
TRANSITIONS

Winter 2003



St. Thomas University

Community News

CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP IN LIBERAL ARTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By the time you receive this copy of Transitions we will all be well into the swing of the winter term. I hope you enjoyed a restful, peaceful and joyous new year break. The start of a new term always brings with it new projects and new developments in our ongoing initiatives.

We have been moving forward quickly to resolve our problem regarding residence space for our students. With the approval of the Finance Committee, we have engaged ADI as the architect and project manager for a 150-bed residence which will be located on our Forest Hill property. There is consensus that we must provide this new space by the beginning of the next academic year. Therefore, the construction schedule has the characteristic, ambitious time line of St. Thomas projects which will, I am sure, result in much nail biting next August as we prepare to receive students!

On the topic of expanding our physical plant, you may have noticed in the local media the news that St. Thomas is no longer pursuing the acquisition of Somerville House on Waterloo Row. We intended to use the property as a multi-use facility – for hosting a number of activities, including reunions and cultural activities. It would also have been used as a guesthouse for the many people who visit the university throughout the year. However, we were unable to conclude a satisfactory agreement and therefore have withdrawn our expression of interest.



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Transitions is prepared by the Office of Communications and Media Relations and is about the faculty, staff and students of St. Thomas University. Your comments, suggestions and contributions are welcome. If you have story ideas or articles to contribute please contact either Mary McIntosh (452-0522) or Tami Hill (452-0645) in the Office of Communications, Room 105, George Martin Hall, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5G3.

A special thanks to STU Journalism students Jennifer Dunville, Maggie Estey, Erin McPhee and Joel O'Kane for their excellent articles which have been published in the local media and some of which appear in this edition.

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ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY

St. Thomas University is pleased to announce four new appointments to its Board of Governors



ELLEN DESMOND

Ellen Desmond is a STU graduate and an Associate Lawyer with Patterson Palmer Hunt Murphy. She holds a Bachelor of Laws from UNB, a Masters of Social Work from Carleton University and a Master of Laws in Alternative Dispute Resolution from Osgoode Hall. She lives in Rothesay with her husband, Paul Harquail, and their two children.



Laurie Boucher

Laurie Boucher is a STU graduate with a Bachelor of Education from Univ. St-Louis, Edmundston and a Masters of Psychology from the Univ. de Moncton. He was employed with the Departments of Youth and Education in the NB public service. He was also a successful construction developer in the Moncton and Bouctouche area and is actively involved in his community. He lives in Bouctouche with his wife Joan McGrath. They have two children.



CARLA FORBES

Carla Forbes holds a Bachelor of Nursing degree from Dalhousie University. Following clinical nursing appointments, which included work with the palliative care unit in Halifax, she joined the Nova Scotia public service to coordinate the Prescription Monitoring Program for the Department of Health. She now lives in Rothesay with her husband, Jay, and their three children.



BARBARA WINSOR They have two children.

Barbara Winsor holds a Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy) from Dalhousie University. She was the Director of Pharmacy Services for the Moncton Hospital, Registrar of the NB Pharmaceutical Society, and the Chief of Staff for the Office of the Premier. She is currently the President of NB Liquor Corporation. She lives in Grand Barachois with her husband Doug.



St. Thomas University

LEADERS IN LIBERAL ARTS

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ST. THOMAS HONORS ITS BEST

by Jennifer Dunville

More than two hundred smiling faces entered the Rigby hall ballroom at St. Thomas University looking anxiously to see if they were sitting with their favorite professor or classmate.

Thirty-seven tables seated faculty, board members and students as dining room staff gracefully provided formal black-tie service as the sounds of beautiful guitar music filled the air. With the cheerful murmur of the crowd, and the clatter of dishes, the celebration began.

On November 21, the Dean's list students, joined by members of the board and of the faculty, gathered at Rigby Hall to celebrate. What better way to congratulate St. Thomas University scholars then with an elegant gourmet dinner complete with recognition and applause?

The Dean's list, created in 1977, honors outstanding students who have a GPA of 3.7 (A-) or better in 30 credit hours in the preceding academic year. The 2001-2002 Dean's list contains the names of 314 students, 12% of the student population. This dinner held in honor of the students is one of the rewards of being on the Dean's List.

"The dinner is a celebration," says Dr. Rick Myers, Academic Vice President of St. Thomas University. "It's important, not only to indicate to people how good their marks are, but to bring them all together and directly express our pride in their accomplish-



Two St. Thomas University students who were honored at the Dean's List Dinner, from left to right: Meghan Fitzgerald and Janie Everett.

ments. More importantly tell them how pleased we are to have them with us."

Master of Ceremonies, Larry Batt, welcomed the guests. When the gathering had polished off the last of their meal, he gave a history of the Dean's list and introduced Andrew Moore.

Andrew Moore, fourth year honors student in English and Interdisciplinary studies, spoke on behalf of the Dean's list students. It is Andrew's third year on the Dean's list. He talked about the uncertainty of life and posed an important question: does your culture and environment pre-determine your world view? Andrew says, "There's only one way for people to move out of a situation where the world around them determines what they believe – and that is through an education – in particular a liberal arts education."

"This is where the congratulations comes in," he continued. These stu-

dents [on the Dean's list] have seriously dedicated themselves to their education and really work hard to understand for themselves." He says the sacrifices students have to make are worthwhile if they use their education to redefine themselves and gain real knowledge about the human condition.

After Andrew's speech, Dr. O'Brien, President and Vice-Chancellor of St. Thomas University, gave his recipe for a successful University.

"With quality faculty, quality programs and quality students, we think we have the right blend. You have distinguished yourselves by a really an awesome record of achievement and we're absolutely delighted to have a small role in helping you achieve your success."

Third year English majors Meghan Fitzgerald and Janie Everett enjoyed the dinner and were delighted to attend for the second year in a row.

"It gives you something to work towards." Ms. Fitzgerald says. "Being on the Dean's list gives me a sense of pride because it recognizes the achievements and sacrifices I've made," added Katie Ferrar, fourth year history honors student. "It gives me a chance to enjoy good food and even better company. While the students may be from varying disciplines, we all share the common bond of having devoted ourselves first and foremost to our studies."

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT *continued*

We have just announced four new members of our Board of Governors. I would like to welcome Ellen Desmond, Carla Forbes, Barbara Winsor and Laurie Boucher to the Board. They each have valuable skills and insights to bring to this very critical volunteer body.

We also have a very hardworking volunteer team contributing their time

and skills to organizing and selling tickets for our upcoming Gala Dinner on Sat. Feb. 1, 2003. This promises to once again be a lively and entertaining evening. All proceeds from Celebrating the Spirit of St. Thomas University, this year's theme, will support the Millennium Bursary Programme which helps students in financial need. If you haven't yet purchased a ticket, you might want to consider attending this mid-winter event.

My priorities for the winter term will be to continue to seek an adjustment in our operating grant from the provincial government, to finalize solicitations for the Capital Campaign, and to facilitate the timely construction of our newest student residence.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful winter term.

Daniel O'Brien
President and Vice-Chancellor

"STARS OF HOPE" STUDY IN CANADA

by Erin McPhee



Peng Chengyi is living a dream. He was born in a rural area of China, a country with 10 per cent of its 1.28 billion population below the poverty line. Peng said with poverty all around him, growing up was hard. However, he loved to learn and had high hopes for his future.

Peng moved to Fredericton in July. The 19-year-old is one of five "Stars of Hope" students from under-privileged Chinese backgrounds awarded a four-year scholarship to attend St. Thomas University beginning this fall.

Project Hope is a public welfare program founded in 1989 by the non-profit China Youth Development Foundation. The project has raised funds to improve the educational system in China's poor areas.

After graduating from junior school, Peng, who is known on campus as Andrew, Hu Zheng Fen (Alice), Chen Yanli (Judy), Wang Sha, (Sarah), and Zhou Yixi (Ruby) received a scholarship to go to senior school from Project Hope. They were five of 50 "Stars of Hope" students in one class at a senior school in the Zhejiang Province of China. Their senior school career was secure, however, the next challenge would be handling the high cost of university.

St. Thomas' administration began discussions with the students' school in 1999. The University was offering five four-year scholarships to cover the cost of tuition for five students from the Project Hope class to study at its Fredericton campus. In 2000, Rick Myers, vice president academic, visited the school, conducted interviews, and awarded the scholarships.

The chosen students accepted the opportunity and all live off campus to save money. Their scholarship waived tuition, but they have to pay their living expenses. Their senior school principal worked with Project Hope to arrange the remaining funding.

Andrew said he and the other students were not nervous about coming to Canada.

"We like challenges in life," he said.

Dr. Myers chose students who he believed had both academic ability and the greatest chance of successfully adapting to Canadian student culture. He selected students who were outgoing, self-confident and optimistic.

"It's a pleasure to be with them, because their enthusiasm rubs off," said Dr. Myers. "Some students are very jaded about things. Here are five students who think going to St. Thomas is like winning the lottery. Every minute is a treat for them."

Dr. Myers said he has continued his relationship with the students to follow their progress. The St. Thomas administration plans to evaluate the success of these students before making further offers.

"It's consistent with our mission to try to be generous with people who are particularly in dire need," said Dr. Myers.

The students are unsure when they will next return home because of travel costs, it may be for three or four years, said 20-year-old Alice.

"We're used to that," she said. "We've already lived away from home during high school."

Alice said she misses her family, but she's able to keep in touch through e-mail. She e-mails her sisters who pass on messages to her parents.

Andrew misses his family as well, he uses the telephone to keep in touch. He opted to stay with a Canadian family which he said has provided him with a great opportunity to learn another culture, he said. His host family took all five students on a trip to Shediac to see the ocean, taught them Canadian table manners and had them over for their first Thanksgiving dinner.

The four girls live together in an apartment, however Alice said they try their best to meet other people and have a group of friends that includes many cultures.

The students began to learn English in junior school, but Andrew and Alice said they're still working on it. They try to avoid speaking Chinese to one another.

"The biggest difference here is that no one tells us what to do next," said Alice.

Alice and Andrew enjoy the freedom to choose courses within one major of study.

"In China, if you're admitted to a major, you have to take the courses in that major," said Andrew.

Compared to their former life of competition and standardized testing, New Brunswickers seem to be all about enjoying the life, said Alice.

"In China, there is a hurry in everything, here the pace of life is slow," she said.

Alice said she's used to studying all the time. Their former academic life was governed by constant competition for limited class spaces and high expectations, she said.

Andrew works part time in the cafeteria, and Alice plans to get a job next semester, once she adjusts.

Andrew is interested in pursuing business management, and is taking math and economics.

"The short plan is when I graduate from St. Thomas I may go to the USA or Europe for further education and finally, I'll go back to China," he said. "I hope to be an entrepreneur and own my own company."

See "Stars of Hope" — page 9

DALTON CAMP AWARD ANNOUNCED BY FRIENDS OF CANADIAN BROADCASTING

In early December, Friends of Canadian Broadcasting announced the creation of The Dalton Camp Award, honouring the memory of the late Dalton Camp, a distinguished commentator on Canadian public affairs, who passed away last year.

The award has been established to stimulate new thinking and discussion on how the news media influence the state of Canadian democracy.

"We hope to encourage young Canadians to reflect and express themselves through original essays on the link between democratic values and the quality of the media in Canada," said Ian Morrison, spokesperson for Friends.

The Dalton Camp Award is available to up to three Canadians each year.



Each award consists of a prize of \$5,000, as well as a bronze cast medal by renowned Canadian sculptress Dora de Pédery-Hunt.

Respected author and broadcaster Knowlton Nash, who is on the Dalton Camp Award selection committee, spoke at the announcement of the Award:

"What we need to do, and what I think Dalton would have wanted us to do, is to find ways to improve the quality of our news – to energize brain cells – not just zap eyeballs. We need to make the important interesting, and not make the merely interesting seem important.

"No matter what his age, Dalton was always young, and I think he always looked to the new generation for inspiration and put his faith coming into the media business, as I do. So from my perspective, that's what this Dalton Camp Award is really all about, encouraging that new generation to link democratic values and journalistic quality, for the health of a society depends on



At the announcement of the Dalton Camp Award, from left: Knowlton Nash, Michael Camp, Ian Morrison.

the quality of the information it receives."

The deadline for the submission of essays during the first annual cycle of the Award is Monday, March 31st, 2003. Announcement of the Selection Committee's decision will take place at the Banff International Television Festival in June 2003.

The Selection Committee will be chaired by Jim Byrd, Executive Vice-President and CEO of the Banff Television Foundation and former Vice President of CBC English Television. Other members of the Selection Committee are respected journalists and authors Maggie Siggins and Knowlton Nash.

Friends of Canadian Broadcasting plans to invest in The Dalton Camp Award annually until at least 2007.

Further details about the Award are available at www.daltoncampaward.ca

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CELEBRATION

St. Thomas University will celebrate the Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas, patron saint of the university with a special guest lecture, snacks for the students, and a special Mass on Tues. Jan. 28, 2003.

The annual Aquinas lecture will be delivered by the Rev. Dr. Alfred Wilder, o.p., Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy at the Pontifical University of St.

Thomas in Urbe ("Angelicum"), Rome. The topic of the lecture, which is open to the public, will deal with Thomistic philosophy and the present crisis in morality. The lecture begins at 4 p.m. in the Ted Daigle Auditorium, Edmund Casey Hall.

A special St. Thomas Day Mass will be con-celebrated by a number of priests from the diocese with Father

Wilder giving the homily. The Mass is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. in the chapel in George Martin Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.



Rev. Dr. Alfred Wilder

Throughout the morning the administrative staff of St. Thomas will continue

See "St. Thomas Aquinas" — page 6

STU Jazz Ensemble

by Joel O'Kane

What does an Assistant Registrar, a Psychology professor, a high-school music teacher, and university students have in common?

They are all part of the St. Thomas University Jazz Ensemble.

Don Bossé, director of music at Fredericton High School, started the STU Jazz Ensemble eight years ago with former St. Thomas Director of Student Affairs Ron Byrne to create a musical platform for students to play jazz in university.

Since then, the ensemble has been entertaining audiences for years at provincial jazz festivals and providing a strong jazz community to St. Thomas students and also the people of Fredericton.

This year they opened at the Harvest Jazz & Blues Festival, and they feel they are starting to make an impact on the provincial jazz scene.

"The jazz environment is very good in Fredericton, and it is growing," says Mr. Bossé, the band's director. "The Harvest Jazz & Blues Festival has done a lot to ignite and promote interest in jazz and blues here. Fredericton and Moncton have the strongest jazz communities in New Brunswick, and it continues to grow, especially among young people. The young musicians want to play this music because it is difficult and the jazz ensemble provides a venue for them to do so."

Despite having no music programs on its academic calendar, St. Thomas University has managed to attract many musically-talented students. Apart from the large university swing band, The Thomists, the STU Jazz Ensemble creates a different musical opportunity for students that is not offered at STU or UNB.

Amanda Kilburn, a first-year Arts student from St. Thomas, played in Mr. Bossé's high-school jazz band and found that St. Thomas was a natural extension to continue her love with jazz.

"I play in the STU Jazz Ensemble because it is the only venue for me to play this kind of music to an audience," says Ms. Kilburn, who plays the tenor saxophone. "It's fun to play and has a great beat and it is something that can really engage an audience. We do not have any official music programs at STU and the jazz ensemble is trying to change this by providing a cultural atmosphere that goes hand-in-hand with a liberal arts university."



Although the jazz ensemble is also composed of students from UNB and FHS, Mr. Bossé feels it is important that the ensemble be composed mainly of St. Thomas students. They receive some funding and venues from St. Thomas to play their music, and practise on campus every week. This allows them to bring a different kind of music other than rock or rap to the average student, or even university staff. Garry Hansen, assistant registrar and acting director of admissions at St. Thomas University is also a guitarist for the jazz ensemble.

"I've been playing in quartets and trios for a while now," says Mr. Hansen. "I like jazz because it combines a kind of emotional power with an intellectual challenge. It is difficult to play and takes a lot of work to master but it is very rewarding on an emotional level. The tradition started by Harry Rigby and the Thomists really brings a musical atmosphere to STU and we extend this. There are a lot of good musicians on campus and this is a good outlet for them." The St. Thomas University Jazz Ensemble will be performing Sunday night, November 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre in James Dunn Hall. Admission is free, and Don Bossé welcomes everyone to come out and be entertained by their performance.

"Jazz is good music. It is high-energy and appeals to anyone who enjoys to listen to live performances. It's free because we want everyone, students and general public, to come and enjoy jazz. It's really great music and free admission makes sure anyone we can reach can be exposed to our high-energy, high-quality music. Audiences love it."

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

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ue the annual tradition of serving complimentary snacks to students at several locations around the university.

In the evening, the STU Revue will showcase the talents of the St. Thomas University community. The entertainment includes original music, break dancing, comedy and a creative dance routine involving a jumping rope. The show

begins at 8 p.m. in the Ted Daigle Auditorium in Edmund Casey Hall. The cost of admission is a donation of a non-perishable food item or cash to be donated to the Fredericton Food Bank and Transition House. This event is sponsored by the St. Thomas University Alumni Association.

HARD WORK, DEDICATION AND PINK FLAMINGOS

by Jennie Dunville

He wears a St. Thomas coat, has a picture of St. Thomas on his wall, and just celebrated his 60th birthday with pink flamingos in the courtyard.

She's an Island girl, graduated with a double major from St. Thomas, and has been working at STU for 13 years.

Who are they? They are the stitches that hold this University together – the people behind the scenes that make everything run smoothly.

Fred Wallace and Ferne Stewart work in University Services, Facilities and Purchasing. Their office is in charge of all incoming and outgoing mail, the ordering and purchasing of all supplies, ground maintenance, building maintenance, traffic control, the key distribution system, and any set-ups on campus.

They deal with complaints, accidents, and even set up classrooms in September. With this, and more, they still manage to attend to the smallest details of their job – right down to ensuring that the correct percentage of left-handed desks are placed in classrooms.

With a wall of mailboxes behind her and a purple desk higher than her head, Ferne works nonstop to ensure everyone that comes in with a concern leaves satisfied.

"A lot of the job you never know what's going to happen day to day," she says. "To come through and see that it all gets done; that's the high point of my job."

The worst part of her job is handing out parking tickets, but when grumpy students come in clutching their tickets, she manages to put a smile on their faces.

Ferne, who officially started working for St. Thomas in 1991, is the Office Coordinator for University Services, Facilities and Purchasing. She originally came to St. Thomas University to pursue a social work degree, but soon discovered it wasn't for her. In 1989, she graduated with a double major in psychology and sociology and began working with Fred running a hostel in Vanier Hall.

"In September I helped in other offices but was let go in December. In May, Fred called, literally begging me to come back!"

Ferne sometimes has to be Fred's memory.

"He likes to say yes to everyone, then forgets and I play catch up." Fred's joking response is characteristic of their friendly banter. In his own defense he says he is constantly approached by people outside the office, and doesn't always remember to write down notes.

"Ferne doesn't have to mop up after me" and then laughs and admits, "no I don't think that's true."

The teasing between the two workers is all fun and games, but they do know when to be serious.

"Fred is from the ol' school; he believes in doing a job and a job well done," says Ferne.



Fred Wallace, Facilities and Purchasing Manager of University Services, began working for UNB in 1973, but made the move to St. Thomas in 1988.

"Our job entails just about everything that happens on campus," he says. "You name it, we do it."

Fred says he's from "beautiful BC" – Burrts Corner – is involved in his community – and shows the same dedication to the school as he does to his community.

"Fred is incredibly loyal to St. Thomas," says Bob Edgett, Director of University Advancement. "He'll go that extra mile - and has for years. He and his team pull everything together and make things happen."

In 1996, the Alumni Association honored Fred for his hard work and long standing service. "I think I was the first non-academic person that the Alumni Association ever honored. It's usually a faculty person. That made me feel pretty good."

Besides being honored, Fred says the high point of his job is being able to come to work and see everyone.

"I think I'm a people person. I like being able to look after their needs and put my best interests in the University."

Fred, who admits he suspects Ferne is responsible for the flamingos on his birthday, vows to get revenge on her birthday, but Bob says differently.

"Fred's always got a joke and a smile and is always in good humor. Nothing is ever a problem."

In his spare time Fred likes to visit the small shops in Old Quebec, go ballroom dancing, and make sure that the people around him feel appreciated. Somehow, though he refuses to give up his secret, Fred knows the dates of everyone's birthday and manages to acknowledge them in one way or another.

"I think people are more than just numbers and wishing them a Happy Birthday shows them that."

Ferne and Fred accomplish more than most in the run of a day. They maintain a pleasant working environment and part of that stems from how well they get along.

"Fred never makes you feel like he's your boss. You don't work for Fred you work with him," says Ferne.

"Ferne is a great asset to the office. Things wouldn't run if it wasn't for her," admits Fred.

ADVENT MIDNIGHT MASS AT ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY

by Jennifer Dunville

Benoit was in a rush. He was almost running – and he wouldn't even look at who was offering him a drive. He just shook his head saying he was in too much of a hurry to stop.

Father Mark Trzop began the Advent Midnight Mass with the comical story of Benoit, reminding us all how hectic this time of year can be. Planning Christmas parties, preparing for exams, and doing last-minute shopping can add to the Christmas rush.

"I'll see you at the Regent Mall Christmas Eve fighting the crowds," laughed Father Trzop.

On a serious note, he reminded us – that in our haste – we tend to lose sight of what we are really celebrating this time of year.

"The Advent Midnight Mass should serve as a gentle reminder and encouragement to slow down and look seriously at our lives," Father Trzop said.

On Sunday December 1, students, faculty and their families gathered at the chapel in George Martin Hall. Amid colourful decorations the assembled choir filled the candle-lit chapel with carols before the late night mass began.

"We're hoping to create a sense of Christmas for the students here on campus," says Father John Keoughan, the University Chaplain. "You're with them in class, hockey, basketball and volleyball games and in the cafeteria and this [mass] is an opportunity to pray and worship together as well as to

celebrate Christmas. The turnout for the past two years has been amazing. The chapel has been practically full."

This is the fourth year for the special mass and it continues to fill the 300 seats in the chapel.

The "choir of angels" as Father Trzop likes to call them is made up of St. Thomas students and faculty. Directed by Carson Crandall, the twenty-voice group sang a magnificent array of hymns and carols.

"We attempt to take some of the spirit that you get at the Christmas Midnight Mass and try to experience it a little bit earlier so that students can enjoy it together," says Father Keoughan.

The choir sang, the candles flickered, and the congregation raised their voices in a favorite carol. The advent readings and the wise words of Father Trzop highlighted the true meaning of Christmas.

"I pray that this advent season awakens our hearts and minds so that we slow down and truly welcome God into our lives."



NEW STAFF AT CAMPUS MINISTRY



Janice Ryan-Collrin and Father John Keoughan

We'd like to welcome Janice Ryan-Collrin our new lay minister who joined St. Thomas in mid-January. Janice recently graduated with a Masters in Theological Studies from the Vancouver School of Theology. A native of Saint John, Janice has experience working in pastoral care, hospice care and adult education. Janice and her husband Christopher have two children, Gregory, 14, and Bridget, 5.

In February, Campus Ministry plans to begin offering annual ecumenical memorial services for faculty, staff and other members of the St. Thomas University community. This service will give us the opportunity to honour the memory of our loved ones who have recently passed away.

The Campus Ministry Office is located in Room 101 of George Martin Hall. The Chaplains are available to all students who wish to drop in for a visit, or for specific counselling sessions.

During the academic semester, Sunday liturgies are celebrated at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Sundays. Weekday Masses are celebrated at 11:30 a.m. daily.

WEB ADVISOR – EFFICIENT AND TIMELY

by Maggie Estey

The information handling process for students and faculty at St. Thomas University has just gotten simpler. On October 23, phase one of a more efficient system was put into effect.

Web Advisor will prove to be the most significant change to come to the Registrar's office since the introduction of the computer.

Created using *Data Tel*, the database system that has held all student information since 1995, it gives online access to class schedules, academic records, class population caps, wait list information and credit values.

With a PIN number, and a STU e-mail user name on the university's website, suddenly the need to line up at the Registrar's office is eliminated.

Larry Batt is, needless to say, one excited Registrar.

"We will be delivering information and service to students in a much more efficient and timely manner." He adds that the progress doesn't stop there.

"By Christmas of this year, exam and

end of term grades will be available on an immediate basis. For the first time, the faculty can enter marks onto the internet for the student's viewing as soon as they are calculated. In years past, students were given no other option than to wait for notification, as grades were calculated, sent to the Registrar's office for processing, and then mailed out at the last possible date in December. Naturally, St. Thomas recognizes that not all students have easy internet access over the holidays, and is mailing grades to those who wish the option, or prefer a paper record of their academic progress from term to term."

As the *Web Advisor's* time table also predicts, between February 20 and 22, online course registration will become a reality for current St. Thomas students. For those that worry that the process will become more impersonal, person to person registration is still an option.

In fact, with the use of the online system, there will be more time for in-person consultation, and errors and

schedule conflicts will be resolved faster than in previous years.

Web Advisor is designed to give priority to fourth-year students, as far as placement in courses needed for the completion of degree programs, and given in a descending order, down to second-year students, regardless of when students register within the given period; Students arriving at STU for the first time in 2003 will be registering under a different system in the summer time.

Future goals for *Web Advisor* include an online *Degree Audit*, which will allow students with very specific needs in mind, who know what they're doing, so to speak, and don't necessarily require a great deal of human assistance, to get academic advice on an automatic basis. Rather than waiting to speak to an advisor in person, information concerning the dropping and picking up of courses and the switching of majors can be obtained through entering the desired changes into the system.

STARS OF HOPE

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Alice dreams of becoming a broadcast journalist, hosting a television show. She has sat in on one journalism class at St. Thomas and takes English and Humanities. She's been active in the field, in senior school she worked for their radio station and wrote for a monthly publication.

A Shakespeare fan, in senior school she organized a class event that involved the presentation of a few scenes from *The Merchant of Venice*. She both acted and hosted the production and can still recite lines on command.

"I was so busy. I was wearing a large hat, and as soon as I came out on the stage, my hat fell off, people laughed and I had no other choice but to go ahead," she said.

Alice likes Shakespeare's comedies the best. He's her favourite western writer.

"His lines are very optimal, and very wonderful," she said.

Both students plan to return to China and give back to their community as well as supporting Project Hope upon receiving their degrees.

"If we didn't have Project Hope then

life would have been very different," said Andrew.

The five students are grateful for the opportunity St. Thomas has given them.

"Everyone here is so nice, they know us and try to help out, teach us about Canadian culture," said Alice. "They help us get used to this life more quickly, we're so thankful."

"The best way to thank them is through studying hard," said Andrew. "That's the best repayment we can give."

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS INCREASE AT STU

by Irenia Rousset

International student enrollment at St. Thomas University rose by 30 per cent in the fall of 2002 attracted by the safe environment, personalized service and quality education. Senela Bajramovic, an exchange student from Sweden, says her main concern was to find a small university where she would be known by name, rather than by number.

"It was really important to me that the school was good because I needed help to adjust to my new environment. I needed to know that the university would provide the type of support services which would assist me in my transition since my first language is not English. I choose St. Thomas because I wanted to go to a smaller school to get a chance to meet more people as well as to have more personal contact with my professors." Mami Osanai, from Venezuela, says she made the right choice. "I looked at several universities to see if they offered Criminology. I first considered Simon Fraser University but thought it was too big because I was looking for a smaller university setting. When I heard about St. Thomas through a friend, I wrote and asked for some information. At first I was worried because when I wrote to Simon Fraser University they took a long time to get back to me but when I received a quick response I felt that St. Thomas was interested in me. I also knew that Canada was a safe place to study with lower tuition and living expenses which was more economical compared to universities in the United States." Karen Taylor, Director of International Programming says students hear about St. Thomas at educational fairs and through the University's web page.

"Students are well informed about the many choices that are available to them when they select a university. St. Thomas is a national leader in liberal arts which makes our university very attractive to international students. This, coupled with our variety of programming, makes us an attractive choice for international students."

Taylor says St. Thomas provides a caring and supportive atmosphere with two international student advisors, academic support services, writing labs, a student employment programme and access to various cultural organizations on campus.

"Being met by Judy Coates, the international student advisor, at the airport after a long stressful flight was very nice. She helped me to get settled into residence and introduce me to many people on campus and I really appreciated that," says Senela.

"Coming here and not knowing anyone and where to find place on my

own was one of the biggest challenges which I faced arriving here," Mami says. Also, taking the initiative to make friends was very difficult but once I started talking to people it became very easy and now I have many friends."

St. Thomas University has exchange agreements with universities around the globe. The University began the internationalization of its campus in the early 1990's with only two international students.

St. Thomas now has 74 international students on campus from more than 30 countries from around the world. These countries include Ghana, Romania, Ecuador, Sweden, Norway, China, Japan, Taiwan, United States, Bulgaria, St. Lucia, Jamaica, Bahamas, Bermuda, Australia, Poland, India, Aruba, Venezuela, Kenya, Dominica, The Netherlands, Cape Verde, Uganda, Germany, Iran, Zambia, Turkey, Bangladesh and the Maldives.



ALUMNI • NEWS

CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF ST. THOMAS FOURTH ANNUAL GALA DINNER ~ FEB. 1, 2003 ~

St. Thomas University's fourth annual Gala Dinner will take place on Feb. 1, 2003, at the Sheraton Hotel in Fredericton. All proceeds from *Celebrating the Spirit of St. Thomas University*, this year's theme, will support the Millennium Bursary Programme which helps students in financial need.

Valerie O'Brien is the Chair of the Gala Dinner Organizing Committee. She is hopeful that the event, which has generated \$150,000 since the Annual Gala was introduced three years ago, will produce the same satisfactory results as in previous years.

"We've been very fortunate in raising \$50,000 a year, and naturally we're hoping to do the same again this year."

Mrs. O'Brien adds that the Millennium Bursary fund is setting its sights on million dollar figures, encouraged by the response from Corporate Alumni, which contributes with fund-raising of its own, the Provincial Government, which donates fifty cents for every dollar raised at the Dinner, and St. Thomas University itself, which matches the amount raised by the every year.

In a departure from previous years – the performers at this year's Gala Dinner will all come from the university community. Before dinner, the Garry Hansen Quartet, which is Assistant Registrar Garry Hansen (guitar), Don Bossé (drums), Chad Ball (bass), and Tom Richards (sax) will play a selection of jazz standards.

During the dinner student members of Theatre St. Thomas will present selections from *Berlin to Broadway*, this year's musical production, featuring the songs of Kurt Weill who penned the Bobby Darin classic, *Mack the Knife*. Following dinner, there will be dancing to the Big Band sound of The Thomists.

Included in the night's festivities, thanks to the support of the community and local businesses, is a silent and live auction of artwork, jewellery, furniture, clothing, and a day on the golf course.

Tickets are available for \$125, and a tax receipt may be issued for \$75. Further information can be obtained by calling the Office of University Advancement at (506) 452-0645, by fax at (506) 460-0335 or by email at alumni@stu.ca.



Discovering a Passion

"St. Thomas gave me the courage to define my dreams and the platform to make my dreams a reality."

Allison E. Bedford

BA '02, Daigle Award Winner
Technical Production, National Theatre
School of Canada



For more information, contact:
Admissions Office,
St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB,
Canada E3B 5G3
Tel: (506) 452-0532 • Fax: (506) 452-0617
E-mail: admissions@stthomasu.ca



The St. Thomas University Student Alumni Association donated \$1,000 worth of turkeys to the Fredericton Food Bank on Tuesday December 10. From left is Association President Mike Morrison, Food Resource Manager Jerry Fougere, and Association Vice-President Sarah Flannigan.



Passion and Purpose

"Passion for what you do is essential for success – and St. Thomas fostered this enthusiasm.

"At STU I learned that having passion and purpose in life, staying focused, and working hard will result in success."

Bernard Riordon, O.C.

BA 1970,
Director and CEO, The Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton, NB



St. Thomas University
LEADERS IN LIBERAL ARTS

For more information, contact: Admissions Office,
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Tel: (506) 452-0632 • Fax: (506) 452-0617
E-mail: admissions@stu.ca



A Team Environment

"St. Thomas gives students the tools they need to achieve their goals and their dreams.

"At STU I received a good education, and I also learned important life skills that cannot be taught in books."

Crystal MacFarlane

BA 2003, Female Athlete of the Year
MVP, STU volleyball team



St. Thomas University
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