



## Focus on: Student Success

Initiatives	2
Convocation	4
OPEN HOUSE	6

Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

# The TIMES



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### CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

## McInnes Cooper donates \$100,000 for Health and Wellness Centre

McInnes Cooper, one of Canada's largest and most respected law firms, made a \$100,000 donation to Saint Mary's University last week to help fund the Homburg Centre for Health and Wellness.

"The Centre will transform attitudes and activities toward fitness and wellbeing, resulting in healthier Nova Scotians," said **George Cooper**, C.M., C.D., Q.C., Chair of McInnes Cooper's Board of Directors and a Partner in the firm's Halifax office.

Functional planning for the *Homburg Centre* is now underway and construction is expected to begin next spring. The Centre will be comprised of *The Tower*, a new *Dauphinee Arena* and a high performance training link between the two.

"McInnes Cooper is honoured and privileged to be associated with such a great university," said Cooper.

**Dr. J. Colin Dodds**, President of Saint Mary's University, thanked McInnes Cooper for the wonderful gift and said it will contribute significantly towards the \$40-million goal of the University's *Hearts and Minds* Capital Campaign.

"We are truly grateful for your leadership in the Campaign and your endorsement of the *Homburg Centre for Health and Wellness*," said Dr. Dodds. "Your participation will certainly help build momentum for the Campaign as we near our final goal and look to begin construction of this new facility."

He also noted the relationship the University has shared with McInnes Cooper for more than 40 years.

"During that time, many things have changed, but the University has maintained the traditions and values of its founders," said Dr. Dodds. "We value the many relationships that we have established through the years, and in particular, our longstanding partnership with McInnes Cooper."

On a personal note, George Cooper said part of the longstanding relationship between the firm and the University is the "first class" education that Saint Mary's provided his wife and daughter.

"They were welcomed with open arms by this marvelous university," said Cooper, "and my daughter had an opportunity to study in Glasgow for a term. It changed her life and gave her a much wider vision of the world. Saint Mary's has a lot to be proud of and we have a lot to be thankful for."

The gift was announced at a reception Oct. 7 hosted by McInnes Cooper. A number of alumni and friends of the University gathered to take part in the celebration including **Dr. Richard Homburg**, **Michele Wood-Tweel**, Chair of the Saint Mary's University Board of Governors, the Honorable **Myra A. Freeman**, former Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, **Frank Matheson**, President and CEO of Homburg Canada Inc., and **Chuck Bridges**, Vice President (Assoc.), External Affairs and **Heather Fitzpatrick**, Director of Development for Saint Mary's University. McInnes Cooper Partners who attended included **Lawrence A. Freeman**, **Lawrence J. Hayes**, **Cheryl Hodder**, **Aidan Meade**, **Paul Murphy**, **David MacDougall** and **Alan Farquhar**.

**HEARTS & MINDS**  
REACH MINDS TOUCH HEARTS  
SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The *Hearts and Minds* Capital Campaign is the largest campaign in the 206-year history of Saint Mary's University. Led by campaign chair **Paul Sobey**, President and CEO of Empire Company Ltd., it has rallied considerable support from alumni, faculty, staff, students, foundations and businesses. The campaign has reached \$37 million of its \$40-million goal and helped fund the innovative \$17.5-million *Atrium* and *Global Learning Commons* now under construction at the University.

## University Board of Governors... Michele Wood-Tweel takes the Helm



Michele Wood-Tweel

**Michele Wood-Tweel's involvement with Saint Mary's University began in 1980 when she enrolled in the Bachelor of Commerce program. Now 25 years after graduation, Michele Wood-Tweel, FCA, CFP, TEP is Chair of the Saint Mary's University Board of Governors.**

Michele is CEO and Executive Director of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia (ICANS), a position she has held for over three years. Prior to joining ICANS, Michele practiced personal taxation and financial planning for twenty-one years with KPMG LLP, the firm that hired her upon graduation from Saint Mary's.

Michele is enthusiastic about her new role as Chair of the Board of Governors. "I am excited about the future of Saint Mary's," said Michele. "The campus renewal is opening up the doors to a new generation of students that will see Saint Mary's in a different way." Michele also wants to get the Alumni more involved. "You always get back more than you put in," said Michele. She can certainly speak from experience.

Michele graduated from Dartmouth High School, but grew up in several areas of Canada. Her father was a manager of the Hudson's Bay Company's Wholesale Division and the family lived in Ontario and Alberta before moving to Nova Scotia in the late 1970s. Being someone who was accustomed to change, Michele embraced the possibilities that an education at Saint Mary's University would bring.

"We had nothing less than phenomenal Profs with real world experience," is how Michele described her mentors at Saint Mary's. Michele attributes her global perspective to her family who immigrated to Canada and her experiences at Saint Mary's. "Saint Mary's greatly broadened my horizons. Being taught by someone who had travelled around the world... helped you see through their eyes things that weren't in the textbook," said Michele. She recalls meeting many international students while she was a student and establishing many life-long friendships with people from locations far and near.

In a way Michele never left Saint Mary's. Once she graduated, Michele got involved with recruitment at KPMG; frequently coming back to Saint Mary's to recruit future accountants. She kept in touch with her professors and with fellow Alumni. These Saint Mary's connections have helped Michele immensely during her career.

Michele also learned to give back to the community at Saint Mary's. Giving back is the Saint Mary's way and the way of the Chartered Accountant profession that Michele chose. Before joining the Saint Mary's University Board of Governors, Michele served on many boards and commissions including the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo Society, the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission, and the Halifax Chamber of Commerce.

Since 2002 when Michele joined the Board of Governors as an Alumni representative, she has been a member of various committees including the Executive Committee as well as Chair of the Audit and Finance Committees.

The Saint Mary's University community welcomes Michele Wood-Tweel to the helm.

## STUDYING STUDENT SUCCESS... An Academic Plan Priority



Dr. Terry Murphy, VP Academic and Research, discusses Student Success initiatives

**Student success means many things. When Saint Mary's University graduates are asked what makes their experience at Saint Mary's successful they inevitably say that the smaller class sizes, the one-on-one relationship with their professors, the University's global perspective and the school's spirit helped to make their student life at Saint Mary's a success.**

However, a significant number of students who start out in their first year with every intention of graduating never do. This doesn't mean that they haven't been successful. Perhaps they have followed other dreams, or decided to work for a few years before completing a post-secondary education.

**Dr. Terry Murphy**, Vice President Academic and Research, says that in today's world, universities need to provide academic support and a broad range of coordinated services including personal and career counseling in order to help students succeed in the broadest sense of the word. "It's a task for the whole campus," said Dr. Murphy.

To look for ways to improve student success, Saint Mary's University brought together a Task Force under Dr. Murphy's direction to study the issue. Their report was presented to the University's Academic Senate in 2007 and featured several recommendations. Implementing the Task Force's recommendations is a top priority of the 2008-2011 Academic Plan which aims to increase student success by enhancing programs and services.

The *Student Success Task Force Report* highlighted three areas where students need help: transition into the University; transition through University; and transition out of University into the work world or further study. To implement the recommendations of the *Task Force Report*, Dr. Murphy has launched a *Student Success Working Group*. The new *Working Group* made up of faculty, staff and students will coordinate efforts across campus to advance student success. Initially, the *Working Group's* emphasis will be to address the challenges facing first year students. "There is a whole lot going on related to student success initiatives," said Dr. Murphy. "Everyone is keen to pursue the student success agenda but we need a more coordinated effort across campus between academic units and student services. The *Working Group* is an implementation committee that follows on the *Task Force* recommendations focusing on first year initiatives where there is the greatest attrition."

"We also want to improve our capacity for analysis and to see if we can identify patterns or common obstacles to success," said Dr. Murphy. General research shows that a variety of factors prevent students from continuing their studies. Everything from personal reasons, to poor academic performance and financial pressure could cause a student to withdraw from university. Dr. Murphy's *Working Group* will look at feasible interventions and student success initiatives which will help students better address the challenges of student life.

There are several student success initiatives and research projects related to first year students already in place at Saint Mary's. *The First Year Initiative (FYI)* coordinated by Student Success Coordinator **Bobbi Beuree** provides practical assistance and guidance to new students. As well, Saint Mary's has increased the number of academic advisors who help students navigate their way through program and course offerings which can sometimes be overwhelming.

In addition, several research projects on first year students are underway. **Dr. Edna Keeble**, Saint Mary's University's Teaching Scholar, is working on a special project related to best practices in teaching first year students.

Cont'd. on Page 3

## Meet Bobbi Beuree – Student Success Coordinator

**Bobbi Beuree's** experience working as a Residence Coordinator for Saint Mary's University gave her the in-depth knowledge needed to understand what life is like for first year students. **Bobbi**, who is a Saint Mary's Alumna, moved into the role of Student Success Coordinator two years ago. As coordinator, **Bobbi** works with first year students in the *FYI (First Year Initiative)* program.

*FYI* has been running at Saint Mary's for several years and helps students more easily make the transition from high school to university. This term there are twenty-five students taking part, with more than half of them living in residence.

Students in *FYI* spend Friday afternoons in sessions that cover a wide variety of issues. The program features presentations from academic advisors and guest speakers touching on topics such as time and stress management. There is a fun aspect to the program as well; students go on field trips and participate in stress relieving activities like bowling.

**Bobbi** believes that all first year students could benefit from the *FYI* program; especially given the feedback she gets from other students she works with who have faced academic difficulties in their first year. She points out that there are students on academic probation who would benefit from a special support program geared to their needs, but at the moment there is no comprehensive program available to them. "Some of these students take part in *FYI*, and find it very helpful," said **Bobbi**.

The newly formed *Student Success Working Group* that is implementing the recommendations from the *Student Success Task Force Report* will be evaluating student success programs such as *FYI*.

As the *Working Group* learns more about which student success programs have the greatest impact, new initiatives could be launched for specific student groups. The *Working Group* will be looking at best practices that can be used to increase the student success agenda on campus and help students on their way to becoming "aspiring citizens of the world."



Bobbi Beuree, Student Success Coordinator, discusses First Year Initiative plans with students Lauren Hunter, Yasmin Hanna and Laura Fitzpatrick.

## STEPS – Gives Students a Second Chance

Students at Saint Mary's University who for whatever reason couldn't manage their studies and are asked to withdraw because of poor academic performance are given a second chance toward academic success through a program called *Strategies Towards Establishing Personal Success (STEPS)*. The program, now in its second year, is a joint initiative of the Deans and Student Services and is available to students from all academic disciplines. "Students in the program really appreciate the support that Saint Mary's is giving them to get a second chance at a university education," said Dr. Esther Enns, Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

*STEPS* evolved from an earlier program called *Enhancing Student Performance (ESP)* launched by the Faculty of Arts in 2002. This program led by Dr. Enns and Dr. Don Naulls offered students who had been dismissed the opportunity to reapply for admission without waiting a year. Under *ESP* students had the right to appeal their dismissal provided they took part in an individualized academic coaching program supervised by the Faculty of Arts.

Over the next five years, some 50 students in the Faculty of Arts took part in the *ESP* program, which was seen to have considerable merit in giving students a second chance at academic success. As a result in 2007, this faculty-driven program joined forces with Student Services and expanded into the more comprehensive *STEPS* program. This year *STEPS* further expanded to include students from the Business and Science faculties as well as Arts.

Students admitted to *STEPS* are allowed to continue their academic program on special terms of academic probation. They take a limited number of courses toward their degree and are required to participate in a specialized support program coordinated by **Bobbi Beuree**, Saint Mary's Student Success Coordinator.

The students take part in workshops and seminars where they learn personal development and life skills. They also receive additional support offered by the Writing Centre, Library and Career Centre. Students in *STEPS* also meet with Saint Mary's Alumni who were part of the program. "It is particularly motivating for these students to hear from graduates who benefited from this support," said Dr. Enns. "It helps students realize that it is possible to reach their academic goals."

*STEPS* has a mentoring component to the program as well. Each student works one-on-one with an academic coach from the faculties who guides the student toward academic success. The *STEPS* program is another concrete example of student services offered at Saint Mary's that supports the Academic Plan goal of enhancing programs and services that foster student success.

Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

The **TIMES**

**SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY** SINCE 1802

One University. One World. Yours.

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# Meet the Advisors...

The number of academic advisors at Saint Mary's University has increased in recent years. This is due to a commitment by the University to boost support for students during their university years. Academic advisors are available in each of the Faculties and help students wade through their program and course selections.

Dr. Terry Murphy, Vice President Academic and Research said, "Advisors try to make sure that students are in programs and courses that suit their aptitude and interests. A good fit is essential. If a student is misplaced in a program, the student often doesn't have the motivation to study and is less likely to succeed."

Student demand for advising services has increased so much that new advisors are being hired. The Sobey School of Business is in the process of hiring an additional advisor to help Lois Larson, the Manager of the undergraduate Commerce Program handle the heavy demand for advising services. And the Faculty of Arts is also hiring an extra advisor to help Stacey French, who advises over 2,000 students each year.

## STACEY FRENCH... ARTS FACULTY ADVISOR



Students are first introduced to their academic advisors when they are accepted into the Faculty. "Many students need help navigating through their program," said Stacey. "I work with students to find out what is important to them and help them connect their interests to their degree."

Stacey, who holds a Bachelor of Theatre Studies from Acadia University, spent six years working in recruitment at Acadia before joining Saint Mary's five years ago as an Academic Advisor in the Faculty of Arts. Stacey brought many transferable skills to her job working with students. Her theatre and facilitation skills help her organize group sessions for students that are held during various phases of their degree program. For example, workshops are held for first year students nearing the end of their first year of studies and for students about to graduate. "These sessions offer students a chance to slow down and network with

others in similar stages of their program," said Stacey.

Stacey, who meets one-on-one with nearly 2,000 students each year, finds that students need different kinds of advice during the course of their studies. "As an advisor, I try to reinforce the decision making skills that students learn in the classroom. The importance of critical and creative thinking cannot be emphasized enough. Advisors strive to help students gain the confidence to make informed choices," said Stacey.

"My role is to encourage students to see their degree as an experience opportunity toward growth, both intellectually and professionally and to put them in a position to determine their own career pathways," said Stacey.

All of the advisors on campus work with career services to prepare students for life after graduation. Be it graduate school or the work force, the advisors are there to provide help with program and career choices for Saint Mary's students.

## SUSAN DORÉ – SCIENCE PROGRAM OFFICER



Science students at Saint Mary's first meet Susan Doré when they enroll in the program. Susan has been working in the Science Faculty for over twenty years and has answered countless inquiries from students during this time. The busiest time for Susan is before first term begins, when it is not uncommon for Susan to answer dozens of requests each day. She provides general advice on course requirements and helps organize extra help for students who are having some difficulty.

Susan also organizes information workshops for students interested in professional programs or graduate school. She even goes out of her way to check with the Registrar's Office to find out which students have high Grade Point Averages so she can contact them and tell them about graduate school and funding opportunities.

"We are hands-on in the Science Faculty.

Because we are a small faculty, we know our students," said Susan. In fact all of the students in the graduate program of the Science Faculty receive some level of funding through scholarships or grants. One-third of the funding that graduate science students receive is from external sources like Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the rest comes from University-based scholarships and grants. This high level of funding can be attributed to the special attention that students receive from faculty and staff – another measure of student success at Saint Mary's.

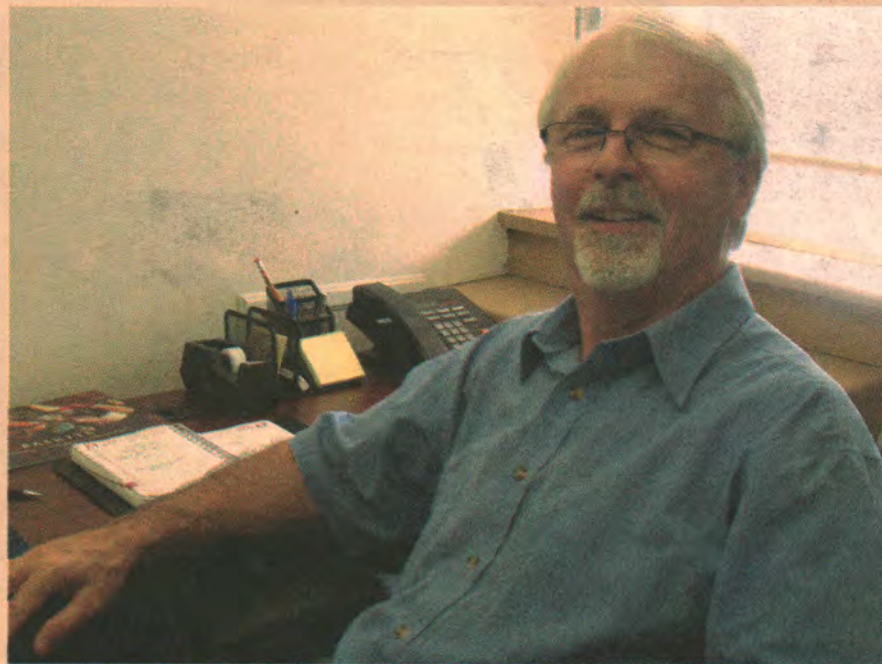
## Academic Plan (Continued from previous page)

Dr. Keeble's research is also looking into the relationship between civic and student engagement. As Dr. Murphy points out, "engagement is key to success."

At the same time, Dr. Arla Day, Saint Mary's University's Canada Research Chair in Psychology, is heading up a research team of faculty, staff and honours students that is looking into the needs of first year students and studying indicators of their success. The team is conducting in-depth focus groups and surveying nearly 600 first year students at intervals throughout their first year of studies. The results from this study will help inform future research and University best practices that will surely increase student well being and success.

All of these initiatives and research will help Saint Mary's better understand its students and help the University guide its students to success in today's complex world.

# Do you want to be a Teacher? Meet Brett Woodbury – Education Program Advisor



Saint Mary's University hasn't offered a Bachelor or Master of Education degree in over a decade. That was when the teacher training program in Nova Scotia was restructured and consolidated at only four universities in the province.

Saint Mary's students interested in pursuing a teaching career must plan their undergraduate degree carefully to increase their chances of getting into any of the highly competitive two-year Bachelor of Education programs offered at Acadia, Mount St. Vincent, St. Francis Xavier or Université Sainte Anne. Only one out of every three qualified candidates is accepted into these programs each year.

To find out more about what it takes to get into an education program, Saint Mary's students can meet with Brett Woodbury, Saint Mary's Education Program Advisor. Every licensed teacher in Nova Scotia knows Brett, who recently retired from the Nova Scotia Department of Education where he was Registrar of Teacher Certification for the province.

Brett began working part-time at Saint Mary's in 2007 following the retirement of Dr. Bernie Davis, who taught and advised students interested in pursuing a teaching career.

Brett knows what it takes to become a certified teacher in Nova Scotia and offers students advice on the wide variety of teacher-training programs available in the province and elsewhere in Canada and the United States. Through an agreement with the University of Maine in Presque Isle, qualified Saint Mary's graduates have the advantage of guaranteed admission if they choose to enter this Bachelor of Education program offered south of the border.

"I advise students about all the programs available so they can make a decision they are comfortable with," said Brett. "All teachers are assessed against the same criteria no matter where they obtained their education degree." To be certified as a teacher in Nova Scotia, candidates must complete 60 credit hours of education course work including their practicum. If a student chooses to study education outside Nova Scotia they will need to make sure that they have enough credit hours to qualify for certification in the province.

Brett helps students choose the right courses during their undergraduate degree, which will help them become well-rounded teachers and more "marketable" as candidates for the competitive Bachelor of Education programs, and the even more competitive teacher job market. "Some students know right away that they want to be teachers even before they have completed their first year of undergraduate studies," said Brett. "I can help them become more aware of the subject content requirements for teaching elementary or secondary school which will strengthen their background and application to a Bachelor of Education program."

Students at Saint Mary's can take some education courses here, which are additional courses beyond their three-year Arts or Science degree needed to qualify for entry into a Bachelor of Education program. These courses can be used as credit toward their 60 credit hours of education courses required to obtain an Initial Teacher's Certificate (ITC) in Nova Scotia.

Brett Woodbury's office is located in Room 216E McNally Main of the Faculty of Arts. He is available to meet with students individually and can be reached by e-mail at: [brett.woodbury@smu.ca](mailto:brett.woodbury@smu.ca).

Brett and the Faculty of Arts are collaborating with Career Services and the Student Employment Centre to offer a series of four workshops called *Education without Boundaries* for Saint Mary's students interested in teaching as a career. These two-hour late afternoon workshops will be held November 12, 13, 19 and 20. For more information on the time and location of these education career workshops, students can contact the Student Employment Centre at [sec.marketing@smu.ca](mailto:sec.marketing@smu.ca) or 420-5641.

## Times Readers' Survey

Thanks to all Times' readers for completing The Times Readers' Survey over the past month. Your comments are most appreciated. Survey results are being tabulated and will be featured in the next issue.

Also watch for an announcement about our Readers' Survey draw. Fabulous prizes like Neptune Theatre and Huskies' game tickets will be awarded to a few lucky readers. *Stay tuned!*

# Citizens of the world take stage at fall convocation

More than 400 aspiring citizens of the world graduated from Saint Mary's University Oct. 26



As graduates of the Faculties of Arts, Science, Graduate Studies and Research, and the Sobey School of Business, the students crossed the stage at the World Trade and Convention Centre to receive their parchments from Chancellor, Dr. David F. Sobey.

Karri Lynn Bishop was the Hooding Candidate for the graduating class, and Allyson Clark was the Valedictorian. Bishop graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a certificate in Human Resource Management. Clark graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the Sobey School of Business majoring in global business management.

"We are lucky to be graduating at such an exciting point in time," said Clark in her valedictory address to the graduates. "We now have the opportunity to make history and to one day be written about in those exciting and expensive text books."

She said the real world of social instability and environmental responsibility represents the next real step in the lives of the graduates, and she encouraged them to boldly take that next step. "I believe that life is an exciting adventure where taking the first step can lead to greatness," said Clark. "For some of you, taking that first step may be traveling the world, for others it may be staying in Halifax to start a career – but wherever that step may be, take it with faith in yourself."

In addition to students from provinces across Canada, the graduating class included students from Saudi Arabia, Bermuda, Antigua, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria, United States, Jordan, Ghana, Yemen, Tunisia, Uganda, China, Saint Lucia, South Korea, Barbuda, Bahamas, Bulgaria, Egypt, St. Kitts, Japan, Iran, Colombia, Palestine, Taiwan, India, Turkey, Wales and Honduras.

Dr. J. Colin Dodds, President of Saint Mary's University, expanded on the theme of responsibility in his address to the graduates. He said education can serve as the cornerstone for the world order of civil society because it promotes a greater understanding of the world, its history, core values, cultures, economies, traditions and consciousness. He said all these things build intercultural understanding, and hence, the possibility of sustainable human development. "It's our responsibility as a university in this 21st century to provide those foundations, and we at Saint Mary's University take that role very seriously."

He said the vision of Saint Mary's is one of global citizenship and he reminded the graduates of the University's signature line – One University. One World. Yours. That signature line, he said, confirms the responsibility that all students, faculty and staff share.

"The future is what we create for ourselves," said Dr. Dodds. "The graduates of today will be the leaders of tomorrow – and will be responsible to shape what will continue to be a very changing future."

He asked the graduates to stay in touch with each and other and with the University as they pursue their careers in the world, but he also reminded them to never forget their responsibilities as global citizens.

"As Santamarians you have the talents and confidence to make a difference in the world," he said. "You've earned your degrees, your parchments, the world is yours. Congratulations."

This theme of global citizenship and responsibility continued as the University granted honorary degrees to three of Canada's greatest advocates of civil society – General John de Chastelain, poet George Elliott Clarke, and community builder Carol D. Young.

General de Chastelain, a retired Canadian soldier and diplomat, received an Honorary Doctor of Civil Law degree. The degree recognizes his work on conflict resolution, particularly in Northern Ireland.

George Elliott Clarke, a Nova Scotian poet, playwright, novelist, and columnist, received an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree. The degree recognizes Clarke as a successful Nova Scotian in academia and a role model for Black Nova Scotians.

Carol D. Young, a passionate advocate and a dedicated volunteer for a wide variety of charitable, community and non profit organizations, received an Honorary Doctor of Civil Law degree. The degree recognizes her service and leadership to the community.

For more information about the honorary degree recipients, please see Page 5.

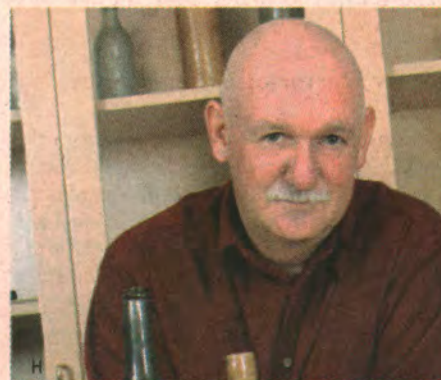
In his address to the graduates, General de Chastelain echoed Dr. Dodds' comments by emphasizing the important role education plays in the resolving conflicts and promoting peace.

"If negotiation is an integral part of conflict resolution, education is an integral part of conflict avoidance," he said. "It is my feeling, from what I've seen over the years, that education is key in this regard."

As an example, he acknowledged the valuable work done by Peaceful Schools International.

Saint Mary's is the first university both nationally and internationally to have met Peaceful Schools International membership criteria.

The organization is dedicated to the development and implementation of conflict resolution skills and programs within more than 270 different schools locally, regionally and internationally. Dr. Hetty van Gurp, who received an Honorary Doctorate of Commerce from Saint Mary's in the fall of 2005, founded the organization. And students from Saint Mary's now travel to Belfast, Northern Ireland each year to work with young citizens and teachers to address issues surrounding peace and the importance of conflict resolution.



- A Saint Mary's University graduates gathered at the World Trade and Convention Centre for the University's fall convocation ceremony on October 26.
- B Piper Bev Nimmo welcomed guests as they arrived at the ceremony at the World Trade and Convention Centre.
- C Dr. Don Nauells, Chair of the University's Senate, carried the ceremonial mace at the head of the academic procession of professors and graduates.
- D General John de Chastelain, one of this year's honorary degree recipients, addressed the graduating class.
- E The Reverend William A. Stewart, S.J., Medal for Excellence in Teaching was awarded to Dr. Shelagh Crooks, a professor in the University's Department of Philosophy.
- F Valedictorian Allyson Clark, a Bachelor of Commerce graduate of the Sobey School of Business.
- G The President's Award for Excellence in Research was awarded to Dr. Albert Mills, the Director of the Ph.D. in Management program at the Sobey School of Business.
- H The title of Professor Emeritus was bestowed on Dr. Stephen Davis, who served four terms as Chair of the University's Department of Anthropology. Dr. Davis was not able to attend the convocation ceremonies.

General de Chastelain is a member of the International Advisory Board for *Peaceful Schools International*, and in recognition for the conflict resolution work done by Saint Mary's University, he presented the University with a *Peaceful Schools International* flag. Saint Mary's University Student Association President **Chris MacDougall** accepted the flag on behalf of the University. The flag will become part of the University's permanent flag collection displayed at all convocations.

Other highlights of the convocation ceremony included the bestowing of the title of Professor Emeritus on archaeologist **Dr. Stephen Davis**, who served four terms as Chair of the University's Department of Anthropology. As well, the University presented the *President's Award for Excellence in Research* to **Dr. Albert Mills**, and the *Reverend William A. Stewart, S.J., Medal for Excellence in Teaching* to **Dr. Shelagh Crooks**. For more information about the faculty award winners, please see the story on the following page.

Saint Mary's University now has more than 35,000 alumni worldwide, in 131 of the 192 recognized countries on the planet. The next Saint Mary's convocation will be held in May 2009.



General de Chastelain



George Elliott Clarke



Carol D. Young

## Three great Canadians honoured as Santamarians

The fall 2008 graduating class of Saint Mary's University included three of Canada's greatest advocates of civil society.

In addition to conferring degrees on more than 400 students from around the world, the University also granted honorary doctorates to **General John de Chastelain**, poet **George Elliott Clarke**, and community builder **Carol D. Young**.

General John de Chastelain is a retired Canadian soldier and diplomat who is an expert in international conflict resolution. He was introduced at the convocation by **Bridget Brownlow**, Saint Mary's University's Conflict Resolution Advisor.

George Elliott Clarke is a Nova Scotian poet, playwright, novelist, columnist, and a professor of English literature. He was introduced by **Dr. Alexander MacLeod**, an assistant professor in the University's Department of English.

Carol Young is a passionate advocate and a dedicated volunteer for a wide variety of charitable, community and non profit organizations. She was introduced by **Keith Hotchkiss**, Director of Student Services.

**Dr. J. Colin Dodds**, President of Saint Mary's University, congratulated and thanked the honorary degree recipients for letting Saint Mary's recognize their achievements and successes. "Thank you for your service as global citizens," said Dr. Dodds. "You are certainly role models for us all."

### General de Chastelain received an Honorary Doctor of Civil Law degree.

He graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada in 1960 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history, served with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) in Canada and overseas, was twice appointed Canada's Chief of the Defence Staff, and in 1993 was named Canada's 18th Ambassador to the United States.

After retiring from active military service in 1995, he was one of three international chairmen involved in the Northern Ireland Peace talks which led to the Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement of April 10, 1998. Since 1997 he has served as a member and chair of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD), the body responsible for ensuring the decommissioning of arms by paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland.

He is also a member of the International Advisory Board for Peaceful Schools International, an organization in which Saint Mary's was the first university internationally to gain membership.

Honours received during his career include the *Order of Canada* (Officer), *Commander of the Order of Military Merit*, *Companion of Honor* (U.K.), *Commander of the Order of St. John*, and *Commander of the Legion of Merit* (U.S.).

The honorary degree recognizes General de Chastelain's work on conflict resolution, particularly in Northern Ireland. Students from Saint Mary's travel to Belfast, Northern Ireland each year to work with young citizens and teachers to address issues surrounding peace and the importance of conflict resolution.

### George Elliott Clarke received an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree.

A native of Windsor Plains, Nova Scotia, he has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Waterloo, a Master of Arts degree from Dalhousie University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Queens University. Following graduation, he worked as a professor of English and Canadian Studies at Duke University, and was later named the *E.J. Pratt Professor of Canadian Literature* at the University of Toronto. He is also a long-time columnist for the *Halifax Chronicle Herald*.

But the true measure of his career is found in his work as a poet, playwright and novelist.

*Continued on following page.*



#### From top:

**Dr. Terry Murphy**, Vice President Academic and Research served as master of ceremonies for the convocation.

**Karri Lynn Bishop**, Bachelor of Arts graduate, was the Hooding Candidate for the 2008 fall graduating class. **Dr. J. Colin Dodds** (left) and Chancellor **Dr. David F. Sobey** conducted the hooding ceremony.

**General John de Chastelain** (centre) took time to meet some members of the University community who are involved in *Peaceful Schools International* efforts. They included **SMUSA President Chris MacDougall** (left), **Dr. Hetty van Gorp**, **Bridget Brownlow**, Conflict Resolution Advisor, and **Gabrielle Morrison**, Vice-President Administration.

**General de Chastelain** presented the University with a *Peaceful Schools International* flag. **SMUSA President Chris MacDougall** accepted the flag on behalf of the University.

He has received several writing awards including the *Governor General's Award for Poetry*, the *National Magazine Gold Award for Poetry*, the *Archibald Lampman Award*, the *Commonwealth Writer's Prize* (short listed), and the first *Portia White Prize*, the most prestigious prize for artistic achievement in Nova Scotia. He has also been awarded the *Order of Canada* (Officer), *Order of Nova Scotia*, a *Bellagio Centre Fellowship*, and the *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Award*. And from 2005 until 2008, he was the holder of *The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Fellowship Prize*.

He is the author of works such as *Whydah Falls* and *Execution Poems: The Black Acadian Tragedy of "George and Rue"* and the novel *George & Rue* (2005), which won the *Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction* in 2006. He also contributed poetry to periodicals including *Descant*, *New Quarterly* and *Atlantic*, and has edited publications such as *Fire on the Water: An anthology of Black Nova Scotian Writing*, and *Eyeing the North Star: Directions in African-Canadian Literature*.

The honorary degree recognizes Clarke as a successful Nova Scotian in academia and a role model for Black Nova Scotians. His work encourages respect and understanding of cultural diversity and thereby exemplifies Saint Mary's University's ongoing support for a just and civil society.

**Carol D. Young received an Honorary Doctor of Civil Law degree.**

She served on the organizing committees that created Ronald McDonald House and the Children's Discovery Centre in Halifax, and has also served on Boards as diverse as Neptune Theatre and the Life Sciences Development Association. She is currently on the Board and a member of the Executive of the Pier 21 Society, Canada's Immigration Museum.

For 10 years, Young was a member of the Board of the IWK Children's Hospital; she was instrumental in the creation of the IWK Children's Hospital Telethon and later served as Chair of the IWK Foundation. As well, she was a member of the working group established by Health and Welfare Canada that formulated the guidelines for "Child and Youth Long Term Services" for Canadian hospitals.

Committed to changing the way people think about mental illness, she is the immediate Past Chair of the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia and currently is a member of the Campaign Cabinet for "Opening Minds," the first ever capital campaign for mental health in Nova Scotia.

Growing up in Ottawa, Young developed a life-long interest in public affairs. After completing her education at MacDonald Institute, now the University of Guelph, she joined the staff of the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In 1972, as Special Assistant to the Minister of Labour, she was responsible for overseeing the establishment of the National Advisory Council on the Status of Women for Canada.

In recognition of her service to the community, Young was chosen "Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser" by the Canadian Society of Fundraising Executives; she is an Honorary Life Member of the IWK Health Centre, an Honorary Trustee of the IWK Health Centre Foundation, a recipient of the YWCA Women of Recognition Award and the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada. In 2005 she was appointed a Member of the *Order of Canada*.

**Prestigious Faculty Honoured**

Saint Mary's University honoured some of its most prestigious faculty members Oct. 26 at the fall convocation ceremony.

Archaeologist **Dr. Stephen Davis** was granted the title of *Professor Emeritus*, **Dr. Albert Mills** was awarded the *President's Award for Excellence in Research*, and **Dr. Shelagh Crooks** was named this year's winner of the *Reverend William A. Stewart, S.J., Medal for Excellence in Teaching*.

*Professor emeritus* status is the highest honour awarded to retiring faculty at the University. The award recognizes the contribution Dr. Davis made to teaching and research during a 35-year teaching career. It also recognizes his service to the University, his profession and the community.

Dr. Davis served four terms as Chair of the University's Department of Anthropology, and helped countless students discover and interpret cultural connections between the past and the present. He exemplifies the longstanding emphasis Saint Mary's places on community engagement and experiential learning.

The *President's Award for Excellence in Research* is an annual award that recognizes outstanding research conducted by a full-time faculty member. Criteria for the award includes a record of continued exceptional contribution to research and scholarship as well as national or international recognition as an authority in a major field of knowledge.

Dr. Mills, this year's winner, is recognized as one of Canada's leading scholars in the field of critical management studies. His research activities centre on the impact of organization on people – focusing on organizational change and human liberation. As Director of the Ph.D. in Management program at the Sobey School of Business, he has made a significant contribution as a part of a team that has helped establish the program's growing national and international reputation.

The *Reverend William A. Stewart, S.J., Medal for Excellence in Teaching* is awarded to faculty members who have made an extraordinary contribution to the education of Saint Mary's students through teaching.

Dr. Crooks, a professor in the University's Department of Philosophy, was chosen as this year's winner of the medal in recognition of her role as an educator who has helped students become effective, autonomous thinkers and problem solvers.

During her distinguished and acclaimed professional career she has received the *Saint Mary's University Student Association Award for Excellence in Teaching*, the inaugural *Dr. Geraldine Thomas Educational Leadership Award*, and served as the inaugural Saint Mary's Teaching Scholar from 2006 until 2007. She also developed a mentoring protocol for new faculty members, an ongoing teaching philosophy discussion group, and developed the instrument and procedures for student evaluation of teaching currently in use at Saint Mary's.

**Saint Mary's – Open to the World**



Recent graduate Dana Duncanson from the Bahamas tells prospective students about his undergraduate experiences at Saint Mary's.

On Oct. 24 approximately 400 prospective students and their parents attended the first of two Open Houses at Saint Mary's University to learn more about what the University has to offer. The second Open House is slated for Friday Nov. 14.

The Open Houses help prospective students decide if Saint Mary's is the right fit for their education and future career. The October 24 Open House kicked off with a welcome from **Dr. Terry Murphy**, Vice President Academic and Research, followed by presentations from recent graduates and current students who acted as tour guides and sharing their experiences of life at Saint Mary's.

Recent graduate **Dana Duncanson**, one of the tour guides for the day, talked about the globalized curriculum and international faculty at Saint Mary's. "I experienced a whole new world at Saint Mary's. We are one world all within this city block," said Dana, a native of the Bahamas who now works for the University's Recruitment Department. There are approximately 1,000 international students representing more than 90 countries studying at Saint Mary's University.

Likewise, commerce graduate **Lauren Cullen** highlighted how Saint Mary's University scholarships and bursaries helped her. She said the University is focused on recognizing achievement and helping students succeed. In her case, her efforts earned her \$17,000 in scholarships and awards, as well as the chance to study in France for a semester.

The Open Houses include extensive tours of the campus and a Resource Fair where prospective students and their parents have an opportunity to talk with representatives from the Registrar's office, Academic Advisors and Student Services. As well as the Open Houses, community information sessions are happening across Nova Scotia and New Brunswick throughout November and December. For more information on the November 14 Open House or the regional information sessions, visit [www.smu.ca](http://www.smu.ca).



Dr. Terry Murphy, VP Academic and Research, meets with the Saint Mary's Recruitment Team during Open House.

November 14 · Register at [smu.ca](http://smu.ca)

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY SINCE 1812  
One University. One World. Yours.

## Students Give back to the Community

Saint Mary's University hosted a Volunteer Fair earlier this fall. The event featured displays by various not-for-profit organizations from around Halifax Regional Municipality. Saint Mary's students; always keen to learn more about how they can give back to the community, met with community group leaders to discuss how to get involved. Another good example of Saint Mary's in the community!



**Clockwise from top:**

**Dr. J. Colin Dodds**, President of Saint Mary's University and **Miyuki Arai**, Project Manager – International Mobility discuss how Saint Mary's Science student **Julie Hopper** can take part in Saint Mary's University's international programs.

**Amy Thomas** (left) Ecology Action Centre volunteer and **Charlene Boyce Young**, Saint Mary's Alumna (BA'92) who is now Development and Outreach Coordinator for Ecology Action Centre explain to Science student **Josh Mahar** how he can get involved in protecting the environment.

Saint Mary's Arts student **Grant MacNeil** tells **Jim Jotcham**, Provincial Development Coordinator for Scouts Canada that he wants to be a scout leader.

## Dr. Tony Charles receives Visionary Award

**Dr. Tony Charles**, a Management Science and Environmental Studies Professor at Saint Mary's University, has won the 2008 Visionary Award from the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. Dr. Charles received the award for his efforts to combine marine conservation with support for coastal fishing communities across the Maritimes.

"The Gulf of Maine and the Bay of Fundy especially, are truly special places. I've been lucky to be able to work with wonderful people and communities around the Gulf of Maine," said Dr. Charles. "The award means a lot to me, as it is saying that both aspects of my work are having some impact... in this case, developing new approaches for marine conservation and fisheries management, and also doing something specifically relevant to communities around the Bay of Fundy."

The Gulf of Maine Council is a Canadian-U.S. partnership of government and non-government organizations that addresses ocean, coastal and environmental issues in the Bay of Fundy and the broader Gulf of Maine. The Council gives out their Visionary Awards annually to recognize innovation, creativity and commitment in protecting the marine environment.

Dr. Charles' Gulf of Maine activities range from his service in the 1990s on the Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, a federal advisory body, to his support for the Marine Resource Centre and several Bay of Fundy fishery organizations.

## Dr. Carlos Pessoa receives Outstanding Teaching Certificate

**Dr. Carlos Pessoa**, Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department received an Outstanding Teaching Certificate from the American Political Science Associations at their annual meeting and conference held in Boston in August. Each year faculty who receive teaching awards on their own campuses during the past academic year are recognized by the Association. Dr. Pessoa received the 2008 SMUSA Faculty of Arts Teaching Excellence Award earlier this year.

## Huskies up to the United Way Challenge



Dr. J. Colin Dodds, President of Saint Mary's University, leads the student team in the annual tug of war to kick-off the University's 2008 United Way Campaign.

The Saint Mary's University community pulled together to raise money for the United Way during a two-week campaign in October. The campaign was launched on October 17 with a barbecue, and the hotly contested tug-of-war between Huskies athletes and faculty and staff.

It was a close battle, but the varsity Huskies won the day with the help of Saint Mary's President, Dr. J. Colin Dodds, who added his considerable pull to the student side.

"It is an occasion which is embraced by the Saint Mary's community because it provides a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in people's lives," said Dr. Dodds about the valuable work United Way does in the community.

The United Way funds 55 agencies and more than 100 program in the Halifax Regional Municipality. It supports dedicated groups of people working on a wide range of social issues such as elder care, early childhood education, disability, affordable housing, addiction counselling, youth programs, sexual health, and building urban gardens.

**Ron Houlihan**, United Way campaign chair, reported that Saint Mary's has surpassed its campaign goal and raised \$43,000 for the United Way. Well done!

## Teaching Herbarium – Dr. Kapoor's Legacy



Dr. Kapoor's family; his wife, Sudershan, and two of his sons, Sunil and Vimal, along with his granddaughter, Anisha, visit the newly dedicated Dr. Brij Mohan Kapoor Teaching Herbarium.

Saint Mary's University honoured one of its greatest scholars this summer with a formal dedication of the **Dr. Brij Mohan Kapoor Teaching Herbarium**. Located in the newly renovated Science Building, the Herbarium is a library of Dr. Kapoor's work, research and knowledge, and it will serve as an important resource and teaching tool as well as an inspiration to the students and faculty of the University's Faculty of Science.

Dr. Brij Mohan Kapoor was a former Chair of the University's Biology Department. After a distinguished academic career, Dr. Kapoor retired in 1998 as a Full Professor and then was Professor Emeritus until his death in 2003.

"The late Dr. Kapoor is the embodiment of Saint Mary's faculty – he was knowledgeable, he was dedicated and successful in his field, he was global

in his reach and he believed in giving back to his community," said Dr. Dodds, who noted Dr. Kapoor's remarkable scholarship, teaching ability and leadership during his 35-year tenure at Saint Mary's.

"In that time he not only contributed greatly to the science and research of botany and plant life, but he also loved working with students – teaching and motivating them, and helping to elevate their educational experience," said Dr. Dodds.

Saint Mary's also announced the establishment of the **Dr. Brij M. Kapoor Memorial Award**. The scholarship will be awarded annually to the graduating student who achieves the highest grade point average (GPA) in Biology at Saint Mary's University. It was made possible by a gift from the Kapoor family to the University's Hearts & Minds Capital Campaign. The inaugural award was presented to Kerry Worth-Marr at the Saint Mary's spring convocation last May.

## Snapshot



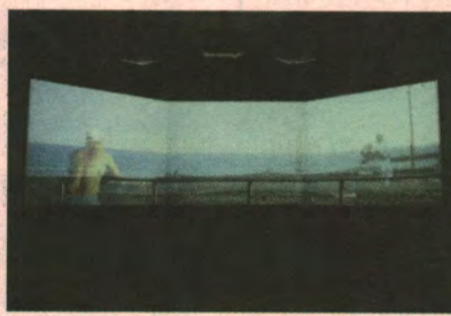
World-renowned peace activist, author, and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, **Dr. Helen Caldicott** spoke to a large crowd at Saint Mary's University on September 25 as part of the Prescriptions for Survival: The Physician in the Global Village conference organized by Physicians for Global Survival and sponsored by Dalhousie University and Saint Mary's University.

## Campus Culture

what's happening this fall at the gallery



Susan Dobson, *Paint Palettes: The Romance Collection* (detail)



Allan Chawner & Andrew Chubb, *Bar Beach (Beyond the Sea)*, 2007 (detail). Photo Dean Beletich, Newcastle Region Art Gallery.

### Saint Mary's University Art Gallery

18 October - 23 November

**Susan Dobson**  
Temporary Architectures  
**Allan Chawner & Andrew Chubb**  
Bar Beach (Beyond the Sea)

27 November - 14 December

**28th Annual Faculty, Alumni, Student & Staff Art Exhibition**

17 - 19 December

**Gerard Choy**  
One Tone of Won Ton Bowls

Visit [www.smuartgallery.ca](http://www.smuartgallery.ca) for details  
tel 902.420.5445 • 5865 Gorsebrook Ave  
Hours 12-5 • Tuesday-Sunday  
Admission is Free



Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada • [www.smu.ca](http://www.smu.ca)

## NOVEMBER ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

### Alumni Movie Night – James Bond fans take note:

Thursday, November 13, 7:00 pm  
Empire Cinemas, Bayers Lake (190 Chain Lake Drive)

Be the first to see the new Bond film, *Quantum of Solace*. Saint Mary's Alumni have organized a Sneak Preview of the new 007 film. Alumni, staff, faculty, graduating students and friends are invited. Tickets are a steal at \$8 each and must be purchased from the Alumni Office in advance.

Call 420-5420 or e-mail [alumni@smu.ca](mailto:alumni@smu.ca) to get your tickets!

### Beers of the World

Sunday, November 30, 2:00-5:00 pm, *The Gorsebrook*

The Saint Mary's community is invited to sample and learn about beers from around the world, enjoy an offering of snacks and catch the Giants-Redskins game on the big screen. Tickets are \$25 and only 25 spots are available.

To get your tickets, contact Jon Bruhm in the Alumni Office at 496-8114 or [jon.bruhm@smu.ca](mailto:jon.bruhm@smu.ca).



## Huskies Varsity Action

### Atlantic University Sport (AUS)



Kori Cheverie of the Huskies women's hockey team joins Team Canada at the International University Sports Federation (FISU) games in China this winter.

**Football Final** – Saturday November 8, 1pm  
Saint Mary's Huskies vs. St. FX. Advance tickets available at the Tower.

**Men's and Women's Basketball** – Huskies court action at home Nov 14 and 15 vs. Acadia and UNB. Then the teams hit the road for away games in Cape Breton, St. FX and Acadia.

**Men's Hockey** – Huskies rink action at the Forum against Acadia, Nov 12, then at Dalhousie Nov 15; and back to the Forum Nov 21 and 22 for games against Moncton and St Thomas. The team travels to PEI Nov 27 and St. FX Nov 29.

**Women's Hockey** – Huskies are away Nov 8 and 9 for games at Mt. Allison and PEI and then home on Nov 15 and 16 to play against Mt. Allison and Moncton. The team heads to Quebec and Ontario for games against McGill, Concordia, Ottawa and Carleton before returning to Halifax for a game at Dalhousie on Nov 29.

**Women's Volleyball** – Huskies home action on the court Nov 15 and 16 for games against Moncton and PEI. Then the team plays at Dal Nov 20 and St. FX Nov 22 before coming home to play UNB Nov 28.

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

## TEACHING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

### Call for Proposals – 2009/10 Academic Year

The Teaching Scholar Program at Saint Mary's was established to promote the development of inquiry into teaching and learning within the University. The Teaching Scholar will be both an advocate for teaching and learning initiatives and a teaching scholar in his/her own right.

Submission deadline for the 2009/10 program is January 7, 2009. The successful applicant will be notified of his/her selection by February 28, 2009.

For further information on the Teaching Scholar program, please visit the webpage of the Centre for Academic and Instructional Development (CAID):  
[www.smu.ca/administration/caid/scholar.html](http://www.smu.ca/administration/caid/scholar.html)

HEARTS & MINDS  
REACH MINDS & TOUCH HEARTS  
SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Kati Kilfoil  
Assistant Director - Residence Life



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