaplain's Corner	3
Thank You	4
Lasting Legacy	5/6
Thinking Theology	7
Fellow/Staff News	8/9
Alumni/Student News	10
College Events	12
In Memoriam	14/15

After every storm appears a rainbow – and a pot of gold.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chaplain's Weekly Virtual Prayers – every Tuesday and Thursday on our College website or YouTube page

37th Annual Marjorie Ward Lecture – Thursday, March 4th presented on Zoom by award-winning author and educator, Professor Brenda J. Child

St John's College 9th Annual Art Competition

To stay up to date on our current events, please check out our website, or contact our Events Coordinator, Amy Craddock, at amy.craddock@umanitoba.ca or 204-474-9612.

Warden's Word!



Grandpa reading Dennis Cooley's poetry to Riley!

Being the Fourteenth and Final Epistle by Chris Trott

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry implored Americans to choose community over chaos: "In the moment of a national crisis, a moment of great danger, ...a person must decide, 'Who shall we be?' I want to submit that the way of love that leads to beloved community is the only way of hope for humanity."

Presiding Bishop Curry's words were spoken in the context of the January 6 attack on the Capitol in the United States but I think they apply in a broader context and more specifically to our little College on the Prairies. One of the chief pillars of our College vision and values is building a healthy community.

When the lockdowns started a year ago, none of us dreamed it would last this long. By the end of term last year we had 70 students in our residence and the number has slowly dwindled to the 29 students in residence today. Our residence building is certainly not designed for handling the isolation of a pandemic and we have been deeply concerned about the health and safety of our students. Thanks to the hard work of Ian Park and his Food Services team and Shirley Mooyman and the Housekeeping staff, our residence has remained open and we have kept our students safe.

There is only so much we can do in terms of cleaning and creating safe and distanced service in the kitchens. On the other side, the students have to be willing to follow the rules and look out for each other. And that is the beloved community in action. I think that we have been able to weather this pandemic, not because we have all the technology to protect us, but because we have a community that actually, and practically cares for one another.

All of the classes at the University of Manitoba are on-line remote learning

so neither our students nor our Faculty can get together in person. Our student council has struggled to continue offering programming: there has been a virtual paint night, a 5K "run" to raise money for Manitoba Mutts, a Christmas food drive for Manitoba Harvest and I just received a notice for an on-line bake sale for Valentine's Day (they will deliver goods straight to your door!). It is hard work but they are out there building relationships, building community.

It has been hard for our Fellows too. We have had the best attendance to Assembly that we have ever had, because the Fellows seek to be with each other. We pushed forward with the Wilmot Lecture in Theology this year with Dr. Ray Aldred speaking on Indigenous theology and the annual Marjorie Ward lecture will be going ahead on March 4, 2021 – online as well.

All of you, too, have stepped up to the plate. This has been a very difficult year for the College as our revenue sources have dried up except the Trust funds and the University's contributions. When we asked, you came forward and gave more generously than ever. You supported our residence students to stay safe in residence over Christmas break through the 12 Days of Christmas appeal and exceeded our wildest hopes through the Annual Appeal. Thank you!

Building Healthy Communities is not only an aspiration for us, it is a reality. Your support makes it happen.

Dr. Christopher Trott will be retiring in June 2021! His leadership, academic contributions, and deep love for our College community has been an integral part of the College. Please stay tuned for more information on his retirement and updates on our search for the new Warden!

In Lumine is the official alumni journal of St John's College.

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Photos courtesy of SJCSA, SJC students, alumni, Chris Trott, Theresa Morgan, Jackie Markstrom, Amy Craddock, Helen Holbrook, Sherry Peters, Don Phillips, Dennis and Diane Cooley, and Elyllt Jones.

Thank you to our contributors: Chris Trott, Don Phillips, Helen Holbrook, Elyllt Jones, Dennis Cooley, our students, staff, alumni and friends.

Our mission is to share information, stimulate discussions, and foster happy memories about St John's College and, in doing so, continuing to build community through the forging and improving of relationships with the College.

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Chaplain's Corner

Welcome to Our New Chaplain! with The Rev. Helen Holbrook

Hello everyone, I am the new Chaplain here at St John's College. Ever since I started here, I have been making connections with St John's members, residents, and staff under these challenging times. This time under COVID-19 restrictions limits all face-to-face interactions but in this era, we have more tools available to us to connect with one another (email, virtual technology, etc). Therefore, although I am looking forward to walking the halls of St John's College again I know I can still listen and support our residents, students, and staff virtually.

I am nostalgic about the University of Manitoba, as I attended here in the 90's where I completed my Master's in public administration and worked as a teacher's assistant and also in private funding. Therefore, I am familiar with the campus and the challenges students face. Often a student would meet with me and share some personal issues. About 10 years later, I moved to Ottawa where I pursued my Theology degree and completed two chaplain/spiritual care practicums at the Civic Hospital. Eventually I was awarded my second Masters at the University of Winnipeg.

Over the last 20 years in Chaplaincy work I have served in spiritual care at a long-term care home, a treatment centre for at-risk youth, a youth prison, an

acute care facility, and a tertiary health care centre. Now that I serve as Chaplain at a College, I can apply my experience. This new experience at St John's will only lead to further growth.

Currently, at the College there are no chapel services until pandemic restrictions are lifted and I think we are getting closer to this day. This is our hope and I expect a chapel ceremony will mark that day with a celebration and also mourning for members of the community who lost a loved one during the pandemic. Until that time, I will utilize my creativity to offer programs online. One program I am doing now is a virtual walking group where residents and students are invited to gather online once a week and a chance to share their experiences outside. This group began on January 14th.

I started as Chaplain on November 23rd, 2020 and I have met online with an enthusiastic Student Council, and I was welcomed by a very supportive Staff here at the College. I have been in continuous communication with each student in our residence. Outside of St John's College, I have met with Edgar French (University of Manitoba Spiritual Care Coordinator) and we were able to put together an online service on December 7th, 2020 for the National Day of Remembrance of the Montreal Massacre. Hopefully,



The Rev. Helen Holbrook

this year when the restrictions ease, the service can take place in the St John's Chapel. Chapel services will return but until then please join me virtually on our YouTube page every Tuesday and Thursday for a 15-minute prayer service. I hope to have a campfire chat with a small group of residents as soon as the Provincial Health guidelines allow. For now, I invite you all to reflect on this passage that has inspired me and gives us permission to name painful feelings:

2 Corinthians 4: 8-9 "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed...."

May all of you know we have companions on the journey with an uncertain destination. However, we know COVID-19 has changed us and our society. May we seek wisdom about our next steps and not fear the discomfort they may bring. May you have a blessed New Year.

Please join The Rev. Helen Holbrook every Tuesday and Thursday for a virtual prayer service!

Please check out our Ash Wednesday Service! Stay tuned for weekly virtual Lenten Reflections and more!



The videos can be found on our YouTube page: **St John's College, Winnipeg MB**

You can also find the videos on our College website: https://umanitoba.ca/colleges/st_johns

Thank You



2020 has been a year we will never forget. It has been a year of great challenges and losses but, also a year of hope and light.

COVID-19 has changed the way we do things but we are still here and providing for our students. The work of our College has continued throughout the pandemic and we continue to provide for our students, Fellows, staff, and College community during these difficult times.

Thank you to all of our donors, members, and supporters of St John's College. We asked for your support and you came through for us. Your support has helped our College and students survive the ongoing pandemic. We couldn't do it without you. Thanks to you, in 2020 we have raised over \$277,000. In addition, we have received over \$2 million in thoughtful bequests. Your continued support to St John's College makes an everlasting impact in continuing our tradition of over 154 years of providing for our students and the community. Your support makes a huge difference for our students and their futures, it will help create a better world for all of us.

Our Food Services and Housekeeping staff members devoted their time to work over the Christmas break, taking time away from their families to ensure that our residence students are safe, healthy, well-fed, and not alone this holiday season. We are incredibly grateful to our front-line workers, Ian Park and his Food Services team and our Housekeeping staff, Shirley, Paul, Fernando, Andrew, and Rochelle for their hard work and dedication which has been critical during these challenging times. Because of them, our residence can stay operational. Our Fellows have been working tirelessly around the clock to ensure students are supported so they succeed in their education. The office team have been working hard behind the scenes ensuring the College continues to run smoothly while taking good care of the needs of our students, Fellows, staff, and community.

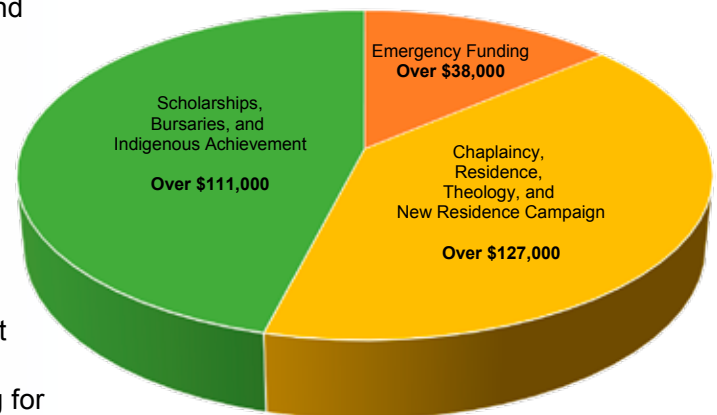


Senior Stick, Breanna Duncan



Vice Stick, Mercy Shwaykosky

100% of your donations directly supports our students!



In addition, we received over \$2 million in thoughtful bequests.



Rotimi Abiodun

Our students experienced great challenges as the pandemic restrictions forced classes to shift online. The pandemic brought everything to a stand still but our over 800-day students and 30 international students living in our residence continued to need our support now more than ever. Many students struggled to complete their studies as they only had access to the material on the small screen of their cell phone. Thanks to you, we were able to provide immediate



Priscila Ferreira da Silva

assistance by supplying them with a laptop. Students remained in residence over the holidays at no charge. We are thankful to our donors who made this possible.

"I am writing you to say thank you to the donors who made it possible for us in Residence to be able to have meals during this Christmas period. I am truly grateful."

– Adayezchukwu

"Thank you very much for the generosity and thoughtfulness

you showed to us residents by providing food for us through the holidays."

– Daniel Obasi

"We are very appreciative to everyone who offered helping hands in this severe situation. We would like to say a BIG Thank You!"

– Danny Wong

"I would like to send my gratitude for your generous contribution to our Residence at St John's College. It has been difficult to get through the COVID-19 time, but with your helping hands, you surely give all of us in society; Asian, African like groups hope of getting through this time."

– Kan Wen-Hung

"I really appreciate the donors that contributed to our food packages. Even in these trying times, we have bastions of hope like you donors who with your generosity continue helping the student community. Thank you!"

– N. Khan

A Lasting Legacy—3 Beautiful Gifts

We are forever grateful to our **Anonymous donor and Johnian** who generously donated toward our Chaplaincy Endowment Fund and the New Residence Campaign. Through a designation in their Wills the donor was able to realize this gift upon the death of his wife. We feel privileged to be able to honour their commitment to St John's College in this meaningful way. With this thoughtful bequest, we are able to help the leaders of tomorrow fulfill their future with a solid spiritual foundation and build towards a better future. We know that a brighter future starts with education and providing students everywhere the support and resources they need to find success. This gracious gift directly supports our Chaplaincy as

an important programme in the College, allowing us to continue to meet the emotional and spiritual needs of all members of the College community now and in the future. This gift takes us one step closer to building a stronger and safer future for students in the New Residence Campaign which will provide a safe and healthy home in residence for rural and international students. Our current residence building is in need of major repairs and renovations and due to our ever-growing nature, this gift takes us one step closer to reaching our goal as we look into better providing for our students, community, and reducing our impact on the environment.

Continued on page 6...



A Lasting Legacy—3 Beautiful Gifts

A life so beautifully lived, lives on through these generous gifts to St John's College.

With great sadness we said goodbye to **Shirlee Anne Smith, C.M.** on April 17, 2020. It is important to note that Shirlee Anne herself wrote that she “did not pass away” and her obituary was written in advance. This passage alone represents the kind of person Shirlee Anne was; selfless, thoughtful, and witty. Shirlee Anne was the recipient of the Honourary Doctorate of Canon Law at our 149th Convocation ceremony in 2015. As a champion of Manitoba and Canadian history, Shirlee Anne was a remarkable woman who in addition to her many accomplishments and awards, was the first Canadian



Shirlee Anne Smith, C.M. packing up the HBC Archives in London on July 1974 (HBCA/MB Archives). You can view this HBC 40/20 Anniversary video on Canada's History YouTube account.

Keeper of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. Shirlee Anne assisted with the transfer of these important documents from London, England to Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1970 which included over 120 tonnes' worth of records. These records have played an important role in Canadian history and have been used for climate change research, fishing and land rights cases, astronomy, and as an important resource for historical research. Her legacy will inspire, empower, and support our students and the community for years to come.

It is with great sorrow we announce the passing of **Lois Marie Totton** (née Fyfe) on February 22, 2020, in her 94th year. Lois was a long-time supporter of St John's College. Her late husband, Samuel James Totton (Jim), was a graduate of St John's College in 1939 and taught at the College in 1941. Lois' bequest is an act of love for her late husband who predeceased her in 2001 as she saw firsthand the profound impact that St John's College has on their students. Lois herself graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of



Mrs. Lois Totton on one of our visits to Toronto in 2016. We very much enjoyed her company.

Science in Home Economics. She worked as a Dietitian/Nutritionist at hospitals in Toronto and Philadelphia, touching the lives of all of her patients and people she met throughout her lifetime. Her work had a profound impact in helping people live their best and healthy life. Lois left a beautiful legacy to St John's College upon her passing which will positively impact our students for generations to come by allowing the College to provide for them so their dreams can come to fruition. Lois' gift will ensure that students have the opportunity to attend University without the financial burden and receive a first-class education in our close-knit, supportive community.

Bequests are a way of supporting your College; leaving a lasting legacy. If you wish to consider leaving a bequest, please talk to your family and feel free to contact our Development Officer, Jackie Markstrom, at 204-474-9350 or jackie.markstrom@umanitoba.ca

Respect Everyone *By Bishop Donald Phillips*

“As servants of God, live as free people, ... Honour everyone.”
(1 Peter 2:16a, 17a) These words appear in the middle of a section of this 1st Letter of Peter from the New Testament, written about 90 CE. The author is explaining how Christians should live in the midst of the Roman empire.

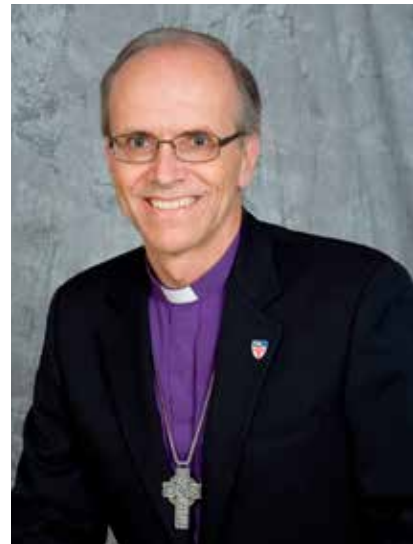
The juxta-position of “live as free people” and “honour everyone” results in an interesting paradox. Initially I might think that if I can live freely, then I can choose whom I might honour, or respect, and whom I might not.

Of course, most of us would agree that we ought to “respect everyone” but we make that affirmation in general – as an expression of an appropriate attitude. How easily we unconsciously (at least in most cases) define “everyone” as the persons that we love, like, do business with, or even view as worthy competitors. Those whom we think we have nothing in common with, whose lives seem to follow a foreign path, who are far-removed from our daily existence whether by geography, socio-economic status, or ethnicity – they quickly fall outside our working definition of “everyone.”

And then we are dumped into the middle of a global pandemic.

Suddenly, we have something in common with every other person whether we wanted it or not. With our 21st century patterns of global travel, the risk of infection of persons in Brazil, South Africa, England, North Dakota and Lynn Lake, Manitoba are suddenly important. I have to respect the seriousness and severity of what is happening to those persons. Even if I am able to carefully observe the public health protocols, if homeless persons in Winnipeg, or persons in overcrowded, under-funded indigenous communities aren't able to self-isolate or are wary of COVID tests and contact-tracing, and are at increased risk, it forces me to notice and be concerned. In what may be a novel situation for many of us, it causes me to respect those persons and their situation.

In many Christian churches there has been an increased emphasis on what is being called



“The Baptismal Covenant.” It is a statement of belief (Apostles' Creed) followed by six (in the case of the Anglican Church of Canada) promises that define the attitudes and actions of the baptized disciple of Jesus Christ. The promises are phrased as questions to which the one being baptized responds. The fifth one reads: “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? [emphasis mine] This call to respect every person is embedded in the very foundation of this faith.

While it may be a sorry fact that it takes a global pandemic to bring us into a new awareness of this fundamental expectation, perhaps we can still appreciate the enlarged vision it has given us of “everyone.” May our eyes and our hearts continue to engage long after our experience of the pandemic fades away.



Winter scene of the Lynn McLean Memorial Garden.

Fellow News

We extend our best wishes to the following Fellows who have retired in 2020:

Dr. Barry Ferguson, Dr. Diana Brydon, Dr. Kurt Markstrom, and Dr. Brenda Cantelo (*Former Dean of Studies*). You will be missed. Thank you for everything you have done for St John's College. We can't wait to see your next chapter!

We are thrilled to welcome our incoming Fellows:



Caroline Piotrowski is an Associate Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences,

Faculty of Health Sciences. She is the Director of the UM Violence and Injury Prevention Research Group, and is affiliated with the Children's Hospital Research Institution of Manitoba. Her research focuses on trauma and resilience, particularly in children and families.

Anne Lindsay

is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of History, under the supervision of Fellow Adele Perry. Anne was the Research and Access Archivist for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation for three years, and is currently a Consultant for the University of British Columbia, Indian Residential Schools History and Dialogue Centre.



Shelisa Klassen is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of History, under the supervision of Adele Perry. Her doctoral research focuses on the discourse around immigration in Red River and Winnipeg in the 1870s, an almost entirely Indigenous space that was radically transformed by the immigration of settlers and displacement of Métis and First Nations peoples by the end of the decade.



Congratulations to all College Fellows on their outstanding accomplishments!

Liv Valmestad began a term as the Head for the Arts & Humanities Division.



Adolf Ng was the first person awarded Canadian Citizenship through a historical virtual ceremony due to the pandemic which now allows him to facilitate urgent COVID-19 research needed in order to help combat the virus and save Canadian lives.

Christina Penner was one of 21 recipients to receive the NSERC grant to conduct workshops to enhance the science communication skills of researchers and students in engineering and natural sciences which will help make their work more accessible to the public.

Micheline Hughes welcomed her son Bennett to the world on January 26, 2021! Wishing you all the best and all the love during this magical time!



Kent Fowler received an insight grant funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to continue important work on the Zulu Kingdom.

Melanie Dennis Unrau won the 2020 Canadian Studies Network Dissertation Prize!

Karine Levasseur has published a book titled *Mothering and Welfare: Depriving, Surviving, Thriving*. She also co-authored a new publication titled *T3010 Users Research Group: Ten years of experience in collaboration on data*. Karine is co-editor of a book titled *COVID-19 in Manitoba: Public Policy Responses to the First Wave*.

Lori Wilkinson (Senior Fellow) received the 2020 Faculty of Arts Award in Internalization!

Warren Cariou (Senior Fellow) has beautiful photographs on display in a breathtaking exhibit titled *Grounding* at the Art Gallery of Guelph!

Thank you to **Susan Close** (Senior Fellow) for all of your hard work as the acting Dean of Studies as **Esyllt Jones** (Senior Fellow and Dean of Studies) took part in critical research from July to December 2020.

Congratulations to Dean of Studies and historian of health and disease, **Esyllt Jones**, on receiving a University Merit Award for research! Esyllt was also nominated for two of the Manitoba Book Awards, short-listed for the Canadian Historical

Fellow News

Association (CHA) Best Scholarly Book in Canadian History Prize, and won the CHA's Prairie Clio Award for her book *Radical Medicine: The International Origins of Socialized Health Care in Canada*. You can also listen online to some of her many interviews on the pandemic. Esyllt wrote an essay titled *Remember/ Resist/Redraw: The 1918-1919 Flu Pandemic in Western Canada*. Be sure to check her out!

Adele Perry (Senior Fellow) was named the new Head of the Centre for Human Rights Research effective July 1, 2020! Adele's book *Colonial Relations* and Susan Hill's *The Clay We Are Made Of*, were among the 5 finalists for the Francois-Xavier Garneau Medal which is awarded every 5 years honouring an outstanding Canadian contribution to historical research! Way to go! **Adele's students in the HIST3442 class** won the 2020 Manitoba Day Award in the Exhibition/Project category for their blog documenting the histories of

Indigenous and racialized communities' institutions in the 20th century.

Ariel Gordon from the **U of M Press** published her fourth book, *Tree Talk*, illustrated by her sister, Natalie Baird, which explores our relationship with nature. Ariel was also shortlisted for the Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award for her book *Treed: Walking in Canada's Urban Forests*. Great work!

Congratulations to retired Fellow and a key figure in Manitoba's literary community, **Dennis Cooley**, who published another inspiring book of poetry titled *The Muse Sings*. Jonathan Ball in the Winnipeg Free Press has rated Cooley's book *The Muse Sings* as one of the top ten Poetry Picks for 2020!



Photo courtesy of Diane Cooley

Francis M. Carroll (retired Fellow) has recently published a book on January 5, 2021 called *America and the Making of an Independent Ireland*. His former student, **Cian T. McMahon**, is now a history professor at the University of Nevada. Cian is set to debut a book in June 2021 titled *The Coffin Ship; Life and Death at Sea during the Irish Famine*. Both book publications are part of a new book series which focus on the history of the Irish Diaspora. Cian is honoured to be published in a top ranked scholarly series alongside his mentor and former Professor.

Congratulations to Mary Jane McCallum and former Fellow, **Erin Millions**, who were awarded \$520,000 in funding for the community-based TBPhotoProject which studies Indigenous experiences of tuberculosis through historical photographs.

Staff News

Jill Stafford, who was the Development Coordinator, retired as of May 2020. We wish her all the best in her retirement!

We are thrilled to welcome **Theresa Morgan** as our new Development Coordinator in November 2020 who will work alongside Jackie Markstrom!



At the beginning of October 2020, we said farewell to our Chaplain **The Rev. Andrew Rampton** who was called upon to serve as the Priest of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Winnipeg.

We extend a warm welcome to **The Rev. Helen Holbrook** who is our new Chaplain.

Congratulations to Assistant Bursar, **Nick Procyshyn**, and Mya who welcomed Ruby June Procyshyn into the world on June 24th, 2020. Ruby was an early birthday present to Nick arriving two weeks early!



Congratulations to **Edgar Palcon** in our Food Services who welcomed his new son, Edgar II, born on September 11, 2020!

Former Chaplain, **Allison Courey** and Rachel are expecting their second child in

July 2021! Huge congratulations to the happy couple! Their daughter, Adeline is very excited for a sibling!



Shirley Mooyman in House-keeping wishes to share this inspirational serenity poem by Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971): "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time."

Alumni/Student News

We are very proud of all of our Alumni and their accomplishments!



Dr. Mary Kerr '66, of the University of Victoria was awarded the 2020 Molson Prize for her outstanding contributions to Canada's cultural heritage. Mary has an over 50-year career which includes high-profile work as a production designer in theatre, television, special event design, feature film, dance, exhibition, and opera. Mary is the first designer in the award's 56-year history to be named a Molson Prize laureate.

The Honourable Janis Guðrún Johnson, C.M. '68 was appointed to the Order of Canada in November 2020 honouring her long-standing career in the public service and for her contribution to Manitoba's arts and culture scene.

On May 12, 2020, **James A. Ripley, Q.C. '76**, was appointed as Queen's Council which recognizes his incredible contributions to the practice of law.

On July 1, 2020, former Senior Stick, **David Asper, Q.C. '80**, was named the Acting Dean for the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba. David has made an enormous impact in the lives of Manitobans and Canadians dedicating his life to philanthropy, legal, and business engagements.

Established lawyer and former Mayor of Virden, **Jeff McConnell, BA, LL.B. '89** is the new Director of Corporate Administration Services and Corporate Office in the City of Fernie!

Mitch Davies '91 was appointed by the Government of Canada as the new National Research Council President.

Chris Young (son of retired Fellow **Kathryn A. Young '91** and **Robert J. Young**) received the Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Teaching for an innovative class project on the Winnipeg General Strike.

The Rev. Diane Lee-Olenic '04 was appointed as the Incumbent and Deacon-in-charge at St Bartholomew Anglican Church in November 2020.

Stephanie George '13 is the Head Librarian at the St James-Assiniboia Library branch! She received a



long-overdue surprise in the return slot early one morning. A *Car Craft* magazine from 1975 was checked out from the library over 45 years ago and finally returned! Stephanie said "There was no note or anything, just the return. I know lots of people are cleaning out their

basements and their homes these days because of the extra time, so I'm not sure if it's one of those sorts of things, but it was definitely a treasure."

Constance Amadi '17, is a Registered Nurse at Grace Hospital in diverse clinical areas such as medicine, surgery, intensive care unit, emergency, and Hospice. She is currently working on her application to medical school. We thank our front-line workers for all they do to protect us! We wish you all the best on your medical school application!



Elsa Kaka '17 and '20 is now an articulated student at Mahon & Company law firm in Vancouver, British Columbia. She received her Juris Doctor from the U of M. Elsa was a co-recipient of the Yude M. Henteleff Award in Human Rights and Civil Liberties for her active and continued involvement with human rights organizations, specifically with the Pro Bono Students Canada organization. She continues to be passionate for human rights issues. Elsa has published a paper titled *The Supreme Court of Canada's Justification of Charter Breaches*



Our 37th Annual Marjorie Ward Lecture

featuring award-winning Author and Educator, **Professor Brenda J. Child**, will be held virtually on Thursday, March 4th at 7:00 PM via Zoom! Please check out our College website for the link to view the lecture!
https://umanitoba.ca/colleges/st_johns

and its Effect on Black and Indigenous Communities, which can be found in the Manitoba Law Journal. Elsa wrote an article for CBC, *Why is being called 'racist' more offensive than racism itself? White fragility silences voices, says advocate*. Elsa is also an R&B singer and co-host of The Ordinary Black Girl Podcast. Be sure to check Elsa out!

Former Vice Stick,
Mark Livingston

'18 was accepted into the U of M Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2024! Mark is very excited to begin

this new chapter of his life and is looking forward to making a difference within his own community and abroad. Best of luck from your St John's family!

Congratulations to **Dr. June James, O.M., M.D., Honourable Janis Guðrún Johnson, C.M. '68, Honourable Janice Filmon, C.M., O.M., Honourable Pearl McGonigal, C.M., O.M., the late Isabel G. Auld, C.M., LL.D., Senator Patricia Bovey, Gail Asper, O.C., O.M., LL.D., and all of the inspiring women** who received the 150th Manitoba Women Trailblazer 2021 Award! This award recognizes the contributions these women have made towards social justice initiatives, sports, community services, democracy, and for contributing to making our province amazing. SJC is honoured to be associated with such incredible women. Their impact on the College and community is invaluable.



Let's Talk

Time appears to be behaving strangely since the outbreak of COVID-19 started, when in-person classes were canceled and we were asked not to come to campus. It seems like a very long time ago, and yet the disruption to the normal rhythms of the university has made the year highly unusual. Over the past number of months, while Canadians have gone into and out of various levels of lockdown, most students and faculty have experienced no return to 'normal' academic life. We had hoped to teach our students in person by fall 2020; now a possible return to in-person learning in fall 2021 seems to be in jeopardy, as the vaccine rollout sputters and new variants of the virus emerge.

As a historian of disease, I've been asked for commentary on COVID-19 a number of times. Journalists have asked me: how did people in the past survive a pandemic? This is a surprisingly anxiety-inducing question to try to answer, when one is living through one. We know that disease outbreaks in the past have often led to stigmatization and violence against minorities, but there are also many examples of social solidarity and willingness to support family, friends, neighbours and strangers – even at great personal risk. We certainly are not the first society to call for a better world when a disease outbreak is over. Sometimes people gave meaning to their experience by demanding that better world; sometimes they exercised their fears in less humane ways. This is what human agency is all about: the choices we make in how we respond to historical forces not of our choosing.

My own work on the history of influenza explores the resistance to inequity arising out of the Great Influenza Pandemic (1918-1920). But I also argue that society failed to adequately support those less able to recover from the disease's toll in their lives – working class and immigrant families. Other historians have revealed that pandemic's disproportionate impact on Indigenous families and communities, and its place in the centuries-long history of colonialism and disease.

It has become cliché to point out that epidemics reveal us to ourselves. But, for as long as we are able, and as painful as it is, we might want to look squarely into that mirror, and decide that 'surviving' COVID-19 means demanding a fairer, more equitable society; recognizing that colonialism and inequality are now not only history; and not repeating the dominant society's response to the Great Influenza, which was to forget it. Let's remember, and let's learn.



Dean of Studies and award-winning historian of health and disease, Dr. Esyllt Jones.

College Events

Celebrating over 154 years of Academic Excellence, Healthy Community, and Social Justice



Congratulations Chase who won 1st Place!

To view the online exhibit for this year's 9th Annual Student Art Competition, please visit: <https://stjohnsartcompetition.wordpress.com/>



Every day is a good day to eat at the Daily Bread Café!

We are open from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm daily. Please see our College website for current information regarding the Provincial Public Health Guidelines.

Sharing Our Knowledge:

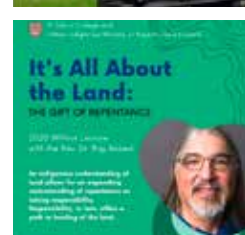
Virtual Theology Lectures were held due to COVID-19 restrictions

Centering the Dispossessed presented by The Rev. Gwen McAllister virtually on March 28, 2020.

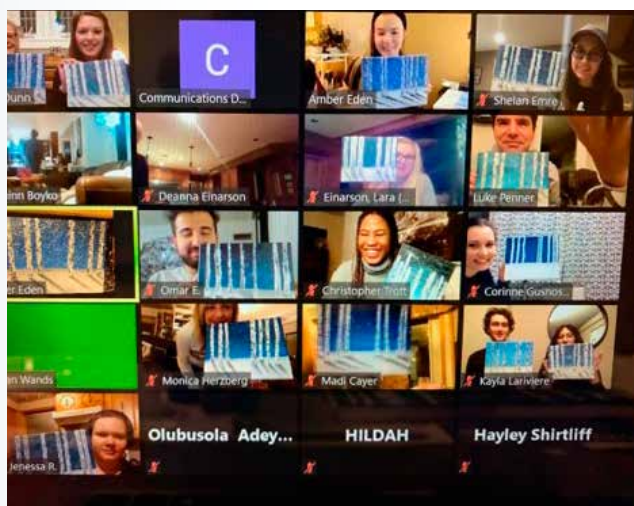


It's All About the Land

Wilmot Lecture in Theology presented by The Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred virtually on September 16, 2020.



The 36th Annual Marjorie Ward Lecture presented by Joan Sangster on March 5, 2020.



Virtual Paint Night Students raised \$740.00 for Willow Place (Women and children's emergency shelter in Winnipeg) with a virtual Paint Night on December 5, 2020. (Fiona Dunn displaying her masterpiece!)



5K Virtual Fun Run/Walk
Cole Thomas and Nathalie Kaboha

To Stay Up to Date...

on our current events at St John's College, please contact your College directly or check us out on our website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube page! (further details can be found on page 16)

Disclaimer: All public health orders are followed by all staff and students. In-person lectures were held prior to the pandemic restrictions.

Student Life

We strive to foster a connection and belonging for all our members. Even amidst the ongoing pandemic, we come together as one community.



Student Fellowship at the Snowmaze on January 23, 2020.



Students supporting social justice initiatives at the Black Lives Matter Rally on June 5, 2020.



Student art in the College garden, February 2020.



Retreat with College members and The Rev. Andrew Rampton, February 2020.



Students host a bake sale fundraiser for The Arthritis Society of Manitoba on February 28, 2020.



St John's College and St Paul's College members come together to volunteer at Harvest Manitoba on February 18, 2020.



Trick or Eat Food Drive event in support of Harvest Manitoba, October 31, 2020.



In Memoriam

Alumni and Friends of the College

"May we find comfort in the lives shared with each of us, and may we know God is in every emotion we feel. May we share our mourning journey with a trusted and empathetic friend."

– **The Rev. Helen Holbrook**

On April 10, 2020, **Grace Nunn** died at the age of 96 years. Grace is the wife of the late **The Revd Canon Laurence F. Wilmot '31** who predeceased her in 2003. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her daughter Cynthia Shaw and family.

Susann Ruth Monroe (née MacQuarrie) '47 passed away in December 2020. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her daughter, Pamela Monroe, and family during this difficult time.

On November 8, 2020, **L. Marilyn Jones** passed away of natural causes at 94 years of age. Her late husband, **The Most Revd. Walter Jones '51**, predeceased her in 2003. Thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.

David William Frye '60 peacefully passed away on August 25, 2020 in Winnipeg. David was a beloved elementary school teacher and principal in the St James School Division for over 37 years. Our hearts go out to his wife, Leslie Frye, and family.

Mary Alice Beyer Gammon (née Greenwood) passed away suddenly on February 22, 2020 in her 82nd year. She was a very special woman who "lived many lives", from entertaining US troops through dance during the Korean War at the age of three, winning seven trophies as a gymnast in a competition of over 2000 competitors,

dedicating years of employment in law firms, earning a Bachelor and Master's degree in Sociology from the University of Windsor, writing and publishing a book titled *Violence in Canada*. Mary was a distinguished educator and at the age of 55, she returned to school to complete a Juris Doctor degree. She dedicated her life to helping others and will be dearly missed. Our sincere condolences go out to **Richard Edward (Ted) Gammon '67** on the loss of his beloved wife.

Ernest (Ernie) Vincent Tymofichuk died on November 12, 2020. Our heartfelt condolences go out to **Isabel Tymofichuk '67** and family on the passing of her brother-in-law.

Janice Chance, the beloved wife of **Roger Currie '68**, died on June 8, 2020. She was a strong and incredible survivor who overcame much adversity during her lifetime and became known as the "Janice Miracle".

Our condolences to **Scott Farlinger '97** and **Kristin Farlinger '94** on the passing of their father, David Farlinger, on November 12, 2020.

Edwin Arthur Braid, C.M., Q.C. passed away on February 27, 2020 following a short illness. Art is survived by his son Kyle (Nicole), daughter Lianne (Dean), and granddaughters Penny, Isla and Sasha. He was predeceased by his wife Judith, and daughter

Sondra. Art graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Law degree and was called to the Bar in 1961. He received a Master of Laws from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1967. Art was an important member of College Council at St John's College for many years. Art's work and service were recognized through several awards and organizational life memberships, including the Order of Canada, appointment as Queen's Counsel, Canada's 125th Anniversary Medal, Queen's 50th Jubilee Medal and the Peter D. Curry Chancellor's Award for his outstanding contribution to University governance and development. A memorial service was held at St John's Cathedral on March 6th, 2020.

The Rev. Dr. Egil Grisliis died peacefully on April 21, 2020 at the age of 92 years. Egil will be greatly missed by his wife, **The Rev. Indra Sukra-Grisliis**, and the entire community. Egil was educated in Latvia and Germany; Divinity School Heidelberg University, 1948-49; Gettysburg College, A.B. 1950; Gettysburg Seminary, B.D. 1953; Yale University, Ph.D., 1958 and was ordained in 1957 by New York Synod. Egil was a Professor Emeritus of the University of Manitoba and received an Honourary Doctor of Divinity from St John's College in 2000.

The Very Rev. Ralph Esdale

Baxter died peacefully at home on November 27, 2020. Ralph taught in the Theology Faculty at the College in 1981 and again in 1991 when he was the acting Dean of Theology. He was awarded an Honourary Doctor of Divinity at our 129th Convocation. He has had a long association with our College and has always been a supporter. Ralph fled to Canada from Northern Ireland in 1974 after he received death threats for his involvement in peace negotiations. He served many parishes in the Diocese of Rupert's Land eventually becoming Dean of the Cathedral in 1990 until he retired in 1995. Our condolences go out to Eileen, Heather, Catherine, and the entire Baxter family.

We are saddened to inform you of the passing of **Professor Thomas H.B. Symons** on January 1, 2021. Tom Symons was the founding president of Trent University in 1960 and a champion for Canadian Studies across the country. Dr. Symons had connections with St John's College. He was an exchange student in the 1950's and in 1982/83 he was a scholar in residence and presented the Marjorie Ward Lecture titled *The Current State of Canadian Studies in Canada*. He was again a scholar in residence in 1994 when he gave the Keynote Address at the SJC Canadian Studies Conference on Universities in the Next Century. In 2001, St John's College conferred the degree of Doctor of Canon Laws (honoris causa) to Tom Symons. Out of his generosity, Dr. Symons established a

scholarship in Canadian Studies at the College, to which he has generously added over the years. He referred to St John's College as "my little College on the Prairies". His legacy will live on forever.

The Rev. Dr. Menno Wiebe died peacefully on January 5, 2021 in Winnipeg. Menno was awarded the Honourary Degree of Doctor of Divinity in 2009. He was a trailblazer in the pursuit for understanding and justice. Menno prides himself on his work with Indigenous peoples. His great legacy will live on. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his loving wife, Lydia and the entire family.

In November 2020, **retired Fellow James Dean and his wife Ruth** lost their beloved son Peter, at the age of 46. Our heartfelt condolences go out to you during this difficult time.

Brian Robert Chesnut passed away on August 20, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Gaylene Chesnut and family on the sudden loss of her husband.

Frank (Francis) William Render died on November 9, 2020 at the age of 85. Our heartfelt condolences go out to former student, **Carla C. Vincent Render** and family on the death of Carla's father-in-law.

Desmond Connor, Honourary Fellow and SJC Past Council member, peacefully passed away on Sunday, December 29, 2019. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Elizabeth and family.

Frances (Fran) E. Rowlin passed away peacefully on December 14, 2020 at 77 years of age. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Rowlin family.

June Bates (Fran's dear friend and Saint Margaret's Anglican Church choir member) died on February 5, 2021. Our thoughts go out to her daughters Barbara (Gordon McFarlane), Valerie (Neil Gamey), and family.

"GIVE COURAGE,
LORD, FOR THE
UNCHARTED JOURNEY,
PEACEFULNESS IN
PARTING FROM ALL
THAT MUST BE LEFT
BEHIND, AN INNER
VISION OF INVITATION
FOR ALL THAT IS
BETTER THAT AWAITS."

(*Celtic Bible Prayer*, 224)

covid contact

house-pent she yearns for a mango sun
that would touch the yard into heat
wrap it in a pentecostal flare

she hopes for the birds that would
darn the light into nests
the tango of grass and earthworms

she quickens like a child to the excitement
her ipad lighting up the internet
with hints of contact and candour
when it dings quickquick like an ice-cream vendor
she also rouses to it like a slightly older kid to
a pinball machine in full tilt that may be
at any moment shaken into silence

the spasms of eight friends
) is anybody there . . . is anybody listening. . . (
could be SOS if they knew morse code
they cannot speak often or quickly enough
the eight of them at the same time
signal back, all at once, and once again, it seems
in boolean loop listing badly on a ship
the distress signals sounding the alarm

she grows so impossibly restive
the two daughters keep a fierce eye on her
they suspect her of a dangerously skittish bent
pawing and snorting around the gate
through which they fear she is apt to burst
like a cow newly sprung
from a long cold winter in the barn
hoping to acquire a herd immunity

*This poem was written by retired Fellow, Dennis Cooley,
and shared with the permission of Bayeux Press.*

Keep in touch!

We would love to hear from you! Connect with us:

Website: https://umanitoba.ca/colleges/st_johns



Facebook: @SJCCOLLEGE1866



Instagram: st_johnscollege



Twitter: @SJC_College



YouTube: St John's College, Winnipeg MB

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or email please contact us at:*

jackie.markstrom@umanitoba.ca or 204-474-9350.



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