

# WELCOME

## 18TH ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH AND IDEAS FAIR

We are very proud to host our eighteenth annual Student Research and Ideas Fair.

Last year, we were unable to hold this important event due to the widespread impacts of COVID-19 on our community, and the public health requirements to curtail in-person events. In its place, we initiated the Student Research and Ideas podcast series to provide our students with the opportunity to disseminate their research results to a broad audience. Nothing, however, can adequately replace the thrill and challenge of presenting our research to a live audience of peers. Therefore, we are very happy to be able to return to an in-person event this year.



As senior students, you are already steeped in the importance of independent research as a core component of academic life, and as a means of achieving the goals of a liberal education:

- an independent, inquiring mind;
- a breadth of knowledge and depth of understanding;
- an awareness of the perennial questions and new challenges confronting humanity;
- a depth and consistency of moral judgement; and
- an ability to write and speak with clarity and precision.

The Student Research and Ideas Fair provides the opportunity for students to gather together to share their ideas, research, and discoveries with their fellow students, their faculty mentors, and the university community as a whole. The Fair truly demonstrates the best that St. Thomas University has to offer: a unique student experience, high-level faculty engagement, and our emphasis on excellence and open-ended inquiry.

I want to congratulate the students who are participating in this year's Fair. Your participation is evidence that you have accepted the challenge to explore important and sometimes controversial ideas in a manner that requires systematic investigation, careful analysis, and careful and considered judgement.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dawn Russell".

Dawn Russell  
President and Vice-Chancellor