

From the Heart

ST. NICHOLAS SCHOOL, IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY ACADEMY,
AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

COMPASSION IN ACTION

“Perseverance pays off.”

These wise words about the strength of conviction and hard work have driven Ashley Pylypowich (IHMS '01) throughout her life, from her student days at Immaculate Heart of Mary School through her current role as a nurse practitioner.

“If you’d asked me in grade 8 what I would be doing, I don’t think I could have dreamed of such a career,” she says.

Ashley attended IHMS for grades six through eight, and credits the nurturing attention she received to preparing her for how she provides care and mentors students and patients today.

“At IHMS, I really got one-on-one, individualized attention, to help me become the best version of myself. I think I owe that to the teachers, especially Mrs. Naurocki and Mrs. Skakun, who saw that I was an alternative learner and met me at my level to foster a success that made me feel more confident,” she recalls.

One of her proudest moments was when she was presented with the Christian Ethics



Award. “I was honoured to win an award, which I never thought would happen, not being a strong student. I love that my community recognized something other than academics, that it’s also how you work as an individual within your team.”

After leaving IHMS, Ashley attended St. Mary’s Academy – with many of the girls she’d grown up with at IHMS – and then University of Manitoba, where she graduated as a nurse (2010).

Ashley began her career at HSC Children’s Hospital as a bedside nurse in the emergency department and the intensive care unit. Her compassion and problem-solving nature led her to recognize that many of the children she cared for were sick because of the situations they lived in. That a lack of good access to health care meant easily preventable illnesses like whooping cough, for example, were missed and became serious.

“It sparked my imagination and I realized there was more I could do if I left the bedside to pursue more education,” she says. Ashley achieved a Masters’ in nursing to become a nurse practitioner in 2015 and began teaching at Brandon University.

A few years later, the COVID pandemic created a new opportunity for Ashley to leverage her experience as a unique learner by joining Indigenous Services Canada as an NP in rural and remote communities. Every day, she works with children and adults to help them understand their health conditions and how they can have the best possible outcomes.

“I love that every day is different and never mundane in any sense,” she says. “And I



love the individuals I work with. Working in an Indigenous community [currently Cross Lake] I feel very valued. They also recognize I'm away from my family and friends and treat me like their family."

The importance of family is vital in her work and personal life. "The best part of being Ukrainian is the family aspect. It's not just your nuclear unit. I see the common threads when I work with Indigenous communities. The roles and archetypes of *kookum* and *baba* are very similar," she laughs.

When asked about what she would tell her grade eight self: "Trust that everything will work out when it's supposed to." And to the current grade eight students:

"Dream big, but don't be scared to fail."

Ashley maintains strong relationships with many of the girls she attended IHMS and later SMA with, sharing the same foundation of faith and culture. She is grateful to her parents for believing that a Ukrainian Catholic education had value, and is thankful for the teachers and support staff who mentored her and helped her believe in herself, work hard and persevere.

"Having a faith background is important, especially in healthcare. You can make every right decision possible and still unfortunately have an unpleasant outcome. You have to let that go and be in the moment, recognizing that sometimes things

are out of your control because they're part of God's bigger plan."

"Dream big
but don't be
scared to fail."

YOUR MEMORIES OF IHMS



Dear Alumni and Students,

As a former student I am writing to tell you about my uncle, who was enrolled from grade one to eight at St Nicholas School (now IHMS) over 100 years ago. His name was Constantine Henry Andrusyshen. In grade school he used his middle name and it stayed with him for life.

Henry (age 10, second from left) was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba July 19, 1907, and lived at 659 Flora Avenue directly across the street from the school with his parents, three brothers and one sister.

Young Henry's interest extended beyond what was taught in school. In a journal of notes and clippings he kept in 1921 as a student at L'École Provencher in St Boniface, he followed closely the news of the time: European kings, emperors, popes, opera singers, composers, dictators and Canadian

political figures. His notes were written in Ukrainian, English and French, remarkable for someone who was 13 years old! It is no wonder that in his lifetime he spoke and wrote in eight languages and had a working knowledge of four more. The same may be said about his interest in music, which began his vinyl record collection, mainly consisting of classical and operatic recordings. His other hobby was collecting art books. These collections brought him enormous pleasure throughout his lifetime.

Following high school Henry received a BA degree and MA degree in French literature from the University of Manitoba in 1931. He spent a year studying in Paris, France at the Sorbonne while completing his thesis. He received a doctoral degree in Romance languages from the University of Toronto in 1940 and an AM degree in Slavic philology, Russian language and literature from Harvard University in 1945.

As a youth, Henry was involved in activities of interest to the Ukrainians of Winnipeg sponsored by the Prosvita Society (Ukrainian Reading Association) located at the corner of Flora Avenue and McKenzie Street. In later years, he credited Prosvita for nurturing his young mind and psyche. While still a student in high school he taught Ukrainian to children at Saturday school classes from September through June. As a university postgraduate student, Henry also taught English there to postwar Ukrainian refugees.

In 1927 Henry became Prosvita's choir/musical director and served in this capacity for almost 10 years. He remarked that those were the best years of his youth, during which he derived a spiritual satisfaction and had an opportunity to interpret a wide array

of Ukrainian songs according to his liking. Under his direction, the Prosvita choir, consisting of over 60 dedicated members, many of them parishioners at St Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, attracted public notice and appreciation and helped raise Prosvita's prestige in Winnipeg.

He ran in the 1932 Manitoba Provincial Election as an independent candidate but was not elected. Two years later he married Helen Virginia Krett, who died an untimely death in 1953. He married Anne Harlette Zwizdarek of Winnipeg the following year.

Henry's dream to teach at the academic level was dashed immediately upon graduation; he applied for 200 jobs and received only two replies. His doctoral degree in Romance languages meant very little during those war-torn years and the country recovering from the Great Depression. Instead, from 1941 to 1944 he edited a Ukrainian weekly, *Canadian Farmer*, until being appointed to head the Department of Slavic Studies at the University of Saskatchewan in 1945 where he worked until his retirement in 1975.

Throughout his career he had a great impact on broadening Canadian awareness of Ukrainian culture and literature. His legacy work, the *Ukrainian-English Dictionary*, was published in 1955 and is still very much in demand today. During the early 1960s, in collaboration with Dr Watson Kirkconnell, then president of Acadia University, Nova Scotia, he published the English translation of *The Political Works of Taras Shevchenko (The Kobzar)* and an anthology of poetry (*The Ukrainian Poets 1189-1962*). He translated Wasyl Stefanyk's *The Stone Cross* as well.

At the time of his death in 1983, Dr Constantine Henry Andrusyshen was well known in Canada and abroad as a translator

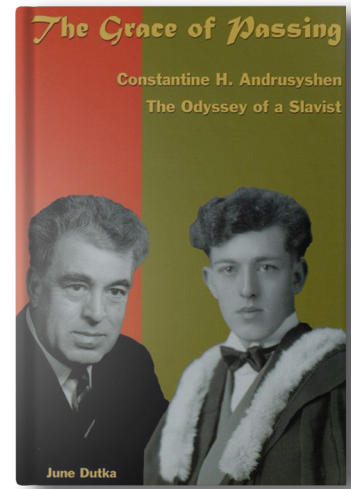
and lexicographer. He was recognized as a key figure in the establishment of Slavic Studies in Canadian universities. He poured his heart and soul into his work for over 50 years to secure and merit reputable recognition and numerous prestigious medals and awards. He spent his life establishing remarkable literary benchmarks for students and scholars to build upon. In recognition for his teaching and academic contributions Henry was appointed Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1964, the highlight of his career.

It has given me great pleasure to tell you about my uncle and his lifetime work. For over six years I researched his archival

papers and produced *The Grace of Passing: Constantine H. Andrusyshen; The Odyssey of a Slavist*, published in 2000. I invite you to read his full story and appreciate that he was only one of many ambitious, hard-working students who graduated from St Nicholas School. Just as schools with long histories have stories to tell, so do students. Going forward, may God bless the work of teachers and students at Immaculate Heart of Mary School.

Sincerely,

June Dutka (St Nicholas '57)
 Librarian Emeritus and niece of Dr
 Constantine H. Andrusyshen



WHERE ARE YOU NOW?



In April 2024, **James Brennan** (IHMS '17) participated in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York City. One of the most prestigious university-level MUN competitions, NMUN brings together students from across the United States and beyond to NYC, a hub for diplomacy and home to the United Nations headquarters.

As part of the delegation from St. Thomas University (an undergraduate liberal arts institution in Fredericton, New Brunswick), James and his committee partner Valeria represented the interests of Malaysia in week-long discussions surrounding the rights and protections of children in war.

James recently completed his third year of a four-year Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Economics at STU, where he is pursuing honours thesis research regarding

secessionist movement recognition in Africa, as well as working for the New Brunswick Multicultural Council, a non-profit organization that supports immigrant-serving agencies provincially.

In reflecting on his time at IHMS, James credits his interest in global affairs to his membership in the original cohort of students in the Students Making a Change (SMAC) club, where students learned about global issues and held fundraisers for improvements to water, food, and healthcare infrastructure in various countries.

His passion for international development through charitable and political means was continued at St. Paul's High School and later in New Brunswick. Upon completion of his studies, James plans to pursue graduate education and a career in diplomacy.

YOU ARE INVITED!

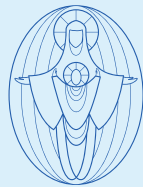
Please save the date and plan to join current students, families and staff in celebrating together. We'd love to see you!

- September 25: Welcome Back to School picnic
- December 6: St. Nicholas program
- December 18: Christmas concerts, K-3
- December 19: Christmas concerts, 4-8

Watch for details on social media:

 facebook.com/immaculateheartofmary

 instagram.com/ihms_winnipeg



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR SCHOOL

In April, we said farewell and thank you to our most recent school chaplain. Father Daniel Wach, OSBM, will be continuing his priestly mission in Alberta. IHMS has been extremely blessed to have such a dedicated, enthusiastic and committed chaplain to be part of our school community. We pray the Lord's blessings continue to be with Father Daniel in his new mission!



One hundred and eighteen years are in the books! It's been a wonderful year seeing the students' accomplishments and experiences. It's also been great to see the many volunteers who help create a truly wonderful community atmosphere at the school.

Over these past couple of years, more than 100 Ukrainian refugee students have been welcomed into the school since the full-scale invasion, including 76 currently enrolled. It is encouraging to see them and their parents taking active roles in activities and events. Thanks to donors – many who are alumni like you – IHMS will continue to provide support and assistance to newcomer families from Ukraine as the war continues to wage.

Our dedicated staff continue to work together to provide an exceptional educational experience for the students. In the fall, Mrs. Kravtchouk (K) and Mrs. Pohl (Resource) will join us, Mrs. Walton and Mrs. Bacon will return from mat leave, and Mrs. Paulic will begin hers. Sister Emily Schietzsch, SSMI, also returns as Learning Assistant for early years students. We pray all new and returning staff enjoy a warm welcome to our community. We also wish school chaplain Father Daniel Wach, OSBM, God's blessings as he continues his ministries in Alberta.



Often our track and field athletes are awarded for their efforts with gold, silver or bronze medals in competitions. But this year, one of our athletes set a new record! Congratulations to Lucas Rogelio (Grade 8) who set a new Manitoba Catholic Schools Athletic Association record in high jump with an incredible leap of 1.64 meters. Way to go, Lucas!!



Celebration of culture remains a cornerstone at IHMS. We'd like to say a special thanks to Access Credit Union who generously sponsored our extended Ukrainian Week activities, including arts, crafts, music and a terrific Ukrainian-language concert celebrating a traditional market, or *yarmarok*. Dyakuyu!

Welcome to the newest IHMS alumni. On Wednesday, June 26, 25 Grade 8 students graduated from IHMS. We look forward to hearing about their future successes as they share their gifts and talents in high school and beyond. An interesting fact: Three of this year's graduates are children of alumni parents who attended IHMS.

To all IHMS, Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy, and St. Nicholas School alumni ... may you be blessed with a wonderful summer. I invite you to join us for our Back to School Picnic on September 25 as we begin year 119!

—Rod Picklyk, Principal

Thank you to Access Credit Union for helping to make Ukrainian Week 2024 a market-able celebration!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

Graduates and alumni from the classes of:

2015
2000
1990
1975
1965

Thank you to our alumni who contributed to this issue. If you have news or stories you would like to share, please contact:



Supporting the ministries of the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate.

1085 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB • R2W 3S1
204-942-0443
info@lubovfoundation.ca

We're working on an exciting and special project, and we'd like you to be part of it!

Email Katherine Fox (IHMS '87)
kfox@lubovfoundation.ca or
Mia Lukie (IHMS '93)
mlukie@lubovfoundation.ca
for more information.

