



MORE NEWS

The Thomas More Institute Newsletter



When one door closes...

The last 12 months have forced many of us into survival mode: thriving communities like our own have been cut back to the bone, forcing us to ask what it is within our capacity to do, and if this is enough to serve our community and fulfill our mandate.

And yet this situation has also prompted us to envision new ways to reach our community, ways that are important and necessary outside the scope of a global pandemic. We now have the tools to enable the participation of those who live outside of Montreal, who winter outside of Montreal, or who cannot traverse the goat paths that pass for sidewalks in the wintertime in this city. We can address these perennial access issues in ways we had not considered in the “beforetimes.”

The pandemic has pushed us to do what we do best: to see a gap in access to education and to fill that gap. Our 76-year history consists of delivering education programming to groups for whom the traditional format and institutions do not work: lifelong learners, incarcerated persons, seniors in residences. We are proud to add our snowbirds and community members with mobility constraints to that list.

UPCOMING EVENTS & NOTICES

SPRING OPEN HOUSE

ON 13 MARCH FROM 1 TO 3 P.M. REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE. THE SPRING TERM BEGINS 15 MARCH.

CLOSURE FOR EASTER

TMI WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, 2 APRIL TO MONDAY, 5 APRIL.

SPRING WEBINAR

DATE AND TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED - STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION.

CONVOCATION

CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR 11 JUNE.



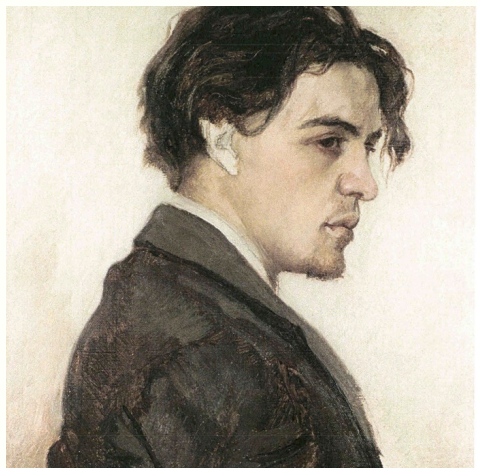
Reflecting on a year on Zoom

By Zoe Shaw

When I applied to the Thomas More Institute's job posting for an Administrative Services Coordinator in February 2020, COVID-19 was on our radar. Even so, I had definitely not anticipated spending the next year working almost entirely from home, being central to moving an analog organization online, and meeting face-to-face with only a handful of the wonderful people in the TMI community.

That uncanny Friday the 13th of March 2020 is both my "workiversary" (the day I signed my contract) and my "panniversary" (the day that COVID-19 first hugely impacted my life). Since then, Montreal has been in and out of lockdowns, and I have only been into the Institute a few times to work masked and socially distanced at my desk.

Let's put the resulting pandemic anxieties, concerns about loved ones, cancelled trips, and a general sense of loss aside for a brief moment. I have been blown away by the motivation and sense of community maintained among TMIers during this entire year. It has been amazing to see how our programming keeps many of you engaged during a difficult time. Keep sharing your curiosity, TMI! I look forward to meeting many of you at some point in the near future. Until then, I'll see you on Zoom.



Adieu, Chekhov

After two terms of reading and discussing Chekhov online, the Seniors Outreach Program is planning a Spring term, this time on the theme of humour. This session will also take place online, beginning mid-April and running for eight weeks.

Much like the introduction of our course on Canadian humour, the addition is an effort to raise morale and provide the TMI community with some much-needed levity. Stay tuned to our website for more information!

WINTER INITIATIVES

THANK YOU

FOR COMPLETING YOUR PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK SURVEYS. RESULTS WILL BE COMMUNICATED SOON.

WEBINAR INTERVIEW WITH SUZANNE METHOT

WAS WIDELY ATTENDED BY OUR COMMUNITY.

THE FEAST OF LIGHTS

OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION MOVED ONLINE THIS YEAR.



The Winter Team. From left to right: Bradley McDermid, Fundraising Organizer; Hannah Kaya, Data Administrator; Mike Davis, Education Researcher; Garvin Brutus, Zoom Instructor; and Morgan Gagnon, Promotions Manager.

From Winter Team to Spring Team

In December, we hired five short-term employees through the Canada Summer Jobs Program (which, contra its name, runs yearlong) and dubbed them the Winter Team. The Winter Team started in January, working their way onto our screens (and into our hearts!) as they embarked on different projects: fundraising, compiling participant feedback, streamlining online research, demystifying Zoom, and developing our communications strategy.

With the exception of our Zoom Instructor, Garvin Brutus (who, we are pleased to share, found a full-time position working with a youth program!), the Winter Team will extend their contracts into the spring, and thus become the Spring Team.

In Memoriam

We were saddened to learn that Dr. Cathleen Going (Sister St. Mary of the Savior, op) passed away on Christmas Day, 2020, at the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Dr. Going was a valued member of the TMI community for over 25 years and a committed Lonergan scholar.

Within the next few weeks, we are hoping to circulate an interview with Dr. Going which we think you will enjoy.

