

“To Everything There is a Season” | A TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH KILBOURNE



Elizabeth Kilbourne receives the title of “Librarian Emerita” to a standing ovation at St. Stephen’s University’s 2010 convocation ceremony.

OUR APRIL 23RD CONVOCATION marked an important milestone in SSU’s history: after 20 years of faithful service, Elizabeth Kilbourne has retired from her role as librarian.

After graduating from the University of Western Ontario with a Master’s in Library Science, Elizabeth had a sense that God was speaking through Ecclesiastes 3:1 to call her to St. Stephen’s

University. The verse that reads “to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven”, was confirmed to her repeatedly before her arrival in 1990.

When Elizabeth first came to SSU, the library consisted of large piles of books in what is now the administration office and a few shelves of uncatalogued items in the Red Room. At that time, SSU’s circulation system operated out of a coffee can. Elizabeth gracefully transformed these humble beginnings into the orderly, computerized system we know today.

Members of Elizabeth’s family were present when the graduating class announced that the library would be renamed the Kilbourne Library in her honour, complete with a plaque at the entrance. As a final token of appreciation, St. Stephen’s University also awarded Elizabeth the title of “*Librarian Emerita*” during the convocation ceremony.

Following convocation, Elizabeth has moved back to Ontario to spend more time with her children and grandchildren—but by no means do we expect her to slow down. Elizabeth is a faithful servant of Christ, a great friend, a powerful intercessor and to my own children “Auntie Elizabeth.” We will miss you, Elizabeth, and bless all that the Lord has for you in this new season of life!

By SSU Board Member and friend, SHANNON LANDRY.