

# MAROON & WHITE

For Alumni and Friends of Saint Mary's University

Spring 2015

## COLIN DODDS

*Outgoing University  
President on education,  
giving back, and family.*



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RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO: ALUMNI OFFICE  
SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3H 3C3



## FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



**B**eing President of the Saint Mary's Alumni Association since October 2014 has given me many opportunities to interact with fellow alumni, faculty and especially with the students. It is a great pleasure to spend time with our future leaders. I attend as many events as I am able.

Last September I was assisting our Alumni Office with Welcome Week for new students and I saw a familiar face. I went over and asked

if he remembered me and he said of course. I had taught him in Primary and now he was a freshman at SMU. It was great to catch up with him. I seem to spend quite a bit of time with the SMUSA students, some of whom are on various Board of Governors' committees with me. It is a privilege to spend time with these young people and listen to their ideas and dreams, dreams that we had at their ages those many years ago—for some of us a very long time ago! The teacher's interest in our young citizens never fades.

In the last six months we have had many changes at Saint Mary's. At our Winter Convocation in January, Dr. Paul D. Sobey was installed as our new Chancellor. He has been a very good friend to Saint Mary's and will continue to contribute as our Chancellor, following in his father's footsteps.

In February the presidential search committee announced that our new President would be Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray, who comes to us from New Zealand via Mount Allison University and more

recently Dalhousie University. Dr. Summerby-Murray will begin his presidential duties on July 1. We are very excited to welcome him to our university and I am hoping that many of our Alumni will make a point of meeting him.

There were also many student-centred events I was very happy to attend. Saint Mary's is a happening place and I am so honoured to be president of our 42,000 alumni. Please enjoy our spring Maroon & White and catch up on alumni from around the world. Do get connected with each other and with the Alumni Office. Come and visit our campus and see all that may be new since you were a student. And if you are in town please come out and cheer on our teams—it is a great way to support our community while having fun with your family and friends. Go Huskies Go!

*Mary-Evelyn Ternan*

Mary-Evelyn Ternan  
BA'69, BEd'70, MED'88  
President, Saint Mary's University  
Alumni Association

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# SOMETHING'S HAPPENING HERE

GET CAUGHT UP ON CAMPUS NEWS, RESEARCH, AWARDS, AND NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AT SAINT MARY'S.

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

## LATEST SMU TELESCOPE LINKED TO SOCIAL MEDIA

The *Burke-Gaffney Observatory* unveiled a very special telescope last fall. The Planewave 0.6-metre CDK24 telescope is the second-largest telescope on a Canadian university campus, and the first in the world to be synced via software to social media. This allows it to be monitored and controlled by Facebook and Twitter users worldwide. Named in honour of its major benefactors, **Dr. Ralph M. Medjuck** and his wife **Shirlee**, the telescope and new observation deck will greatly enhance the university's teaching and science outreach facilities. The new telescope offers higher optical performance, a matching digital imaging camera, and state-of-the-art control systems that allow full remote control of the entire observatory. Join a group tour or come out on viewing night to see this new marvel for yourself!

## TOP MARKS IN CANADA

Saint Mary's University has been ranked first in Canada for international research collaboration. This special recognition is a part of **Research Infosource's** annual rankings on university research. "It is wonderful that the magnitude of international research collaborations at Saint Mary's has been recognized by Research Infosource," says **Dr. Kevin Vessey**, Saint Mary's Associate Vice-President, Research. "Being ranked first in Canada for research collaboration shines a spotlight on the truly international nature of our research endeavours as well." A hefty 53.8 percent of the scholarly publications from Saint Mary's were co-authored with researchers from outside of Canada. "This shows how plugged-in our researchers are around the world, as well as the merit of our research, which is appreciated so highly that it attracted these international collaborations," says Dr. Vessey. SMU also ranked 48th on the Top 50 Research Universities list for the 11th consecutive year, up from 50th place last year.



Graduate student Maan Hani with the new CDK24 telescope.





Saint Mary's welcomes new president Robert Summerby-Murray. photo: Nick Pearce/Dalhousie University

## SMU HOSTS AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR EMMA DONOGHUE

On March 13, Canadian writer **Emma Donoghue** delivered this year's **Cyril Byrne Memorial Lecture**. The annual lecture celebrates the life and spirit of Cyril Byrne, who during his 35-year career as an English professor at SMU, helped establish the school's Atlantic Canada studies program and the D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies. Donoghue is an Irish-born writer whose work has been translated into more than 40 languages, whose from her eighth and latest novel, the New York *Times* bestseller *Frog Music*, is a murder mystery set in San Francisco in 1876. The crowd had an opportunity to ask questions of Donoghue and also listen to music by the dynamic local songwriter **Erin Costelo**. Donoghue's 2010 novel *Room*, shortlisted for the Man Booker and Orange Prize, has been made into a film that will be released later this year.

## PRESIDENT-ELECT ANNOUNCED

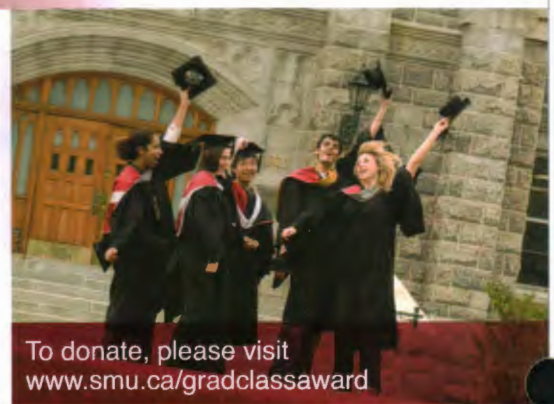
In February, after an international search, **Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray** was chosen as Saint Mary's University President-Elect. Born in Christchurch, New Zealand, Summerby-Murray has been in Canada since the 1980s, when he received his Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Toronto. He has served in a number of senior academic roles, including as Dean of Social Sciences at Mount Allison University from 2003-2010 and as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Dalhousie University since 2010. "Through our consultations with the University community we knew we needed a leader who would promote academic excellence, understand our challenges, and provide collegial leadership," says **Board Chair John S. Fitzpatrick, QC**. "We're very pleased to welcome Dr. Summerby-Murray to the Saint Mary's University community." Summerby-Murray will replace outgoing President Dr. Colin Dodds who has served in the role since 2000.

Some grads receive gifts.  
Others give them.



Hats – or should we say mortarboards – off to the **Class of 2015** for coming together to give back. With the **Alumni Office matching donations** dollar-for-dollar (up to \$2,500), Saint Mary's University's newest grads have created a new fund that commemorates their time at Saint Mary's and makes things better for those who follow.

"As students at Saint Mary's, we have benefited from the generosity of the University's alumni and friends," says Katie Ryan, an executive member of the 2015 Grad Class Committee. "By creating this fund, we extend that same generosity to others, and in doing so, help to ensure that all deserving students are able to afford Saint Mary's – no matter what their family circumstances."



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Paul D. Sobey

## A WIN-WIN SITUATION

International students studying in Halifax now have expanded opportunities to enter the work force and stay in Nova Scotia. A new program, launched in February with help from the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association Atlantic Section, offers international students at the Sobey School of Business valuable work experience through a paid internship program with the Halifax Port Authority. This new option means that international students, who make up nearly 50 percent of the Sobey School population, can now get their practical work experience here without having to leave the province. “We want to provide international students currently studying in Halifax with the opportunity to get the work experience they need to enter the work force and stay in Nova Scotia,” says Karen Oldfield, President and CEO, Halifax Port Authority. “We hope other organizations and businesses will similarly embrace this opportunity to diversify our workforce and build prosperity.”

## NEW CHANCELLOR

Dr. Paul D. Sobey is following in the footsteps of his father, Dr. David F. Sobey, who served as Saint Mary’s Chancellor from 2008 until 2010. Born in Halifax, but raised in New Glasgow, Dr. Paul D. Sobey, FCA, B.Comm, D.Comm, worked through various positions in Empire and its subsidiaries, assuming the role of Vice-President and Secretary in 1985, and President and CEO of Sobey Leased Properties Limited in 1986. In 1988, he took over as Chairman of Lawton’s Drug Stores Limited, and in 1989 as President and CEO of Atlantic Shopping Centres Limited. After completing an Advanced Management Program at the Harvard University Business School in 1996, he became President and CEO of Empire Company Limited in 1998.



Faculty of Arts Dean Dr. Margaret MacDonald (right) with students from Beijing Normal University – Zhuhai, on a tour of the Halifax Public Library central branch.

## THE BUZZ ABOUT BNUZ

Saint Mary’s has a long relationship with China’s Beijing Normal University – Zhuhai (BNUZ). Since 2002, hundreds of students from BNUZ have attended Saint Mary’s, with SMU students also able to access a study-abroad program at BNUZ. In February, a new partnership was announced with SMU’s Faculty of Arts. This latest development between the two universities is a credit-transfer agreement. BNUZ students now have the opportunity to spend the last two years of their Bachelor of Arts degrees in Halifax. “I’m delighted to see that our collaboration with BNUZ will now include the Faculty of Arts,” says Saint Mary’s Dean of Arts, Dr. Margaret MacDonald. “For BNUZ, a partnership with an Arts faculty represents a new opportunity, and a broadening of international interest in what Canadian universities can offer. For Saint Mary’s, the global perspective of our campus will be deeply enriched.”





Julie Toskan-Casale and David Sobey celebrate the March opening of the Centre for Innovation in Retailing and Services, named after Sobey.

## ON THE CUTTING EDGE

The **David Sobey Centre for Innovation in Retailing and Services** was launched in style on March 10 at an invite-only event attended by over 150 Canadian business luminaries. David Sobey, for whom the new Centre is named, was recognized through remarks from master of ceremonies, **Dean Patricia Bradshaw**. “The launch of this Centre honours the region’s tradition of business excellence in the retail and services industry, demonstrated by entrepreneurial excellence like that shown by the Sobey family.” **Julie Toskan-Casale**, founder of the Toskan-Casale Foundation and co-founder and former head of global marketing and public relations for iconic M·A·C Cosmetics, was the keynote speaker. It is anticipated that the David Sobey Centre for Innovation in Retailing and Services will position the Sobey School of Business at the cutting edge of one of the most important business sectors in our economy.

## IMPROVED SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

For 30 years, Saint Mary’s has played a leadership role in ensuring that higher education is accessible to students with disabilities. Back in 1985, when the **Atlantic Centre** was first established, it began by helping 13 students. That number has grown to over 200 students today. A passionate supporter of services for students with disabilities, and a former member of the University’s Board of Governors, **Dr. Fred Smithers** recently made a very generous donation to the Centre. His contribution has resulted in major renovations to the Centre and improved supports for students, in addition to a number of annual scholarships. “Fred Smithers’ thoughtfulness and kindness are really quite remarkable,” says Centre Director, Dr. David Leitch. “His profound commitment to the students we serve is absolutely unwavering.” To mark his generosity, the Centre was renamed **The Fred Smithers Centre of Support for Students with Disabilities**.

## FOSTERING THE FUTURE

Combine 100 high school or post-secondary students with an interest in entrepreneurship, a handful of keen mentors, and 50 Nova Scotian communities. What have you got? **Startup 100**, a unique partnership between the Province of Nova Scotia, the **Sobey School Business Development Centre**, and **Enactus Saint Mary’s**. The program began February 20, and will continue for 100 days with a two-fold goal: foster more business in the province and help students make their entrepreneurial dreams come true. Using an innovative online training program, students also have access to \$5,000 in interest free funding, and are able to network with mentors and other entrepreneurs.



Fred Smithers



# ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY OF RESPONSIBILITY

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU



Angela Borges of the University of New Hampshire leads a bystander training session in March.

It isn't easy to take a stand against sexualized violence—even for a self-described “big guy” like Amali Armony, President-Elect of Saint Mary's University Students' Association (SMUSA). Thanks to training received through an innovative program called *Bringing in the Bystander*, Armony and other members of the Saint Mary's community are now poised to speak up and step in.

“This program has given me new insights,” says Armony. “In the past I might have shied away from intervening in relationship issues, but bystander training will make it possible for me to recognize and safely diffuse incidents before they have a chance to escalate.”

Armony speaks passionately about SMUSA's readiness to take on a leadership role in maintaining Saint Mary's commitment to a safe and respectful campus. “Three members of our Executive have been trained as trainers for the *Bringing in the Bystander* program,” he says, “and the training itself is mandatory for everyone who works for SMUSA,

right from the manager of the pub to the staff involved in the Get Home Safe Program.”

Developed by researchers at the University of New Hampshire, *Bringing in the Bystander's* curriculum uses a community of responsibility approach to teach bystanders how to speak out against social norms that support sexualized violence such as assault and coercion. “Bystander awareness isn't something that comes naturally to most people,” says Sarah MacDonald, a Saint Mary's graduate and Alumni Officer who trained to deliver *Bringing in the Bystander* to others at Saint Mary's. “I'm really happy to be involved in this program and to have the opportunity to share what I've learned. It's important to teach people the skills they need to do something positive.”

It's a sentiment that resonates with the Saint Mary's community. By March 2015, more than 300 members—students, faculty and staff—had attended bystander training workshops, with additional sessions already planned for spring and summer. Another 30 individuals,

including MacDonald and Armony, had volunteered to train to deliver the curriculum across campus.

“We are happy to see these individuals step up as leaders in this initiative,” says Dr. Esther E. Enns, Saint Mary's University's Senior Advisor, Teaching and Learning. “Train-the-trainer workshops provide a sustainable way for the University to implement the *Bringing in the Bystander* curriculum by having our own roster of in-house trainers.”

Enns chairs the President's Council Action Team, a group charged with implementing recommendations from the Saint Mary's University President's Council Report (2013). “The report challenged us to introduce programs to increase the understanding of consent among all members of the university community, and to focus our efforts on peer-to-peer programs,” says Enns. “The message was clear: we all have an important role to play in helping to ensure the safety of everyone on campus.”

According to Enns, bystander training is important on its own as a focal point of the Safe and >



Respectful Saint Mary's initiative, but it is also part of a larger picture that includes a Consent Awareness Campaign, online training modules, targeted programming for varsity athletes, the development of an Orientation Steering Committee to oversee the development and execution of orientation, a full-time orientation coordinator to coordinate events and educational initiatives throughout the academic year, and a Declaration of Respect that affirms core values and aligns with existing Saint Mary's policies and procedures.

"Like other universities, Saint Mary's faces complex issues," says Enns. "Because we are built on a tradition of equity and respect, when the need arose to increase feelings of safety on campus, we were able to move quickly. As a result, we have undertaken a large-scale, multi-dimensional initiative to address safety and respect. These are the issues that people worry about, and the programs we have in place to address these issues enhance Saint Mary's concern for a just and civil society."

"The ultimate objective of a Saint Mary's education is to nurture and support productive, critical, and responsible citizens," says Enns. "The true value of a university education," she says, "is realized when it also instills in all members of the University community a strong sense of personal worth, and a commitment to social responsibility." In the past year, Saint Mary's has made significant progress in promoting a safe and respectful environment for students, faculty and staff. "Our work isn't completed," says Saint Mary's President, Dr. J. Colin Dodds, "but we remain committed to the prevention of sexualized violence and to leading the way in addressing a national problem."

This commitment to leadership prompted Saint Mary's to host a bystander training session for representatives from the majority of Nova Scotia universities and community colleges. After a full day of training on March 10, 2015, participants returned to their respective institutions prepared to build on skills acquired on our campus.

"We are pleased to collaborate with other educational institutions and to help them build respectful environments for learning and working," says Dodds. "Creating cultural change is a complex undertaking that requires broad and ongoing commitment. In order to make a difference, we all need to work together." ✦



Charging up with new approaches at the Innovative Ideas Awards.

## LICENCE TO INNOVATE BY CHRIS BENJAMIN

SAINT MARY'S STUDENTS NAB FOUR OF SIX INNOVATIVE IDEAS AWARDS.

**S**obey School of Business students devised improved agricultural methods, a financial literacy program for inmates, public-use cell phone-charging stations, and a social media platform for Chinese ex-pats, and they took home four of six BOYNECLARKE Innovative Ideas Awards on February 23 at the Westin Nova Scotian in Halifax. They swept the social innovation category, winning all three awards in that arena.

The exceptional performance by Sobey students builds on last year's win by OPTions Peru, a project of Enactus, a Saint Mary's social entrepreneurship society ranked third in Canada and focused on "using the power of entrepreneurial action to transform lives and shape a better, more sustainable world." The Sobey School of Business has cultivated a reputation as a centre for entrepreneurial excellence with important social benefits locally and globally.



“We don’t even have a course in social enterprise; it’s woven in and that’s the strength of its exposure,” says Tim Cranston, a Master of Technology Entrepreneurship and Innovation (MTEI) student whose Afri-Sea technology won first place in the Social Stream at the awards.

Afri-Sea is a means to turn coastal sea plants into a sustainable alternative to chemical fertilizers, reducing the impact of drought on farming communities. The Gambian government has already endorsed the technology and the World Bank is now reviewing it.

Cranston credits MTEI director Dawn Jutla for creating a program that marries technological and sociological innovation with proven entrepreneurship models in a global context. “It’s about understanding how you would work in a specific context,” he says, “the local ethnicities, religions, social stratifications, etc.” He also knows success—his and that of the program—can never be entirely credited to an individual. “I’m happy for the school,” he says. “Four of six finalists from SMU and that speaks for itself. I get the feeling there’s a lot of people engaged in supporting the students.”

Spark Zone, a multi-campus—including SMU, MSVU, NSCAD and NSCC—sandbox program started last year.

A “sandbox” is a sort of lab for entrepreneurs to experiment, bouncing ideas off mentors like Farrell and other successful business leaders already working in the community. As Premier Stephen McNeil said when the province announced sandbox funding last year, “encouraging innovation is fundamental to the change our province needs.”

Recognizing that need, the Sobey School Business Development Centre also offers the innovative Startup 100 program, which is connecting 100 student entrepreneurs across the province to interest-free startup loans, and to one another. They will network with each other and mentors in their respective communities as they start 100 new business ventures.

The Startup 100 program is typical of the school’s focus on not only teaching the best models, but putting thought into action and changing the world. Encouraging students to participate in competitions like the Innovative Ideas Awards goes a long way. For example, winners get seed money to help

*“Extra-curricular activities such as this competition are key drivers of student success.” —Jason Turner*

Jason Turner is one of those people. He’s part of the Enactus team and a faculty advisor. He concurs with Cranston’s assessment.

“We have a Dean in Dr. Patricia Bradshaw who goes out of her way to support students,” he says. “We have former competition winners, since graduated, happy to meet with current students. And we have the Sobey School Business Development Centre (SSBDC) and the various supports and services they provide in preparing students to be entrepreneurs or at the very least, entrepreneurial.”

Ellen Farrell is another one of SMU’s entrepreneurial champions. She teaches entrepreneurship and has mentored hundreds of SMU students who have gone on to become leaders in business communities locally and abroad, including multiple winners of the BMO Apex Business Plan Competition for aspiring entrepreneurs. She tapes clippings of them in the newspapers to her office door.

“It’s amazing what a few minutes of direction and encouragement can do,” she said last year, after becoming a finalist herself for the Business Development Bank of Canada Mentorship Award.

Collectively, Jutla, Bradshaw, Farrell, Turner and many others have created a dazzling array of supports for entrepreneurial students. Turner also helps facilitate the

them advance their ideas. “Extra-curricular activities such as this competition are key drivers of student success,” explains Jason Turner. “For some they provide a healthy outlet for their competitive nature while others benefit from learning to craft a pitch in a pressure-packed environment.”

For Turner, the awards are an important piece of positive recognition, but the results of his efforts go beyond mere awards. They are most importantly manifested in the work of the students as entrepreneurs.

Having started sitting in a classroom learning about effective business models, they moved into competitions and participation with Enactus, and then into launching valuable programs. Students have created initiatives empowering marginalized women in Peru with business and entrepreneurship skills, helping soon-to-be-released women in provincial prison become entrepreneurs providing for their families, community development projects in Halifax’s Mulgrave Park, and a social media network facilitating adaptation for newcomers.

“Students conceive and develop their own projects and have support from a variety of university entities,” Turner says.

Graduates will emerge with an entrepreneurial attitude toward solving fundamental human problems. Not every business will succeed, but that’s not really the point. ✦



*“Serving as President  
has been a great honour.”*

# MAKING CHANGE

photo: Paul Darrow

## DR. COLIN DODDS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION, GIVING BACK, AND FAMILY.

Over the course of the last 32 years, Saint Mary’s University President Dr. Colin Dodds has given much to the University, its students, and the wider Halifax community. Willingly forfeiting decades of evenings and weekends, he’s presided over significant campus expansions, made major contributions to various boards, both locally and nationally, lent his expertise to provincial committees, and encouraged internationalism within the university.

Dodds explains that universities with their mission of teaching, research and service, and values of inclusion, respect and social justice play a key role in the economic and societal fabric of a nation. However, in July 2015, in the continuation of an incredible 40-year-plus academic career in the UK and Canada, Dodds will step down from the Presidency—the keeper of the traditions and values of the University—and will resume his faculty position in the Sobey School of Business.

In reflecting upon the road that ultimately led him to Saint Mary’s, Dodds recalled the landscape of higher education in the UK in the 1970s and early ’80s, noting,

“Higher education was going through some real changes in the UK—changes that I didn’t feel were the most positive,” he says.

Having spent a year at McMaster University as a visiting professor, Canada was on his radar. But when he decided to leave England, family in tow, he had to choose between two attractive opportunities—one in Halifax and the other in Singapore. Ultimately, it was a 10-day visit to Halifax in March 1982 that helped him make the decision to accept a faculty position at the Sobey School of Business. “I was given a list of people to contact and I spent time with them all,” says Dodds. “By the time I went back to the UK, I felt that this was a very special city, a very welcoming university community, and a place that we could bring up our kids; and it was beside the ocean.”

At the time, Dodds’ son James was five years old, and his daughter Elizabeth was only 12 weeks. His wife Carol had never even been to Halifax. When they arrived, they initially moved into a motel, with all of their belongings waiting in a container.



“Once we found a home, and our son realized he was not on holidays, we embraced the Saint Mary’s and Halifax communities, both of which surpassed our expectations,” says Dodds.

That worked well, as he far exceeded the expectations of everyone else. Over the course of his distinguished career, he’s held a wide range of notable titles, taking on positions as a Department Chair, MBA Director, Dean of the Sobey School of Business, Vice-President of Academic and Research, and ultimately, in 2000, President and Vice-Chancellor. And he has continued to teach international finance.

These positions gave him the reach and influence he needed to guide the University through a remarkable period of growth. One of the biggest changes he helped drive with his administrative colleagues was a major expansion of the Saint Mary’s campus, which saw significant campus infrastructure renewal, including the residences, Science, Loyola academic and the McNally buildings and the additions of the Atrium, the Language Centre and the Homburg Centre. Earlier, as Dean, he established the Executive MBA program, and created the Saint Mary’s University Business Development Centre (BDC), which started out in Dartmouth, then downtown Halifax, but was later moved to the Saint Mary’s campus in order to be more accessible to students, and renamed the Sobey School Business Development Centre.”

“I see the BDC as a laboratory for students,” says Dodds. “By establishing the BDC for business start-ups and the development of business plans and so on, we gave business students the chance to get some very real-world experience. It’s a true centre for entrepreneurship.”

He pays tribute to the students, faculty, and staff with support from the Board of Governors, alumni and friends that together have built the academic stature of the University, but always in the context of fiscal prudence. He is particularly proud of the number of Canada Research Chairs, CFI and Tri-Council Research Funding faculty have achieved, and the global research networks and international institutional partnerships established. He also values the positive labour relations that have been such an important part of the University.

Another hallmark of his leadership has been his tireless work to promote an international culture within the University. The result of those efforts allows the University to boast enrolment of students from more than 100 countries. We’d always had an international focus, particularly in Asia

and the Caribbean, but we really started to build on that over the last 15 years. Education is now the global currency and the vision of the university is one of accessibility and for our students to aspire to be citizens of the world,” explains Dodds. “Our faculty is very international so we have diversity not just in our student body, but in our faculty and staff complements as well.”

Even while doing all this, Dodds still found time to make considerable contributions to the post-secondary community, the Provincial community, and Canada via his participation on a wide variety of boards, including the Association of Atlantic Universities, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, World University Services Canada, the Canadian Bureau of International Education, the Better Business Bureau of Atlantic Canada, the Bank of Canada, and the Asia Pacific Foundation. He is co-chair of the Premier of Nova Scotia’s Immigration Council, has been inducted into Atlantic Canada’s Top 50 CEO Hall of Fame, and holds the Queen Elizabeth Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals, and has received the 2014 Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration. He attends as many Huskies games and student-organized events as he can.

“You have to give back,” says Dodds. “And people can give back in a variety of ways: Some people can give back with their talents, as a volunteer,

as a community leader. Some can give back philanthropically with monetary donations, and the \$45-million Hearts and Minds Capital Campaign chaired by Dr. Paul Sobey is proof of that. Some do both. I believe strongly that Canada has been so good to my family, that it is not only an obligation, but a privilege for us to give back.”

Of all of the things he’s accomplished over the last 40 years, Dodds is most proud of his family. “As education has been my life and passion, serving as President has been a great honour and rewarding experience, and my family has given me the opportunity to fulfill my vocation,” he says. “Everything I’ve achieved, we’ve achieved it together as a family and it has been fun!

“One of the things that makes my life worthwhile is to see students walking across the stage to receive their degrees,” he continues. “Knowing that in some instances I’ve either taught them or played a role in their academic achievements in some way. And even those I don’t know may have had a mentor or someone at the University who has made a change in their life. That’s what makes it all worthwhile.” ♦



Elizabeth Fountain with Carol and Colin Dodds.



# SPECIALIZED INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

SHE'S SPENT HER LIFE ADVOCATING FOR SURVIVORS OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS, BUT ISABELLE KNOCKWOOD ISN'T FINISHED YET. BY MICHELLE BRUNET



Isabelle Knockwood receives her honorary Doctor of Civil Law at Fall Convocation 2013.

At her Indian Brook, Nova Scotia home, Dr. Isabelle Knockwood takes out a red tube. It was given to the Mi'kmaq elder when she was awarded an Honorary Degree—a Doctor of Civil Law—from Saint Mary's University at Fall Convocation in 2013.

"In honouring Isabelle Toney-Shay Knockwood with this degree we are also honouring her ancestors, her parents, children and grandchildren, and her great grandchildren for seven generations," states an excerpt from the scroll inside the tube. "She will accept this Honourary Degree for her life's work on behalf of all residential school students, many of whom died before they heard an official apology or received compensation for their trauma."

Now in her 80s, Knockwood's lifelong pursuit of social justice for Aboriginal people, as well as other cultural groups and women, has involved many inspiring achievements, from working with homeless people in Boston and Toronto and with the American Indian Movement to testifying before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and advocating for specialized education for Aboriginal urban youth.

Even today, Knockwood has numerous projects on the go, such as writing a booklet on the history of the

Shubenacadie River, a collection of short stories for kids, and an account of the ancient Mi'kmaq based on the Debert, NS archaeological habitation.

At her desk, she points up to large text that states another undertaking she's working on: "My goal is to write a report to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that accurately represents the perceptions of former students of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School," she says, "regarding their reactions to Canada's 2008 apology to residential school survivors as stated in their videotaped and transcribed interviews."

With Knockwood's warm smile and laugh, thoughtfulness and wisdom, it is no surprise she has a talent for helping others open up. Her personal talking stick has been held by over 1,000 people.

"The talking stick is an instrument of free speech that gives people who were once silenced an opportunity to say what is on their minds in the language they choose," writes Knockwood in her book *Out of the Depths: The Experiences of Mi'kmaq Children at the Indian Residential School at Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia* (Roseway Publishing/Fernwood Publishing, 4th edition forthcoming).

Knockwood herself was a student at the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School from 1936, when she was five years old, to 1947. Four decades later, in 1985, she started to interview people who had also attended the school.

In the late 1980s, Knockwood enrolled at Saint Mary's University to complete a Bachelor degree in Anthropology with a minor in English. In one of her classes, an Autobiography and Biography course taught by Dr. Gillian Thomas, Knockwood read something to the class. It was something she wrote about the first night she spent at the residential school. Thomas asked her if she had written any more on the subject. Knockwood showed up with five or six plastic bags full of interviews, writings, and photographs.

Thomas helped Knockwood organize her work and thoughts into a book. She also encouraged Knockwood—who received threats for writing the book and became overwhelmed with hearing so much from others about the abuse that went on at the school—to keep going. In 1992, the first edition of *Out of the Depths* was published. The same year Knockwood graduated from SMU with her Bachelor of Arts.

It was around that time that Knockwood also came up with an idea for Saint Mary's—something she is still determined to see through today. "What I would like to see happen at SMU is the establishment of a study and resource lounge for Aboriginal students because indigenous knowledge is specialized knowledge—as in, it is culture-specific," she says. "There are over 100 Aboriginal students registered at Saint Mary's right now."



She envisions the centre to be a repository of information that accurately and unbiasedly details the history, cultures, and stories of the Mi'kmaq and other Aboriginal people.

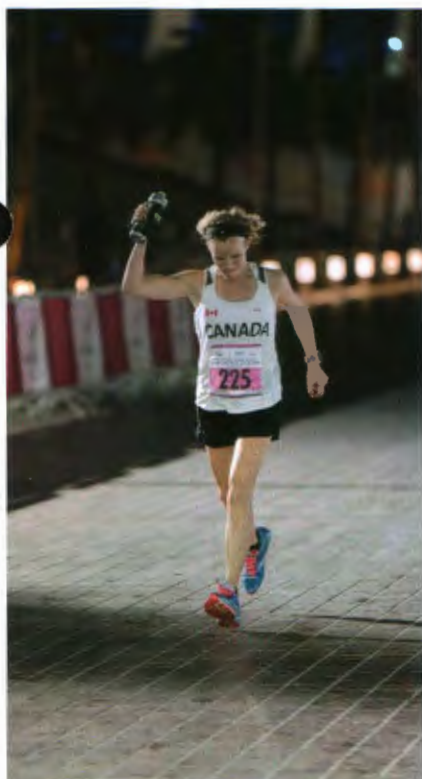
"The story of the First people and the land prior to European contact has never been written because Indigenous people pass on information from one generation to the next through the spoken word and not the written word," explains Knockwood. "And the texts at European contact were written by the British and the French who used derogatory terms such as 'savages' and 'heathens.'" They described Aboriginal people as having "no belief system, no political structure and no private ownership."

Texts by European writers from the 15th to 19th century omit the "female aspect of history, spirituality, politics, and gender roles," as well, says Knockwood. She notes too that by the time students get to university, their knowledge of authentic Indigenous history is limited or non-existent. Saint Mary's students could be the core group to gather information, says Knockwood. They could collect stories, interviews, photographs, letters, family

histories, and other forms of information, not found online or in libraries, from the homes and memories of people living in Native communities. The students could then store and present what they've discovered at the Aboriginal centre on campus.

"Saint Mary's would benefit from having this collection of our specialized knowledge too," affirms Knockwood. A continuous learner—she not only has degrees from Saint Mary's but also a Masters degree in Women Studies from Goddard College—Knockwood says we can learn from people of all ages. "It's not just the elders who teach, children teach too," she says.

One significant experience for Knockwood was when she and other residential school survivors met with Aboriginal healers from across North and South America, arranged by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. "We learned a lot from them," says Knockwood. "One of my first teachers was a Hopi medicine man. I'm telling you, he was a powerful man. It was awesome, just awesome...I had a good life. I met a lot of exciting people." ✧



Dennene Huntley (BComm'00) is an unstoppable force: A military veteran who served in Afghanistan. General Manager of two Edmonton-based companies. A survivor who's surmounted incredible obstacles. A mentor who inspires everyone she meets. And a Team Canada ultrarunner about to compete in the 24-Hour World Championships.

## WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME EXTRAORDINARY

WORKING HARD AND SMART—AND A LOT OF TRAINING—HAVE GOTTEN DENNE HUNTLEY TO SPECIAL PLACES. BY MICHELLE MACADAM

*Since your first half-marathon in 2003, you've run marathons, 100Ks, 125Ks and 24-hour races, landing on many podiums. How has running enhanced your life?*

Oh my. I've seen the world and met so many of my close friends through running. People say I'm humble to the point that I don't realize the positive influence I have on others, just by doing what I love to do...but running has made me confident. I've always been a mentally tough person, but running has made me extremely mentally tough.

*What mileage do you run?* It all depends where I am in my training. Next week I'll run 150K, the following week 140-150L and after that I'll be tapering for the World Championships.

*Distance running hurts. How do you develop that capacity to handle the suffering and keep pushing through it?* Most people don't go from the couch to a 100-miler. As you build, you push the limits of what pain is. Remember your first 32K? My first back-to-back long-run weekend felt the way that first 32K did. As you do more, it doesn't feel hard anymore. At a 100K, you feel that same pain you did at your first marathon. I actually use a marathon as a good tempo training run. People ask me to run with them, so I'll plan it to fall when I'm supposed to do a 40-50K. I use 50K and 50-mile races in training because they're a good test. >



*Do you train for one race at a time or maintain a general level of fitness and then ramp it up for a big race?* I'd say my minimum base would be 70k a week and in a training cycle I go up from there.

*Do you listen to music when you're training?* Music makes me happy! The songs I listen to depend on what type of run I'm doing: tempo, speed work, a long run. One app I use is Rock my Run. It's got everything. Just hit a playlist and away you go.

*You've faced some incredible challenges. In 2011 you did the Goofy, where you run the Disney half-marathon on the Saturday and the full marathon on the Sunday. You'd pulled a muscle towards the end, so when you got home you saw a doctor. Then what happened?* The doctor listened to my heart and said, I think you might have a heart murmur, and I want you to go to the Pembroke Hospital and get it checked. It turned out I didn't have a heart murmur, I had a hole in my heart. At that point I'd already been to the 100K World Championships, raced the Canadian Death Race three times and podiumed each time... all with a 14mm hole in my heart.

*It must have felt like the end of the world. How'd you get through it?* It didn't feel like the end of the world, but I did wonder what it meant going forward. My cardiologist said I was an anomaly—most adults with arital septal defect have a hard time going up the stairs, and I ran 100Ks for Canada. I asked how long I'd be out—he said up to a maximum of six months. It was less than that. There were actually a lot of benefits. Now I have the proper oxygenated blood running throughout my body. The military explains how you'll feel at elevation, and I'd always felt that to the max, but not anymore.

*Four months out from heart surgery, on blood thinners, you ran in the hottest Boston marathon on record. You did not finish (DNF). Seasoned distance runners have all had that first DNF and it's devastating. How was it for you?* Well, it was bad...it was my first DNF. Under normal circumstances, I'd have been running. Just before the halfway mark I got the biggest goosebumps in the world, it was about 30 degrees Celsius and I felt like I was drunk with the world coming at me. I could've fallen and smashed my head. Did I get upset? Of course. But within the next day or two, I said, 'I need to come back'. A friend was about to run the Toronto Marathon in three weeks and said, 'You need to come with me.' And I said, 'You know what, I do.' I needed to see if I could still do this. I went with no time goal and didn't tell anybody I was doing it, other than my sister and my boyfriend at the time. I ended up running a 3:26 and had a blast.

*You'll soon be representing Canada at the World Championships in Turino, Italy. What's most exhilarating about that?* Representing my country is so wonderful. I used to wear a uniform and I've hung that up, now I'm representing my country through athleticism. Most countries absolutely love Canadians, we get some of the loudest cheers. It's so exciting running with the world's best and seeing what I can do to push myself. It's all day and all night; you don't hit one or two walls, you hit six, seven, eight...you lose count. What's exhilarating is having a low, getting through that and then going on a high again, thinking: I just overcame that!

*How did your time at Saint Mary's prepare you for what was to come?* At Saint Mary's, I worked 30 hours a week and studied full-time. I put myself through university. That organization and determination that I had, I apply to my work life. Saint Mary's is a great school—I was lucky to have an amazing education. If it weren't for the professors who saw potential in me and pushed me in my third and fourth years, I might not be where I am today. They realized that if I applied myself and was challenged, I'd go places. As I often say, good things come to those who work hard and smart. ✦

Tara Lantz and Lindsay MacPhee are opening Canada's first floatation Centre. To learn more, visit [thefloatationcentre.ca](http://thefloatationcentre.ca).

photo: Meghan Tansey Whitton





# ENGINEERING A FLOAT

LINDSAY MACPHEE AND TARA LANTZ “JUST WANT TO DO GOOD STUFF,” INCLUDING INTRODUCING SENSORY DEPRIVATION—FLOATING—TO HALIFAX. BY CHRISTINA COPP



**F**or many young people, especially now, the career path on which they start is often winding. And sometimes it leads them where they never imagined themselves going. For Lindsay MacPhee, that sentiment certainly rings true. MacPhee, an environmental engineer by trade, and a Saint Mary's graduate, has driven off that road and onto something completely different—she's opening Atlantic Canada's first floatation centre. And she's not doing it alone—she has another SMU graduate right alongside her, Tara Lantz.

“Everything in the past has everything to do with where we are now,” says MacPhee thoughtfully. After graduating SMU—MacPhee in 2004 with a Forensics, Biological Engineering certificate, and Lantz in 2003 with a BsC in Chemistry—both women, who both say they “sort of” knew each other, ended up in Vancouver.

“Tara is a triplet, so everyone knew who they were because they were triplets,” says MacPhee, “but they were also the smartest gals at Saint Mary's!”

They reconnected and became friends, and eventually roommates. “If you had asked me then if I'd be living with Tara in the future, I would've said, ‘Oh no, she's way too cool for me!’” MacPhee says, laughing. “We realized we had the same passion for wanting to do really good stuff and like, helping people, healing people.” After a series of emotionally testing events, including a divorce, MacPhee was ready for a change. It was during this time she discovered meditation, and floating. (Floating? More on that later.) After several years in western Canada, MacPhee wanted to return to Halifax, and it turned out, so did Lantz. With a job lined up, MacPhee packed her belongings and drove across the country. However, she was about halfway home when she got some life-changing news.

“I got the call that my job had actually fallen through,” she says. “It was a blessing in disguise because I knew environmental engineering wasn't the path for me, it was just something I was good at. I'd spent a lot of time dreaming and meditating trying to figure out what I wanted to do, what my purpose was, and I'd always felt I wanted to be someone who helps people.”

Thankfully, Lantz is no stranger to helping people. She's a naturopathic doctor, with practices in Mahone Bay, soon to be in Halifax and a travelling practice in Yarmouth and East Hants. Between her wellness experience, and MacPhee's engineering experience, they're building the foundation for an extraordinary wellness centre this city hasn't yet seen.

What is floating, exactly? You may have heard of sensory deprivation tanks, which have been around for decades, but not existed in these parts. Picture a bathtub, filled with water about 25 centimetres deep, and about 360 kilograms of Epsom salts. You get in, close the door so that you're surrounded by darkness. Because of all the salt, you float with ease. For 75 minutes, all you do is let your mind relax, and body float.

“It's weird—you're used to tension when you're floating in normal water to keep your head up, even in salt water, but here you can relax every single muscle,” says Lantz. (For those who may worry about feeling claustrophobic, MacPhee says there's a light that can be turned on from inside the tank, so a floater should never feel trapped.) >



Floating's meditative powers can equal four to six hours of deep sleep. "Studies are coming out every week showing how beneficial meditation is," Lantz says. "I see it like running a defrag program on our old PCs or hitting a reset button—it helps sort through the static and allows our system to reset."

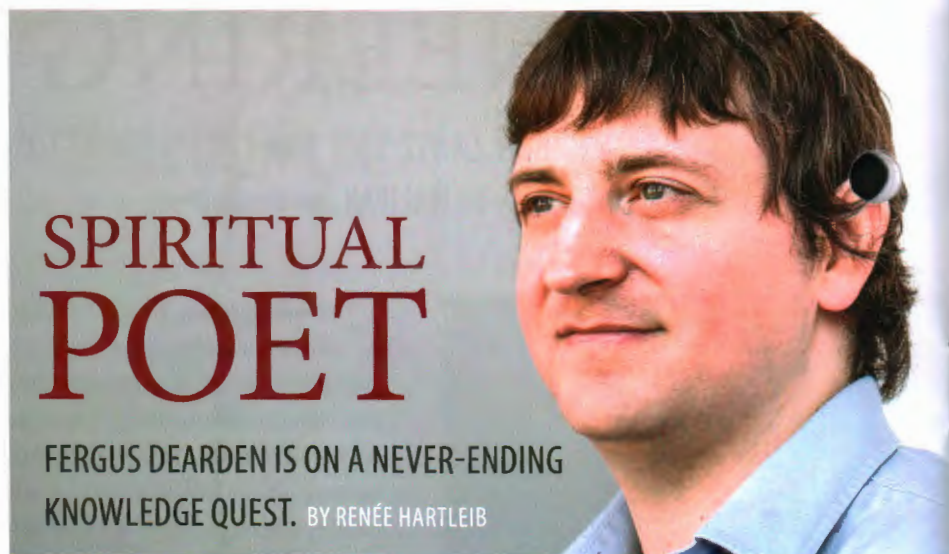
But it's not just for relaxation, according to Lantz. It also helps with anxiety, depression, stress, pain management for pregnant women or people suffering from fibromyalgia and arthritis, among other things. Putting together the physical Floatation Centre, which will be located in Halifax's north end, has been relatively easy for MacPhee, thanks to her background. "In terms of creating the space, I knew from an engineering standpoint what had to go into it," she says. "Trying to explain to contractors has been interesting, but as soon as I do, and they see my excitement and they're like, 'I need this!'"

The Floatation Centre will be one-stop shopping for feeling good—including naturopathic medicine, with Lantz at the helm, plus massage therapy, a dietitian and a lounge area for floaters to relax after relaxing.

With the support of the community through a crowd-funding campaign and the Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development, MacPhee and Lantz will see the official opening of the Floatation Centre this Spring. As long as the anticipation doesn't get them first.

"I am most excited about shifting thoughts on health.," says Lantz. "Floatation therapy, beyond it being relaxing, and helping with things like meditation, is therapeutic."

"I just want to do good stuff," says MacPhee. "I want to be an enabler of positivity. By reducing stress or tapping into meditation, it's all possible." ♦



**S**ocial Entrepreneur, Author, Philanthropist. That's how Fergus Dearden describes himself on his Twitter feed. He could also have added Voracious Learner, as the 31-year-old routinely educates himself in a wide variety of subject areas. He has studied Japanese, and is currently learning all he can about investment banking and computer programming languages.

Originally from St. John's, Newfoundland, Dearden's family moved to Port Hawkesbury when he was seven years old. Both of his parents had mental health issues, and his mother was chronically in and out of psychiatric institutions, making his growing up years difficult. "I was the oldest and ended up shouldering a lot of responsibility and dysfunction at a very young age," he says. "It definitely affected me."

Dearden didn't really understand the extent of this impact until October of 2006, five years into his studies at Saint Mary's. Suffering from years of depression, insomnia, and obsessional thinking—and having witnessed his father's death in October of that year—he was finally diagnosed with cyclothymic disorder, a mild form of bipolar disorder. "In retrospect, the onset was probably in my teenage years," he says. "When I look back, I can definitely see signs of how things weren't quite right."

The doctor he worked with at SMU, Fiona McGrath, continued to meet with him every couple of weeks after his diagnosis. "She had faith in my ability to make myself better," he says. "I feel so blessed to have met her and to have her in my life." McGrath also encouraged Dearden to take a natural supplement that, coupled with talk therapy, helped set him on solid ground again.

"I learned a lot about myself in those years and really worked hard to get to know myself and discover the root of some recurring issues," he says. During his second period of being homeless in August 2011, Dearden started to truly find himself. As a Philosophy and English major, he had a lot of questions and decided to start writing as a way to explore his own life and experiences. It's from that place that the writer in him was born. The result was a book called *The Coffee Shop Meditations*.

"I think of the book as spiritual poetry," he says. "It helped me a lot to write it, and I wondered if it would help others too." To that end, Dearden found a publisher in the University of Toronto Press, but opted to self-publish and is currently selling his book on Amazon. He hopes to raise \$10,000, which he



# IT'S ALL ABOUT THE JOURNEY

FROM TEACHING LANGUAGE TO SAVING ANIMALS, DANIELÈ CRUICKSHANK HAS ALWAYS FOLLOWED HER HEART. BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

photo: Meghan Tansey Whitton

will donate to the Canadian Mental Health Association.

This one project is really only the tip of the iceberg for Dearden: "I feel like I can really go after what I want now. I'm an entrepreneur at heart."

One of his many goals is to open his own investment firm so he can help struggling students, environmental causes, and those living in poverty.

Ten years after Dearden began his studies at SMU, he graduated with a BA and BComm in 2011. He is very grateful to have benefitted from some amazing instructors "who taught me how to think."

Some things though, he learned all on his own. "I had to grow up really fast so I skipped a lot of emotional development steps," he says, "that were crucial for social survival." Dearden had to teach himself self-awareness and self-acceptance, and how to establish relationships with others that were meaningful and respectful toward his values and beliefs.

The Saint Mary's grad is hopeful that his story will inspire people. "I have come out of the other side of mental illness, I live without medication, and I am thriving in life. I want people to know there is a way out of mental illness," he says. "It's beatable, you don't have to suffer alone, and you can heal yourself." ♦



Cruickshank and an equine friend.

**D**anièle (Talbot) Cruickshank has had many lives in one. A gifted musician and dancer from a young age, Cruickshank earned a ballet scholarship when she was 15. This opportunity took her from her childhood home of Chambly in Quebec (think world-famous beer) to the bustling city of Montreal. When she graduated from Les Grands Ballets Canadiens program at age 18, she continued to dance part-time, but knew she would need another career for the next phase of her life.

Having always played "teacher" with her childhood friends, a Bachelor of Education seemed the next logical step. After graduating from L'Université du Québec à Montréal, she began teaching French as a second language. One of her first gigs was with immigrant elementary school children. "It was so rewarding to teach them a whole new language—one >



that they needed to be able to speak to their new friends,” she says. “They were so motivated, and learning the language really empowered them.”

When her position dropped to half-time, Cruickshank began to look for work further afield. “I wanted to see new things and live in other places and discover other cultures and provinces.” Nova Scotia drew her in—the only trouble was that she didn’t speak much English. A year working in an English environment as a French immersion teacher in Halifax cured that! She chuckles when she remembers stumbling over her words in the first months of her Master’s in Education program at Saint Mary’s University in 1993: “The professors and my fellow classmates were very encouraging and understanding about my English skills.”

Cruickshank chose SMU for the reputation of the school and the program, the small class sizes, and its multicultural student population. There was also a pleasant surprise in the form of a cutting edge class on technology that SMU was offering. “At the time, computers were just starting to be introduced into the classroom and this course really helped me wrap my head around what the future was going to look like,” she says. “I definitely had a head start when I returned to the schools to teach.”

Upon graduation from the two-year program, Cruickshank spent over a decade working first at Fairview Junior High and then later at Rockingham Elementary. In 2008, her husband, who was an officer in the Air Force, received a NATO Foreign Exchange posting to Florida. The couple relocated but the SMU grad couldn’t find work as a French teacher. “There was plenty of Spanish, but not much need for French!” she says. Her husband told her to just enjoy some time off, but that had never really been Cruickshank’s style. “After two months, I was antsy, and wanted to do something that had meaning.”

A lover of animals, she began volunteering at the local SPCA, and it’s here that her life trajectory dramatically changed. She began by simply volunteering her time with the animals in the shelter, petting cats and walking dogs, but after a few months, was asked to help out in animal surgery. “I was reluctant and actually said no, thinking I would be squeamish about the blood, but they were persistent!” When she finally agreed, and to Cruickshank’s immense surprise, she ended up loving it. In fact, it was such a natural fit that the clinic offered to train her for free. Seizing the opportunity, she went on to work for three years as a Veterinary Technician while continuing to volunteer.

*“These have been,  
by far, my best life  
experiences.”*

*—Danièle Cruickshank*

“My time in Florida really opened my eyes to what kind of treatment some animals have to endure,” she says. It’s why she now actively protests things like dog-fighting rings, puppy mills, entertainment involving animals, the fur trade, and laboratory use of animals. “What I saw has compelled me to be a voice for the voiceless,” she says. “We all live on a beautiful blue planet. A life is a life and every being deserves to be here.”

To that end, she joined an organization called Red Star through the American Humane Association and received special training to become a certified Animal Emergency Rescuer. In the case of natural disasters or animal cruelty cases, volunteers like Cruickshank are contacted to assist with animals in need. In the last two years, she has been called on twice, the first time for the EF5 strength tornado that levelled the town of Moore, Oklahoma in 2013.

“The devastation cannot be put in words or captured by a camera,” she says. “Many people lost family, homes, and pets. It was a dramatic eye-opener to the power of nature.” Cruickshank took care of lost, injured, and frightened dogs and cats in the aftermath of the disaster, providing medical care and lots of love.

In 2014, the Red Star Emergency Services Team was again asked to assist with an equine cruelty case in Tennessee. Cruickshank witnessed first hand the deplorable condition the horses were in and helped rescue 18 severely neglected and emaciated horses. “In both of these emergency situations, when you help an animal return to health and regain their trust, the feeling is indescribable,” she says. “These have been, by far, my best life experiences.”

Now living in Edmonton, Cruickshank has retired from teaching and has her sights set on finding a job in animal health and/or welfare again. In the meantime, she continues to be open to life’s opportunities to learn and grow. “It’s always been important for me to try new things. In my thirties I earned my boating license; in my forties, I took up wake boarding and water skiing; and when I recently turned 50, I signed up for horseback-riding lessons.”

Excelling at these activities was never her goal. She simply wanted to learn more about the things that called out to her. Cruickshank definitely met the call to be of service to animals head on, despite a severe drop in pay and status. “Success is such a subjective thing. For me, it’s not defined by money or how you are perceived by others,” she says. “It’s all about the happiness I have found along the way and the difference I’ve been able to make by doing what I love.” ♦



# SELF-MADE SUCCESS

AN APPRECIATION OF GRAEME MACKENZIE, SMUSA'S LONGEST-SERVING STAFF MEMBER. BY JAMES PATRIQUIN

Sometimes when the president of the Students' Association is lucky, one of the Alumni Officers will like them enough to approach them and ask if they would like to write an article for Maroon & White. Even better, sometimes when the president of the Students' Association is very lucky, they'll have someone who works with them who deserves the spotlight even more.

I wanted to use this opportunity to pay a long-overdue tribute to our longest-serving full-time staff member, Graeme MacKenzie. As a student at Saint Mary's, Graeme worked and managed our liquor services department before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (History) in 1989. For 11 years he worked managing bars and restaurants in Halifax before eventually finding his way back to SMUSA in February 2000, as our Operations Manager. In 2005 he won the Honourary Gold "M" award, which is the highest citation given by SMUSA to non-students.

I've had the privilege of working with Graeme for just over two years now. Beginning in my position as Chief Returning Officer and lasting all the way through to my election as President, Graeme has always treated me with respect, as an adult, and most importantly, as his equal. His trust in our student staff gives them confidence, valuable experience, and an opportunity to put what they know to the test.

Working with Graeme made me realize that to some people, working with us students is not just a way to pay the bills—it's a way to make a positive impact on the lives of other people. Attending university is, more often than not, a very hectic and challenging stage in life. Without an effective support system, it is easy to slip through the cracks and come to nothing.

In February of this year we celebrated International Graeme Day, a self-deprecating 15th anniversary celebration of Graeme's commitment and service to SMUSA. At lunch hour in the Gorsebrook we handed out a customized cake

and donned pins with an embarrassing picture of Graeme sitting in the hot tub at an all-inclusive resort. The cake lasted longer than our stock of buttons, so apparently our target was a popular one. If you're employed at Saint Mary's, chances are you know Graeme.

Even more telling of his popularity was the response on social media from current and former student staff.

Testimonials were left from students who knew and worked with Graeme when I was still in middle school. People from SMUSA have gone on to achieve great things, but it seems we're a hard organization to forget about.

To finish our conversation I asked Graeme what his favourite part about working at SMUSA was, expecting something sarcastic like "nice golf shirts" or "lots of time off buddy!" in return. Instead I was given a thoughtful account of how he enjoys watching people progress through their

university career, helping them through challenges and following their success when they move on to bigger and better things. In recent years it's even become much easier to keep in contact with people over Facebook.

The work that our full-time staff does to support and encourage students is an early investment in successful and productive citizens. I know that without Graeme and our General Manager, Cathie Ross, I would not be the person I am today. Their guidance has helped me realize that to have an impact somewhere, you need to be willing to lead. Don't follow someone else's footsteps—make some footprints of your own.

Altogether I think Graeme's greatest contribution to SMUSA is helping students succeed on their own terms and these past two years working at the Students' Association have been incredibly important for me. So in short I just wanted to acknowledge my colleague and friend, Graeme MacKenzie. You're an unreal dude, and even though we disagree sometimes, conflict leads to change, and change leads to growth. Thanks for helping us students grow. ✦



MacKenzie at the Gorsebrook.



# LOYALTY CARD: TOPHER & RAE



Topher and Rae Moule (left) make your wedding look like a movie (above).

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

February 28, 2009 was a turning point for Rae Moule. On her way home from the library in Atlanta, Georgia, the 32-year-old was mugged at gunpoint. She escaped unharmed but the event radically changed the course of her life.

Rae was finishing her undergraduate degree in accounting and had recently been promoted to Director of Accounting at the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. This violent event threw not just her career into question, but her whole life. “It made me re-think the choices I’d made up until then,” she says. “This included my career *and* my marriage at the time—I realized I wasn’t happy.”

Discovering that she didn’t enjoy accounting, Rae eventually withdrew from her college program, resigned from her job, and began searching for what might be a better fit. She started reading psychology books and became inspired at the thought of helping other people. When she decided to end her marriage, it gave Rae license to begin researching psychology programs out of state and even out of the country. Saint Mary’s program stood out and she decided to visit Nova Scotia.

A chance meeting with a SMU psychology grad gave her a good sense of what the program might be like. That was enough of an incentive. By August of 2011, Rae had been accepted and moved to Halifax. “I had a deep knowing that I was doing the right thing,” she says. “Even though my parents and my friends thought I’d lost my mind.”

When she looks back on it all now, she sees the mugging incident as a gift. Without it, she wouldn’t be where she is now, and that’s where Topher Moule comes into the picture. A disenchanted photojournalist, Topher was also looking for meaning in his life. He had taught English in Korea for a number of years and was poised to move back there for a university position. That’s when he met Rae. “And that was it, really,” he says. “It was surprising, I think for both of us, because neither of us were looking for a relationship at all.”

Within a month, they were enrolled in the same program, had the same thesis advisor and were teaching assistants together. Within a year, the two were married in an intimate ceremony at Peggys Cove.

In addition to tying the knot in the summer of 2012, they created another sort of partnership together—a photography business. “It began as a way for us to make some extra cash with the photography skills I’d learned as a reporter,” Topher says. In the beginning, Rae was his assistant, but she learned so quickly and showed such a natural aptitude, it wasn’t long until she was poised behind a camera as well. They quickly realized they could bring a lot more to the weddings they were shooting if there were two cameras capturing the events of the day.

But Topher and Rae Studios wasn’t a full-time gig until after graduation. Both had applied to graduate school at McGill University in Montreal but had been warned repeatedly that they likely wouldn’t both be accepted. “Everyone said we’d be lucky if one of us got in and we better be ready with a Plan B,” says Topher.

Plan B was a no-brainer—they were already making money and deeply enjoying photography together. Word of mouth was travelling so fast that by the time they walked across the stage to accept their diplomas that spring, 17 summer weddings were already booked.

In an ironic twist of fate, both Rae and Topher *did* end up being accepted to McGill, but were so enjoying their lives and how psychology was entwined with photography that both deferred. “I think our psychology background and the fact that we both love people gives us an edge,” says Topher. “We are able to make our clients feel at ease. There’s a great rapport there.”

Topher and Rae offer “documentary-style” wedding photography, which means they capture the whole day, usually starting with pre-ceremony grooming and ending long after the cake has been cut. It’s not unusual for them to put in



15 hours or more on a typical wedding day. “We’ve also worked a two-day wedding!” says Topher, laughing.

The couple offers other unique services that aren’t always available in the industry. These include a pre-wedding photography session so the couple can get used to the camera and the Topher-Rae working style. “There is incredible value in spending this time with them before the wedding day,” says Rae. “It’s a day they can get comfortable with us, see our process, and experience how we shoot.”

The SMU alumni pair isn’t stopping at weddings. Their business has a growing list of commercial and professional portraiture clients; their website is being refashioned by Rae; and Topher is growing ever more savvy in the world of social media. Both are excited about what the future holds and are immensely grateful for the learning the past has offered.

“For me, life has been rich with all the different experiences I’ve had,” says Topher. “It’s so important to take risks and explore what gives you inspiration.” Rae agrees. “I’m so glad I gave myself the time and the breathing space to figure out what would make me happy,” she says. “Six years ago, I never would have guessed how great my life would be now.” ♦

Present your Alumni Card to Topher and Rae and receive 15 percent off regular fees. Visit [topherandrae.com](http://topherandrae.com) for more information. All you need to take advantage of discounts with partnering companies is an Alumni Card—and it’s free! You can fill out our easy form at [smu.ca/alumni/alumni-card](http://smu.ca/alumni/alumni-card) or contact our office at [alumni@smu.ca](mailto:alumni@smu.ca) or 902-420-5420. We’ll be happy to mail you a card and get you started on saving money as an alumnus! If you are interested in having your company or organization participate in our program as a Loyalty Partner, you can contact our Alumni Officer, Sarah MacDonald, for an information package. You can reach her at [sarah.b.macdonald@smu.ca](mailto:sarah.b.macdonald@smu.ca) or by calling 902.496.8276.



Christina (Qiuyun) Li and Jackie (Zhenya) Guo collaborate in one of the Centre’s computer labs.



MBA students connect in the lounge area of the Dr. Ronald Wong MBA Centre.

## A ROOM OF THEIR OWN

A GIFT FROM 11,000KM AWAY CONNECTS MBA STUDENTS IN THE SOBEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS. BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

More than half a century has passed since Dr. Ronald Wong arrived at Saint Mary’s in 1955.

“It’s a different world today,” says Wong (BSc’59; DCL’94), a retired solicitor who practised extensively in China and the UK. “Back then, there was no such thing as picking up a phone to call home. It took 28 days for a letter to reach my mother in Hong Kong.”

Separated from family and friends, Wong expected to feel lonely in Canada. Instead, the 19-year-old found a community of friendship with fellow students who were anxious to exchange ideas and share experiences. He also found a “home away from home” on the ground floor of the McNally building in a common room for undergraduate boarders.

Wong now lives in Hong Kong with his wife Carmen, but he has close ties to Saint Mary’s and received an honorary Doctor of Civil Law from the University in 1994. In addition to establishing the Ronald Wong Fellowship for graduate students in the Sobeys School of Business, he is also the benefactor of >



the Dr. Ronald Wong MBA Student Centre: a suite of rooms in the Sobey School that recreates the sense of community he discovered 60 years ago in the McNally building.

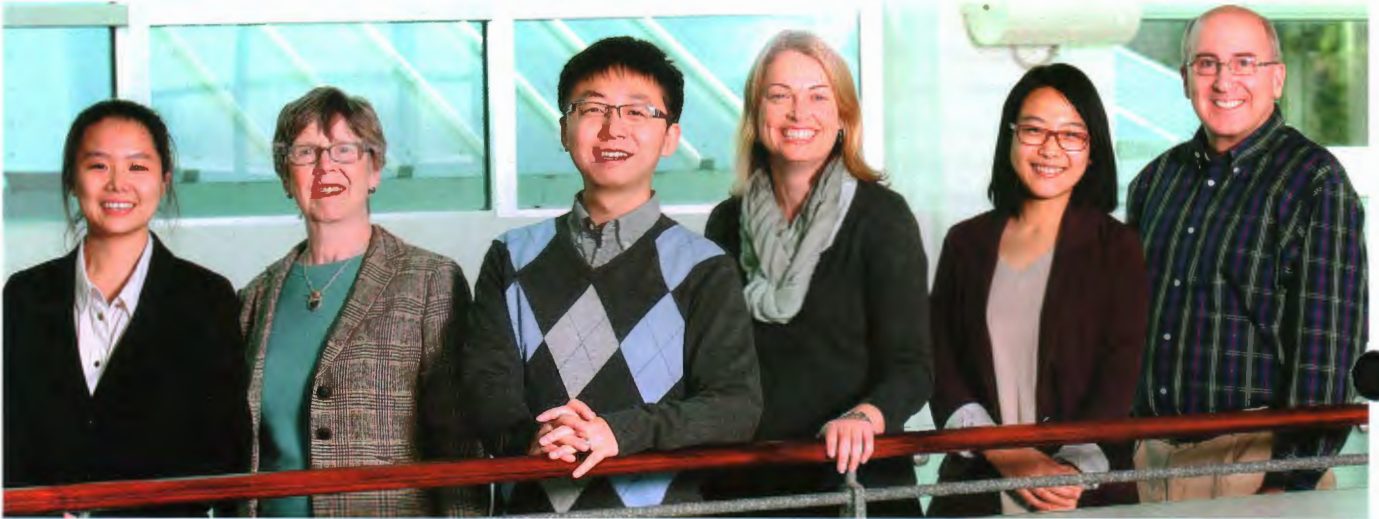
For second-year MBA student Monique Fares, the Dr. Ronald Wong MBA Student Centre is a significant asset for the Sobey School of Business. "It's unique to have a private suite of rooms available for MBA students," she says. "When you are in the Centre it feels like you're part of a close MBA family."

As the President of the MBA Society, Fares makes good use of the Centre to meet with Society members and to organize events. She also uses the teamwork rooms and computer lab for academic assignments, and the common room to collaborate with classmates on group projects. "The Dr. Ronald Wong MBA Student Centre is a great resource for MBA students," she says. "It connects us in many different ways."

Wong doesn't have many opportunities to visit the Centre, but he has seen photos of Monique Fares and other students using the suite of rooms to collaborate, study, and socialize. "I can't imagine a more inviting place," says Dr. Wong. "It's very important that these students come together, both academically and socially. There are many opportunities in getting to know each other."

MBA student Christina (Qiuyn) Li, a native of Shandong Province, China, captures the spirit of the Centre. "When I first arrived at Saint Mary's, I didn't feel connected," says Li, who is this year's recipient of the Fellowship. "The Ronald Wong Centre is a place where I feel I belong."

Li's classmate Jackie (Zhenya) Guo, a second-year MBA student from Anhui Province, China, echoes the sentiment. "It's the heart of the MBA program," says Guo, "and a place where I feel connected." ✦



Inaugural recipients of the Accounting Achievement Award and Sobey School of Business professors (L to R): Xuan (Annabelle) Wang, Dr. Heather Sceles, Jingyi (Claire) Hou and Dr. Tom Kozloski.

# STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

Members of the Sobey School of Business Department of Accounting have a reputation for investing their talents and time to create a strong community of learning. By pooling their resources, they've taken that investment to new heights with an award that recognizes community-minded Accounting majors.

The idea for the Accounting Achievement Award drew full support from the very beginning, attracting personal financial commitments from all full-time faculty members of the Department of Accounting, all sessional faculty members, and the Departmental Secretary. "We care a great deal about our students," says Accounting professor Larry

Corrigan. "There was no hesitation when it came time to support them."

The department raised more than \$75,000 to fund the start-up for three scholarships. With this early success, and additional contributions expected from alumni and friends, the goal of \$100,000 for a permanent endowment fund is well within reach.

For inaugural recipients Dongsheng Li, Xuan (Annabelle) Wang, and Jingyi (Claire) Hou, it all adds up to a bright future, and a truth once acknowledged by another citizen of the world, Benjamin Franklin: an investment in knowledge always pays the best interest. ✦



# UPHOLDING A LEGACY

A TRIBUTE TO BOB BOUCHER. BY SHALLON COSTELLO

Many reflect on the Bob Boucher era as one that molded the Saint Mary's Huskies into one of the top university hockey teams in the country. At a more personal glance, however, what he built was much more than a hockey team, it was a legacy. Coach Boucher, originally from Ottawa, along with his wife, Anne, cultivated a culturally diverse team of young men that became an extension of their budding family of five and continued growing. They were an integral part of forging community ties that still exist today, despite the passing of Boucher a decade ago.

Bob and Anne had a unique history with Saint Mary's after meeting at our very own hockey arena, where Bob's career would supersede expectations over the next 13 years. Prior to coaching, Boucher had a promising NHL hockey career on the horizon: he was a star junior player with the Montreal Junior Canadiens when they won the Memorial Cup in 1957, as well as playing with the Toronto Saint Michaels. This all came to a halt after an eye injury during training camp, ending his hopes of going pro. Despite the setback, Boucher continued to play junior and semi-professional hockey in Europe and Canada before catching the eye of Saint Mary's coaching recruits.

Athletic director Bob Hayes recruited Boucher as Head Coach and Arena Manager in 1967, and together they built the foundation of Saint Mary's hockey, which had been without a team for several years.

Under Boucher's tutelage, the SMU Huskies hockey team won nine consecutive AIAA/AUAA Championships. In one nine-year stretch (1969-70 to 1976-77), his team accumulated a total of just 15 losses. His combined CIAU/CIS record is an impressive 231 wins, 33 losses and 4 ties. He led the Huskies to the national championship game in four consecutive seasons from 1970 to 1973. Despite not capturing a win, spirits were high in the hockey community.

Boucher also made history by recruiting the first all-black hockey line at a university, an insightful decision that would highlight the talent of a powerful minority in hockey and holds great local significance today. His team consisted of such a diverse group of young men that Boucher's coaching extended to teaching social relations, discipline, and the importance of education as well as appreciating and accepting their cultural differences. He believed that a team of well-rounded, talented individuals forged together for a common purpose would achieve success both on and off the ice.



Head coach Bob Boucher from a 1970 Saint Mary's hockey team photo.

It was his constant dedication to the individual player, not only his expertise and love of the game, that earned Boucher AUS/AUAA/AIAA Coach of the Year in 1972 and again in 1976, as well as CIS Coach of the Year in '72 and '76. Before he left Saint Mary's in 1982, to be an assistant coach to his former teammate Pat Quinn of the Philadelphia Flyers (and brought the Flyers' power play from 28th to 1st in the league his first year), our very own was the nation's top coach!

Boucher brought national attention to our once small-campus and wanted to keep the momentum going. What better way to help young players prosper than to initiate a summer program for minor hockey players? He organized and instructed the Saint Mary's Hockey Camp of Champions, where over 2000 young players benefitted from his astute leadership. He saw an opportunity to pass on knowledge and create a volunteer responsibility for his own SMU players, who assisted with the camp, and would continue to run the program annually.

Not only does Boucher's legacy live on today through the Camp of Champions, but it continues to impact the lives of young Nova Scotian hockey players through the Bob Boucher Hockey Assistance Fund. Years after Boucher's death, four former Huskies—Carl Boswick, Rick Fraughton, Chuck LeCain and Bob Warner—created the fund in his honour with the purpose of fostering hockey talent through athletic opportunities and financial assistance. BBHAF grants are awarded to individual players, coaches, or organizations that promote the game of hockey and are sustained by the support of Boucher's hockey community, friends and family, including his wife Anne. Santamarians know the significance of the Boucher name, and its legend is ever-present in our Hall of Fame for how this coach's stroke of genius changed the face of the Huskies hockey team and set the precedent, and the bar, for future players. ♦



# EVENTS

VISIT [SMU.CA/ALUMNI](http://SMU.CA/ALUMNI) FOR THE LATEST ALUMNI EVENT INFORMATION AND PHOTOS



### *Antigua Alumni Reception*

Keith Hotchkiss BA'73, Senior Director of Student Services, was in Antigua to host an alumni reception early in the year. Many alumni came out to speak to prospective students about what it's like to be a Santamarian.



### *The Parade of Lights*

Over 100,000 people gathered in Halifax to watch the Parade of Lights in November, which included a float put together by Athletics and Alumni. A number of students and alumni helped by assembling the float and walking in the parade—spreading Holiday Cheer in the community.



### *Calgary Make a Wish Foundation*

Rod MacDonald MBA'14, along with other Other Masters of Business Administration grads, helped put together a Casino Night in support of Make-A-Wish Foundation in Southern Alberta. Pictured are some of the organizers—all Santamarians.



### *ECMW Gala Event*

The East Coast Music Week's Awards Gala took place this past April in St. John's, Newfoundland. Our Director, Mary Ann Daye BComm'85, joined a group of alumni on the Rock for a fantastic time taking in some East Coast talent.



### *Reception on Parliament Hill*

Alumni in the Ottawa area gathered recently to hear from fellow alumnus, Senator Wilfred Moore BComm'64, LLD'07, and enjoy some company on the hill—including Dr. Dodds.





### *SMU Sociables: Young Alumni Connect*

Our Young Alumni group (SMUYA) invited all young alumni in the Halifax area to join in the year's kick-off event back in February. It was a popular event and there will be more to come as the warm weather arrives.



### *Toronto Raptors Game*

In March, we sold out an entire gondola to watch the Toronto Raptors take on the LA Lakers with our Ontario alumni. A great night was had by all.



### *St. Lucia Alumni Reception*

Keith Hotchkiss BA'73, Senior Director of Student Services, was in St. Lucia to host an alumni reception early in the year. Many alumni came out to speak to prospective students about what it's like to be a Santamarian.

### *Speed Networking Event*

Our Young Alumni group (SMUYA), was a partner in coordinating a Speed Networking event for new grads in Halifax in November. This brought out graduating students and young alumni alike to learn how to effectively network and meet new contacts. It featured alumni speakers, as well.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

To RSVP for upcoming events, please visit:  
[www.smu.ca/alumni](http://www.smu.ca/alumni)

### *Halifax:*

Accounting Alumni "Smoker"  
 May 21, 2015  
 5:30pm - 8:00pm  
 The Gorsebrook Lounge

SMUYA: SMUSociables Summer Event  
 June 25, 2015  
 5:30pm - 7:30pm  
 Location TBA

SMU Alumni at the TD Halifax Jazz Festival  
 July 8, 2015  
 VIP Jazz Tent on the Halifax Waterfront

39th Alumni Golf Tournament  
 August 20, 2015  
 Granite Springs Golf Club

### *Ottawa:*

Atlantic Canadian Universities Pub Night  
 June 4, 2015  
 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
 Hooley's Pub

### *SMU in the Community:*

Annual Campus Food Drive  
 June - July, 2015

Halifax Pride Parade  
 July 25, 2015

### *Save the Date:*

Homecoming Weekend  
 October 14 - 17, 2015

One World Alumni Awards Gala  
 October 15, 2015



# CLASS NOTES

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR SNIPPET INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE EMAIL [ALUMNI@SMU.CA](mailto:ALUMNI@SMU.CA)

## 1961

**Donald L. Cullinan QC BA'61** was honoured on June 28, 2014 at Saint Andrew's, NB by the NB Law Society for 50 years of practicing law in NB. Congratulations Donald!

## 1976

**Guy Wakeford BSc'76** announces we have just received two beautiful, bundles of joy! They carry the names of Nathaniel and Vivian. Both born the winter of 2015 (we missed the Bahamas this year). They have met their older cousins, Patric Joseph, James Guy, Charlie (our girl) and Cole. Love to all you people at SMU. Our hearts, minds, and spirits are with you, even though we are many miles away.

## 1978



**Chris Donahoe HS'66, BA'67, BEd'68, MA'78** is pleased to add the dates of my accomplishments at Saint Mary's University and Saint Mary's University High School on the newest SMU

alumni hat. The side with '63 is the graduation year from SMUHS and the pin is a recognition of the 1988 Reunion (25 years after the high school closed). The other side shows my graduation dates for my BA, BEd, and MA, and is always worn with pride.

## 1983

**Drew Franklin BComm'83** has been appointed a Global Vice-President for the Home Storage Division (Ziploc) for SC Johnson & Son Inc.

## 1998

**Charlene Howell-Litchmore BComm'98** and husband Gary welcomed their first child, Spencer George Litchmore on 17 July 2014. Charlene has been working as a Human Resources Executive with the Cayman Islands Government since July 2007.

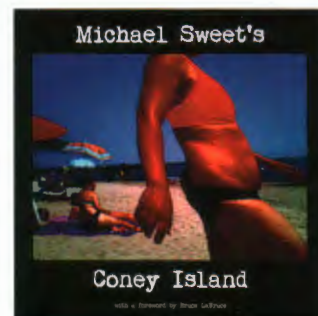
## 1986



Halifax Dental Studio is pleased and proud to announce that Dr. **Jenine Arab O'Malley BSc'86** has been awarded Accreditation status in the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. AACD is recognized

as the world's most advanced accreditation program in cosmetic dentistry, requiring the highest level of technical skill and competency in cosmetic dentistry. Achieving accreditation by the AACD requires dedication to continuing education, careful adherence to a strict clinical protocol and a resolve to produce exceptional dentistry. It is the ultimate display of one's professional dental skill and firm lifetime commitment to the perfection of cosmetic dentistry. Dr. Arab O'Malley is distinguished as one of only 400 dental professionals world-wide to have achieved Accreditation status in the AACD. She will be recognized as the first dentist in Atlantic Canada to have reached this designation. Dr. Arab O'Malley is a proud Haligonian and lifelong resident of Halifax. She graduated from Saint Mary's University with her BSc and was awarded the University Gold Medal for highest standing in her graduating year. She proceeded with her postgraduate studies at Dalhousie University where she received her Doctor of Dental Surgery and the W.H.H Beckwith Award for greatest proficiency in Operative Dentistry. At her clinic in Clayton Park Halifax, Dr. Arab O'Malley performs a full spectrum of dental services, where she incorporates a blend of artistic sensitivity and technical ability, ranging from cosmetic bonding to full mouth reconstruction. She has applied new technologies and scientific applications to her practice, which enables a focus on non-invasive restoration of esthetics and attrition. Congratulations to Dr. Arab O'Malley on her exceptional accomplishment.

## Saint Mary's Writes



**Michael Sweet's Coney Island** by Michael Ernest Sweet BA'02 Michael Ernest Sweet BA'02 recently published his second full-length collection of street photography, *Michael Sweet's Coney Island*. All the photographs were taken with a Japanese toy camera called the Harinezumi, which produces vibrant colours and slightly grainy distorted images. The book was published by Brooklyn Arts Press in New York and is available from Amazon.com, where Sweet's first book *The Human Fragment* is also available.

Please send snippets to: Saint Mary's University Alumni Office 923 Robie Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3C3 [alumni@smu.ca](mailto:alumni@smu.ca) | [smu.ca/alumni](http://smu.ca/alumni)



## In Memoriam

**Terrance Ahern BA'37**  
January 7, 2015

**Jean Beliveau**  
Doctor of Civil Law '01  
December 2, 2014

**Jim Brown BA'64**  
October 10, 2014

**Right Reverend John Campbell BA'42**  
February 2, 2015

**Ross Christie**  
MBA'77, BComm'75  
March 1, 2015

**William J. Dishlin BA'51**  
December 5, 2014

**Robert Fitzgerald BSc'69**  
September 29, 2015

**Mabel Gardiner BA'58**  
January 15, 2015

**Edward Grimm BComm'64**  
November 22, 2014

**James Hale BEd'79, MEd'92**  
October 7, 2014

**Francis Hammond BComm'61**  
October 27, 2014

**Michael Kent**  
BEd'68, MEd'72  
October 19, 2014

**James Kirwin BA'68**  
November 28, 2014

**Joseph Lappin BSc'76**  
November 18, 2014

**John LeBlanc**  
Diploma Engineering '74  
November 20, 2014

**Roger LeBlanc BSc'71**  
January 19, 2015

**Robin Lee BA'75**  
March 11, 2015

**Dr. Jim Lotz**  
Doctor of Civil Law, 2012  
January 2, 2015

**Alexander Herbert MacDonald MBA'99**  
October 11, 2014

**Douglas McNeil**  
Saint Mary's High School '43  
January 18, 2015

**Bernard Miller**  
Saint Mary's High School '53  
January 3, 2015

**Terrence Mulrooney**  
Saint Mary's High School '61  
December 7, 2014

**Elizabeth Nifort BA'03**  
September 26, 2014

**Randall Rafuse BSc'76**  
January 23, 2015

**George Reardon**  
Saint Mary's High School '52  
December 21, 2014

**Robert Reardon**  
BComm'61  
January 22, 2015

**Ivan Reedman BA'00**  
February 13, 2015

**Reverend Kenneth L. Robertson BA'54**  
December 15, 2015

**Hester M. Rodd BA'74**  
March 9, 2015

**Barbara Scott BA'81**  
November 5, 2014

**Gene Scott BComm'78**  
January 20, 2015

**Michael Schmitt**  
BComm'93  
January 10, 2015

**Sharon Stewart**  
BComm'97  
November 23, 2014

**Joan Teasdale BComm'92**  
January 7, 2015

**Douglas Webster**  
Executive MBA'09  
December 6, 2014

**Judith Woodley MEd'94**  
March 15, 2015

## LOYALTY CARD PARTNERS

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Art Gallery of Nova Scotia: 25% off all memberships at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (excluding student memberships)

Atlantic Internet Marketing: 15% off all services

Atlantica Hotel: Discounted seasonal rates for alumni

Biscuit General Store: 10% off regularly priced items

Chocolates By Design: 15% off all purchases

Darrell's Restaurant: 10% off all purchases

Discovery Centre: 15% off all family memberships

Frogbox: 10% off all orders over \$150 (valid in Nova Scotia only, cannot be combined with any other offer)

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House of Moda: 10% off all purchases

Maheux's Minuteman Press: 15% off all services (some restrictions may apply)

Metro Ladies Golf: 15% discount on golf lessons or clinic packages

Knok: 30% off all memberships

The Lord Nelson Hotel & Suites: Additional 10% off of university rates

PetRide Halifax: 20% off all services

RBC Royal Bank: Visit [smu.ca](http://smu.ca) for discount list

Summit Dentistry: 50% discount on selected items

unoHalifax: 10% off all purchases and entrance to events.

Venus Envy: 10% off regularly priced toys, condoms, and lubricant.

## EMPOWERING COMMUNITY

With heartfelt gratitude, United Way Halifax is proud to recognize the family of Dr. Hari Das for a generous investment in our community. This legacy gift in his honour will help transform our city and touch the lives of all who call Halifax home. **Thank you to the Das family.**



**United Way**  
Halifax





# CATCHING UP WITH ALUMNI



Case and friends at a Young Alumni event.



**M**y path to SMU isn't the typical one, but is becoming more and more popular. I made the leap to SMU in my third year of university after completing a Business Administration diploma from NSCC. A lot of my friends went here and I grew up coming to this campus so I knew a little bit of what to expect. Once I started getting involved in student activities on campus and meeting new people, I realized what a tightknit and supportive community there was at Saint Mary's. When I graduated, I wanted to keep the ties I had established in my short time as a student, and further develop them as a young professional in the alumni network.

Now, I'm a recruiter with Meridia Recruitment, where we work with top employers in Atlantic Canada to find outstanding talent for professional, managerial, technical and administrative roles. It's a great position and it fits so well with the work I did at college as well as at SMU with my Bachelor of Commerce and Certificate in HR. Since graduation, I have reconnected with the Alumni Office and have gotten involved with a new committee formed specifically for young alumni. Young professionals in Halifax have so much potential and with a highly engaged alumni network,

we can connect and develop our careers, leveraging our existing ties, and best yet—you don't have to wait until Homecoming to see other alumni!

Saint Mary's University Young Alumni (SMUYA) kicked-off in February and we had a great turn out to our first SMUSociables event! Since being commissioned, we have also hosted a speed networking event in collaboration with FUSION and Halifax Partnership.

Over Grad Week this year we will be hosting the Tall Ship Harbour Cruise to welcome all our newest young alumni and later in June we are having our next social! In addition to our SMUYA events, there are other services available to you as a recent grad. Career Services offers career counseling to recent grads up to three years past graduation, and you're eligible for an alumni card to get discounts and special offers with partners throughout the province!

Are you young alum, soon to be young alum or know a young alum? Look us up on social media at Saint Mary's University Young Alumni on Facebook or get in touch with the Alumni Office for more information on events and how to get involved. I hope to see you at our next event, come find me and say hi!

*Jessica Case*  
*BComm'13, CERHRM'13*  
*Co-Chair of SMUYA*

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## ALUMNI AWARDS

### 2015 NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Recognize a deserving alumni by nominating them for one of the following Alumni Awards:

DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY  
SERVICE AWARD

ALUMNI VOLUNTEER OF YEAR AWARD

ASSOCIATE ALUMNI AWARD

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Alumni are recognized at Homecoming at the One World Alumni Awards event. To complete your nomination, go to [www.smu.ca/alumni](http://www.smu.ca/alumni)

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS JULY 15.**

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\*Average based on the home and auto premiums for active policies on July 31, 2014 of all of our clients who belong to a professional or alumni group that has an agreement with us when compared to the premiums they would have paid with the same insurer without the preferred insurance rate for groups and the multi-product discount. Savings are not guaranteed and may vary based on the client's profile.

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