



The Stevite

www.ualberta.ca/St.Stephens/

Reflections on the year

OUR MISSION

To be an ecumenical community that offers sacred spaces for learning and transformation.

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By Gordon Oaks, Chancellor

What a great year 2008 was as we celebrated 100 years of history for Alberta College South, Robertson College and St. Stephen's College! What a wonderful way to begin my first year as Chancellor of St. Stephen's College. One of the ventures I embarked on in the first two months of my term was to speak to the Alberta and Northwest Conference Historical Society in November 2007

about the 100 years of St. Stephen's that we were approaching. It was a lot of work and researching but a good way for me to increase my knowledge of the college history before I appeared on the scene as a student in 1963. It was fascinating reading. What I prepared was a quick topical overview which was helped by the research and work that Gayle Simonson was doing for the in-depth history book planned for the Centennial year.

Our One Hundred Years Celebration was also done in conjunction with the University of Alberta, also celebrating its 100th year.

We are proud to claim that The College (then known as Alberta College South) was founded at the same time and that our original building with its distinctive twin towers was the first to be built on the U of A campus. It was started in 1908 and completed in 1910.

In honour of these events, May 9th was designated as **Charter Day**. Arrangements were made with the University Drama Department for a historical sketch of the college life, both as a university residence and as a theological college. It was a glorious May day with a clear blue sky as we gathered on the lawn, with the beautiful twin-towered building as a backdrop, to watch a light-hearted look at our history entitled *Roots and Wings*. Passersby were invited to stop and watch, and many did!

Popcorn and drinks were served from the college's new (1953) building and people were invited to come into the lounge and learn more about St. Stephen's.



Photo, top from left, Chancellor Gordon Oaks, Charles Bidwell, Chair of Senate and Dean Earle Sharam

Fund-raising gala high point of centennial festivities

We also had an afternoon event during the University's Homecoming week when former **College Residents** were invited to come and tour the old building, enjoy refreshments and conversations of "do you remember when????".

One of the big events of the year was the **First Annual Chancellor's Gala**, held September 12 at the Sutton Place Hotel. One of my long-held desires for the college building was to make it wheelchair accessible. It is most unfortunate that over the years the theological building built in 1953 was not accessible to those with mobility difficulties. The Friends of St. Stephen's agreed and took this proposal to the Board, so we undertook this initial fundraising Gala to try to make this happen. The result was revenue of \$110,000 toward this \$500,000 project. A very good beginning!

Homecoming Weekend

November 1-3 was the high point of our year-long Centennial Celebrations. We were pleased to have George Tuttle, a former student and Principal of St. Stephen's, and his wife Eunice travel from Victoria for the events.



A pageant by U of A drama students in May brought history to life as St. Stephen's celebrated 100 years.

The three floors were filled with a variety of ways that students have presented their degrees and research findings. Paintings, icons, weavings, writing, drama and music filled this building with extraordinary creative energy.

Saturday was the *Homecoming Banquet* at St. Basil's Cultural Centre. Alumni/ae and friends gathered for an evening of good food, conversation, music and reflection. This was also the book launch for Gayle Simonson's fine book on the College's first century, *Ever- Widening Circles*.

Sunday morning saw us gathered at McDougall United Church, the congregation where Alberta College South - across the river in the City of Strathcona - was first envisioned and begun as an offshoot of Alberta College. Members of the College faculty, staff, Senate, Board, committees and alumni/ae along with the McDougall congregation, held a *Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving* for the many who served the College in so many capacities over the years.

In the afternoon an amazing event entitled *Theology and the Arts* was held in the College building.

Monday saw the **Convocation** celebrations starting with the Chancellor's Reception for degree recipients and their families. The afternoon included presentations of dissertation and research projects by our Doctoral and Master's candidates. In the evening, we gathered again at McDougall for our Convocation presentation of the degrees. Honorary Doctorates were presented to two women who have served the inner city needs of people in Edmonton – Shelley Williams from Bissell Centre and Betty Farrell, a social worker and Roman Catholic laywoman.

The year ended with the annual **Christmas Open House** at the College. With that event came a great but satisfied sigh of relief for an outstanding year of events celebrating 100 years of Alberta College South, Robertson College and St. Stephen's College.

Faculty

Earle Sharam	Dean
Jean Waters	Interim Program Coordinator Doctor of Ministry
Julie Henkelman	Program Coordinator, MA in Pastoral Psychology & Counselling
Kathy Suteau	Program Coordinator, Continuing Education & Special Projects
Mona-Lee Feehan	Program Coordinator Master of Theological Studies

Administrative Staff

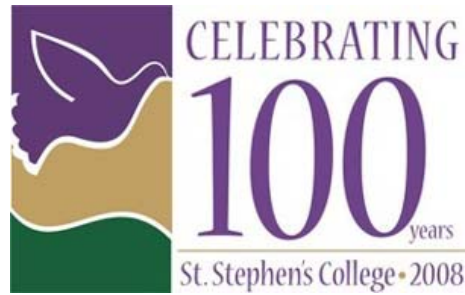
David Allan	Business Administrator
Diane Harris	Business Administration Assistant
Jenny Meers	Executive Assistant to the Dean
Kelly Parson	Assistant Registrar
Lori Stewart	Institutional Advancement Coordinator
Shelley Westermann	Registrar

Margaret Ann Armour, Chair of the Board of Governors, looks back on an eventful year

It is my privilege to chair the Board and it has been especially memorable during the celebrations of our Centennial year.

What a year it has been! The historic pageant, the Open House at the Old College, the Chancellor's Gala, the Celebration of Theology and the Arts, Homecoming and Convocation, and the publishing of Gayle Simonson's history of the college all celebrated joyously the last hundred years of our existence. These events were an important milestone in the journey of the College, but to echo the President of the University of Alberta, "now we are into the first year of our second century". Thus, it is important that our Centennial year provide tangible legacies that allow us to continue to thrive and fulfill our mission as we go forward. Two far-reaching legacies are in place.

Firstly, we are grateful to the Chancellor of the College, Dr. Gordon Oaks, for his vision of making the College accessible to people with physical disabilities. The building we presently occupy was constructed before regulations were in place to make accessibility mandatory. A draft plan for the work has been prepared and a proposal for architectural drawings for the project and a budget for the first phase of the work will be considered by the Board. The receipts from the Chancellor's Gala and a number of donations are earmarked for this project, and we are exploring the possibility of securing grants and matching funds.



Secondly, the College building is important, but it is the community of learners in theological education who are the heart of St. Stephen's. Learners and teachers are integral to the College and to enable us to continue and strengthen our mission of transformative learning, we are establishing the Tuttle Education Fund in honor of the Rt. Rev. Dr. George Tuttle, a former Principal of the College and Moderator of the United Church of Canada. The name of the fund is doubly appropriate, since Aubrey Tuttle, George Tuttle's father was one of the early Principals of the College, and also a Moderator of the United Church. We are working on the process of developing the Fund and will be launching it in early spring.

The Board has continued to work on the Strategic Plan for the College which was prepared 18 months ago. The Tuttle Education Fund is a



Above, a Celebration of the Arts, was one of the events hosted by St. Stephen's College in the fall.

response to the perceived future need in the Plan for increasing the number of Faculty and staff at the College. For day-to-day operations at the College, we are always on a tight budget, and I want to thank all of the people who responded to the recent appeal for operating funds. We ended the year 2007-08 with a small surplus and we have an excellent Finance Committee and Business Manager who are working to ensure we continue to have a balanced budget

In this first year of our second century, we will continue with our deep commitment to the values and mission of our College as a place of transformation and learning.



Above, Margaret-Ann Armour, Chair of the Board, cuts a celebratory cake.



Read all about it! St. Stephen's College - a story worth telling

EDMONTON – The first high school and first university courses in Edmonton, the first building on the U of A campus, a convalescent hospital during the First World War, a residence for many notable Albertans, the early CKUA radio studios and much more – what do all these have in common? All are part of the history of St. Stephen's College.

The college has recently published *Ever-Widening Circles: A History of St. Stephen's College* to celebrate 100 years of theological education in Alberta.

However, the history of St. Stephen's is much more than that of an inter-denominational theological college. As a university residence, it housed Albertans such as Chester Ronning. Many of its residents and students have played significant roles in Alberta, Canadian and indeed world history. The book includes some of these stories, including the role of some graduates in the 1935 Social Credit victory in Alberta.

The book, illustrated with many historical photos, was researched and written by Gayle Simonson. It is currently available from the college for \$35 plus postage and handling.



About the author:

Gayle Simonson grew up in Winnipeg but, after graduating from the Faculty of Agriculture (BSA, MSc) at the University of Manitoba, moved to Edmonton to do further graduate work in biochemistry. She then worked primarily in environmental research and in the development of environmental education programs but she has published articles on a wide variety of topics. Recently, her research and writing have focused on the history of the United Church in western Canada and on the pioneer women of Alberta.

What people are saying about Ever-Widening Circles:

"To understand the resolve of Protestantism to be a force in society on the prairies and the institution which has been instrumental in maintaining the United Church as a dominant force in the West, this book is essential reading."

*Kenneth Munro,
Department of History and Classics,
U of A, Professor and Senior
Director of Interdisciplinary Studies*

TO ORDER:

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HELPING ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE

Here are some of the ways you can support our work. (Stephen's College is a registered Charity). Visit our website for further details.

Online Donations:

Online donations may be made through CanadaHelps.org, an agency that processes secure, online donations for Canadian Charities.

The PAR System (Pre-Authorized Remittance)

If you have automatic debits from your bank account to pay for insurance, cable TV, taxes, fuel, or mortgage, then you understand the PAR principle. It means regular contributions throughout the year. A PAR form can be downloaded from our web site.

In addition to Direct Gifts and PAR, there are also ways to provide support for St. Stephen's College through Planned Giving. Planned Giving is planning now to make a gift to the College in the future. Opportunities include:

Bequests:

Bequests are the oldest and simplest form of Planned Gift. Consider remembering St. Stephen's in your will. We would be glad to help you find the language you need in your will to ensure that your bequest goes where you intended it.

Life Insurance:

You can donate an existing policy or purchase a new policy, and receive a charitable tax receipt for its cash value.

If you would like to discuss Planned Giving options, please contact us. Planned gifts through The United Church's Gift Planning office can also be designated to support St. Stephen's.

St. Stephen's College has kept the faith for 100 years. As we begin our second century, you can help us ensure this important ministry continues. Your gift does make a difference!

First Annual Chancellor's Gala

September 2008



The First Annual Chancellor's Gala, celebrating St. Stephen's College and its 100th anniversary, raised over \$100,000. A sell-out crowd of 300 friends attended. Both the live and silent auctions were highly successful and everyone who attended enjoyed a wonderful celebration.

The money raised from the Gala is being applied towards the cost of making the College accessible to persons with disabilities.

The Second Annual Chancellor's Gala will be held at the Sutton Place Hotel on **Friday, September 18, 2009**. The C-Jammers Big Band will make their return engagement, entertaining our friends with their outstanding big band sound.

Once again, funds raised at the Gala will go towards the accessibility project.

Save the date and plan to join us!



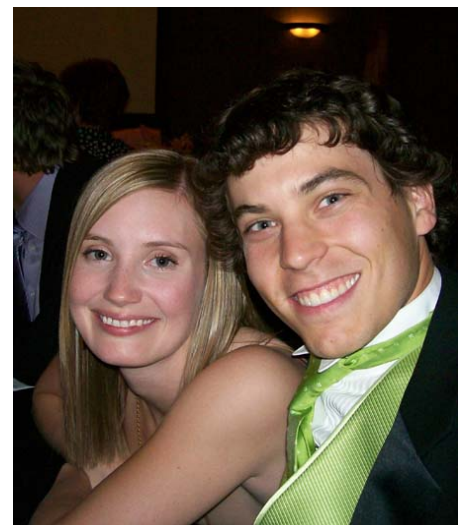
Above, from left, Margaret Cook, Jeannette Thomson, Margaret-Ann Armour, Alana Thomson, Mary Griffiths and Derek Griffiths celebrate together at the Gala.

Right, Chancellor Gordon Oaks, left, greets Rod and Jan Anderson



*Left:
Leslie Feehan and Torrie Phillips*

*Right:
Lisa Feehan and Carey Feehan*



A message from Dean Earle Sharam



Warm greetings to each of you in the extended family of St. Stephen's! Elsewhere in this issue of The Stevite, you will read of the many events and initiatives of your College as we celebrated our first century and begin our second. In the midst of it all, the everyday work of the College continues! Here are but a few of the highlights of that work...

- Student enrolment remains strong. At this moment there are 400 persons of faith from an extraordinary variety of vocations and faith traditions, who are part of the College's formal and continuing education programs.
- Your College continues to work as one locus in a network engaged in the creative work of education and transformation. Amongst our partners is The International University of the Caribbean in Jamaica, where there are currently fifty students in our MA in Pastoral Psychology and Counselling program.
- Last, but far from least, we celebrate our return to Associate Membership in the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada—the first step on our journey towards full Accredited Membership of ATS.* And in that same vein, we are pleased to announce that our highly creative Art Therapy program is one of the few in Canada now accredited by CATA, the Canadian Art Therapy Association.

A story told by Ronald Comfort contains one of my favourite images for the community of this College:

"The lighthouse was at the end of a dirt road. Squat and weathered, it was not impressive in the late evening light. On a bluff overlooking a fishing village on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, it sat for generations, guiding boats to a safe harbor. Upon climbing to the top of the lighthouse, I noted its unusual construction. The reflector was made up of different-sized pieces of mirror mounted at different angles behind the light. Each mirror was unique. When the light came on at dusk, the logic of this construction became obvious. Because each fragment was a different size and at a different angle to the light, the reflections from the bank of mirrors created a brilliance that a single mirror alone could not have equalled".

The story is a parable. St. Stephen's is like that bank of mirrors in the lighthouse. Each member is unique, with special gifts. And when we connect in love and respect, and with commitment to a common vision, miracles happen. We can reflect with particular brilliance the grace and love which is the very nature of God, and we can serve as a lighthouse—guiding others from darkness into safe harbour. Let us rejoice, then, in the light we bear for each other, and step out upon the journey of our second century with the trust that we will have light enough for the steps that follow!

**We are looking forward to beginning this process of institutional review and accountability to our peers in theological education.*

---Dr. Earle Sharam, Dean

On Becoming an Affirming Educational Institution

We of the St. Stephen's College community share values that shape our responses to changing rural, urban and global perspectives, and that define our life together. These values are characterized by inclusiveness and justice in language and practice for all persons, regardless of their race, creed, gender identity, age, sexual orientation or physical ability. We recognize the challenges facing our church, our society, and our world, and we endeavour to dissolve the barriers to deep spiritual reflection and study. We strive to create a safe space, within a climate of respect and trust, for all people to be open and honest (personally and intellectually) regarding their life experiences.

We open ourselves to Sacred Spirit to guide our lives within this community.

An extensive process of consultation and discernment with Faculty, Students, Alumni/ae, Senate, Board and other Stakeholders revealed overwhelming support for seeking formal recognition as an Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada—thereby making official and public this long-held and deeply valued stance. Declaration of this intent was made at our Centenary Convocation, 3rd November 2008. Now we invite you to join us as we celebrate with representatives from Affirm United, other Affirming Ministries of The United Church, and the College community.

Join us on Monday, 6 April 2009 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the College. Stories will be shared and light refreshments served.

**ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE PRESENTS
AN EVENING WITH
JOANNA MACY AND JENNIFER BEREZAN**

The Planet Ourselves:

Finding our power for the healing of our World
Sunday May 10, 2009, 7pm – 9:30pm Admission: \$15
St. Andrew's United Church, 9915 – 148 St. Edmonton

Eco-philosopher Joanna Macy, Ph.D., is a scholar of Buddhism, general systems theory, and deep ecology. She lives in Berkeley, California.

Jennifer Berezan is a singer/songwriter with a lifelong involvement in environmental, women's and other justice movements as well as an interest in Buddhism and earth-based spirituality. She teaches at the California Institute of Integral Studies.

FRIDAY LECTURE SERIES

Noon to 2 P.M. at St. Stephen's College
If you would like to attend please email: Diane Harris
at diane.harris@ualberta.ca or telephone
780-439-7311 or 1-800-661-4956

April 3, 2009: "Speaking of Schizophrenia"
Presented by Dana Bindon, Program Coordinator
Schizophrenia Society of Alberta

**May 1, 2009: "Unexpected Homecomings:
Responding to Reverse Culture Shock
after Foreign Travel"**

Presented by Sophie Yohani, Associate Professor
Department of Educational Psychology
University of Alberta

OTHER EVENTS

LUNCHEON for Alumni/ae, friends and colleagues of
St. Stephen's College in the Calgary, Alberta area:
Friday, March 27, 2009, noon to 2pm
Location: Venturion and Shwan Gallery
Suite 206A, 214 – 11 Avenue. SE, Calgary
RSVP to Jenny Meers (meers@ualberta.ca) by March 13.

FRIENDS WE WILL MISS

DR. BERNICE LUCE (DMin 2004) passed away on November 13, 2008. Dr. Luce's husband Harold died January 12, 2009.

LARRY SHABEN (DSL 2005) the first Canadian Muslim to serve in a provincial cabinet, died Sept. 7, 2008 at age 73 from cancer. In his public life, he was lauded for fostering interfaith dialogue.

DORIS CLOSE, wife of former Dean Dr. William Close. Doris died on Saturday, February 14th 2009 in Quebec. For many years, she exercised a gentle influence in this College community, and will be long remembered for her wisdom, courage and faith.

MARGARET SHUPE (MTS 1991) passed away on February 17, 2009.

LEAVING ST. STEPHEN'S...

On December 8, members of St. Stephen's Community who were present at the annual Christmas Open House bade farewell to Dr. Veronica Dunne, DMin Program Coordinator. Veronica joined the faculty of St. Stephen's in 2003 and left to join her Sisters at the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions in Winnipeg.

Veronica holds a Masters degree in Pastoral Studies Counseling and a Doctor of Ministry degree. She previously worked at the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, in the Family program which she co-founded. Her areas of interest are feminist liberation theology and ethics.

An email from Veronica states: "The work I am taking on is part of our Congregational vision, coming out of our 2008 International Chapter. At that meeting, we, Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, representing Sisters living and working in some 20 countries, recognized ecological destruction as a principal religious and ethical issue of the 21st century."

HONOURED....

Dr. Margaret Ann Armour, Chair of St. Stephen's College Board of Governors, was named by the Women's Executive Network as one of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 in the Category of Champions.

At the CAPPE annual meeting in February 2009, Dr. Margaret Clark was awarded the Verda Rochon Award for contributions to the profession of pastoral care and counselling.

We want to hear from you!
If you have news of your own activities and accomplishments, or those of other alumni/ae and friends of St. Stephen's, please share it with us by email: ststephn@ualberta.ca

Graduates 2008

Licensed Worship Leader Certificate Program
Ryan Chapman

Bachelor of Theological Studies
Marjorie Charest

Master of Theological Studies
Gordon McCrostie
Margaret Van Ginhoven

Master of Arts in Pastoral Psychology and
Counselling
Gail Barrett
Catherine Gomez (Cayman Islands)
Linford Pierson (Cayman Islands)
Maureen Pysklywec
Sandra Samuels (Cayman Islands)
Verna Wilson (Cayman Islands)
Theresa Zip (Art Therapy Specialization)

Master of Theology
Heather Davies
Mona-Lee Feehan
Sandra Lee Morrison

Doctor of Ministry
Ted Harrison
Betty Lou Hendrickson

Honorary Degrees
Doctor of Sacred Letters (*honoris causa*)

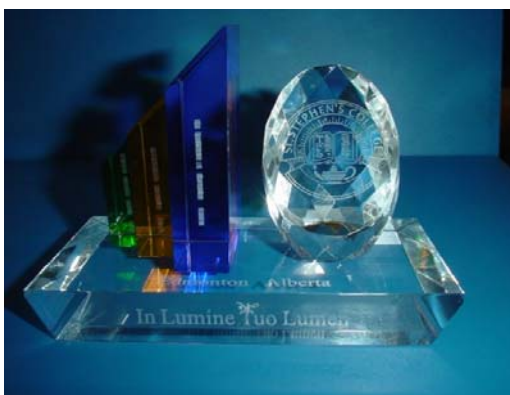
Ms Elizabeth (Betty) Farrell
Ms Shelley Williams

Disciples Sculpture



"Disciples," an abstract, figurative wooden sculpture by Patrick William Morin has been restored and is now on display on the west side of the college building. Patrick was a graduate of the University of Alberta's Fine Arts program.

This piece was created in 1984 and donated to St. Stephen's by The Rev. Dr. Charles Bidwell, but had become badly weathered. As a Centennial gift to the College, Dr. Bidwell had the sculpture restored in time for centennial celebrations.



CENTENNIAL MERCHANDISE

To mark our Centenary, a variety of College crested merchandise is available for sale. Items include tote bags, pens, lanyards, pins and a beautiful heritage crystal designed by The Rev Dr Samson Cho.

To purchase contact Kelly Parson by email at kparson@ualberta.ca or telephone her at 780-439-7311 or toll free 1-800-661-4956.

Left, the Heritage Crystal. \$40.00

DONATION

We are delighted to announce that a member of our student community has gifted us with an anonymous donation of \$10,000 to the College for the purpose of refurbishing classroom space for the greater comfort of the student community. The College is most appreciative of this very generous donation and we will be reporting to the College community the results of this project when it is completed.