



ST JOHN'S
COLLEGE

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IN LUMINE

Newsletter Vol XLII No.1 Spring 2024



Congratulations to SJC Graduating Class of 2023!
(Convocation in the St John's Chapel, November 5, 2023)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 30 – SJCSA Graduation Dinner

Chaplain Helen Events – Every Tuesday & Thursday

Johnian Lunch – June

Beautification Day – End of May

Chaplaincy – Seed Gardening Event

Stay connected!



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St John's College, Winnipeg MB

Warden's Word!

by Dr. Allison Abra '99



Dr Allison Abra

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

Design: Karen Armstrong Graphic Design
Editing: Edmund Opoku-Agyeman,
Marissa Naylor

Thank you to this issue's contributors:
Dr. Allison Abra, Rev Helen Holbrook,
Edmund Opoku-Agyeman, Marissa Naylor,
alum, and friends

Convocation Photos Credit: Luc Desjardins

Our mission is to foster a sense of connectedness among all members of the College community. We share information, stimulate discussions, and foster happy memories about St John's College and, in doing so, continue to build community through the forging and improving of relationships with the College. We love to share the inspiring stories and updates about our alumni, faculty, and students.

How to contact us:

St John's College, 92 Dysart Rd,
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2M5
Phone: (204) 474-9350 Fax: 474-7610

Email: jackie.markstrom@umanitoba.ca
Web: <https://umanitoba.ca/st-johns-college/>
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As you will see in these pages, it has been a busy and exciting few months at St John's College. The Fall 2023 term started with a flurry of events for our community, including Matriculation, Jumpstart, the annual BBQ with St. Paul's College (where SJC students won the tug-of-war!), the start of term reception for our fellows and staff, a fantastic Lunch & Lively with our Dean of Studies Dr. Jade Weimer, and other fun gatherings of alumni for Homecoming.

In November, Convocation weekend was incredibly special as always, as we celebrated our graduates and awarded approximately \$200,000 in scholarships and bursaries to current students. We were also very pleased to welcome (or welcome back!) Pat Bovey, Brian Bowman, Brenda Cantelo, and Vincent Solomon to the College to receive important honours. We then wrapped up the term with the inaugural holiday party for students, staff, fellows, Council members, and alumni, that featured jazz musicians from the Desautels Faculty of Music, and was a great success. If you weren't there, you must join us next year.

Through all of these events there has just been a wonderful energy around the College, and our community is thriving – and growing! One of the challenges we faced during the pandemic shut-downs was enabling new UM students to learn about the many benefits of joining

St John's, and so recruitment has been a major focus this academic year. Led by our Registrar Sherry Peters and our new Marketing and Communications Officer Marissa Naylor, we have been using info tables, special events, and social media to raise awareness about the College and encourage new students to affiliate. These efforts have been very successful: we were thrilled to see almost 200 students join the College as new members this past fall, and our numbers only continue to climb.

As we welcome this next generation of Johnnians, we also so enjoy reconnecting with our alumni. In recent months, our development officer Jackie Markstrom and I have travelled to visit with SJC alumni and friends in Toronto, Calgary, and Edmonton, and met many of you locally as well. We hope to see even more of you at the many great SJC events still to come this winter and spring, and in the meantime please enjoy reading about all the goings-on here at the College and across our community. And be sure to check out our revamped website and social media!

Chaplain's Corner with The Rev. Helen Holbrook

Evan Chan graduated in 2023 with a master's degree in music theory. Currently, he is studying for his doctorate in Toronto. Throughout his studies Evan experienced student life pre-COVID, during COVID shut down, and post-COVID return of campus activities.



Evan Chan

What brought you to St John's and when?

I wanted to discern a spiritual calling; I was seeking Christ. I was raised as a Christian in elementary school and in 2019 I had St John's on my horizon but never got there. Eventually it was the pandemic that led me to connect with Edgar French from U of M Spiritual Care. I joined St John's College in Fall 2020, but I was skeptical. I questioned what it had to offer with its colonial Oxford college system.

When did you connect with the Chaplain and Chaplaincy programs?

I met Rev Andrew, but I knew he was leaving and chose not to seek a connection. Then I met Rev Helen Holbrook to seek spiritual guidance and learning. I continued to explore my spirituality and met people but I didn't expect much, maybe just church services. However, I did attend meditation, and Gospel based discipleship and spiritual direction (with Rev Helen).

I continued to attend other events like the healing garden, food for the journey and then began to get involved in the College by seeking advice of fellows and administration. Then I felt the pull of the Holy Spirit and decided to seek baptism and confirmation.

What other resources/departments did you connect with at St John's College?

In my search for advice about doctoral studies, I met with Dr. Jade Weimer, SJC Dean of Studies, and Dr. Kurt Markstrom, retired fellow, and music professor, to seek advice on doctoral studies. Dr. Weimer shared her experiences in doctoral studies in Toronto. Dr. Markstrom also encouraged me on my intended academic pursuits.

In 2022-23 when I served on the UMSU Student Council I found out St John's had lost its status at UMSU. When I shared this information at Assembly, I received overwhelming support from the Warden and the entire Assembly to work towards a restoration of SJC status at UMSU.

What do you take with you from St John's to Toronto?

I'm taking along with me the support and guidance from I received from the Chaplain, Dean of Studies, Administrative staff, and Fellows which helped immensely to set up for the University of Toronto.



Rev. Helen Holbrook

How do you continue to feed your spiritual walk?

I live at Wycliff and attend services at Trinity where I serve as a sacristan. The Bishop has asked me to be on the search committee for a new Chaplain. I am an organist and pianist for Trinity, and I officiate at morning and evening prayer (Evan loves the high Church language). Eventually I am thinking of becoming a deacon.

2023 Convocation



Top Left: Dr. Brian Bowman ('96) delivering the Convocation Address
Top Right: Dr. Brian Bowman ('96) receiving his honorary degree from Bishop Geoffrey Woodcroft, Bishop of Rupertsland and Chancellor of SJC
Top Right (Bottom): Dr. Brenda Cantelo, retired fellow, receiving the Fellows Recognition Award from Dr Jade Weimer, SJC Dean of Studies
Left: Honorary Fellow Reverend Vincent Solomon receiving his award from Bishop Geoffrey Woodcroft
Left (Bottom): The Honorable Dr Patricia Bovey receiving her honorary degree from Bishop Geoffrey Woodcroft
Below: Dr. Allison Abra ('99), Vice-Chancellor, along with Edna Poulter and Pam Poulter-Friesen ('90), presenting the Ted and Edna Poulter Scholarship to Taylor Letham





Top Left: SJCSA Stick, Ravneet Kaur handing over the James Frost Cross Memorial Trophy to Sabrina Stokotelny (SJCSA Community Outreach Rep)

Top Right: Dr. Brian Bowman '96 with wife, Tracy '96, and son, Austin

Bottom Left: Class of '63 and recipients of 60th anniversary J-Pins: (L-R) Mrs. Diane Schurek, Mrs. Donna Byrn, Mrs. Lynn Pate, Mr. John Deacon, Mrs. Jocelyn Barnard, and Mrs. Eleanor Penner

College Events



In the photo above from left: Dr. Allison Abra, Warden & Vice-Chancellor of SJC; Honorary Fellow Rev Vincent Solomon, Honorable Dr. Patricia Bovey, Dr. Brenda Cantelo, Retired Fellow of SJC, Dr. Brian Bowman, Bishop Geoffrey Woodcroft, Bishop of Rupert's Land and Chancellor of SJC



**Please visit the
Daily Bread Café
for a coffee or a
fresh meal!**

Great new menu and long-time favorites!
We are open from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. **100% of your purchases directly support St John's College!**

2023 Convocation and Honorary Degrees

The 155th Annual 2023 Convocation was held last November in the St John's Chapel. 135 St John's College members graduated from the UM in 2023 with doctoral, master's and bachelor's degrees across various academic disciplines. 11 students graduated with first-class honours and 21 with distinction. During Convocation St John's College awarded just over \$200,000 (including matching funds from the provincial government) in scholarships and bursaries.

During the convocation ceremony, Dr. Brian Bowman,

recipient of the Doctor of Canon Law (honoris causa) and an alum of the College, reflected on his experience at St John's, where he learned not to be a bystander. "Many of the lessons and habits that I developed here at St John's College have helped to guide my professional path for the past three decades...as a lawyer, as Winnipeg's Mayor, and now as a VP of Canada Life," Dr. Bowman said.

Following his address, Dr. Bowman advised students to leverage their education and network and positively influence the community.

International student finds her community at St John's

Coming to Canada for her first year of university was a scary yet exciting time for Fatoumatta.

Travelling from Africa to pursue nursing, Fatoumatta started her journey off at University 1, where she found St John's to help her academically and meet new friends like Hamidou, one of the St John's Residence Don's.

"Coming from a small place in Africa, I wanted a small community not just to meet friends but to succeed academically, and St John's is that place for me."

Being an international student, Fatoumatta felt supported on campus. As she got comfortable, she quickly found that diversity was embraced at St John's College, which made her feel at home.

"It's a welcoming place for everyone, no matter your background, who you are, or where you come from; everyone is accepted here. It felt like second home to be with the welcoming staff, endless opportunities, and academic support they provide to help me get through my studies."

As part of her experience at St John's, Fatoumatta has benefited from the scholarships and bursaries, which were more than just financial support for her and her family.

Receiving the Dance Memorial Bursary last year allowed her to continue building the life she wants for herself and her family, including buying fresh groceries for the holiday season and continuing her coursework to get into the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences.



"It's a welcoming place for everyone..."

College Events



2nd Annual Johnian Circle Luncheon

The second Johnian Circle Appreciation Luncheon was held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. The event is held to show our monthly and significant donors' appreciation for their financial support to the College over the past fiscal year.

Dr. Allison Abra opened the afternoon by expressing her appreciation to the donors for their continued support of the College. She thanked them for making it possible for scholarships and bursaries to be extended to current and future students, as well as the three long-term projects, including the new residence, the renovation of the third floor, and the expansion of the kitchen and dining facilities.

The keynote speaker at this year's event was Fayaz Hasan, who is a former residence student and former Dean of Residence. Fayaz was grateful for the community environment and opportunities St John's provided him in the residence, where he made long-lasting friendships, he even met his life partner as a resident. He looked forward to a long-time commitment to the College in the years ahead. Below are photographs from the Luncheon.



Jumpstart 2023

The 2023-24 school year's Jumpstart dinner was held on Thursday, September 7, 2023, at the Daily Bread Café. With nearly 200 new St John's members, we welcomed new and returning members with a chance to connect, meet new friends, and enjoy a delicious meal courtesy of the Daily Bread Café. The Warden and Vice-Chancellor, Chaplain, Registrar, and Marketing and Communications Officer were in attendance.

Below are some exciting scenes from Jumpstart!





Matriculation

In welcoming new students, staff, and fellows to the College, our annual Matriculation was held in the St John's Chapel on September 19, 2023. Dr. David Watt charged new members of the College to make it a 'collegial' place for themselves and other members during this ceremony. Three fellows, three staff, and fourteen students matriculated at the ceremony. They signed the matriculation register and received their SJC pins.



Alumni Reception Roundup

Throughout last year, our Warden and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Allison Abra and Development Officer, Jackie Markstrom, met up with alums and friends across Canada. These alum engagements provide the opportunity for SJC to chat with alumni, thank them for the continued support of the College, and brief them on future developments. Visits included Carman, Selkirk, Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, Selkirk, Edmonton, and Calgary.



Lunch & Lively

During the University of Manitoba homecoming week in September, the College welcomed our alumni and friends back for a luncheon in the St John's College Cross Common Room. At the luncheon, Dr. Jade Weimer, Dean of Studies and instructor in the Department of Religion, presented a scholarly paper on "Autonomy, Unity, and Patriarchy in the Early Church: Framing Discourse on Women Singing in the First Five Centuries."



Special Events



SJC Holiday Party

On December 5, the College hosted our first Holiday Party, which brought together fellows, staff, and students from our community to celebrate the holiday season. It was a resounding success, with over eighty people in attendance who enjoyed a spread of delicious meals from the Daily Bread Café. Jazz musicians from the Desautels Faculty of Music entertained attendees. The party was a fitting finale to a successful year 2023.

Student Membership Drive



Students Membership Drive

It was a busy September as we looked to increase our student membership by tabling across the UM campus. With the help of SJCSA and Residence Council, we tabled at Welcome the Herd, Prep Week, and Welcome Week events, where we successfully increased our membership by nearly 200 members, including a record-breaking attendance at Jumpstart.



Faculty & Staff News



*A former SJC Chaplain, **Allison Corey**, recently visited Prof Anthony Waterman '62 for a courtesy visit. Her wife and two kids accompanied her.*



We are happy to welcome back **Amy Backhouse**, Events Coordinator and Faculty Assistant, who returned to work after eighteen months' maternity leave. Welcome back, Amy!

Beatriz Martins, Assistant Bursar of the College, has announced the birth of her son, Baby Antonio. He was 20 inches long and weighed 8lbs. Mom and son are doing well. Congratulations, Beatriz!



In January, the College said goodbye to **David Plett**, who joined SJC in November 2022. David served as our receptionist, data analyst, and event coordinator during his time at St John's. We wish David the best of success in his future endeavours.



Meanwhile, **Sharaina Cottick** accepted a one-year term position as Assistant Bursar to cover for Beatriz's maternity leave. Sharaina is a fourth-year accounting student at Asper School of Business, UM, and a Co-Communications Director of SJCSA. Welcome to the team, Sharaina!



Dr. Bonnie Hallman, an SJC Fellow and an artist, mounted an exhibition of her paintings in the Cross Common Room last October. This exhibition was Dr. Hallman's third since she started painting three years ago. Aside from her artwork and research, Dr. Hallman became a grandma again with the recent birth of her grandson, Felix Leonard Hallman. Congratulations, Bonnie!

Book launch: In September, two of our Fellows, **Dr. Julia Smith**, and **Dr. Sean Carleton**, launched their book *Mr. Block* at McNally Robinson Bookstore in Winnipeg. The book revolves around Canadian history, focusing on colonialism and its effects on society. Congratulations to Julia and Sean!



Congratulations to **Dr. Janet Hoskins**, a

former Warden of the College and her family on the birth of her grandson.

He was born five weeks to term. Jeremy Hoskins (Janet's son) and Hannah Recht are the baby's parents.

Dr. Lori Wilkinson, Professor of Sociology and Criminology and a Fellow of St John's College, was named the University of Manitoba Distinguished Professor of 2023.

Dr. Wilkinson received the title for outstanding distinction in research, scholarship, creative endeavours, professional service, and teaching. Congratulations, Lori!

In August 2023 we hired our new Marketing and Communications Officer, **Marissa Naylor**. Marissa comes to St John's with a wide range of marketing including the commercial sector, agency work, and formerly from another faculty at the University of Manitoba. She has increased the College's online presence including collaborations with UM faculties and departments on campus to leverage our membership and residence. Outside of her office, Marissa is a world championship bowler who recently travelled to Kuwait City for the International Bowling Federation



Championships. She brought back bronze in trios and recently qualified for the Canadian team again for 2024 in Burlington, Ontario. Congratulations, Marissa!

Dr. Melanie Unrau Dennis, a Former Fellow, has been appointed as a Banting Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Regina, studying the Poetry and Poetics of Just Transition.

Our Diocesan Discipleship Developer, **Ryan Turnbull**, successfully defended his PhD in Theology and Religion at the University of Birmingham in the UK. Entitled "Haunted and Held: A Christian Theology of Place." Congratulations, Dr. Turnbull!



In September, we welcomed three new fellows into St John's: **Sean Carleton, Ph.D.** (Faculty of Arts, Departments of History and Indigenous Studies), **Jorg Stetefeld, Ph.D.** (Faculty of Science), and **Annette Riziki**, Rhodes scholar and PhD student at Oxford University. Welcome, Sean, Jorg, and Annette!



Soup & Bread

Our Soup & Bread event provides a platform for our Fellows to gather in the Senior Common Room to connect and learn from each other by presenting their current research projects. In the last quarter of 2023, we hosted Dr. Murray Evans, Dr. Jocelyn Thorpe, and Dr. Sean Carleton, as they shared some findings in their respective areas.



Alumni/Student News



Aynsley and Cory Yamashita, who met at the College in the 1990s and now live in London, Ontario, stopped by for a visit last summer. They enjoyed showing their daughters Mylo and Colbie around the building and seeing familiar faces like Wendy Ann Herty in the Daily Bread Café.



Brian Bowman '96, a former two-time mayor of Winnipeg, has been appointed a judge for the Court of King's Bench in Manitoba, the Federal Justice Department announced in December. Until this appointment, he was the vice president of sustainability and social impact at Canada Life.

Jane Freyer, whose husband, **David Freyer '64**, died in 2021, stopped by the College to share some memories and photos of her husband's time here at the College. Jane shared with the Warden and Development Officer that as an only child, Dave found a second family here at the College.

The Archbishop of Canada of the Orthodox Church in America, the Most Reverend Irenee, has awarded the Nabedrennik to Father **Stephen Sharman '78** in recognition of his 'work and devotion to the good and welfare of his parish.' "I feel honoured," Father Sharman said.

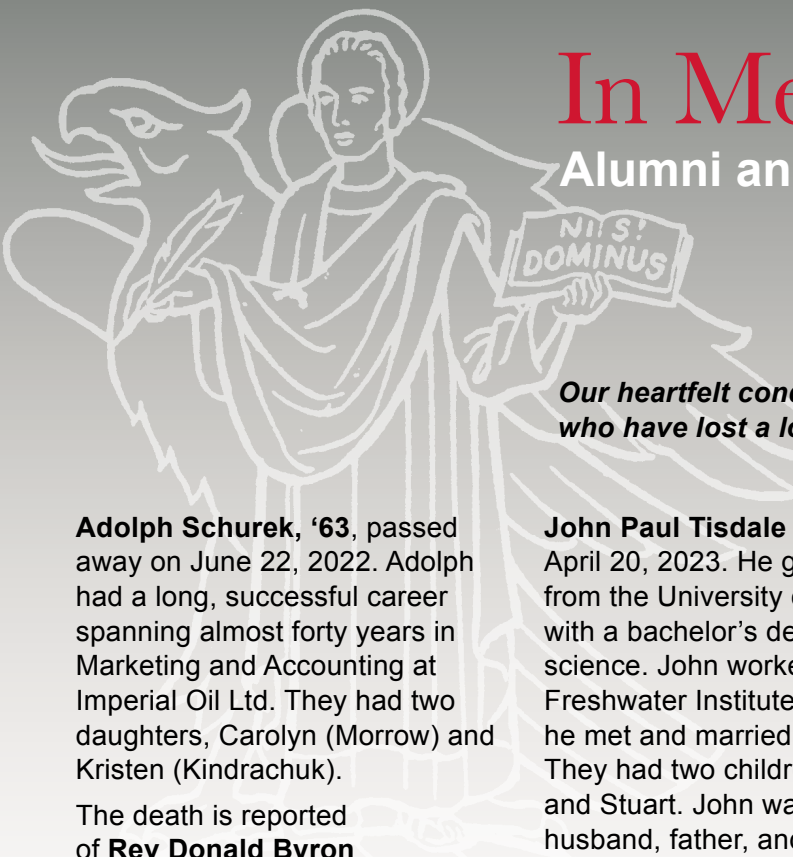
Last December, the Government of Canada appointed **Mitch Davies '91** president of the National Research Council of Canada (NRC). Mitch was an SJCSA Council member and lived in the Residence. The NRC plays a pivotal role in Canada's research ecosystem by advancing leading-edge knowledge and sustainable solutions that enhance the competitiveness of Canada's economy. Congratulations, Mitch!

Order of Manitoba

Two former St John's College students were among twelve Manitobans who received the Order of Manitoba, the province's highest honour, for their endeavours and accomplishments. They are **Ms. Terumi Kuwada**, and **Honorable Janis Johnson, C.M.** The formal investiture ceremony was held on July 20, 2023.

Posthumous Award

In June 2023, **Peter Graham Brass**, a former SJC Council Member, was conferred with a posthumous doctorate award from the St John's Ravenscourt High School in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the development of the school. Until his passing, Peter was the Director of Student Services and University Advisor and led many initiatives in the school.



In Memoriam

Alumni and Friends of the College

Our heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to all who have lost a loved one.

Adolph Schurek, '63, passed away on June 22, 2022. Adolph had a long, successful career spanning almost forty years in Marketing and Accounting at Imperial Oil Ltd. They had two daughters, Carolyn (Morrow) and Kristen (Kindrachuk).

The death is reported of **Rev Donald Byron McKenzie '07**, which occurred on January 14, 2024. He was 58. Donald served in various placements within the Anglican Church. He is survived by his mother, Major Caroline Ena McKenzie, and brothers Ian (Glenda), Robert, William, Gordon (Wendy), and Cameron (Irna).

John Cameron Norquay died on September 12, 2023, at 80. John had a long, successful career in Mortgage Investment within many significant insurance companies. He served his church family through leadership roles as a licensed Lay Reader in the Anglican Church, Bible studies and premarital counselling. Our condolences to the family.

John Paul Tisdale '68 died on April 20, 2023. He graduated from the University of Manitoba with a bachelor's degree in science. John worked at the Freshwater Institute, where he met and married Nancy. They had two children, Ellen, and Stuart. John was a loving husband, father, and friend to many.

Mrs. June Beverly MacDonald (nee Miller) '63 passed away peacefully on December 5, 2023, after a protracted illness. June was predeceased by her husband, Ray. Mourning her passing are her daughter Cathy (Grant, Ty, Turner), cousins Kim and Mike Flynn, and many others. May her soul rest in peace.

Dr. Noah Carpenter '67, Canada's first Inuvialuk surgeon, has died, according to CBC News. He died in August 2023. Dr. Carpenter is fondly remembered for his lifetime of hard work and determination, his accomplishments as a skilled surgeon, and the inspiration he gave to many fellow Northerners. Noah attended St John's College from 1963-67 and lived in residence for three years.

Patricia Joanne Wilkinson of Saskatoon died on August 4, 2023, at the age of 75. Patty was an active member of St George's Anglican Church in Saskatoon and was honoured with a lifetime membership in the Anglican Women's League. Patty is survived by her daughter, **Dr. Lori Wilkinson**, a fellow of the College, along with one son, another daughter and five grandchildren.



For many of our alumni and donors leaving a gift to SJC in their Will is a way to celebrate their life and values. These decisions are not taken lightly and entail many important conversations with family and professional advisors. St John's College has partnered with the Will Power Movement, and you can visit our page here www.willpower.ca/charities/st-johns-college or contact Jackie Markstrom (Development Officer) at 204-474-9350 or jackie.markstrom@umanitoba.ca



St John's alumni achieving greatness in 2023 including, Jordan Miller ('02), Les Wiens ('83), and Nicole Wruth ('12). View their stories on UM Today News.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St John's College is located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, and Dakota peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

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