



Meet Science Champion - Dr. Adam Sarty



Dr. Adam Sarty, a professor in Saint Mary's Astronomy and Physics Department has won the coveted Science Champion Award from the Discovery Centre.

The *Science Champion Award* is awarded annually to an individual who promotes science and technology to the public. Dr. Sarty received the award at the 2008 *Discovery Awards for Science and Technology* held at The Westin Nova Scotian, in Halifax on November 27, 2008. This marks the second year in a row that the Science Champion has come from Saint Mary's. Last year, David Lane, astronomy technician and systems administrator also in the Astronomy and Physics Department won the award.

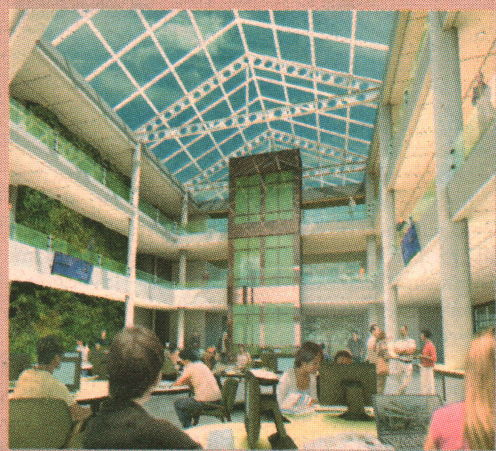
This is not the first award for Dr. Sarty. Earlier this year, he won the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) *Medal for Excellence in Teaching*. The CAP Medal is awarded annually to a physics professor who possesses an exceptional ability to communicate their knowledge and understanding in ways that help students achieve academic success in physics.

Dr. Sarty is also the 2008 winner of the Atlantic Association of Universities (AAU) *Instructional Leadership Award* as well as the Saint Mary's University *Geraldine Thomas Educational Leadership Award*.

A highlight of Dr. Sarty's science outreach is a physics show he brings to high school and elementary classes each year. The show gives students the chance to experience and witness the fun of amazing sound, nuclear physics, electricity, and magnetism demonstrations. The show seems like magic to the students, but in fact, it is physics in action.

The new Science Champion said of his award, "I feel privileged to be part of a university such as Saint Mary's, which encourages faculty to become actively involved in the schools and communities of Nova Scotia; this has allowed me to take my own excitement about science outside of the standard university classroom."

Watch the Atrium take shape



The Saint Mary's community can watch the *Atrium* taking shape with a click of their mouse. Before construction began, a video camera with an eye on the site was placed in the Burke Building. Viewers can watch the three-story building go up in what seems like a matter of minutes. To watch the action, check out the *Atrium* page linked from the Saint Mary's website www.smu.ca.

Work began last summer on the *Atrium*, an ambitious \$17.5 million project that reinforces Saint Mary's University as a global learning centre.

The *Atrium*, which is a focal point of the *Hearts and Minds* capital campaign, includes funding from Alumni, faculty, staff, organizations, foundations and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. The *Atrium* will be completed in autumn 2009 and will transform the open space between the Library, the Burke and Science buildings into a living laboratory and *Global Learning Commons*.

In spite of two early snowstorms, construction of the *Atrium* is on schedule. All foundation work is nearly complete and a temporary skylight will be installed to keep the building roof-tight over the winter as work progresses on the interior lecture rooms and structures.

Meanwhile The *Global Learning Commons* Implementation Committee headed up by Dr. Terry Murphy, Vice President Academic and Research, has been established and is tasked with introducing "learning commons" principles to students, faculty, staff and the broader Saint Mary's community. The Implementation Committee will help transform the functional plan of the *Global Learning Commons* space into a learning environment that engages students, faculty and staff in open dialogue and information sharing.



Holiday Greetings from the President

Members of the Saint Mary's Community,

As the holiday season approaches, it is time to think back on this year's accomplishments and look ahead to the promise of the New Year.

2008 was certainly a busy construction year on campus. The renovated and extended *Science Building* opened in the spring and work on the new *Atrium* began in April.

The activity on campus hasn't stopped there. Renovations to four floors of the *Rice Residence* were completed and many areas of the *Burke Building* received a face-lift. Behind the scenes, the campus was a flurry of activity too as the University's three main heating plants were converted to cleaner natural gas and other energy saving initiatives such as lighting upgrades were installed. Through our campus-wide sustainability initiative, the Saint Mary's community has come onboard to reduce our environmental footprint.

Looking ahead to the New Year, the *Atrium* and its innovative *Global Learning Commons* opening next fall will be the showcase of our University. As well, plans for the *Homburg Centre for Health and Wellness*, a space where fitness and wellbeing will flourish, are well underway. Funded for these ambitious projects couldn't have happened without the whole-hearted support of everyone in our community who have given generously to the \$40 million *Hearts & Minds* Capital Campaign. Saint Mary's thanks each and every one of you for your support.

The success of our faculty, students and alumni this past year is remarkable. Let me provide a few examples — this November, we celebrated to mark the success of our graduate and undergraduate students who received over \$4.5 million in scholarships and bursaries — thank you to our many donors; we continue to follow the careers of our worldwide alumni; thirty-seven varsity athletes were recognized by Canadian Interuniversity Sport as Academic All-Canadians for maintaining top grades while participating in varsity sport; our Computing Science Huskies placed first in the APICS Programming Competition and for the 11th straight year, advanced to the regional finals. Brad LeBlanc, a student in our BComm Programme, was named *Nova Scotia Student Entrepreneur of the Year* and advanced to represent Eastern Canada at the Nationals in Toronto.

Research here at Saint Mary's continues to flourish as our faculty and students, through the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, brought in nearly \$10 million in research dollars this past year. This funding provides a tremendous opportunity for our faculty and students to conduct leading edge research in a variety of fields.

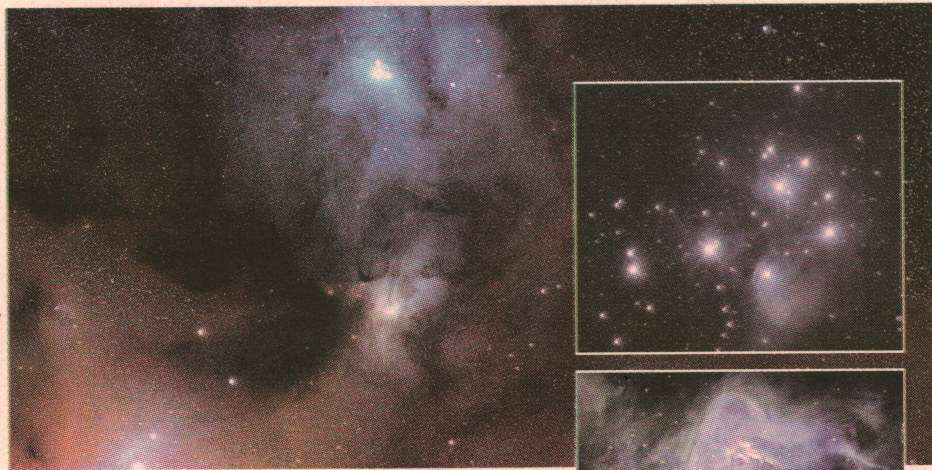
At Saint Mary's we have built a learning environment that fosters open dialogue and interaction which engages our students to be "aspiring citizens of the world."

On behalf of my wife Carol and our children, James and Elizabeth, I wish each and every one of you the very best of the holiday season and the New Year.

Sincerely,

President

Saint Mary's celebrates International Year of Astronomy



Saint Mary's University and Astronomy Nova Scotia are aligning their stars to take a lead role in the UNESCO International Year of Astronomy, which marks the 400th anniversary since Galileo invented his telescope to study the heavens.

The *International Year of Astronomy 2009* will be a global celebration of astronomy and its contributions to society over the past 400 years. More than 130 countries around the world are planning activities that will spark interest in astronomy and scientific discovery.

As home of the Burke-Gaffney Observatory and Atlantic Canada's only Astronomy program, Saint Mary's will be the centre of several *IYA* events throughout the year. *IYA* events locally and throughout the province launch on January 7 with a full week of activities. Events are coordinated by Astronomy Nova Scotia and its partners, the Department of Astronomy & Physics at Saint Mary's University, Halifax Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Halifax Public Libraries, Minas Astronomy Group, Discovery Centre (Nova Scotia's Hands-On Science Centre) and the Department of Physics and Atmospheric Science at Dalhousie University.

For a detailed listing of International Year of Astronomy events around Nova Scotia and links to events around the world visit: www.astronomynovascotia.ca

International Year of Astronomy celebrations January 7 to 13, 2009.

Wednesday, January 7

Astronomers on the Radio. Maritime Noon host **Costas Halavrezos** will moderate the popular phone-in show with well-known Saint Mary's University astronomy experts **David Lane** and **Doug Pitcairn** during the phone-in portion of the show. *International Year of Astronomy (IYA)* events will be highlighted and the astronomy experts will answer questions from curious star gazers who call in. (CBC Radio 1, FM 90.5 in Halifax).

Friday, January 9

Café Scientifique. Join Saint Mary's Professor **Rob Thacker** (in person) and (via Internet) McMaster University Professor **Doug Welch**, host of the Slacker Astronomy website, for an intergalactic discussion about aliens and life on other planets. Meet at the Uncommon Grounds coffee shop located at 1030 South Park St. in Halifax at 7 pm. Cookies will be served. Enter the draw to win an *IYA* T-shirt.

Saturday, January 10

Astronomy goes to Mic Mac Mall. The Halifax Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) will present a display of astronomical telescopes, information, and activities related to the International Year of Astronomy. Display hours from 10 am to 6 pm, Mic Mac Mall, Dartmouth.

StarLab for Kids. The Discovery Centre, Nova Scotia's Hands-on Science Centre, will present StarLab planetarium shows especially geared for young astronomers. Supporting displays of telescopes and information will be provided by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Your host **Andrea Misner** will present Saturday and Sunday shows. Souvenirs of the International Year of Astronomy are available for participants. For times and more details, contact the Discovery Centre, 1593 Barrington Street, Halifax 492-4422. Note that the Discovery Center entrance fee applies to these events.

Busking Astronomers. The outside forecourt of the Sobeys Building at Saint Mary's University will be transformed into a public observatory as students and members of the RASC Halifax Centre set up telescopes for public observing (weather permitting) before and after that night's public

astronomy lecture. Observing times are at 6 pm and after the lecture concludes. Be forewarned: Residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality may encounter the busking astronomers anywhere, anytime throughout the *International Year of Astronomy*.

Public Astronomy Lecture. Starting at 7:30 pm, Saint Mary's Astronomy & Physics Professor **Marcin Sawicki** will present a free public lecture entitled: *Imperfect machines: how telescopes have changed our understanding of the universe and of our place in it.* Location: Scotiabank Theatre, Sobeys Building, Saint Mary's University

Dr. Sawicki is an observational astronomer, a Professor of Astronomy and Physics at Saint Mary's University, and a Canadian Space Agency Space Science Fellow whose research has led him to study how galaxies have formed and evolved.

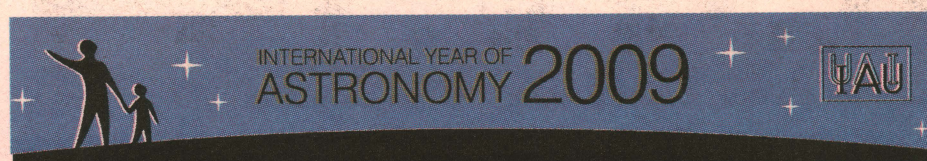
Dr. Sawicki will tell stories of some of the paradigm-changing discoveries over the past 400 years from Galileo's invention of the telescope to the discovery of planets orbiting other stars. Dr. Sawicki will look ahead to the future and discuss the star-gazing international observatories that are now being built.

This is the first of 10 public lectures by professional astronomers to be presented at Saint Mary's throughout the *International Year of Astronomy* which include the *Galileo Lecture Series* sponsored by the Canadian Astronomical Society/ Société Canadienne d'Astronomie.

Observatory Tour. Following the Astronomy Lecture, there will be a guided tour of the Burke-Gaffney Observatory located on the top floor of the Loyola Building. The tour will include views through the 40 cm reflecting telescope. Participation is limited to 25 persons so reserve your spot on the sign-up sheet before the lecture.

Presentations for Schools and Youth Groups

Astronomy Nova Scotia is sponsoring school and youth presentations during the opening week and throughout the International Year of Astronomy. Get involved with the International Year of Astronomy events by visiting www.AstronomyNovaScotia.ca for more details.



Saint Mary's thanks retiring Board members



Michele Wood-Tweel, Chair of the Board of Governors, thanks outgoing Chair Paul Dyer at a dinner to mark the retirement of several members of the Board on December 1.

Saint Mary's University thanked outgoing members of its Board of Governors at its annual dinner for retiring board members on December 1. Among the retiring members were the Board's longest-serving member, the **Honorable Helen Gillis**, and faculty representatives **Dr. Jarda Dostal** (Professor Emeritus in the Department of Geology) and **Dr. Russel Summers** (Chair of the Department of Management). In addition, alumni representatives **Wendy Brookhouse** and **George McLellan** (former Executive Committee members), **Tim Moore** (member-at-large and Executive Committee member), **David Beazley** (Investment Committee member) and **Susan Cannon** (Staff observer) also retired from the Board. The Board also recognized three students who served on the Board in 2007, **Mitch Gillingwater**, **Bilguun Ankjibbayar** and **Jeff Lohnes**.

The event also gave Saint Mary's the opportunity to formally thank outgoing Board of Governors' Chair **Paul Dyer**, who is Regional Vice-President, Eastern for Scotiastudent. Mr. Dyer was elected to the Board in 1997 and served as Chair of several committees, Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors, and was appointed Chair of the Board of Governors in 2002. Saint Mary's University thanks Mr. Dyer and the other retiring Board of Governors for all their years of dedicated service.

Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

THE TIMES

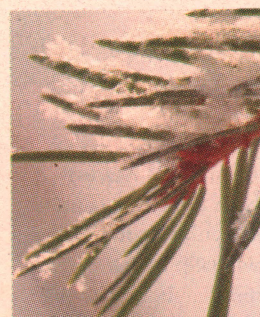


One University. One World. Yours.

The Times is produced by the Public Affairs Department of Saint Mary's University. Submissions from faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends are welcome. Tel: (902) 420-5518 Fax: (902) 420-5511 E-mail: thetimes@smu.ca / chuck.bridges@smu.ca Internet: www.smu.ca

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Holiday Dinner for International Students

International students at Saint Mary's are invited to partake in some holiday cheer at a Boxing Day Dinner organized for them on December 26 at 5 pm in the Dockside Dining Hall located in the Loyola Building. The event is free for our international students, but they must pick up their ticket at the International Centre located in the Student Building before December 22.

Saint Mary's employees recognized

An employee recognition ceremony held in the McNally Theatre Auditorium on November 14 was an opportunity for Saint Mary's University to recognize employees for their dedicated service to the University community.



Many Saint Mary's employees were recognized at a celebration held in November. (Front row L-R): Doug Vaisey, Margaret-Anne Bennett, Dr. Margaret Harry, Dr. J. Colin Dodds, David Lane, Dr. Renee Hulan, Dr. Andrew Harvey; (Middle row): Dr. Stephen Davis, Alison Boyer, Dr. Paul Erickson, Joan Whitney, Dr. Stavros Konstantinidis, Dr. Pawan Lingras, Dr. Zhongmin Dong, Sarah Gough, Larry Corrigan, Bill Ellis; (Back row): Dr. Anthony Farrell, Alan O'Laughlin, Donald Simpkin, Kate Brookes, Dr. Vlodk Tarnawski, Dr. Xiaofei Song, Gabrielle Morrison, Barry McNeil, Dr. Terry Murphy. (Missing from the photo): Dr. Suzanne Dansereau, Gary Dukeshire, Jerry Heffernan, Dr. Teresa Heffernan, Dr. Janet Hill, Dr. Audrey MacNevin, Dr. Anthony O'Malley, Dr. Lyndan Warner, Kathy Mullane, Dr. Phillip Street, Dr. Nancy McAllister-Irwin, Beverley Miller and Eve McDermott.

Thirty-four employees of Saint Mary's University were recognized for their years of service, and three outstanding individuals, one from the faculty ranks and two from staff, were presented with the *President's Award for Exemplary Service* at the ceremony.

"Saint Mary's can only be successful in guiding our students to be 'aspiring citizens of the world' through the ongoing support and commitment of our faculty, staff and instructors," said Dr. J. Colin Dodds, President of Saint Mary's University, as he thanked all Saint Mary's employees for their dedication to Saint Mary's students.

The *President's Award* is presented each year to three full-time employees who have demonstrated outstanding service and made a significant contribution to the University community. The nomination process for the *President's Award* is quite competitive. At least three reference letters must accompany each nomination. This year's winners are Dr. Margaret Harry, Associate Professor of English (retired); Margaret-Anne Bennett, Director of the Centre for Academic and Instructional Development; and David Lane, Observatory Technician.

Dr. Margaret Harry

Dr. Margaret Harry, who recently retired, joined Saint Mary's as part-time faculty in the English Department in 1971. She left Saint Mary's in 1975 to pursue her PhD at the University of Toronto and returned a few years later to teach in the English Department. Over the years Dr. Harry has taught in a wide range of disciplines in the Faculty of Arts, including Irish Studies, Atlantic Canada Studies as well as many courses in the English Department. Dr. Harry also served as Chair of the English Department and as Graduate Coordinator of Atlantic Canada Studies.

Over the past three decades, Dr. Harry has served as an advisor, mentor and teacher to countless students, helping them prepare their theses for defence and guiding them through to graduate school. In the community, Dr. Harry has brought together scholarship donors such as the Marshall family and students who compete for the *Joyce Marshall Hsia Memorial Poetry Prize* awarded annually to a Saint Mary's University undergraduate student for their outstanding poetry.

Recently Dr. Harry worked tirelessly toward the revision of the Department of English programs and curriculum, making sure that the innovative changes were well presented and ultimately approved. Her service to the Faculty of Arts is greatly appreciated.

David Lane

David Lane is the public face of the Astronomy Program at Saint Mary's. Whether he is presenting the night sky to public schools, speaking on radio or hosting public tours at the Burke-Gaffney Observatory, David's enthusiasm for astronomy has rubbed off on many future Saint Mary's students.

David joined the Department of Astronomy in 1992 as the Observatory Technician responsible for the operation of the 40cm telescope in the Burke-Gaffney Observatory. Over the next few years, he spearheaded the modernization of the telescope's pointing and setting system from a manual operation to a computerized "point and click" system.

David's work with the Saint Mary's telescope, his contacts within the local amateur astronomy community and his involvement on the executive of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada have led to national media exposure for Saint Mary's University on many occasions. Whether it is the discovery of *Supernova 1995F* or the total eclipse of the sun in 1994 that attracted thousands of people to Saint Mary's, David's community outreach efforts have placed Saint Mary's on the astronomy map world wide.

As 2009 and the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first use of the telescope approaches, David Lane, along with other faculty and staff of the Astronomy and Physics Department, will be showcasing the Burke-Gaffney Observatory once again making Saint Mary's University a focal point for International Year of Astronomy celebrations.

Margaret-Anne Bennett

Margaret-Anne Bennett began working at Saint Mary's in 1979 as a support staff in the Division of Continuing Education. In a sense Margaret-Anne practiced what continuing education and life-long learning is all about. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) from Saint Mary's as a mature, part-time student and a Bachelor of Education and Masters in Education from Dalhousie University.

Throughout her years of study, Margaret-Anne continued working in the Division of Continuing Education as an advocate for non-traditional students; as Director, Summer Sessions, and eventually as Assistant Director. In 1998, she became the founding director of the Office of Instructional Development, since renamed the Centre for Academic and Instructional Development. This office provides services and programs for professional development in teaching to full and part time faculty, including support in the use of educational technology. More recently, her role has been expanded to include a number of strategic projects within the Academic Plan, including student success initiatives and the implementation of academic program reviews.

Over the years, Margaret-Anne has served on many Saint Mary's committees including the President's Task Force on the Future of the University; the Faculty of Education Review Committee; the Quality of Teaching Committee and the Task Force on Student Success. Margaret-Anne is currently playing a key role on the Global Commons Implementation Committee tasked with introducing "learning commons" principles to the new Global Commons space in the Atrium set to open in autumn 2009.

"I'm presuming I speak for David and Margaret as well when I say that, no one really goes about their daily business, year in and year out, with the aim of being recognized or rewarded – which is why the *President's Award for Exemplary Service* is an important recognition within Saint Mary's, and usually comes as a pleasant surprise to the recipients," reflected Margaret-Anne on being chosen for a *President's Award for Exemplary Service*.

Congratulations to all Saint Mary's faculty and staff who received recognition for their dedication to the University and the broader Saint Mary's community!

Students rewarded at Saint Mary's

Each year, through the generosity of alumni, friends, businesses and organizations, Saint Mary's is able to offer more than \$4.5 million in scholarships and bursaries to its students. In addition the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research offers its graduate students graduate awards, fellowships and external scholarships.

On November 12, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research handed out 57 named scholarships, fellowships and bursaries to deserving graduate students. In addition, 79 Graduate Awards and 62 Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Fellowships were awarded.

Then on November 16, undergraduate scholarship winners and their families met with scholarship and bursary donors who gathered at the President's Undergraduate Reception held in the McNally Theatre Auditorium. This year over 200 named entrance and undergraduate scholarships and bursaries were awarded at the reception. Congratulations to all the scholarship, bursary and fellowship award winners!



Dr. J. Colin Dodds, President of Saint Mary's University, congratulates the winners of the Constance "Teak" McGibbon Memorial Bursary awarded this year to (From L-R): Taylor Comeau, Krysanja Hume, Tara Totten and Allen Wolfe.



Graduate students receiving awards included (From L-R): Felicia Thomas, winner of a Graduate Studies Award, Corinne McNally, winner of the Dover TrustCo Ltd. MBA Bursary, Ryan Mrozek, winner of a Graduate Studies Award, and Kimberley McIssac, winner of the Royal LePage Scholarship.



Huskies Varsity Action Atlantic University Sport (AUS)



Men's and Women's Basketball – Huskies court action at home for January include Jan 8, 16, 17 and 28 against St FX, CBU, PEI and Acadia. Women's start time 6 pm. Men's 8 pm. Check on-line for away game schedule.

Men's Hockey – Huskies play away Jan 3 & 7 against Dal and St FX. Home Jan 9 and 10 to play STU and UdeM. Away again Jan 16 to play Acadia, returning Jan 17 to face off against Dal. Jan 23 & 24 takes them on the road to STU and UdeM. Ending the month with two home games Jan 30 and 31 against UNB and St FX. All home games 7 pm at the Forum.

Women's Hockey – Exhibition game against Dal Jan 7. On the road Jan 17 and 18 against STU and UdeM. Weekend at home Jan 23 and 24 to play PEI and STU. Final game for the month is at St FX Jan 31.

Women's Volleyball – Huskies court action will begin away Jan 10 at CBU. Home game Jan 14 against Dal. Team travels to Acadia Jan 16, returning to play them again at home Jan 18. Huskies travel Jan 23 to play PEI. On the court at home Jan 25 verses St FX. Ending the month away at UdeM Jan 31.

**For the full Huskies schedule visit: <http://www.smu.ca/athletics/>
Get out and support our Huskies!!**



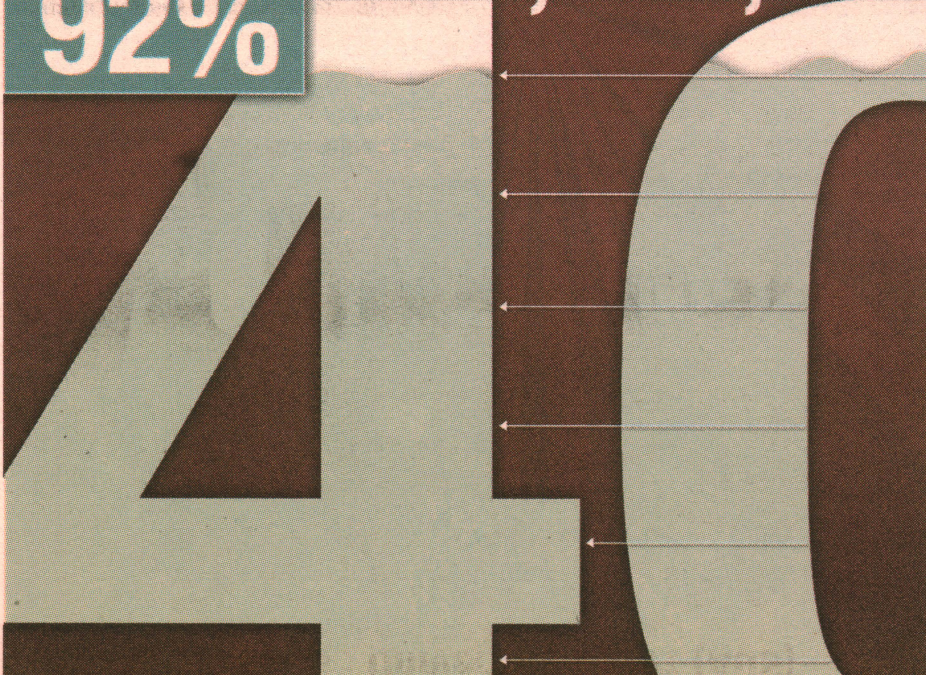
SUPPORTING NEW & RENEWED FACILITIES | NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & SPACES | STUDENT BURSARIES, SCHOLARSHIPS & MORE

Help us reach our campaign goal.

CURRENT SUCCESS

92%

\$40,000,000



HEARTS & MINDS
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Thank you for participating in the Times survey.

We asked for your opinion of *The Times* in the September edition and you answered. One hundred and eleven readers filled out the on-line survey giving their opinions on a range of issues such as whether *The Times* should have a new layout or be an exclusively electronic publication.

Student respondents dominated the survey results. Of the 107 respondents, 79 identified themselves as students; 18 were staff; five were faculty; four were alumni and one was an individual from the business community. The remainder were not identified.

When asked how often they read *The Times*, 43% said they rarely read it, 24% read nearly every issue, 21% read every issue and 12% admitted that they have never read *The Times*. Readers were asked how often they would like *The Times* to be published and 56% said eight times per year, 30% said six times and 11% said four times. 72% of readers said they wanted to receive *The Times* electronically, but only 39% said that the paper should be produced exclusively as an electronic edition. 80% of readers want *The Times* to include more photos and illustrations and 56% said that *The Times* needed a new layout.

When asked what topics *The Times* should cover, readers checked off a variety of responses. The most popular topics in order of frequency were 1) Saint Mary's in the community; 2) upcoming events; 3) Saint Mary's in the world; 4) new facility updates; 5) sports; 6) funding and development stories; 7) staff and faculty profiles; 8) professional development news; 9) convocation stories; and 10) alumni news.

Over the next few months watch for changes to *The Times* as we explore new ways of keeping the Saint Mary's community in touch.

In appreciation for filling out the survey, readers to *The Times* survey were asked to participate in a draw for fabulous prizes. We are pleased to report that **Ryan Brogan**, a history student, and **Seemal Zaman**, a computing science student, have won *Neptune Theatre* tickets. Congratulations Ryan and Seemal and enjoy the show!

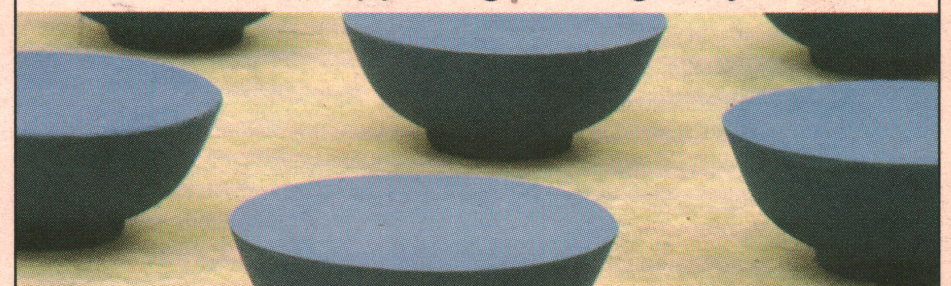


The Great Stocking Stuffer Scramble

Help Dr. J. Colin Dodds, President of Saint Mary's University fill his stocking as part of the Salvation Army's Stocking Stuffer Scramble. Dr. Dodds is taking part in a friendly competition with Dr. Tom Traves, President of Dalhousie and other local celebrities to raise money for the Salvation Army. *The Stocking Stuffer Scramble* runs through to December 19. Please help the Salvation Army continue its valuable work in our community. To donate to Dr. Dodds' stocking, go online to make a contribution at www.salvationarmy.ca/stuffers or send your cheque to Colin Dodd's Stocking, c/o The Salvation Army, 282 - 7071 Bayers Road, Halifax, NS, B3L 2C2.

Campus Culture

what's happening at the gallery



Saint Mary's University Art Gallery

17-19 December

Gerard Choy

One Ton of Won Ton Bowls

19 December, 12noon

One Ton of Fun: a holiday get together

10 January - 22 February

Doug Guildford

Between the Tides

9 January, 8pm

Opening Reception

19 February, 8pm

Artist's talk and catalogue launch

29 January, 10:00-11:30am

Coffee's On!

Free coffee and cookies in the gallery

Visit www.smuartgallery.ca for details • tel 902.420.5445 • 5865 Gorsebrook Ave

Hours: (2008) 12pm-5pm Tuesday-Sunday • effective January 2009 11am-5pm Tuesday-Friday

• 12pm-5pm Saturday-Sunday • Admission is free

Photo: Gerard Choy, *One Ton of Won Ton Bowls* (detail)
Aaron Schmidt photo

SAINT MARY'S
UNIVERSITY SINCE 1802

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