

More than three hundred Saint Mary's students received their degrees and six notable alumni received Honorary Doctor of Commerce degrees, at the last Convocation of the Millennium, October 17.

Halifax business woman, Grace White (right) received an Honourary Degree at Saint Mary's Fall Convocation. Ms. White, a Saint Mary's Commerce graduate is pictured here with a friend. More on pages 6 & 7.



Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

# The TIMES



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## Professor Solves Century-Old Riddle "Chemical free" discovery improves crop growth by 10 to 30%

by Paul Fitzgerald

While putting on his long white lab coat, Dr. Zhongmin Dong takes a look out the window of his laboratory on the first floor of the science building. He sees the early morning bus stop on the busy street. Doves of students pour out its doors and onto the lawn of the campus. Not even a minute passes and many of them make their way through the halls and stairways of the science building.

It sounds like a parade, with hundreds of feet stomping up the stairs and down the hallways. Dr. Dong is not at all effected by the morning routine, he's much too excited over a unique scientific discovery he's just made. "This is big," he says with a bright smile. You see, the biology professor and his team of researchers have found a simple way to increase crop plant growth by 10 to 30%,

which could have a significant impact on agricultural productivity.

For over a century, scientists have been trying without success to solve the puzzle of plant growth promotion associated with legume plant rotation practice. Only about 25% of the increase in the growth of the non-legume crop can be attributed to the nitrogen left over by legume plant. The remaining 75% of the effect has eluded explanation. After conducting countless hours of research with his team over the past years, Dr. Dong has finally found the answer to the age-old riddle – and it is surprisingly simple.

"What we have found is that legume plants release hydrogen gas into soil and the hydrogen stimulates certain microbial population to grow in the soil. When we treated soil with hydrogen in the lab we found that the lab treated soil can promote plant growth as well," he explains. "To many it probably sounds strange to treat soil



Dr. Zhongmin Dong

with hydrogen. Well, in fact this happens in the many legume fields, such as soybean and alfalfa. For example, in the Canadian alfalfa crop alone, we have estimated that there may be as much as 2.4 thou-

Continued on page 3



Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, OC participated in the Team Canada trade mission to Japan in September. It was an opportunity to market Saint Mary's world class education and do a little networking. Pictured here, Dr. Ozmon with one of his travelling companions, Nova Scotia Premier John Hamm.

## Aging university buildings a national problem says Dr. Ozmon

by Ann Graham Walker

Saint Mary's University President, Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, OC raised the barometer on an important issue during his Fall Convocation address. He said aging infrastructure has become an urgent problem facing Canadian universities, and called on the government to put a funding strategy in place without further delay.

"There is a billion-dollar problem facing Canadian universities," said Dr. Ozmon, to a capacity audience made up of 300 new graduates and their friends and families, as well as Saint Mary's faculty members and six high profile Honourary Degree recipients who traveled from as far away as the People's Republic of China to collect their degrees (see story page 7). Nova Scotia Minister of Education, Hon. Jane Purves, was also present in the audience.

At Saint Mary's extensive renovations of the Loyola and Vanier Residences will soon be underway (See story page 3). The \$25-million project will bring those buildings into step with the needs of an emerging Millennium.

"As we renew and renovate our facilities, we face the daunting task of funding these projects," says Dr. Ozmon. "Saint Mary's is not alone in facing the challenge of deferred maintenance. It may well be the single biggest challenge in the years ahead for universities right across Canada."

Rising tuition fees are not the answer to fixing old buildings, says Dr. Ozmon.

"If universities want to be competitive, they will need support from all levels of government," he says. "It is an economic imperative. It is a national concern. It should be both a national and provincial priority." ❖

## INSIDE BOX

Santamarians and friends gathered together in the Tower on October 16, 1999, to celebrate the induction of four new members of the Saint Mary's Sport Hall of Fame. The inductees' portraits, pictured here, were painted by Nova Scotia artist Barbara Dorey.



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# Back at Saint Mary's, wearing a different hat

by Ann Graham Walker

**D**r. Cathy Conrad (BA'93) sits in her office on the second floor of the Burke Education Centre, grinning from ear to ear. Everything she feels passionate about is suddenly at her fingertips, and she is only twenty eight. She is an Assistant Professor in Geography, a field she has adored since her high school days. She is back home in Nova Scotia. She has returned to Saint Mary's.

"My first week in classes I just couldn't wipe the smile off my face because I couldn't believe I was here, in this job, teaching students at Saint Mary's," she says, parked in an office just doors away from the classrooms where she first learned her discipline.

It has all happened so quickly. Six years ago she graduated from Saint Mary's as an Honours Geography student. She married and moved with her husband to Ontario, where there seemed to be more opportunities for young people. She received a Masters' in Geography through a joint program at Wilfred Laurier University and the University of Waterloo. She completed a doctorate in Physical Geography and had a variety of exciting career options in Ontario. Dr. Conrad and her husband built

a house and made future plans, all the while dreaming about home.

"We missed Nova Scotia terribly," she reflects. "Our families are here, we missed the ocean, the natural environment. But I never imagined I could come back here to work because of the limited opportunities for teaching geography at the university level in Nova Scotia."

Then she saw a posting for a Physical Geographer position at Saint Mary's. She applied and was called for an interview – which was held in Burke 207, the room where she had often sat in the back row as a student. That was on a Friday. The following Tuesday she was offered the job. It did not take long for her to answer 'yes'.

Dr. Conrad has had many occasions to appreciate the advantages of going to a small, student-oriented university like Saint Mary's. Particularly as one of a handful of Geography Honours students, "the students and Faculty had a very close working relationship. We went to Christmas parties and other functions, even pub crawls, together," she recalls. "And I gained experience I would not have gained at a larger institution because I was a teaching assistant when I was here. I taught labs, I was able to help do fieldwork as a second and third year student –

opportunities that bigger universities would reserve for their grad students."

Now she is able to enjoy those advantages from a different perspective.

"My largest class has 75 students. I have another 300-level class with fifteen – compared to Wilfred Laurier where the first year class I taught had 200 students."

Dr. Conrad hopes that by coming home as a successful, Saint Mary's-trained geographer, she is sending a positive message out to her students.

Communicating with students is very important to her. While she finds her research in fluvial morphology very rewarding and is really looking forward to studying the features of Nova Scotia's ocean shoreline, teaching has always been Cathy Conrad's first love.

"I try to get the message out to my students here that whatever their concerns are, my door is open. They don't have to pay attention to office hours just to come by whenever. So that apprehension about talking to your instructor is not an issue," she says.

"I think that the fact that I was one of them so recently makes it easier for me to see the university experience from their side of the desk," she smiles. "That should



Dr. Cathy Conrad

probably work in my favour working here now."

Still, she does find it strange, finding herself in a faculty meeting with professors who once marked her term papers. Drs. Robert McCalla, Hugh Millward, Brian Robinson: they were all professors in the department when she was an undergraduate.

The department has been very

welcoming. What she cannot get used to is being able to stride into the Faculty Lounge, whenever the fancy strikes her. "I still feel like I am not supposed to be there," she laughs. ❖

## A memorial tribute

A memorial tribute to the late Richard Hadden, (Department of Sociology and Criminology, Saint Mary's University) was held in the Art Gallery on Friday, October 29. Friends, colleagues and former students were invited to attend and participate in this informal gathering. ❖

Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

The **TIMES**



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## The Office Next Door...

# Coffee with "Father Con"

by Ann Graham Walker

**A** place where students know they can drop in anytime, just to talk about whatever. That is what Father Con Mulvihill would like his office to become, given a little more time. Father Con is new to Saint Mary's and to Halifax. He arrived this past September.

Father Con is the University's new chaplain. He is forty three years old and "Con" is short for "Conlin" – but he says even his mother has never been known to call him that. He has always been simply "Con".

He surveys his new office with a quizzical look, as if checking out its friendliness from a student's point of view. He has barely settled in himself, but the pictures on the wall and the art books on the table look promising, and Father Con is wearing a comfortable looking cardigan. "Some of the Muslim students have begun using the chapel as a quiet place to come in and say their prayers," he says smiling. "I'm really happy to see that."

The Chaplain's Office is strategically located, right across the corridor from Tim Hortons in the Loyola

Building. The people who crowd this general area between classes tend to be keen conversationalists, which Father Con takes as a good omen. Anyone venturing across the hall will find his enthusiasm for a good chat is not limited to issues of Theology.

A native of Arnprior, Ontario, Father Con has lived in several Canadian cities, he has lived in Chicago, he has lived in Rome. He spent four years working in the garden centre at Simpsons. He has taught high school. He hitchhiked across Canada with \$5 in his pocket. He spent last Christmas at Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying. He loves watching films, reading anything by Jane Austen, and has an easy sense of humour. He is an avid swimmer and three or four days a week can be found cruising up and down the pool, two, maybe two and a half kilometres. He developed a fondness for pasta when he was in Italy and his favourite dish is spaghetti with clam sauce.

Now the academic credentials.



Father Con Mulvihill enjoys a coffee break at Tim Hortons.

Father Con studied English, Latin and Religion for his first degree at the University of Toronto. He spent two years at Ignatius College in Guelph and a year studying philosophy at Loyola College. He received

his MA in English from Northwestern University, and wrote a thesis on Joseph Conrad's *Lord Jim*. Then he spent two years at a Jesuitical college in Rome and another year at Regis College, a Jesuit school of theology at the University of Toronto. He also has a teaching certificate from McGill University. There is no question, an academic milieu is definitely familiar ground for Father Con.

Still, he sees his role at Saint Mary's as very different from anything he has done before. "I've been in a lot of very structured, Catholic environments," he reflects. "Saint Mary's is not like that. It is alive with a very diverse kind of energy. Just look out there," he says, nodding towards the throngs of spirited

young people gathered talking outside his door. "I am not just here to serve the Catholic population. I am here for the university community as a whole. I can already tell I am going to enjoy the challenge." ❖



## Saint Mary's University liberates learning for students with disabilities

**"Liberated Learning Project" receives \$1.2 million dollar funding from McConnell Family Foundation**



International partners gathered for the inaugural meeting of the Liberated Learning Project.

by Ann Graham Walker

Representatives from four international universities, a computer industry icon and a telecommunications leader gathered at Saint Mary's University October 22, kicking off a world's-first project that will redraw the boundaries of access to higher education. The project utilizes advanced IBM speech recognition technology to make classrooms more accessible to students with disabilities.

The Liberated Learning Project has received a \$1.2 million dollar grant from the J. W. McConnell Family Foundation. It follows on a project initiated in 1998 by Dr. David Leitch, Director of Saint Mary's University's Atlantic Centre of Research, Access and Support for Students with Disabilities. This earlier endeavour was called the "Liberated Learning Pilot Project". Saint Mary's University Psychology professor, Dr. Robert Konopasky, and two other volunteers — Dr. Stan Armstrong and Dr. Sandra Bell — used speech recognition technology in a university classroom for the first time ever.

Word of the Liberated Learning Pilot Project spread far afield in academic and technology circles and among human rights advocates. Now the project has expanded into an international initiative, led by Saint Mary's, but in partnership with IBM, MTT, the University of Southampton in England, the University of Texas at Austin and Ryerson University in Toronto.

The Liberated Learning Project will use IBM's latest voice-activated software to deliver class lectures to students with disabilities and enhance the learning experience for all students. Using cordless microphones during lectures, the software will immediately convert the professor's voice to text, which

will appear on a large screen at the front of the classroom. Students will be able to obtain the text of the lecture on disk or download it later and either print or convert the text to Braille.

Dr. Leitch, a passionate advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, says the funding received from the McConnell Family Foundation is the key to making this project a reality.

"I am extremely optimistic that we will be able to demonstrate that speech recognition technology can revolutionize the involvement of persons with disabilities in higher education," says Dr. Leitch. "My hope is that the Liberated Learning Project will eventually receive widespread acceptance as a model for universities to better accommodate

students in the classroom."

The Liberated Learning Project is a three-year collaboration on the part of all the strategic partners. It will be coordinated at the Atlantic Centre's headquarters at Saint Mary's University. Representatives from each institute will participate in forging the project's development, from the initial planning stages through to the in-class trials and beyond. The partners will develop and test multiple applications of speech recognition in the classroom, and will stimulate global discussions of speech recognition as a method of lecture notetaking. In the third year of the project, the Atlantic Centre will sponsor an international conference on the importance of speech recognition technology in the classroom. ♦

### Professor Solves Century-Old Riddle from page 1

sand million liters of H<sub>2</sub> gas released to Canadian agricultural soils every year. If other legume crops are considered, the national H<sub>2</sub> production rate may be twice as high."

Dr. Dong says that modern agriculture relies on extensive use of fertilizers and chemical pesticides to maintain high levels of production in the face of a rising world population, expanding urbanization and land degradation. Since widespread use of agriculture chemicals has led to many environmental problems, he set out to search for a more "chemical free" method of enhancing agricultural productivity.

The experimental results to date indicate that plant growth significantly improved as indicated by the plant's ability to grow faster, larger or more vigorously relative to a plant in an untreated environment. With Spring wheat, growth of both roots and shoot were more than

30% greater in treated soil than untreated soil, and the head production was advanced by a few days. Similar growth results were obtained with barley, soybean and cannola. The natural substance seems to act by specifically enhancing one or more plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria which then enhanced plant growth.

"This is great news," he says. "We not only have a better understanding of benefits from rotation with legume plants but also have a new, more environmental friendly way to promote plant growth. This could have a huge impact on agriculture of the entire world."

While everyone will be in their regular mode in the halls and classrooms of the science building today, Dr. Dong will be on cloud nine for a while to come. But then again, with a big find like his, feeling good comes with the territory. ♦

## Loyola-Vanier in the New Millennium

Saint Mary's University is about to spend \$25 million dollars improving the living and learning environment of its students. That's the price tag on the extensive renovations to the Loyola and Vanier Residences scheduled to begin in April.

The two complexes are "home" during the school year to hundreds of Saint Mary's University students. The buildings will be completely re-done and refurbished, from new drapes and new windows to data connections at every (new) desk in every room. The renovations will bring the buildings,

built in the early 1970s, into the high-tech age in which we live, and more importantly, in which we learn.

Saint Mary's is not the only Nova Scotia university which faces the high cost and upheaval of dealing with aging buildings. Saint Mary's President, Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, OC, put the issue in a national context during his Fall Convocation address (see story page 1). He challenged the government to begin a national infrastructure pro-

ject for universities across Canada.

"As we renew and renovate our facilities, we face the daunting task of funding these projects," says Dr. Ozmon. "Saint Mary's is not alone in facing the challenge of deferred maintenance. It may well be the single biggest challenge in the years ahead for all universities in Canada."

While our own most immediate building problems come with a \$25-million price tag, when you include all Nova Scotia uni-

revenue.

Meanwhile, Saint Mary's University has decided that vital infrastructure will no longer be put on hold. Fund raising has begun for the residence renovations. The transformation of Loyola-Vanier will begin after the end of the current school year, so students currently in residence need not anticipate immediate disruption. However, contingency plans are in the works for the temporary closure of these residences beginning in April, and lasting twelve to eighteen months.

Saint Mary's will enter the new millennium in a mode of renewal — with the needs of students first

and foremost on the agenda. A task force is currently planning for the transition period, committed to ensuring that inconvenience is minimized, and that the student community and the neighbourhood are properly looked after and accurately informed at all times.

Accurate information is a key factor during a reconstruction. The Public Affairs office at Saint Mary's is available to answer questions that students of the general public might have about the renewal project. ♦

*More funding is needed for buildings on university campuses across the country, at a time when government investment in higher education is sharply declining.*

versities the figure rises to well over \$250-million. Dr. Ozmon estimates the bill will tally into billions of dollars for universities.

More funding is needed for buildings on university campuses across the country, at a time when government investment in higher education is sharply declining. In 1980, government funding to Saint Mary's represented 75% of the operating revenue. In 1991 it represented 50%, and this year will account for only 34% of the University's operating

## "We got the job done," says Director of Facilities Management

by Paul Fitzgerald

Renovations on any university campus are a top priority. Just ask Gary Schmeisser, the Director of Facilities Management at Saint Mary's.

Today is like most days for Schmeisser. There are people to meet and buildings to inspect. Watching him maneuver his way through the hallways on campus, you could take him for a medical doctor making his rounds through a hospital. His suit (dark navy) and tie, clipboard, pen, and bright smile suggest that all his patients are in good shape. Except his patients aren't people, they are the buildings and grounds on the campus. "Everything is well," he says with a smile.

Schmeisser and his crew have just completed a few months of conducting renovations all around campus.



Gary Schmeisser

Capital Budgets totaling just over \$1-million allowed for the large number of renovations. They included refurbishing of Arena; renovations to the main floor of McNally; re-roofing the Science building; installation of two new boilers; refurbishing of the Oaks meeting room; drapery replacement in the Science and McNally

buildings; weightroom windows installed in the Tower; SMUSA floors renovated (Travel Cuts and Society Rooms); creation of three senior apartments in Vanier; cleaning of air ventilation ducts in the Tower; renovation of a geology lab; and the installation of computer and phone hook-ups in Rice Residence. MTT made a contribution of \$150,000 to the University to see that students could keep up with the changing pace of technology.

Additional projects are underway, one being a new ventilation system for the second floor of the Burke Building that will be completed by Christmas. "The work completed over the past few months couldn't have been done without the cooperation of everyone," says Schmeisser. ♦



# Around Campus

## Restoring Balance to Earth's Ecosystems

The Department of Environmental Studies at Saint Mary's University presented a talk by Dr. David Rapport on Thursday, October 14. Dr. Rapport is the President of the International Society for Ecosystem Health and a professor in the Faculty of Environmental Design and Rural Development at the University of Guelph and in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Western Ontario. His lecture focused on managing ecosystem health and strategies for restoring a balance to the

earth's ecosystems.

Dr. Rapport, who has authored over 100 scientific papers and several books, has targeted his research on trans-disciplinary studies, initially between economics and ecology, and in recent years between the health, social, and natural sciences. He pioneered the development of approaches to the assessment of ecosystem health, validating the ecosystem distress syndrome in a variety of ecosystems, both aquatic and terrestrial. His current interests are focused on methods

to assess the early stages of loss of resilience in stressed ecosystems, methods to validate indicators of ecosystem health, and methods to merge information on societal values with scientific data on ecosystem health.

The event was co-sponsored by the Saint Mary's University Environmental Studies Program, the Saint Mary's University Visiting Speaker Committee, and the Community-Based Conservation Management CIDA Tier 1 (International Activities). ❖

## International outreach



Sixteen senior financial managers, lawyers and officials from the Zhuhai Economic Zone in China attended Saint Mary's October 2-9 for a five-day training session in how we do business. They attended sessions – conducted at the World Trade and Convention Centre site – with a focus on international financing, Western stock

markets, legal and tax implications of investment in North America and amalgamation of enterprises. The delegates also toured local industrial parks, visited a variety of businesses and did a little sightseeing. The harbour cruise was a popular item, and a tour of the Halifax Port facilities demonstrated Halifax's strategic advantages as a

trade gateway to Europe and NAFTA. Initiatives such as these generate prestige as well as revenue for Saint Mary's University, and create opportunities for networking that last well into the future. Shown in the photo are members of the delegation with Dr. Colin Dodds and representatives from the Saint Mary's International Activities Office. ❖

## NASA's Hubble Space Telescope: The View from Within

Dr. Dennis Ebbets can take anyone to outer space without leaving the ground.

This is just what he did on Thursday, October 28, when he came to Saint Mary's with an exciting talk and slide show about NASA's Hubble Space Telescope.

Dr. Ebbets has been an Astrophysicist and Systems Engineer at Ball Aerospace Systems Division in Boulder, Colorado for the last 14 years. He's a real expert when it comes to the inner workings of the Hubble's

high-tech eye on the universe. Since joining Ball Aerospace in 1985, he has worked mainly on science instruments for the Hubble Telescope, and on design studies for instruments for other NASA and NOAA missions. He is a member of the Investigation Definition Team for Hubble participating in both the calibration activities and astronomical research program of the observatory.

His talk focused on Hubble's design and the construction of the hardware, its launch into orbit, and its use

by astronomers here on Earth. NASA conducts service missions every few years to make repairs and to install new equipment in the telescope. Dr. Ebbets showed slides of the astronauts pre-launch training and extravehicular activities during the missions. He also discussed some of the important science data obtained from Hubble, such as planets in the solar system, the formation of new stars and possibly solar systems in the process of forming around very young stars. ❖

## Journalist Gwynne Dyer on Campus

Internationally renowned journalist Gwynne Dyer packed the room in the McNally Building on September 30. Sponsored by the Saint Mary's Department of Political Science, the Dean of Arts, and with the generous support of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs (Halifax Branch), Dyer gave a talk entitled "Can Democracy Save Indonesia". His pithy observations were

based on first hand experience and interviews with people on the ground, reflecting views from every side of the ongoing conflict. The answer to the question? Dyer's prognosis was generally on the side of optimism, although he was prudently cautious. After the talk, faculty members and students in the Political Science Department had an opportunity to speak with Dyer over lunch. ❖



Gwynne Dyer

## We are the Champions!



The Commerce Dream Team has taken the first place crown for the faculty/staff baseball league on campus. From the left to right: Bernadine Halliday, Economics; Russell Barnett, student; Barry Veinotte, ITSS; Cathy Mason, ITSS; Dr. Bob McCalla, Geography; Brent Saulnier, alumnus; Dr. James Morrison, History; Donna Filek, Commerce; and Fred Duncan, Bookstore.

## TESL Welcome

Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) students were treated to a welcome luncheon on September 21, in the conference hall of the Loyola Building. Saint Mary's TESL program draws students from every corner of the world, twenty five different countries at last count. ❖



## Feminist and Social Critic Speaks at Saint Mary's University

There was not a seat to be had at bell hooks' talk on September 27. Hundreds of people packed into the Saint Mary's University Theatre Auditorium to hear one of America's most popular feminists and social critics talk about "Love: A New Vision" – the title of her soon-to-be-released book. It was the first time in 20 years that the University has hosted such a prominent speaker.

Born as Gloria Warkins in 1955, hooks writes under the name of her great-grandmother, Bell Hooks, to pay homage to the unheard voice of black women of past and present. She lowercases her name, to symbolize her skepticism of fame and ego.

In works such as *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women*



bell hooks

and *Feminism* (1981), *Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black* (1988), and *Outlaw Culture, Resisting Representation* (1994), hooks takes an analytical yet impassioned look at how African American feminism, the civil rights movement, capitalism

and critical theory work with and against each other in both society and the individual.

The event was sponsored by: Saint Mary's University – Dean of Arts; The Visiting Speakers Committee; the Department of English and Religious Studies, together with Women's Studies, Dalhousie University; the Department of Women's Studies and the James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies, Mount Saint Vincent University; Offices of the President and Vice-President Academic, and the Departments of Women's Studies and Religious Studies; the Atlantic School of Theology; *The Shambhala Sun Magazine* and the Halifax Shambhala Centre. ❖



## "If I knew then what I know now!"



Back - L-R: Dennis Rodgers, Lois Dyer-Mann, David Rathbun, Stephen Plummer, Gerald Walsh, Rod McCulloch. Front: Debbie LeValliant and Liz MacDonald.

Saint Mary's MBA students enjoyed a rare opportunity on September 24, sitting in on a dialogue between some of the most prominent business and management leaders in Atlantic Canada. The line-up at the podium included Lois Dyer-Mann, LLB, Senior Vice President, Government Relations, The CCL Group; Liz MacDonald, MBA, Vice President, Human Resources, Nova Scotia Power Inc.; Dennis Rodgers, MBA, President and CEO, Halifax International Airport Authority;

Stephen Plummer, MBA, President and Chief Operating Officer, IMP Group; David Rathbun, MBA, Vice President, Human Resources, MTT and Aliant; Debbie LeValliant, CMA, Chief Financial Officer, Applied Microelectronics Inc. and Rod McCulloch, FCA, President and CEO, Nova Scotian Crystal.

The speakers shared their thoughts about what - if anything - they would have done differently in preparing themselves for the competitive

world of business. After the panel discussion there was a question and answer discussion, followed by a wrap up and an enthusiastic round of applause.

The session was sponsored by the MBA Career Development service which is managed by Gerald Walsh Recruitment Services Inc. Saint Mary's has the only MBA program in Canada which has contracted an independent recruiter to work with students and help place them in a rewarding career. ❖



These four MBA students had nothing but good things to say about the value of the "If I knew then what I know now" event in the Sobey's Conference Room. Left to right: Carrie Chuen from Taiwan and Sophie Fei Yu, Cherry Lan Xue and David Ming-Fu Tseng from China.

## TESL Students get spooky welcome



Staff at Saint Mary's TESL Centre made sure the incoming class of TESL students had a genuine Halloween experience.

# Department of Aches and Pains

Do you have sports or work related injuries? Arthritis? Neck or back pain? Posture troubles from craning at your computer? Help is close at hand.

The Physioclinic opened a branch on campus in September, staffed by two physiotherapists and a massage therapist. You will find it on the ground floor of the Tower, easily accessed by limping bodies.

Aside from injuries, accidents and other aches and pains, people can turn to the clinic for help with nutritional counseling, fitness testing, home care, work conditioning, functional ability evaluations and work site or ergonomic assessments.

Karen Decker is the clinic's director. Karen has her Diploma in Sport Physiotherapy and recently attended the 1999 Pan American Games. She has worked with national and professional teams, and teaches at the Dalhousie School of Physiotherapy,



Physioclinic Director, Karen Decker

where she graduated in 1991.

The Saint Mary's staff Blue Cross plan covers both physiotherapy and massage

therapy without the need for referral. The students' plan covers both services as well, but requires a physician's referral for massage therapy. ❖

## Support the Metro United Way Campaign Make a donation!

*It is November again - time for the annual United Way fundraising campaign!*

Saint Mary's takes great pride in helping to build a stronger and more compassionate community - a role which extends beyond that of providing an excellent teaching, learning and research environment. For 74 years, the Metro United Way has successfully raised money to fund programs and services that help the individuals and families that need them. This year's overall

campaign goal is \$3,750,000, and Saint Mary's would like to contribute by raising \$21,838 through the University (a 25% increase over last year's amount).

Supporting the Metro United Way is not just about money. The Campaign's fundraising goals cannot be achieved without the commitment and dedication of those employees who volunteer for 100 workplace campaigns being conducted in Metro each year. You can bet these people will be working hard throughout the coming month - but



we can make their job easier.

So, what are you waiting for! Make a donation today and help support the Metro United Way. For more information contact Larry Corrigan, Chief Financial Officer, at 420-5090, or Dr. Pat Fitzgerald, Management, at 420-5771. ❖

## Corporate Governance Symposium

The Frank H. Sobey Faculty of Commerce at Saint Mary's University hosted an international symposium on September 17 and 18, geared at exploring the looming shifts and variations in the emerging global economy. Here, Dr. Colin Dodds, Vice-President, Academic and Research, introduces the topic and guest speakers for the two day event. ❖





# Scenes from the 1999 Fall Convocation



Dr. Hilary Jenkins, a professor in the Chemistry Department, gives a student a hand before the ceremony.



Lucy Campbell who worked for a number of years for University Security is joined with long-time colleague Louis Godin.



New alumni say their friendship will last forever.



Dr. Don Naulls, Chair, Senate, leads the way.



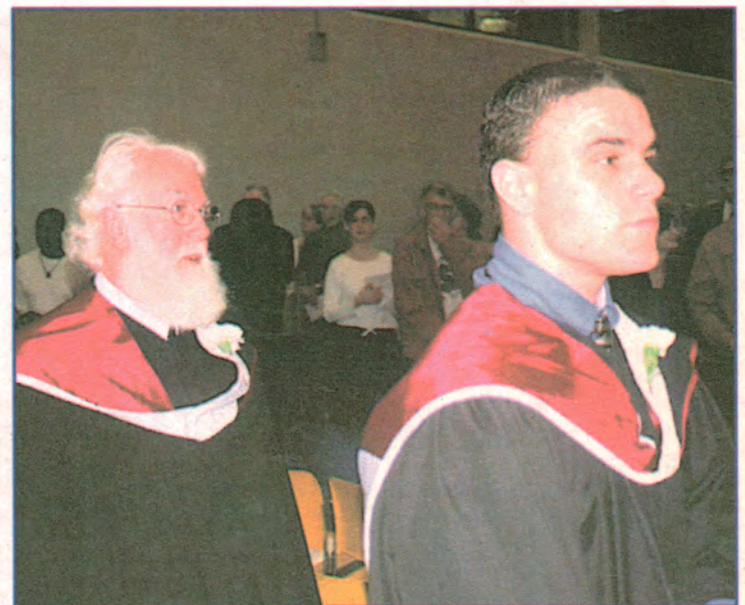
A mother and her daughters celebrate the big day.



A proud day for two Saint Mary's graduates.



Elizabeth Ozmon with Honorary Degree recipient Gao Shan, from the People's Republic of China.



The ceremony begins.



Dina DeWit of the Alumni office was one of the many volunteers that day.



Students just before the ceremony.



# Six Graduates Awarded Honourary Doctorates



Front row (L-R): Honourary Degree Recipients: Eligio Gaudio, Richard Franklin, Irwin Simon, Grace White, Gao Shen. Missing from photo: Kevin Francis.  
Rear (L-R): Robert Belliveau, QC, Chair, Board of Governors; Dr. J. Colin Dodds, VP – Academic and Research; Dr. Elizabeth Chard, Registrar; Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, OC, President; Honourable J. James Kinley, Lieutenant Governor.

**S**aint Mary's Fall Convocation (October 17th) was a cause for celebration, as close to three hundred students received their degrees and six former Saint Mary's graduates received Honourary Doctorates.

Saint Mary's University President, Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, OC, addressed what will be remembered as the last graduating class of the Millennium. He was looking forward to the opportunity, delighted that this year's Honourary Degree recipients are "such exceptional role models for the new graduates."

"The six individuals who have been selected for this honour are a testament to what can happen when students take what they have learned at Saint Mary's as a springboard, combining knowledge with personal determination and creativity," said Dr. Ozmon.

"Today's graduates can approach the world with confidence and a sense of exciting, broad horizons," he continues, with his characteristic warm enthusiasm. "The opportunities awaiting them may be in our back yard – but they are perhaps even more likely to be half way around the world, in one form or another. I want to wish them all well."

The Honourary Degree recipients – Gao Shan, Grace White, A. Kevin Francis, Richard E. Franklin, Irwin D. Simon and Eligio M. Gaudio – have navigated very diverse lives and challenges, but they have important things in common. They have all demonstrated leadership in the dynamic world of international business, as well as in their communities. They all received their undergraduate education at Saint Mary's and made an impact on campus life

while they were there. They will all receive Honourary Doctorate Degrees in Commerce from their alma mater.

**GAO SHAN** grew up in The People's Republic of China and served in the North Sea Fleet of the Chinese Navy from 1969 to 1975. A short time later he enrolled in the Beijing Institute of Foreign Trade (BIFT) where he graduated in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Economics. While enrolled there as a student he was commissioned to assist the Canada/China Language Training Centre, a joint project of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). This project was managed through BIFT and Saint Mary's. As a legacy of this program, Saint Mary's continues to be one of the best known Canadian universities in The People's Republic of China. Shan is the first Chinese student ever from The People's Republic to graduate with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Saint Mary's in 1985.

Shan has enjoyed much success in the oil business over the years. In 1983 he became an Associate Professor at the University of Business and Economics and not long after took the leap in what would become an outstanding management career in the Chinese petroleum sector.

In the late 1980s he accepted a position as General Manager for the Oil Products Division of Sinochem, and in 1995 he became the Executive Vice President of the China National United Oil Corporation. That same year he was appointed General Manager and President of Sinochem International Oil Corporation, a subsidiary of Sinochem – a company mainly specializing in the import, export and entrepot trade of crude oil, petroleum products and oil storage, processing, futures transaction, barter

and contra-trade.

His friends and colleagues attribute his outstanding success to his charisma and stamina as a person.

**GRACE WHITE** grew up in Jamaica, where her mother raised three kids by setting up her own home-based food brokerage business to distribute produce from the family vegetable farm. The family scrimped and saved to send Grace and her older sister Yasmine to Saint Mary's. Grace graduated in the late 70's with a Bachelor of Commerce degree, majoring in Business Administration. She began her life as an insurance agent, before taking the bold step of founding CanJam Trading Company from an office in her Dartmouth home. CanJam is now a successful international food trading house, dealing with low cost frozen food items that are salted or pickled. CanJam makes more than 35 different food products and gross sales have reached \$30 million dollars. The home grown company exports to every corner of the world, including the Caribbean, North America, South America, Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia.

Grace White is a widow with two children. She is an active member of the Board of Directors of the Export Development Corporation, and a frequent speaker and presenter in the Saint Mary's University Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) program.

**KEVIN FRANCIS**, now the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Xerox Canada (a \$1.6 billion dollar Canadian company specializing in document management products and services), graduated from the Saint Mary's Bachelor of Education program before going on to an executive career in business. He has held a variety of leadership positions in Atlantic Canada, British Columbia, Ontario

and in the United States, covering a broad range of professional areas strategic to successful corporations including sales, marketing, customer service, process re-engineering planning, administration, information systems, general management, customer satisfaction and quality assurance.

Mr. Francis is involved in a number of organizations including the Conference Bureau of Canada, the Business Council on National Issues, The Richard Ivy School of Business at the University of Western Ontario, the National Quality Institute, The Public Policy Forum, The Information Technology Association of Canada and the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business. He is married and has two children.

**RICHARD FRANKLIN** is perhaps best remembered by many Saint Mary's alumni as a former Captain of the Saint Mary's University football team and Chief of the Campus Police. His teachers will remember voting him Alpha Sigma Nu in the Jesuit Honors Society, before his graduation in 1969 with Bachelor of Commerce degree. Franklin went on to graduate studies in business and has had a career spanning a diverse range of challenges. He was a senior executive with the Seven-Up Company for ten years, he has held senior positions with Head Sport, Coors Brewing Company and Reebok International, and more recently has worked in the telecommunications and information technology field. He was a Senior Vice President for Telecommunications Inc., a major United States firm that runs cable and communications networks, and in February 1999 was appointed President and Chief Operating Officer for the Halifax-based Information Technology Institute (ITI). ITI has

campuses across Canada and is now establishing schools across the United States, with an expansion plan of four schools per year.

Richard Franklin serves on numerous community and youth oriented voluntary agencies. He is married with one daughter.

**IRWIN SIMON** graduated from Saint Mary's with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1979. He went on to a number of senior sales and marketing positions with prominent food companies, building a base of experience for a bold entrepreneurial move. Simon began acquiring under-managed specialty brand food companies, placing them under competent centralized management and high quality-control standards. He then went on to acquire the Hain Pure Food Company, a company founded in 1926 and one of North America's oldest and most prominent natural food businesses selling a variety of products which contain no artificial ingredients or preservatives. Other major acquisitions followed. Under Simon's leadership, Hain is now the nation's largest natural food business with 18 health food companies under its jurisdiction and annual sales revenues of over \$200 million.

Notwithstanding his multifaceted roles as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hain Food Group Inc. Simon is Chairman of the New York City Gotham Chapter of the Young Presidents' Organization and sits on the board of two other public companies. Irwin Simon was awarded the 1997 Ernst and Young, Long Island "Entrepreneur of the Year" Award and was named by Business Week as one of the "Top Entrepreneurs" for 1998.

Born in Mangone, Southern Italy, **ELIGIO GAUDIO** is the eldest of six children and came to Canada when he was six. He graduated from Saint Mary's in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts and a major in Economics. He demonstrated his broad-based talent early on. Gaudio was a varsity football player, the Co-Captain of the Varsity Rugby Team, one of the Editors of the Saint Mary's University Journal – a student publication. He received the Literary "M" Award for his contributions to campus media, the Gold "M" award (presented to the student who has made the most outstanding contributions to extracurricular activities during their years on campus) and was the Arts representative on the student council before graduating and becoming a retail stock broker in Ontario. Gaudio has held a number of high profile positions in a range of areas, including investment, travel, marketing and software. He is currently the President and CEO of the FRI Corporation in Toronto, a position that involves promoting the Corporation globally as well as creating shareholder value, maintaining corporate vision, setting strategic direction and managing day to day operations. FRI's mandate is "to provide software information and services to the North American and International financial community." It is one of the largest suppliers of portfolio management systems in Canada.

Gaudio is married with two children.

The Saint Mary's University Fall Convocation took place October 17 in the Tower, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. ♦



## In The News...

**Dr. Ather Akbari**, Economics, appeared in the *Economist* with his calculation that the average foreign-born household will – over its lifetime – make net contributions to Canada's public purse as much as 45% higher than those of the average Canadian-born household.

**Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, OC**, Saint Mary's University President, appeared in the *Daily News* and the *Chronicle Herald* on the issue of aging infrastructure on university campuses right across Canada. Dr. Ozmon is calling on the government to commit funds to address the problem, and he raised the issue again during his Fall Convocation address. He was also interviewed by *University Affairs*.

**David Lane**, Astronomy and Physics, talked about the how a recent meteor lit the skies in the region on the Discovery Channel, CTV's *Canada AM*, *Global News*, ATV's *Live at Five*, CBC's *First Edition*, the *Daily News* and CJCH Radio.

**Dr. David Leitch**, Atlantic Centre of Research, Access and Support for Students with Disabilities, made the front page of the *Chronicle Herald*, commenting on the Liberated Learning Project, an international initiative (lead by Saint Mary's) that will develop the potential of voice activated software as a tool for making university classrooms more accessible. Dr. Leitch was also featured in the *Daily News*, *University Affairs* and a new web magazine called *Innovative Technology*. The Liberated Learning Project is a world's first, an expansion of a one year pilot project at Saint Mary's in 1998.

**Dr. Elizabeth Chard**, Registrar, appeared in the *Chronicle Herald* and the *Daily News* with the announcement that she was inducted into the Saint Mary's Sport Hall of Fame in the "Builder" category.

**Blake Nill**, Saint Mary's Football Huskies Head Coach and the 1999 Saint Mary's Football Huskies were in the limelight during the start of football season. Blake Nill was interviewed on ASN-TV, CTV and CBC. Nill looked ahead to the upcoming season, the Atlantic Bowl and the Vanier Cup. The Football Huskies were picked as Atlantic Bowl favorites on CJCH's "Hotline," and in the *Chronicle Herald* sports section. Nill also appeared on ATV's "Nightside Maritimes" and CBC's "First Edition."

**Ross Quackenbush**, Saint Mary's Basketball Huskies Head Coach, appeared on CBC TV to talk about the team's CIAU Championship last March, and their preparations for next year's championship event.

**Dr. Leonard Preyra**, Political Science, provided a commentary on both CBC television and radio about the new Tory government's first Throne Speech. Dr. Preyra also appeared on Global Television to address the issue of the native/non-native fishing dispute. Global also interviewed him on the impact of Education Minister, Jane Purves's public confession on her drug abuse.

**Dr. Barry Gorman**, Accounting, and **Dr. Therese Arseneau**, Political Science, talked with CBC's *First Edition* anchor, Linda Kelly about the provincial budget, and the rough ride the province can expect getting its fiscal house in order.

**Dr. John Waldron**, Geology, talked with *Global News* about the recent catastrophic earthquakes in Turkey and Taiwan.

**Dr. Colin Dodds**, Vice-President of Academic and Research, talked with CBC's *Information Morning* about the effort to crack down on inside stock trading.

**Dr. Andrew Harvey**, Economics, was interviewed in *The Teacher* (Nova Scotia's Teachers Union Newspaper). Dr. Harvey, who is also Director for the University's Time-Use Research Program, is the lead researcher for the study of teachers and worklife.

**Saint Mary's Corporate Group Training and International Activities** departments were in the limelight during Michael Tutton's weekly business report on CBC's *Information Morning*. Tutton did an item on the new entrepreneurial spirit on university campuses. He featured the example of a week-long course Saint Mary's recently conducted for a group of sixteen senior financial managers, lawyers and officials from the Zhuhai Economic Zone in China. The Zhuhai delegation came for a five-day training session in how we do business in Canada. ❖

## Dr. Cone Receives Atlantic Canada's Top Award for Excellence in Teaching



Dr. David Cone in the biology lab with students.

The Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) has announced that they will honour Dr. David Cone of Saint Mary's University with the region's top award for excellence in teaching.

Dr. Cone, a Biology Professor at Saint Mary's, will receive the AAU Distinguished Teacher Award which recognizes outstanding teaching over the years.

Dr. Cone is a respected scholar, teacher and contributor to his profes-

sion, to Saint Mary's University and the wider community. He has influenced much of the Biology program as it currently exists at Saint Mary's, and was the driving force behind the modernization of the first year course several years ago. A committed, caring, innovative, energetic, but unassuming instructor, Dr. Cone epitomizes the very best in Professor and faculty colleague.

Students attest to his dedication,

and the fact that he "exemplifies a personal concern for student learning." He has also made substantial contributions outside the University, through his contributions to the Atlantic Canada Studies program and as a participant in the Curriculum Development and Teaching Workshops in Cambodia.

Dr. Cone will receive the award in April. ❖

## Scholarly & Professional Development

### Marketing Department

**Dr. Sanjay Sharma's** article "Sustainability Thinking and Practice in the Canadian Forest Products Industry" was ranked the Best Paper at the Eighth Annual Greening of Industry Conference which will be held at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill this month. This is the largest annual conference of researchers, policy makers, and practitioners working in the area of organizations and the natural environment. Also, his article "Managerial Interpretations and Organization Context as Predictors of Corporate Choice of Environmental Strategy" has been accepted for publication in the *Academy of Management Journal*. The *Academy of Management Journal* is considered the most prestigious journal for empirical research in the field of management and has an average acceptance rate of less than 3% of the articles submitted.

### Finance and Management Science

**Dr. George Ye** was invited as a speaker by the RISK Conference. He talked on a new methodology of Pricing Asian Options, based on his research with Professor Neave, Queen's University, at the Computational & Quantitative Finance 1999 conference in September in New York City. The audiences were mostly from financial industry, particularly from Wall Street.

### Sociology Department

**Dr. Sandra Bell** has just released her book, *Young Offenders and Juvenile Justice: A Century After the Fact*.

**Dr. Ron Cospere** and **Garba Mohammed Gital** presented "Genitive Constructions in South Bauchi (West Chadic) Languages: Sul and Polci" at the 30th Annual Conference on African Linguistics at the University of Illinois, Urbana in July.

### English Department

**Dr. Terry Whalen**, presented his paper "Relocating Philip Larkin's Movement Aesthetic" at the "Larkin in the 40s Conference" at the University of London, in July. As well, his article, "Philip Larkin and Lady Chat-

terley's Lover: Exploring an Influence," based on a paper presented at a Larkin conference at the University of Hull, England is now available in ed. James Booth, *New Larkin's for Old* (Basingstoke: MacMillan Press, 1999), pp. 78-88.

**Dr. Brian Bartlett** recently published a semi-fictional piece in a tribute to the poet Elizabeth Bishop, *Con Spirito II*; gave a talk, "The Land Tugging at the Sea": Elizabeth Bishop's Coasts and Shores," at the Bishop conference in Wolfville in September 1998; delivered "As If You Might Be Here": Poems Addressing Elizabeth Bishop" at the Bishop Conference and Celebracio in Ouro, Preto, Brazil, in May 1999; and this past October at the Spring Garden Road Library was one of the readers at a celebration of Bishop's life on the twentieth anniversary of her death.

**Dr. Wendy R. Katz** has produced a critical edition of the Robert Louis Stevenson classic, *Treasure Island*. She did most of the research during her sabbatical last year, working at the Beinecke Library at Yale, the Library of Congress in Washington and the National Library of Scotland (Edinburgh). Dr. Katz's edition of *Treasure Island* is published by the Edinburgh University Press.

### Chemistry Department

**Dr. John Young** recently led two half-day workshops on his computer mediated chemistry laboratory program at the Nova Scotia Association of Science Teachers' 1999 Annual Conference. Each session consisted of discussions and hands-on demonstrations of the system in use at Saint Mary's by Dr. Young, and in high school physics and chemistry classrooms by his collaborators Wayne Lincoln from C.P. Allen High School and Jeff Clark and Lorne Bates from Cole Harbour High School.

### Patrick Power Library

**Mike Greer**, Patrick Power Library is a successful applicant in the new Emerging Filmmakers Program from Telefilm Canada – a triumph which provided him with \$15,000 for his next film project. ❖



# Dr. Georgia Pe-Piper Receives Highest Award for Research at Saint Mary's

by Paul Fitzgerald

Each year, at the University's Fall Convocation, a professor is awarded the President's Medal for Excellence in Research. The candidates are selected on the basis of their outstanding contributions. Dr. Georgia Pe-Piper, one of Canada's leading geologists, is this year's recipient of the prestigious award.

For over the last three decades, Dr. Pe-Piper has had an impeccable career as both a professor and researcher in the field of geology. Along with her teaching

and research duties, she has recently accepted the position as Director of Graduate Research at Saint Mary's. It is a new position that was formed to work in conjunction with the Office of Instructional Development at Saint Mary's. The Office of Graduate Studies and Research has a mandate to support the increasing graduate studies offerings at Saint Mary's, as well as to facilitate the increasing success of Faculty in research funding competitions.

Dr. Pe-Piper received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Athens University, and a Ph.D. from Cambridge

University. She joined Saint Mary's in 1989, and that same year was appointed Chair of the University's Geology Department – the first woman in Canada to hold such a position. In 1990, she went from the position as Associate Professor to Full Professor. For the next five years as Chair she introduced and fostered the Co-operative Education programs in

Geology, and established close links between the Geology Department at Saint Mary's and other universities and governments.

Over the years she has received well over \$0.5-million to conduct research that involves the study of the origin of volcanic rocks. She has authored over 135 publications, contributed to over 20 government reports, and has delivered more than

70 conference presentations and, academic lectures. In addition, she has supervised 27 students' theses. Many of these graduates are now successful Canadian geologists working with leading companies and top notch research organizations.

Her years at Saint Mary's have included serving on the University's Academic Senate and several University committees – Academic Planning, Academic Program Review and the Sexual Harassment Advisory

Presently she is serving a three-year term on the Coun-

cil for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada, an organization that administers over \$400-million for research at universities across the nation. She is also Chair of the Volcanological Division of the Geological Association of Canada, is an Honourary Board Member of the Fundy Geological Museum at Parrsboro and is also on the Council of the Nova Scotia Institute of Science.

Dr. Pe-Piper received her award during the Fall Convocation ceremonies. ♦

*She joined Saint Mary's in 1989, and that same year was appointed Chair of the University's Geology Department – the first woman in Canada to hold such a position.*

## Students Recognized for Outstanding Academic Achievement

On Sunday, October 24, the University presented a number of students with scholarships, totaling over \$1.2-million. These awards are based on academic achievement and community involvement, on and off campus.



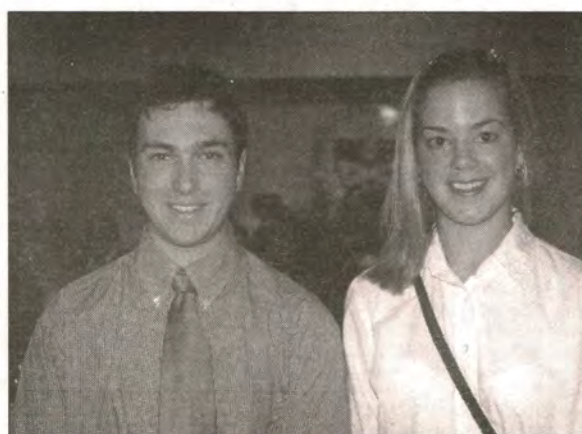
Judith Zwicker (left) is this year's recipient of the Dr. Kenneth and Elizabeth Ozmon Family Scholarship.



Dr. David Richardson (right), Dean of Science) presents Stephen Turner with the John and Pearl Pool Memorial Scholarship.



The Perrier Family Scholarship is presented by Dr. David Perrier of Sociology/Criminology to student Joseph JeBailey.



Gavin Beck receives the Joseph and Charles Hinman Memorial Bursary, and Jeannine Bugden receives the Gary W. Richardson Memorial Scholarship.



Mom and Dad are on hand to watch their son, Stephen Goobie of Astronomy and Physics, receive the Saint Mary's University Faculty Union Scholarship.



Liam Arbuckle, President of the Saint Mary's University Students' Association (SMUSA), presents Meagan Quimby and Heather Swan with the SMUSA Scholarships.

## Saint Mary's Wins APICS Programming Contest

Taking home the top prize is very rewarding. Just ask the team of math and computing science students from Saint Mary's who are this year's winners of the APICS Programming Competition, held last weekend at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland. APICS is a forum where math and computing scientists in the region share research and compete annually.

Out of nine universities from Atlantic Canada, students Cedric Davies, Cherno Jagne, and Roger Zhang took first place after weeks of practice with faculty members in the math and computing science department. They are now preparing to travel to Westfield, Massachusetts for the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) regional competi-

tion. The ultimate prize is for a spot at the World Championship in Orlando, Florida next Spring.

It was a team effort from start to finish. Drs. Pawan Lingras, Stravros Konstantinidis, and Porter Scobey were just some of the many faculty who helped coach the team.

"Our students are the best, and they are extremely educated," says Dr. Lingras. We came in first place because everyone worked hard, and most of all worked together as a team."

Also at the competition, Cedric Davies won the best paper/presentation award (authored with Dr. Lingras) for their work, "A Comparison of Two Genetic Encoding Schemes for Solving Shortest Path Problems with Genetic Algorithms." ♦

## "Community Based Conservation Management in China and Vietnam"



Pictured left to right: Louping Zhang, visiting researcher from China; Liu Hung from Fujian Agricultural University and Linda MacDonald, Associate Director of the Saint Mary's Department of Continuing Education.

On October 13 & 14 Saint Mary's hosted participants in Tier 1 of the "Community Based Conservation Management in China and Vietnam" (CBCM) program. The program is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. Visiting scholars and representatives from our Asian partner institutions include Vietnam National University, and Xiamen University and Fujian Agricultural University in China. The local research and training programs are taking place at Saint Mary's, DalTech and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.



# Hands-on success



**Saint Mary's Business Development Centre.**  
 BACK: Barb Kehoe, Lorie MacCallum, Erin Dearnley-Davison, Eric Crowell, Harry Cook.  
 FRONT: Nea Publicover, Lawrence McEachern, Ann McLeod. MISSING: Wayde Crawford.

**J**ust inside the entrance area of the Saint Mary's Business Development Centre on Barrington Street there is a wall of framed black and white pictures. They are assorted former clients: Stephen Vail and Dave Fullerton, better known locally as the "Pita Boys"; Ann Thompson – who has a bakery called Rice Bread; Jim Smith of "Cheapy Tires." Every picture tells a story of success, and there have been

many in the Centre's ten year history.

The Centre draws on the skills of Saint Mary's Commerce students to provide consulting services to emerging businesses. Clients get low-cost advice that can make the difference between a successful start-up and a failure. Students get hands-on experience that gives them a competitive advantage when they graduate and start making their own pitch at success.

Eric Crowell has been the director of the Centre for the past two years. He loves working in a setting where he can act as a catalyst, and enjoy the results.

"The hands on experience students get here is like the difference between studying piano theory, and sitting down in front of a real piano," he reflects. "I tell the students, 'here is your chance to get in front of the piano!' That's what this Centre is about." ♦

Prior to working at the Centre Crowell did similar work as a private consultant. He prefers being amidst the energy and the youth of the Saint Mary's venue. "You never get lonely here," he smiles.

Right now the Centre has about thirty clients in a variety of areas, from high tech projects such as selling tickets to local events over the

Internet, to writing business plans for venture capital projects, to aquaculture. "We operate on a fee for service - but the fee is very reasonable," says Crowell. "Down the road, we anticipate that this Centre will grow to a point where we contribute revenue to the university."

Crowell believes strongly in the Business Development Centre's mandate – building

students' leadership, risk management and motivational skills while simultaneously helping to develop the local economy, at the storefront level. "That is not only rewarding," he reflects. "It is great for Saint Mary's to be out there playing such a positive and important role in the community." ♦

## Saint Mary's alumnae hand-picked for exchange

The global economy is more than a buzzword for two young Saint Mary's alumni. Mark Knodell (BA 1995) and Tanya Shaw-Weeks (Commerce) are participating in a selective international exchange, traveling to Northern Ireland to brainstorm with their counterparts and develop new markets.

Knodell and Shaw-Weeks both in their twenties, own successful export-oriented companies. They are two of five Nova Scotia young entrepreneurs who were hand-picked for the exchange – a joint project of Nova Scotia Economic Development, the Black Business Initiative and the Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CEED). Correspondingly, five young entrepreneurs from Northern Ireland were chosen to visit Nova Scotia a little earlier this past Fall.

"The global economy is reality for my generation," says Knodell. "It is up to us." Knodell welcomes the exchange as a chance to develop business relationships and identify new opportunities.

Knodell has a lot on his shoulders as a young entrepreneur, doing business in several countries and carrying accounts receivables in the six figure range – but he loves every wired up moment. "Just the other day I found some scribblers from grade four," he enthuses. "The assignment was 'what do you want to do when you grow up' and I answered with just one word. 'Businessman.' That was it."

He started his first business as a student at Charles P. Allen High School in Bedford – a gum ball machine that earned him \$150 a week before eventually being banned for running afoul of the school's contract with the cafeteria. A couple of years later, as an Anthropology major at Saint Mary's, he spent more time running his siding cleaning business than finishing assignments. "My professor thought I was pretty lazy and did not expect I would amount to much," he recalls



Mark Knodell and Tanya Shaw-Weeks

with a chuckle. "When my company was written up in Profit magazine I sent him a copy."

Knodell has moved on from his siding cleaning days. His current company – Continental Connections Trading – exports fresh halibut to Northern Europe and supplies soy based dairy products to major retailers such as Sobeys and the Atlantic Superstore. He expects his company to gross \$3 million this year and sheepishly admits he would dearly love to buy himself a flashy car. A Jaguar, maybe...but so far he has taken his father's advice and is resisting the temptation. "I know the wise thing to do at this stage is to concentrate on growing my business – it is just so hard to set aside the present for the future, at my age."

Shaw-Weeks, like Knodell, is a young veteran in the business world. As a junior high student she custom designed clothing for her friends and teachers. She finished a degree in Costume Design at Dalhousie before studying Commerce at Saint Mary's. By her early twenties she had a dress-making business with five hundred clients – which was all she could humanly manage.

Today, Shaw Weeks has several thousand clients around the world, through sheer cleverness and inventive use of technology. She

partnered in the development of software programs that take a person's individual measurements and produce a customized pattern. That was the beginning of "Unique Patterns" – a custom pattern company with clients throughout North America. Her new venture "Virtually Yours" is a cyber-dressing room that makes a three dimensional cyber thumbprint of your body, which you can then take shopping on the world wide web, trying clothes on your virtual self while sitting at your computer.

"Virtually Yours" is a business tailor-made for export, so to speak, and Shaw Weeks is looking forward to introducing it to potential markets in Northern Ireland and Britain. "I want to visit Marks and Spencers and other large retailers and see if I can develop some important new markets in the British Isles," she says. "I'm really looking forward to it."

These are spunky young people, who have a knack for applying both what they learned – and did not learn – in the classroom. Tanya Shaw-Weeks' model for success did not come ready made in a textbook any more than Mark Knodell learned the wheeling and dealing of food export in Anthropology class. What their Saint Mary's education gave them was the ability to embrace new challenges, to think creatively and to manage fearlessly in a global environment. ♦

## Will you be the one to win U99?



Barbara Staples was the winner of the U98 House. Pictured here is Mrs. Staples' husband, Gary and their daughter Tracy with her son Jaelen. Pat Forbes, Chair of the U98 Lottery (back), joins the lucky family.

Imagine how Barbara Staples and her family felt when they learned she held the winning ticket on the U98 draw! It's that time of the year again.

Tickets are on sale at the U99 house, 73 Lancaster Drive, Clayton Park West. For \$100 dollar investment you have a chance of winning a brand new \$250,000 home. With only a maximum of 5300 tickets to be sold, November 23, 1999 (the date of the draw) could be

your lucky day.

The house is a 3000 square foot customized home located on a corner lot. It has every feature you could think of: a corner bay window, a covered front verandah and rear deck, a custom gourmet kitchen with a center island and quality cabinetry, an ensuite master bedroom, hardwood floors, central vacuum system, and more... Drop by and see for yourself.

The U99 house is a fundraiser for Saint Mary's Atlantic Centre of Research,

Access and Support for Students with Disabilities (see story on their exciting new Liberated Learning Project, page 4). Also funded by the U99 house are the Student Leadership Scholarships awarded by the Saint Mary's Department of Athletics and Recreation. When you invest in something like this, there is no such thing as losing – it is just a matter of how big you win. For more information call 496-8123.



# M Sports

# SHOTS FROM THE 1999 Sport Hall of Fame



The inductees' portraits were painted by local artist Barbara Dorey.



## 1964 Saint Mary's Football Huskies – Atlantic Bowl Champs '64.

The 1964 Saint Mary's Varsity Football Team will never be forgotten for their 15-1 Atlantic Bowl victory over the McMaster Marauders, one of the top teams in the country. Team members included Frank Archambault, Paul Puma, Mike Antle, Steve Armitage, Bill Baldwin, Bob Belliveau, Darryl Burgess, "Knucker" Burns, Mike Colle, Ken Evans, Frank Garner, Pete Grant, Tom Haney, Bob Johnston, Al Keith,

Wayne Leahy, Jack Lyons, Dr. Charlie MacDonald, Stu MacDonald, Jim Magee, Larry Matheson, Brian Murphy, Dave Murphy, John Murphy, Stu O'Brien, Wayne O'Brien, Erwin Penner, Joe Reardon, Gerry Redmond, Ed Ritchie, John Schneider, Dan Skaling, Ron Traenkle, Ron Venning and Charlie White. All were inducted into the Sport Hall of Fame in the Team Category – and many team members turned up on October 16 to collect their awards in person.



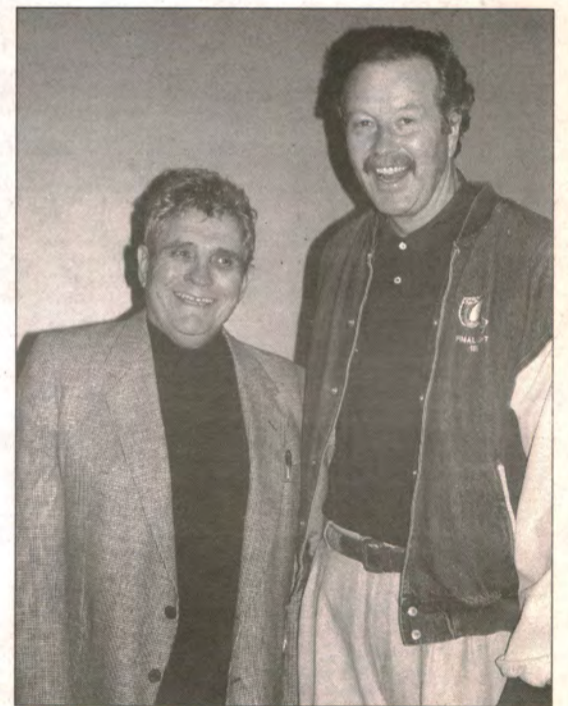
## Bob Warner and family.

Bob Warner came to Saint Mary's in 1970 and for four years was known as "the backbone, blood and guts of the hockey Huskies' defence." In three consecutive years he led the Huskies to the national championship game and, although they fell short of the national title, they set the standard against which all future Saint Mary's hockey teams have been measured. Bob Warner's exceptional play and leadership as a member of the Hockey Huskies earned him induction to the Hall of Fame in the Athlete category.

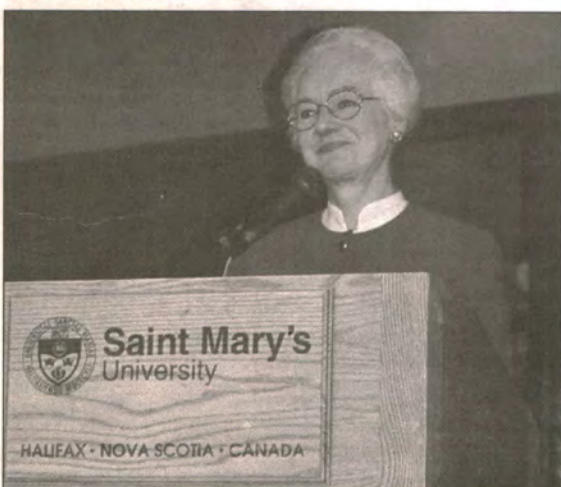


## Jamie Bone

Jamie Bone excelled during his years at Saint Mary's as a wheelchair track and basketball athlete. A Dartmouth native, he competed in the 1987 Can Am Games, where he finished second in the 200 and 400 metre events and third in the 100 metres. His hard work and outstanding accomplishments as a para-athlete have earned him induction to the Hall of Fame in the Athlete category.



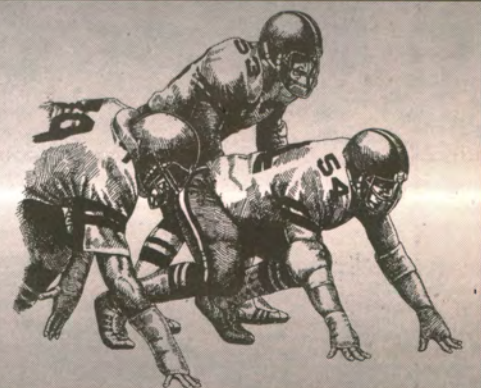
1964 Saint Mary's Football Huskies coach and former Athletic Director Bob Hayes, shown here with former varsity basketball player Peter Halpin, Alumni Representative on the Saint Mary's Board of Governors.



## Dr. Elizabeth A. Chard

Sport Hall of Fame inductee Dr. Elizabeth Chard, who started her career at Saint Mary's as a history professor in 1961, became faculty advisor to women's athletics at Saint Mary's, and has been the University's Registrar since 1973. For the past 30 years she has also been active as a builder in inter-collegiate and disabled sport associations on a local, regional, national and international level. Her three decades of service to athletics have earned her induction to the Hall of Fame in the Builder category.

# Way to go Huskies!





# Homecoming '99

October 15-17



President Kenneth L. Ozmon visited with former and current members of the Saint Mary's varsity basketball team.



Members of the Saint Mary's University Drama Society (SMUDS), current and former, entertained alumni with skits at the Homecoming Weekend.



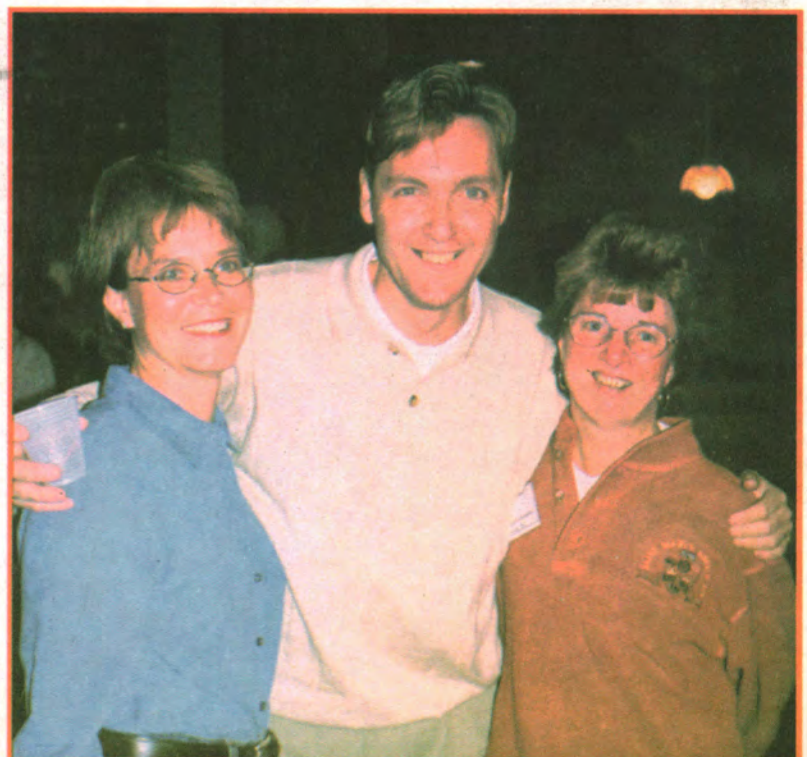
Michael Volpe, 1987 Valedictorian, political science major and goalie on the Hockey Huskies of his day, chats with Bob Hayes, former Athletic Director and Coach of the Football Huskies. Santamarian Vern Creighton is on right.



Keith Hotchkiss (front), Mary Ann Hotchkiss (second from left behind him) with friends.



Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, OC hosting the class of '49.



Barry Gallant, Acting Director of Alumni Affairs with Susan Westhaver and Acting Alumni Officer, Betty-Jean Frenette.