

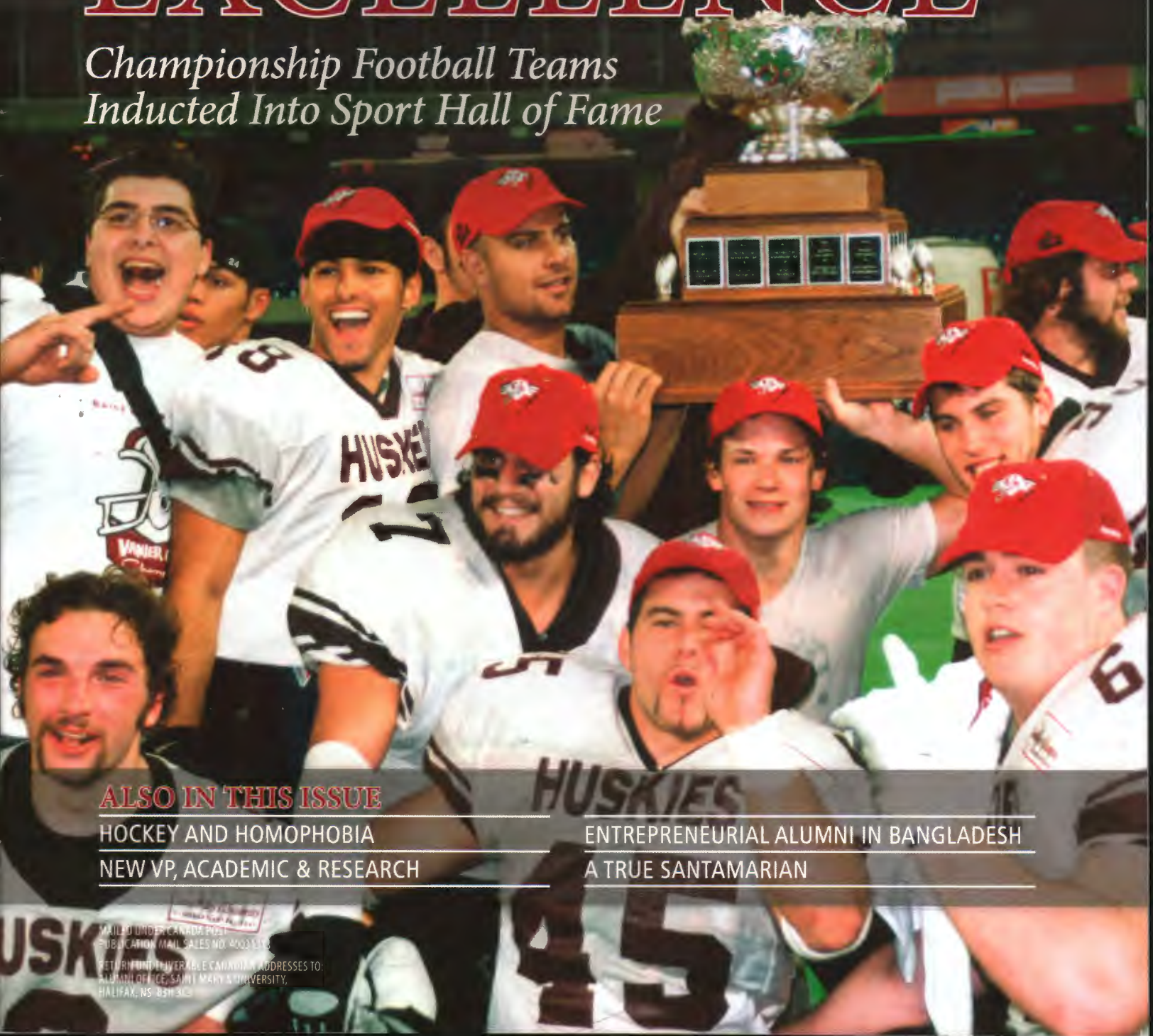
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For Alumni and Friends of Saint Mary's University

Fall 2017

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*Championship Football Teams
Inducted Into Sport Hall of Fame*



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



As my first year serving as President of the Saint Mary's Alumni Association wraps up, I have a lot of great experiences to look back on. This summer we held our Annual Alumni Golf Tournament at Granite Springs on August 17th. This sold out event hosted 132 golfers and funded 21 deserving students with bursaries.

I was grateful to be a part of Welcome Week on campus the first week of September. It was a very successful week of learning, relationship building, and fun for all of the students involved. During the Santamarian Ceremony, a record number of students signed ledgers declaring their commitment to the Saint Mary's community. I would like to welcome all new students to our university family.

I would also like to thank everyone who made it out to our Homecoming 2017 events. This year, we were excited to induct the 2001 & 2002 Vanier Cup Football Champions into the Sport Hall of Fame. I also had the pleasure of presenting our alumni awards at the One World Alumni Awards Gala. The deserving winners this year include students, faculty, staff, and alumni from the community. We look forward to sharing their stories in more detail in our Spring 2018 issue.

I would like to thank my Executive from the past year: Past President, Mary-Evelyn Ternan; Vice-President, Dan Rudisuela; and Secretary, Scott MacElman. I also want to express my appreciation for the continued support of Council members and the hard work of the staff at the Alumni Office. I'm looking forward to the next year with the new executive and all it has to offer for the Saint Mary's Community.

Sarah Ferguson, BComm '09, CMA
President, Saint Mary's University Alumni Association

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

This September, Saint Mary's welcomed new and returning students, from around the corner and around the globe, eager to learn, searching for meaning, and keen to give back to the wider community and world. We gathered together in our Santamarian ceremony to witness our shared commitment to discovery and innovation, academic integrity, and intercultural learning. I took this opportunity to speak about the challenges to many of the principles that have conditioned the modern university: principles of academic freedom and responsibility, open inquiry, diversity of opinion, and international exchange of people and ideas.

What is our response at Saint Mary's to rhetoric about the building of walls, the closing of borders to people and ideas, rising trade protectionism, and xenophobic attacks on diversity? As a university committed to being the university of choice for aspiring citizens of the world, there is no other response than to work harder to break down barriers, to enhance the movement of people and ideas, to be a venue for open debate, and to celebrate intercultural learning.

Our quest for intercultural learning – a key theme of our new strategic plan – includes training programs for staff, as well as a commitment to the diversity of students from over 100 countries. We have recently introduced Canada's first Arts 'two plus two' degree (with long time partner, Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai, in China) and have launched a new partnership with the Killam Fellowship program of the Canada-United States Fulbright program.

Saint Mary's also continues to offer access to a university education for all who are academically able. New investments in scholarships and bursaries (including those supported by generous alumni) mean that more funds are available to assist students in financial need.

This is how your university is responding to the challenges of 2017. I am proud that we are taking a stand in support of the principles of learning and Santamarian values. I hope that as an alumnus, you too are proud of our approach. Together, in 2017, we assert and celebrate the importance of 'One University, One World, Yours'. Thank you for all you do for Saint Mary's University.

Robert Summerby-Murray
President and Vice-Chancellor, Saint Mary's University

Saint Mary's University is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the original Mi'kmaq People. We are all treaty people.



SOMETHING'S HAPPENING HERE

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

ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO CUBA



This past summer, 12 Atlantic Canadian university students embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime archaeological expedition in Cuba, spearheaded by Saint Mary's University's Department of Anthropology. From June 1 to 17, the students excavated artifacts at Cuba's historic Angerona Coffee Plantation, a former slave plantation near Havana. The dig—to possibly discover something about the lives of the slaves—is the first collaboration of its kind between Cuban and North American students and archaeologists. It marks the beginning of a five-year partnership between Saint Mary's, Havana's Cabinet of Archeology, and the College of San Geronimo.

MAKING NOVA SCOTIA MORE ACCESSIBLE



Saint Mary's University professor Dr. Linda Campbell and the Bill 59 Community Alliance were recently honoured with the Mel Hebb Hourglass Action Award for their contributions to Nova Scotia's Accessibility Act. Dr. Campbell and the

grassroots disability group worked diligently for two years to improve Bill 59, also known as the Accessibility Act. Their hard work was recognized by the Partnership for Access Awareness for their contributions toward the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

RECOGNIZING TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP



Earlier this year, Dr. Kathy Singfield and Dr. Marc Doucet were recognized for educational leadership and teaching excellence. Dr. Singfield, a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry and Associate Dean - Curriculum and Operations, was awarded the Dr. Geraldine Thomas Educational Leadership Award. Dr. Doucet, an Associate Professor and Chair of the Political Science Department, was awarded the Father Stewart Medal for Excellence in Teaching. Please join us in celebrating two of Saint Mary's excellent professors.

HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA VISITS SAINT MARY'S

Saint Mary's international reach is well known and often results in amazing opportunities for the University and its students. This past June, his Excellency Vikas Swarup, High Commissioner of India (HCI), and the author of the novel Q&A, (later made into the film Slumdog Millionaire) dropped by Saint Mary's to meet with President Robert Summerby-Murray. He also took the time to talk with some of Saint Mary's many Indian and Sri Lankan students.

INUIT LEADERS GRADUATE WITH SOBEY SCHOOL ADVANCED MANAGEMENT DIPLOMA

This summer in Iqaluit, 13 students graduated from the Advanced Management Diploma program. The 10-month program is offered by the Sobey School of Business, in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc (NTI), a land claims organization. NTI's mandate is "Inuit Economic, Social and Cultural Well-being Through Implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement." The partnership was established as part of a Piliriqatigiingniq - an Inuit concept of developing a collaborative relationship. NTI approached the Sobey School to develop a customized program that would incorporate Inuit communal values, laws and principles, along with leadership competencies into the program. These include Inuuqatigiitsiarniq (showing respect and a caring attitude for others), Aajiiqatigiingniq (consensus decision-making), and Pijitsirniq (the concept of serving).

CHEMISTRY GRAD AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Recent Saint Mary's graduate Kyle Awalt is headed down under to pursue a Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Monash in Melbourne, Australia. Kyle, who graduated this spring with a Bachelor of Science in Honours Chemistry, received a Monash Graduate Scholarship and Monash International Postgraduate Research Scholarship, two highly competitive awards worth roughly \$70,000 a year. Since his second year of study, Kyle has worked as a research assistant to Dr. Robert Singer, current Chair of Saint Mary's Department of Chemistry. Kyle credits his experience at Saint Mary's with his scholarly achievement. "My success has been driven by the paper I published and my work in Dr. Singer's lab," says Kyle. "I don't think I would have had the same level of opportunity as an undergraduate at a larger school."

PHD CANDIDATE WINS PRESTIGIOUS VANIER SCHOLARSHIP



Amy Heim, a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Science, is the recent recipient of a three-year Vanier scholarship worth \$50,000 per year. Heim's work is in the area of Evolution and Ecology, and she was honoured for her research proposal titled: *Using traits to enhance plant co-existence and maximize ecosystem services in the green roof environment*. A plant community ecologist who specializes in understanding the co-existence mechanisms between plant species in harsh environments, Heim is currently working in two distinct environments: the coastal barrens of Nova Scotia and on extensive green roofs. Her research focuses on better understanding how urbanism impacts humans and the environment.

SAINT MARY'S HOSTS HALIFAX FOR THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

Hundreds of visitors from across Halifax flocked to Saint Mary's University campus to safely enjoy the partial solar eclipse on Monday, August 21. PhD in Astronomy candidate Mitchell Young spearheaded the public viewing event, which provided an opportunity for members of the university community and the public to safely view the partial eclipse through the lens of a telescope or safety glasses. Visitors also had the opportunity to experience the eclipse totality through a head-mounted HTC Vive connected to Google Earth Virtual Reality.

SMU ALUMNUS BECOMES CANADIAN CITIZEN ON CANADA 150



Saint Mary's engineering alumnus **Stephen Robinson-Enebeli** will always remember where he was on Canada's **150th birthday**: surrounded by friends and family, in the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, becoming a Canadian citizen. "The room was overflowing," he recalls. "I was so moved by the number of people who came in solidarity to welcome new Canadians, and to welcome me." Stephen immigrated to Halifax from Nigeria in June 2012, and he started Saint Mary's Diploma of Engineering program that fall. He credits the university's academic and non-academic support services, coupled with professors eager to help students succeed, with helping him quickly integrate and begin achieving his goals.

REMEMBERING GERRY BEECH (1947 – 2015)



L to R: Heather Fitzpatrick, Director of Development, Marie de Young, University Librarian and Dr. Marc Doucet, Chair, Political Science.

Students at Saint Mary's will benefit from a fund set up to honour the late Gerry Beech (BA'68), a proud Saint Mary's alumnus who graduated with a degree in Political Science. Beech worked for several years as Director of Student Services at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design before moving to Ontario in the

mid-70s for a career in provincial politics. With the help of Dr. Marc Doucet, Chair of the Political Science Department at Saint Mary's, plus two of Gerry's good friends, Wendell Sanford (BA'68; BEd'70) and Terry Murphy (BA'68), a memorial fund was launched. The fund will buy Political Science books for the Patrick Power Library. All of these books will feature a book plate reading: "In Memory of Gerald P. Beech, Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, Saint Mary's University, 1968; Master of Arts, University of Toronto, 1970."

RESEARCHER FIGHTS ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT BACTERIA WITH NEW FUNDING



Saint Mary's chemical biologist **Dr. Clarissa Sit's** research into how to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria and fungi received a big boost this August as the result of an investment of \$171,204 from the federal government. As a result of this funding, Dr. Sit will have access to a high-resolution mass spectrometer, equipment that will increase the success rate of finding new molecules in soil that have antibiotic or drug-like properties. If successful, this could lead to the discovery of microbes that develop new natural products, which can be used to develop new medications. ♦



New Inductees to **THE SPORT HALL OF FAME**

BY GAIL LETHBRIDGE

They were the little football teams that thought they could.

And they did. Big time.

The Saint Mary's Huskies football team conquered Canadian varsity football, winning Vanier Cup, two years in a row in 2001 and 2002.

In Canadian university football, it doesn't get any bigger.

It's been said more than once, by more than one person, that the 2001 team—with its perfect season—was one of the best varsity football teams ever produced in Canada. The Saint Mary's Huskies scored the national championship when they beat Manitoba in 2001 and then they did it again in 2002 when they were victorious over Saskatchewan.

Not bad for a little school from Halifax.

"It was the Saint Mary's era and the Saint Mary's aura,"



says player Cartier Shields, recalling his years on those teams. "We were like a fine diamond in the rough. And under all that pressure that diamond shone."

So what is it that propels a small university football team to a national championship two years in a row? What enables a team to go undefeated in one season, as the 2001 team did?

And then come back again and overcome challenges of injury and new players for a repeat championship?

Coaches and players will tell you that it's a combination of grit, determination, hard work, talent, recruitment, and very high expectations from coaches.

"I never worked a group as hard or demanded as much," says Assistant Coach, Steve Sumarah, who now coaches the Carleton Ravens in Ottawa. "We just kept raising the bar. With these teams you could push and push and they always had more to give."



Vanier Cup team members celebrate a reunion gathering in 2011.



The face of fierce determination.

Consider the numbers. In the 2001 regular season—the perfect year—the team outscored the opposition 480-35. In the post season, they outscored opponents 128-31. In the Vanier Cup, the score was 42-16 over Manitoba.

“When I look at those numbers, it’s mind boggling,” says player Eric Hakim, who played on both teams.

Gordon Beattie, another Assistant Coach, adds that there was also a mysterious and intangible force at play. “There’s hard work and there’s talent, but there was something else at play in those years.”

Players Shields and Hakim think it had to do with the relationships Head Coach Blake Nill built with his team and encouraged them to forge with each other. “There was brotherhood, camaraderie, and cohesion in the locker room,” says Shields. “Nill was like a father figure

to all of us.”

These deep friendships allowed players to overcome individual ego and individual goals for the common



Spectators watch a championship game in 2002.

good of winning a championship. Those still-close relationships were evident in 2016 when one of the members of the championship team—Jean-Michel Sylvain, the All-Canadian Outstanding Lineman of the Year in 2001—lost his battle

to cancer. A dozen players, including Eric Hakim and Coach Nill, returned to Halifax from all over Canada to spend time with Sylvain in hospital.

They joined members of his community, working around his house raking leaves, painting the deck, and trimming trees.

“To see all those guys come back to see him was very touching. It showed the camaraderie and friendships that still exist,” says Sumarah.

At this Fall’s Homecoming weekend, coaches and teammates came together again at the Homburg Centre for Health and

Wellness. Family members and fans were on hand to witness and celebrate the induction of the 2001 and 2002 football teams into the Saint Mary’s Sport Hall of Fame. Their place is now forever sealed into Canadian varsity football history. ♦

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OUT-OF-THE-BOX RESEARCH HAS BIG IMPACT

BY LEZLIE LOWE



Drew Blair, Garry Russell, Dean Patricia Bradshaw, VP Dr. Malcolm Butler, Sobeys Centre Director Dr. Ramesh Venkat, Market Executive Director Julie Chaisson, Sobeys Centre Coordinator Tony Birch and Port of Halifax Vice President of Real Estate Krista Dempsey.

Sobeys School students, Drew Blair and Garry Russell, with fellow employee Farah Johar.

University research often gets a bad rap for being out of touch with the lives of everyday folks. But the work of four Saint Mary's faculty members, profiled here, flies in the face of that. The applied fieldwork and experiments of these professors, and their students, proves that research can make a difference in the areas of local food, disease diagnosis, and rural sustainability. The applied research of Saint Mary's, as a leader in the field, is causing ripples of change not just in our province, but around the world.

People buy groceries, take them home, make meals. Repeat. How much innovation can there be?

A cart load, says Saint Mary's associate professor of marketing Dr. Ramesh Venkat.

Venkat is director of the David Sobeys Centre for Innovation in Retailing and Services, whose mandate centres around applied research to help the Canadian retail sector become more innovative and competitive.

That raison-d'être is playing out at The Shelf, a modular retail space at the Seaport Farmers' Market on the Halifax

waterfront, where the David Sobeys Centre has established a "living retail lab" to test innovations and conduct research.

These experiments, Venkat says, are "really about supporting local business."

The Shelf carries food and craft products from vendors within the market, operating weekdays when not all vendors are on site, and on weekends in a smaller space with fewer products.

The Shelf's focus on local producers and vendors dovetails nicely with the School of Business's commitment to community. "Being part of (The Shelf) allows us to support local entrepreneurs," says Venkat. "It's a big issue for us at the school; we are all about having an impact on the local community."

The first hands-on work at The Shelf was instituting a point-of-sale system. In August, they began testing student-designed tags on select products, similar to clothing store anti-theft devices. The tags allow consumers, using their smartphones, to learn more about products and their origins. In

September, an experiment began that involved short videos of producers talking about their products and the back stories of their brands. When consumers passed a display, a video automatically played. The goal was to determine if the video affected consumers' choice of one brand over another.

The pay-off for these experiments goes two ways, Venkat says.

The Shelf gets to improve its competitiveness within the local food and craft sector without investment, while Saint Mary's researchers get to test in real time whether their innovations are successful.

There's a not-too-shabby return on investment for Venkat, either. "My background is customer research," he says, "but I have a passion for tech. With The Shelf, I get to work with retailers and solve real problems."

Oh, no big deal — Dr. Rituparna Kanungo and her students are only tied up in unravelling the greatest mysteries of the universe.

"What we are aiming at," explains the professor in Saint Mary's



Dr. Rituparna Kanungo, professor in Saint Mary's Department of Astronomy and Physics, conducts research at the University of British Columbia's TRIUMF lab.

department of Astronomy and Physics, "is understanding the roots of our existence and all matter around us."

Part of Kanungo's research uses high-energy protons to create radioactive isotopes and discover new phenomena in how nature builds them; this work also involves the development of radiation detectors. This impactful research brings to the university, and Canada, international reputation and knowledge advantage. It sounds abstract, but, Kanungo argues, empowers students with knowledge on radiation and isotopes.

This research work happens at TRIUMF, Canada's national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics and accelerator-based science.

Located on the campus of the University Of British Columbia, TRIUMF houses the world's largest cyclotron — particle accelerator. The institute is a joint venture of 19 Canadian universities, Saint Mary's among them. Kanungo is a TRIUMF Affiliate Scientist. The institute is what brought her to Canada and the university's connection to TRIUMF is what drew her to Saint Mary's.

Kanungo's regular travels from Nova Scotia to BC also support one of her fundamental goals as a scientist — to bring Canada's east and west coasts together through cooperative learning



From left to right: Martin Hellmich (SMU undergraduate student and NSERC USRA recipient); Rituparna Kanungo; Timothy Knight (summer research co-op student stationed at TRIUMF); Orry Workman (NSERC USRA and now SMU graduate student in Applied Science).



Dr. Rituparna Kanungo, professor in Saint Mary's Department of Astronomy and Physics, conducts research at the University of British Columbia's TRIUMF lab.

and the sharing of ideas. She strives to open the door of the world's top-research centers in nuclear science to the students of Saint Mary's University.

"If we don't expand our fundamental knowledge, society will not advance - we would still be stuck wondering if the earth goes around the sun or the sun goes around the earth."

Investigations into the nature and use of sub-atomic particles are vast and varied. Research in fundamental nuclear science made discoveries that have eventually led to numerous applications in everyday life, such as the development of positron emission tomography (PET) scanners for

diagnosing cancer. TRIUMF also is harnessing proton beams to treat ocular melanoma, and the rare isotope facility that Kanungo and her team utilizes for fundamental research also enables the production of medical isotopes, which allow clinicians to diagnose and treat diseases — all infinitely related to the health of populations around the world.

For her students, TRIUMF is first-hand exposure to real-life work. "It's something very special. Not very many places have that opportunity. It shows that the capacity of Saint Mary's is not restricted to the campus walls."

Dr. Karly Kehoe is a historian, but the fruits of her current research are grounded in the Nova Scotia of today, and of the future.

Historical Perspectives and Community-Building in Rural Nova Scotia is a joint proposed research project between Kehoe, Canada Research Chair in Atlantic Canada Communities, and Dr. Alexander MacLeod, an associate professor of English and Atlantic Canada Studies.

The pair take their inspiration from the impending decline in standard of

living, public services, and population warned of in the 2014 Ivany report on building Nova Scotia's new economy.

This "significant and prolonged" decline will be felt most in rural areas, where two-fifths of Nova Scotians live, and where Kehoe and MacLeod have deep roots.

"It's personal for us," says Kehoe, who grew up in Margaree Forks, and for MacLeod, who was born in Inverness and comes from a large family that has lived in Dunvegan for more than 200 years.

Kehoe and MacLeod's project sees the two making use of Saint Mary's unique expertise in Atlantic Canada Studies, combined with a doggedness for community engagement. MacLeod calls it "showing up." It's a remedy to the big divide he sees between the city and its rural communities.

The proposed project aims to look at the challenges faced in rural communities, how they relate to historic



Karly Kehoe and Alexander MacLeod team up for a proposed research project focusing on the youth of Cape Breton.

difficulties confronted in the same geographic areas, and how the university can help improve, in part, economic sustainability — supporting rural Nova Scotians to better understand their cultural pasts so that they can build more sustainable futures.

The majority of this on-the-ground work will take place in Inverness County and it will focus on youth, who Kehoe and MacLeod believe hold the key to all positive future change.

"Read the local papers in any small community," MacLeod says. "It's all about young high school students who are pursuing their passions and making a difference. They're actively inspiring others."

Already for the project, Kehoe and MacLeod have met with high school students to ask them: what would it look like if Saint Mary's was invested in their community the same way the University is invested in the fabric of the city? How could Saint Mary's help rural areas harness their power, reach their potential, and use the knowledge of the past to help inform the future?

Finding those answers and acting on them, Kehoe and MacLeod suggest, "is what a university is supposed to be doing." ♦

Alice McVittie,
Analyst

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MIKE DAVIS
FOUNDER/PARTNER – DAVIS PIER CONSULTING

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AN INCREDIBLE LEGACY

BY JORDAN WHITEHOUSE



Burris Devanney addressing the audience at the opening ceremonies of the Saint Mary's University Extension Program in Gambia, November 1995.



The first graduating class of the Saint Mary's University Extension Program in Gambia, February 1999. Among those in photo, along with the 62 graduates: Gambian President Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh and his wife, Saint Mary's President Kenneth Ozmon and Mrs. Ozmon, and Burris Devanney, Program Coordinator.

Growing up in Halifax, Burris Devanney dreamed of visiting Africa. "Maybe it was because of the books I'd read, or maybe because I had romantic views of it," he says. "But that's not the kind of Africa I ended up going to."

The Africa this young teacher visited in 1965 was one where people were struggling under warfare and tyrannical leaderships in many countries across the continent. In Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), for instance, where Devanney and his wife Louanne first landed to teach in a remote secondary school, white supremacist Ian Smith came to power, beginning a 15-year long racial conflict. Later, in 1967, they relocated to an all-boys boarding school in Nigeria where soon the brutal Nigeria-Biafra civil war broke out and the couple had to escape on an evacuation plane out of the region. The story of these two years is told in Devanney's memoir, *African Chronicles*.

It was understandable that Devanney stopped thinking of Africa in romantic terms, and it would have made sense if he never wanted to visit the continent again. But that's not what happened. He went back again and again in the course of a career in development work spanning 52 years and seven African countries. Among a long list of accolades for his development work in Africa, including the Order of The Gambia in 2000, he was given an honorary doctorate from Saint Mary's in 2004 to go along with the BA he had earned from the University in 1959.

"When we left Biafra on that evacuation plane in '67, we felt guilty for leaving," he says. "It tore us apart to see how many children were dying of hunger, and how the region

was suffering. Every battle was in a place that we knew."

It took Devanney 14 years to get back to Africa. In between, he resumed his teaching career at St. Pat's and later Halifax West high schools, and he and Louanne began their family. But as their children were growing, he always told them that one day they'd all go to live in Africa.

They did just that between 1982 and '84, after Devanney snagged a job in Gambia helping to develop the first technical institute in the country. The work and the country had such a positive impact on him that when he returned to Halifax West he knew he wanted to share Gambia with more Canadians.

So, with Louanne's support, he organized a few development-focussed trips to Gambia for students and teachers. Some of those teachers came back so inspired that they and the Devanneys formed the Nova Scotia – Gambia Association (NSGA) in 1989 so that they could work on more significant development projects in the region. Devanney led the NGO for the next 17 years.

The NSGA's first big project saw a group of 16 Gambian students visit Nova Scotia for a comprehensive six-week training program on peer health education. Thirty-two students from four high schools in Nova Scotia also took part. The idea was to teach these teens how to talk to their peers in both Gambia and Nova Scotia about everything from drug abuse to sexually transmitted diseases to reproductive health. "Unlike here in Canada where we talk about peer pressure in a negative way, in Africa the



Burris and Louanne Devanney attending a drama presentation by peer health educators in Gambia in 2011.

peer group is hugely influential in a positive way,” says Devanney. “So we found that in the schools in Gambia, the program worked really well.”

Peer education remains a pillar of the NSGA today. Devanney estimates that over the past two decades, the NSGA has trained and maintained teams of 20 or more peer health educators in most of Gambia's more than 160 secondary schools. For several years, commencing in 2002, the NSGA also ran a parallel program in about 100 schools in Sierra Leone, with the two programs employing about 100 Africans.

Yet, as successful as the NSGA was during Devanney's time as Executive Director, there was one university-sized absence in Gambia that bugged him. “Almost from the time I began working full-time in Gambia, young people would always be coming up and saying to me, ‘Gambia has no university, so how can I go to university in Canada?’” Devanney grew tired of telling them that unless their parents were wealthy, it probably wouldn't happen. “And the more I thought about it, the more I thought that if Gambians can't go to a Canadian university, maybe a Canadian university can come to Gambia.”



Louanne Devanney with NSGA staff in Gambia in 2006.



GAMBIA TRIP — The Devanney family relaxes in their home before leaving for the West African country of Gambia on a two year posting. From the front left, Burris Devanney, vice principal of Halifax West High School; Mrs. Devanney; children, Matthew, Sara, Michelle. (Gordies)

Halifax West teacher, family leave for Gambia

Mr. Devanney, who principal of Halifax West High School, his wife Denise and their three children will leave on June 28 for the West African country of The Gambia to begin a two year teaching administration posting.

“I find the experience will be particularly good for my children. It will expose them to a different culture and value system,” said Mr. Devanney. Gambia has recently experienced some political instability, resulting in a period of occupation of the country by Senegalese troops. However the situation appears to have run its course and the country is now peaceful and stable.

“I am looking forward to returning to a career that I enjoy,” said Mr. Devanney.

The project is sponsored by the College of Cape Breton, CIDA, UNESCO and The World Bank.

A 1982 Chronicle-Herald newspaper story showing Devanney and his family on the eve of their trip to Gambia.

Long story short, in 1995 he helped convince Saint Mary's to establish the University Extension Program (UEP), which sent professors to Gambia and hired qualified Gambians to teach university-level courses. Four years later, the UEP's first 62 students were graduating with degrees in everything from geography to economics. Altogether about 300 African students earned a Saint Mary's degree through the UEP, and another 100

transferred their SMU credits to the new University of The Gambia, which opened in 2000.

Devanney is proud that among the SMU grads who worked in Gambia were his daughter Sara who taught English in an NSGA summer school in 1994, and his son Matthew who taught history in the UEP.

Devanney retired from the NSGA in 2006, but continues to return to Africa, most recently with teachers' unions in Ghana and Uganda setting up community self-development programs in over 60 communities in the two countries.

Looking back on his career, Devanney's answer to what's been most meaningful isn't surprising. “It's that these programs are now being run by people from these countries and that they're helping their own people.”

Yet again his own boyhood dreams of Africa didn't come true — and he's just fine with that. “It isn't about me, this isn't my achievement,” he says. “This is the achievement of all of these people, all of the Canadians who volunteered with us over the years, and of so many people from Gambia and Sierra Leone and beyond who worked with us and have gone on to do bigger, better things.” ✦



A MISSION TO INCLUDE ALL

BY ERIN CASEY

Imagine you're a proud dad to a new baby daughter. You're taking a lunch break during a conference and you overhear a conversation that shakes you to the core. Using "unbelievably deplorable and awful words," two men sitting near you are talking about how having children with special needs in the classroom is bad for their own daughters' education.

This happened to Saint Mary's Alumni Nick Foley just a couple of

weeks after his daughter, Brynn, was born. Brynn was identified as having Down Syndrome shortly after her birth in September 2012.

In that moment, the seeds of Movement For Inclusion (MFI) were planted. "I knew I had to do something," Nick says. "I came up with the idea of riding my bike across the country to raise money for charity, raise awareness, and give speeches and resources for free to different groups who wanted to

Hannah Stienburg with Alex Burke, one of the first participants in Huskies Move for Inclusion.

promote inclusion."

Nick's 2015 Ride for Inclusion started on April 22nd in Victoria, BC and ended on July 26th in St. John's, NL. "Up to that moment I wasn't even a cyclist," he laughs. "I didn't even own a bike." But Nick explains that "when your why is big enough", you can accomplish just about anything.

The ride raised more than \$50,000, all of which went to charities that focus on the holistic needs of persons with physical and cognitive exceptionalities. These include Best Buddies, a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and the Sunshine Foundation, which fulfills custom-made dreams for Canadian kids living with severe physical disabilities or life-threatening illnesses.

Today, MFI is in the process of becoming a registered charity. "It's got everything to do with Hannah, really," laughs Nick. Hannah Stienburg is a varsity volleyball player and third-year business student. She is also Hockey Coach Trevor Stienburg's daughter and the leader of Huskies Move for Inclusion.

It was during his bike ride that he and Hannah met. Nick planned a stop at Saint Mary's where he had played hockey from 2000 to 2004 and graduated with a BA in History. He spoke at SMU and connected with Hannah, who wanted to start a program to bring athletes and kids with exceptionalities together to play games and make friends.

It was a match waiting to happen! Since 2015, and about 12 times a year, varsity athletes from the SMU volleyball, hockey, football, soccer, basketball, and rugby teams spend



Nick Foley at the start of his 2015 Ride for Inclusion.



Hannah Stienburg in her role as Libero for the Saint Mary's Women's Volleyball Team.



Huskies Move for Inclusion taking part in RBC FanFit Community Event in March 2017 at the Homburg Centre.



Huskies Move for Inclusion taking part in RBC FanFit Community Event in March 2017 at the Homburg Centre.

time building physical literacy for local children living with exceptionalities so they can learn to be active.

Last year, 20 kids took part, and more than 50 varsity athletes volunteered. “MFI is designed for kids with any special needs, anything from a minor learning disability to a more major physical disability,” says Hannah, who adds that they play games like tag and hide and go seek—games that every kid can play by making simple adjustments.

Nick provides feedback and support with sponsors and logistic, but gives credit where it’s due. “Hannah’s the champion here,” he says. “She does all this while being a varsity athlete and carrying a full course load.” In fact, the pressure is really on for Hannah this year. As a U SPORTS Academic All Canadian recipient, she must maintain an “A”

average in her academic course load while competing in her varsity sport.

But in Hannah’s mind, it’s all worth it. Participation, by both participants and volunteers, is growing every year and the impact is so tangible. “You take those kids who are left behind and you bring them here. They make friends, and it’s like being part of a team.” Hannah adds that having MFI happen at the University makes post-secondary education more accessible. “Suddenly going to University is an option or a possibility, in a way those kids might never have considered.”

It’s fitting that the very first MFI program started with Huskies volunteers. “I started the journey of becoming who I am today at Saint Mary’s,” says Nick. “I understood that I could stand on my own two feet. I didn’t have to conform. I could be who I am.”

Hannah agrees. “The platform we have as athletes and the resources we have all across campus made this idea a reality. Nick and the President and the athletic department—all these parts of the university made it come together. Here, you’re not just a number.”

Those very same values guide Nick’s ambitious goal to have an MFI chapter in every province and to make all programs free for colleges, universities, and high schools across the country. “All kids have value and matter. We all do things differently. To me, it’s acceptance without bias.”

Saint Mary’s Alumni Nick Foley now lives in Belleville, Ontario, with his spouse Brooke Lynch and their two children, Brynn, 4, and son Welles, 1. For more information, visit moveforinclusion.com. ♦



A RETURN HOME

BY KATE WATSON

When Dr. Malcolm Butler returned to Saint Mary's University on July 1, 2017 as the new Vice-President, Academic and Research, it definitely felt like a homecoming – and one he's excited about.

"I'm returning to the place that formed who I am as an academic leader," explains Butler from his office in the McNally Building. "And I'm pleased that I can pay that back now by helping to shape and evolve the direction of Saint Mary's."

A tireless advocate for Saint Mary's, Butler was Dean of the Faculty of Science from 2006 to 2010 and also served as a professor in the Department of Astronomy and Physics for 17 years. When he moved to Carleton University in 2010 to serve as their Dean of Science, he hoped he would be back at Saint Mary's one day.

He sought a position that would broaden his experience, and decided that Carleton, despite being almost four times larger than Saint Mary's, offered similar student-and-community-centred values. During his tenure as Dean of Science at Carleton, Dr. Butler was very successful at growing enrolments, increasing

I'm returning to the place that formed who I am as an academic leader.

research capacity and external funding, and adding new programs and new facilities.

One thing has remained a constant during his career. Butler is passionate about advocating for students and faculty. He considers it one of the most important aspects of his new job, and says that any overarching strategic plan must have buy-in from the people that it affects. "It's not good enough to just have a plan. You need to think about the necessary steps to make the plan happen and create a map for implementing those steps." To that end, he is making it a priority to reach out to key faculty, staff, and student groups on campus, and to find creative ways to make connections with students and faculty members so that their questions and ideas will be heard.

"At a university the size of Saint Mary's, there's the real opportunity to bump into people and have spontaneous conversations. I intend

to get out of my office as much as possible, and I want everyone to know that they are welcome to bend my ear. I think that's an important way to build our university community."

Butler is also happy to be back in the wider Halifax community, a place that really feels like home to him because both his children were born here.

He describes the city as "lively" with attractions and services that make it as livable as a larger city without a "concrete jungle" feel. And while he admits that the weather on the East Coast can sometimes be a bit challenging, he feels the proximity to the ocean and the access to green space, both within in the city and outside of it, more than makes up for the inclement days.

For Dr. Butler, the return to Saint Mary's in the role of new Vice-President, Academic and Research is the fulfillment of a long-held desire.

"I hoped that I would be back at Saint Mary's one day, but I knew when I left that there were no guarantees," he muses, and then adds with a playful smile, "I guess you could say that the stars aligned." ✧

HOCKEY IS FOR EVERYONE

BY GAIL LETHBRIDGE



Here's what I think is going to happen. I think there are going to be players come out at the lower levels and they will make their way up to the professional ranks.

Cheryl MacDonald is on a mission: to fight homophobia in Canada's most popular sport.

"Hockey is for everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, religion," says the Saint Mary's University Arts graduate from 2010, who was also president of her graduating class. But her number one focus right now is to make hockey a more inclusive sport for LGBTQ athletes.

She's taken on a big job.

There are no openly gay players in the NHL and very few players who are "out" in other hockey leagues. Attitudes towards homosexuality remain a mixed bag. "On one hand, this is the most open generation to homosexuality ever, but the sport itself is still not accepting of homosexuality."

In her job as postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, MacDonald studies attitudes towards homosexuality in boys and men's hockey. She is also part of the You Can Play Project (www.youcanplayproject.org), a non-profit initiative that promotes inclusion for LGBTQ athletes, coaches, and fans in all sports.

MacDonald developed an interest in hockey attitudes while studying

at Saint Mary's, and it's where she completed an honours thesis in hazing and violence in male hockey. Her research showed that many hockey players participated in these rituals even if they didn't want to, and attributed that to the peer pressure on teams, which often define themselves as family.

In her doctoral research, MacDonald focused her attention on attitudes towards homosexuality in male hockey players, aged 15-18, playing Major Midget AAA level. Attitudes are divided, she says. Some of her subjects believe hockey should be open to gay players and coaches. Others do not believe a gay person should play hockey.

Her research indicates that the attitudes of boys in this age-group reflect those of their fathers and families.

Understanding the attitudes towards homosexuality in the NHL is difficult because the league and its player association rarely, if ever, allows access for research purposes. MacDonald says that gay NHL hockey players do exist but they remain under the radar. "Other players know who they are and coaches know too, but no one wants to come out and talk about it

because there would be so much media attention and pressure on that player. They don't want their careers to end if they come out."

Does she think we will ever see a gay player come out in the NHL?

"Here's what I think is going to happen. I think there are going to be players come out at the lower levels and they will make their way up to the professional ranks."

There is progress being made, says MacDonald. On February 14, she participated in the press conference for the Edmonton Oilers launch of the "Hockey is for Everyone," an NHL project that aims to drive positive social change and foster more inclusive communities, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

"There is a lot of positive momentum and visibility happening. Awareness is being raised," she says. "But there are still many people we aren't reaching when we have these events. We need to find them. I'm hopeful we're on the right track."

On the right track, indeed, and taking a huge step toward inclusion in Canada's most loved sport. ♦



A SHARED PURPOSE

BY JOANIE VEITCH

It was an introductory Spanish class at Saint Mary's University, and the professor wanted students to work on their conversational skills. Up until that January day in 2004, Ben Connolly and Julie Bohemier had always sat on opposite sides of the classroom.

That day, they got paired up. "It was basically like a first date, the questions we were asking one another," Julie says. "That was it. That day changed everything."

Three years later Ben and Julie were married. Today, they own and operate a naturopathic clinic in Upper Tantallon, a business they started themselves in the area where they live with their two young children, and their dog Loki.

Long before they met at Saint Mary's, Ben and Julie each knew they wanted careers that aligned with their values, something that would make a

difference in the world.

After watching surgery on his fractured hand, following a skating accident, 11-year-old Ben set his sights on becoming a doctor. It was that goal that led the Shelburne, NS native to Saint Mary's for a Bachelor of Science degree. In his third year,

Even in the last few years, we are seeing much more collaboration with traditional medicine and integrative approaches. It's an exciting field to be in.

however, Ben started to have doubts about his career path. As part of his studies, he did a co-op work term at the QEII Health Sciences Centre. "I became disillusioned with the medical system while I was there. It was so political and so unlike how I had thought it would be."

Julie, meanwhile, had grown up in Lawrencetown, and impressed by the success and evolution of her

father's safety training company, Survival Systems Ltd., dreamed of one day becoming an entrepreneur as well. This led directly to taking the business program at Saint Mary's. Partway through, she also had a change of heart and switched from the business program to pursue psychology "with a business twist."

When she graduated in 2006, Ben was still plugging away, working as a lab assistant at Capital Health and studying to write his MCATs (Medical College Admission Test). But, a conversation with a family friend about naturopathic medicine got Ben thinking about an alternative path.

"The more I looked at the evidence-based therapies and information, the more I liked it," says Ben, adding that he was very drawn to the way naturopathic medicine addresses the root cause of illness.

After their wedding in 2007,



Ben Connolly and Julie Bohemier celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary.

Ben and Julie moved to Toronto so Ben could pursue further studies in naturopathic medicine at the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine and Julie could study massage. In their spare time, the idea of opening their own clinic began to take form.

“All the while Ben was in school we would talk about it—what we wanted, what we didn’t— and by the time we were ready to move back, we had it all planned out,” says Julie.

By this time it was 2011, and the couple created their company name, Cornerstone Naturopathic, and began renting space until they could afford to build something of their own.

Two and a half years later, that dream came true. In October 2014, their new 7,000 square-foot clinic in Upper Tantallon opened its doors. Custom-built with LED lighting, a geothermal heating, cooling and hot water system, and solar panels, the clinic is designed to be as green and energy efficient as possible.

For Ben and Julie, it’s more than just the realization of a shared vision—it’s a built expression of the couple’s ethos. Live and work with purpose.

Since moving into their new space, they have been able to expand the business significantly, with four full-time naturopathic doctors, a

personal fitness trainer, a holistic nutritional consultant, and a certified colon therapist. Ben works as the lead naturopath while Julie manages the clinic.

The business continues to evolve, with a satellite clinic in Yarmouth and the possibility of a third clinic in northern Nova Scotia. This past fall, the Connollys started a residency program, making Cornerstone the first clinic east of Toronto to offer an educational residency to new graduates of naturopathic medicine.

“The field of naturopathic medicine is changing,” Ben says. “Even in the last few years, we are seeing much more collaboration with traditional medicine and integrative approaches. It’s an exciting field to be in.”

Ben and Julie are both members of the Saint Mary’s University alumni association and enjoy attending alumni events whenever they can. At one such event a few years back they saw their Spanish professor and were able to tell her how that class had changed the course of their lives.

“I’m still a terrible Spanish speaker, but I’m so glad I took that class,” Ben laughs, sitting in his office at Cornerstone Naturopathic clinic and gazing over at Julie.

It’s clear from her expression she feels the same. ✧

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JUST CALL ME PROFESSOR CUPID!

POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR EDNA KEEBLE DISCOVERS SHE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN UNITING COMMERCE STUDENTS FAIRYAL AND JOE DAY

BY ERIN CASEY



SMU Alumni Fairyal and Joe Day in Southern California, the place they now call home.

When commerce students Fairyal Abdi (BComm 2004) and Joe Day (BComm 2003) registered for Dr. Edna Keeble's year-long Canadian Foreign Policy course in 2001-2002, they had no way of knowing it would change their lives forever.

"I sat behind Fairyal strategically, then I asked for a pencil I didn't need," says Joe. "I hung around after class to return the 50-cent pencil."

Fairyal picks up the story from there. "Me? As usual, I was talking to Dr. Keeble after class. I thought he was a pretty boy, not my type, until I got to know him," she laughs.

But the time-honoured pencil-borrowing ploy worked! Fairyal and Joe Day celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in July 2015. Their life together has spanned continents and spawned remarkable careers, and it all

The arts-commerce connection is crucial. I nurture that.

started in an elective liberal arts course. They reached out to Dr. Keeble to share their story.

Edna Keeble has been at Saint Mary's since 1990, and typically instructs between 100 and 150 students every year. She still teaches the Canadian Foreign Policy course today.

"When I started here, I hadn't yet finished my PhD, was pregnant with my second baby, and the support I've received from this institution is incredible," she says. "I share that sense of community in my classroom, and I take my responsibilities to students very seriously." She teaches them to think critically and communicate effectively, indispensable skills that the liberal arts can bring to a business degree. "The arts-commerce connection is crucial. I nurture that."

Today, Fairyal Day is the Director, Talent Acquisition for L'Oréal USA, the world's largest beauty company. Joe

Day is Vice President of Sales for the US for Nobel Biocare, a company that manufactures dental implants and prosthetics. Their careers have taken them from Halifax to Toronto to Zurich to Hong Kong, and the couple now lives in Southern California.

Joe and Fairyal agree that Dr. Keeble instills a deep sense of shared values – SMU values of community and compassion – in her students. “She’s somebody I will never, ever forget,” explains Fairyal. “We talk about her all the time, and I tell other people about her. She was very influential and she shaped my political views – she is the most passionate instructor I’ve ever come across.”

For Fairyal, who was born in Saudi Arabia and later moved to Nova Scotia, Dr. Keeble’s class opened her eyes to how women are treated around the world, an awareness that has influenced her career choices. “L’Oréal is a company about diversity and inclusion,” she explains. “Ethnicities, disabilities, sexuality – we strive to hire people of diverse backgrounds.”

“Fairyal and I share that passion to see the world, and one of the beautiful things about SMU is there’s such an international focus,” says Joe. “There’s a global culture you get exposed to.” He recalls attending Dr. Keeble’s class the day after the September 11th attack on the World Trade Centre towers. The SMU gym was being used as an emergency shelter for stranded airline passengers and the community was struggling to understand what had happened. “I wasn’t really exposed to a lot of global politics growing up in Dartmouth,” says Joe, “but I’ll never forget that class. It was some of the most interesting and beautiful and tough discussion we’ve ever had.”

Both Fairyal and Joe point to a



Dr. Edna Keeble, Saint Mary’s Political Science Professor on a holiday in Mexico City.

number of SMU professors who left big impressions. Joe credits economics professor Dr. Saleh AmirKhalkhali for helping him understand the mechanics that drive global commerce. Fairyal had Dr. David Wicks in her first year in a general business management class and still keeps in touch with him today. “To have that sort of friendship with a prof is rare, and I don’t think that would happen at just

any university,” she says.

What does Dr. Keeble have to say about playing Cupid? Even though she didn’t actually introduce Joe and Fairyal, she is thrilled to hear about their happy ending. “Many political science majors keep in touch with me because they have taken many of my courses, but to have students reach out who only took that one course from me – I am so deeply touched.” ♦



Cathy Smith with her brother, Stephen Smith.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

Laurie and Kay Smith raised six children to value education and love Saint Mary's.

"Midnight Mass, late night skating parties, and alumni events were part of our childhood," says the Smith's daughter Cathy Smith, a long time civil servant who is currently employed with Service Nova Scotia. "We all have degrees from Saint Mary's. It wasn't just the tuition discount," Cathy jokes. "Saint Mary's was, and remains, very much part of our family." In fact, the tradition continues with the graduation of Cathy's daughter, Martha Jane Smith Horsman in 2014 with an Environmental Studies degree, and with Cathy's niece, Sara Fadden, in 2011 with a BA.

The Santamarian tradition began with Cathy's father Laurie, a 1943 graduate of Saint Mary's College. After more than 20 years as an educator, administrator, and legendary high school hockey coach, Laurie returned to his alma mater in 1966 for a succession of

administrative roles that included Director of Administration and Scholarships, Dean of Students, Director of Student Affairs, Vice-President Administration, and Director of Alumni. A leader in services for students with disabilities, he had just accepted a new role as Special Advisor to the President, when he passed away suddenly in 1985 at the age of 64.

The Saint Mary's University Alumni Association paid tribute to Laurie Smith's legacy of leadership by launching a fundraising effort to establish the Laurie Smith Memorial Scholarship. Colleagues, students, friends and family members—including Cathy's mother, Kay—pulled together to create an award that recognizes the academic success of graduates of Citadel High School in Halifax. Other criteria for the award include a preference for students who have a family member who is an alumnus of Saint Mary's and those registered with the Smithers Centre of Support for

Students with Disabilities.

When Kay Smith passed away in 2016, Cathy and her siblings asked themselves how they might best honour their mother, her commitment to learning, and the family's long relationship with Saint Mary's. The unanimous decision was to add their mother's name to the Laurie Smith Memorial Scholarship and make a generous contribution to the fund.

In a eulogy for Laurie Smith delivered in 1985 by Kevin Cleary, another distinguished Santamarian who passed too soon, the Laurie Smith Memorial Scholarship is described as a fitting and enduring honour. Thanks to the generosity of the Smith children—Patricia BA'74, Larry BA'77, Cathy BA'81, Stephen BComm'82, David BA'85 & BComm'89, and Brian BA'87 & MBA '91—their mother Kay now shares this distinction and will forever support the institution for which she and her husband cared so deeply. ✧

DONNY JACKSON LIVES ON



The University community lost a true Santamarian this year with the passing of Donny Jackson BA'95. An alumnus, supporter, and staff person, Donny was a familiar sight, having worked on campus since 1988. Over these last three decades, he touched many lives, including those of fellow staff, students, and alumni.

However sad, many friends and colleagues decided to turn their grief into celebration through the existing Donny Jackson Bursary. Originally created by Chuck Bridges EMBA'92 and his family in 2008, the bursary is for those students who are completing an Arts degree, similar to Donny, and have demonstrated financial need. Since his passing, dozens of individuals and groups on campus have come together to give back in Donny's name.

"We all liked Donny a lot and wanted to honour his memory by contributing to the bursary,"

says co-worker Bob Mosher in the Maintenance and Trade Shop. Bob notes that a tree has been planted near the McNally Building in recognition of Donny's years of service. "Donny always had a smile for everyone, and knew how to joke and carry on, too!"

Donny's death has highlighted

the willingness of Santamarians to join together in recognition of those who have made a difference in our University community. Though Donny will never be forgotten for his contributions to campus life, the bursary in his name will help his spirit live on. ✧



EVENTS

VISIT SMU.CA/ALUMNI FOR THE LATEST ALUMNI EVENT INFORMATION AND PHOTOS



EMBA 25th Celebration

We had a lovely evening with EMBA Alumni celebrating 25 years of the EMBA program at Saint Mary's. Five alumni were honoured with EMBA Alumni Impact Awards and Dr. J. Colin Dodds was awarded the Faculty Impact Award. Pictured are members of the Class of 1992.



Supporters Brunch

The Alumni Office hosted a brunch on campus for graduates and their supporters. It was a great opportunity for graduates to recognize their supporters and give thanks.



Young Alumni Hosted Grad Boat Cruise

Our newest alumni and their families spent a beautiful May evening sailing the Halifax Harbour as part of our Grad week activities. More than 900 new graduates joined our Alumni Family at Convocations last Spring.



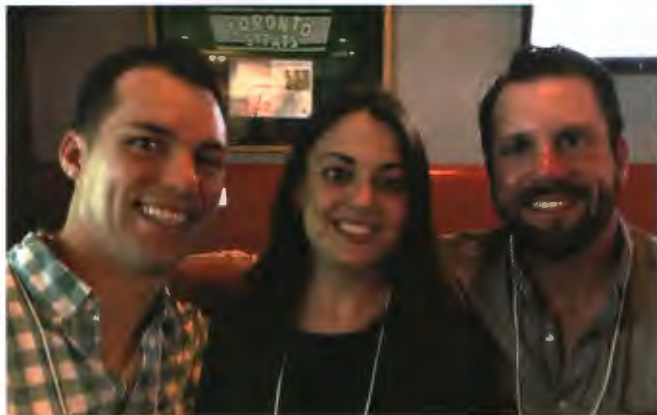
Alumni Honour Guard

Our Alumni Honour Guard marched in the academic procession in front of the Spring and Fall graduates as a way to welcome them into our Alumni family. If you'd like to volunteer, we have convocations in January, May and September. Email alumni@smu.ca to join our Honour Guard.

Atlantic University Pub Night

The maritime spirit was strong at Atlantic University Pub Night in Ottawa. We had a great turnout this year and even came close to taking home the banner for best attendance! This annual event is a chance for our Alumni to meet other people living in Ottawa who studied in the Maritimes.





Vancouver & Calgary Alumni Event

In June we hosted alumni receptions in both Vancouver and Calgary. Our Enactus team competed at the Nationals in Vancouver and took home the 3M Canada Award. We had so much fun reconnecting with our Calgary alumni that we will be back in November!



Staff & Faculty BBQ

The sun was shining as we enjoyed a lovely BBQ at the Oaks with SMU staff and faculty.



Tall Ship Alumni Reception

The Tall Ships arrived in Halifax this summer and we were lucky to have a VIP reception on the Alexander von Humboldt II.



Hunger Games Food Drive

We hosted a food drive here on campus to support the SMU Community Food Room. A number of departments participated and we were able to fill the shelves to overflowing.



Halifax Pride Parade

The Alumni Office tie-dyed SMU Huskies Unleashed t-shirts for our many Halifax Pride Parade participants. Our float also won "best theme," making this our second award-winning year!



41st Annual Golf Tournament

We had our 41st annual golf tournament this August at Granite Springs. Our tournament was sold out again this year and we were happy to award 21 students with bursaries at the tournament.

CLASS NOTES

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CLASS NOTE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE, EMAIL ALUMNI@SMU.CA

1959

Burris Devanney BA59, LLD04 continues his work in Africa, most recently helping to implement a unique "community mobilization" program in rural villages in Ghana and Uganda. Burris has also just edited and co-authored his second book, "Always a Work in Progress," a comprehensive analysis of social democratic policy-making in the Nova Scotia NDP since the party's founding in 1962. (See an article about Burris on page 12 of this issue.)

1968

Joseph P Hebert BA68 and Sue Hebert recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Joe retired from the United States Army in 2000 and lives in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He and Sue have three children with youngest, Shawn, currently serving as an officer in US Army and the Professor of Military Science (PMS) at New Mexico Military Institute.

1977

Blair Beed BComm77 was a guest speaker at the British Titanic Society Convention in Southampton, England in April with the topic 'Halifax Canadian City of Sadness and the White Star Connections.' Afterwards, he treated himself to a 30-day trip around the UK to mark his 40-year graduation anniversary from Saint Mary's, and was in London the day of the car attack on Parliament. Luckily, Blair had made a left turn instead of a right just moments before and missed the tragic events by a hair. The

next day, he joined thousands of others at a vigil in Trafalgar Square. This December, he will speak at a number of events to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion.

1980

Mark Surrette MBA80 is a partner at Knightsbridge Robertson Surrette in Halifax. He received the Order of the Rising Sun, Golden Rays with Neck Ribbon from The Japanese Consul General of Halifax in a ceremony on June 26th.

1990

Annette MacKay BA90 retired in June after 30 years with Bell Aliant. She is moving on to the next life chapter as a Certified Travel Professional with GOwithHippo Travel. Annette would love to hear from old friends and other SMU alumni about corporate or personal travel needs. Contact her at a.mackay@gowithhippo.com.



1991

Brenda Hogan, BComm 91 has been appointed to the Board of Governors

of Dalhousie University and will also sit on the Finance, Audit, Investment, and Risk Committees.

1992

Sarah Elaine Eaton BA92 was invited to represent the University of Calgary at the Technology in English Event at The White House last November. This special event was held by special invitation and Eaton was the only Canadian to be invited. Read a full report of the event here: <http://hdl.handle.net/1880/51772>



2000

Courtney Merriam BA00, CHRM01 was awarded a 2016 Saint Mary's University President's Award for Exemplary Service. This award recognizes employees who have demonstrated outstanding service to the University community beyond that normally expected for their positions. Courtney works in the Dean of Science Office.

2012

Tyler Cuthbert BSc 12 has recently completed his doctoral studies in inorganic polymer chemistry at the

University of Western Ontario and graduated with a Ph.D. Originally from Omeme, Ontario, Tyler played defence for the Hockey Huskys and was a member of the 2010 National Men's University Championship team.

2014

Kelly-Anne MacNeil, BA14 went on to receive her Master's Degree in Information Studies from McGill University (2016), and is currently the Archivist for the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council-Treaty Aboriginal Rights Research Program Archive in Alberta. Kelly-Anne credits Saint Mary's with allowing her to discover her passion for history and she is grateful for both an excellent education and the support she needed to pursue her studies. Two younger siblings, also from Yarmouth, are following in Kelly-Anne's footsteps by also attending SMU.

In Memoriam

Bruce Rogerson BA'84 March 14, 2017	James Fitzgerald DipENG'49 April 13, 2017, 2017	Emile Touesnard BA'90 May 20, 2017	Gordon Bradley High School'51 June 22, 2017	Dr Terence Heenan DipENG'46, BSc'47, LLD'85 August 3, 2017
Stanley Selig High School'45 March 16, 2017	Donald Jackson BA'53 April 21, 2017	Colonel Sean Dennehy BSc'64 May 20, 2017	Christine Moriarty MEd'96 June 28, 2017	Daniel O'Malley BSc'71 August 20, 2017
Lorne Hemphill BComm'55 March 17, 2017	E.F. Connolly DipENG'46, BSc'46, BA'53 April 21, 2017	Richard Scott BA'96 May 23, 2017	Ardyth Kuhn BA'75, BEd'77, MA'89 July 4, 2017	David MacDougall BComm'78 August 24, 2017
Geraldine Coll Associate March 19, 2017	George Hallett High School'51, Faculty April 26, 2017	Wade Smith BEd'92 May 26, 2017	Diane Tompkins-Brushett BA'89 July 11, 2017	Barbara Costelo BA'90, BEd'91 August 27, 2017
William Faulkner BEd'66 March 22, 2017	Theresa Wallace BEd'60 May 1, 2017	David Young BComm'98 May 26, 2017	Rev Leslie Ball BA'76 July 26, 2017	
Joseph Feeny BA'68, BEd'69, MA'72 March 31, 2017	Alice Scott BA'84 May 1, 2017	Dr Edward McBride LLD'12, Faculty May 31, 2017	Joseph Gray BComm'76 July 26, 2017	
John Ward Alumni' 50 March 31, 2017	Emmett Currie BEd'59 May 15, 2017	Mike Eagles BSc'76 June 1, 2017	Kenneth Hossick BA'70 July 27, 2017	
Dr Terrence Punch BA'68, BEd'69, MA'72, LLD'00 April 11, 2017	Ronald Cotton BA'67 May 16, 2017	Rev Louis Caissie BA'58 June 22, 2017	Elizabeth Tucker BComm'97 July 28, 2017	

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TRUE SANTAMARIANS

A SNAPSHOT OF COMMITMENT

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

It was 1997 and a bitterly cold January night. Tara McKinney had just flown in from the Bahamas and was seeing Saint Mary's—her home for the next four years—for the first time. She was in an idling cab where an insistent cab driver was pointing to the McNally Main building and saying that was Vanier Residence. “I knew he wasn't right. I'd brought the campus map with me, I'd already studied it, and knew it like the back of my hand. I wasn't getting out of the car at the wrong building, with two large hockey bags full of belongings. It was way too cold!” She laughs. “I made him take us around the block, to Gorsebrook Avenue.”

Although she could have no way of knowing it at the time, Saint Mary's would end up becoming a second home for much longer than four years. Tara didn't just get a degree and head back to the Bahamas. She graduated with a B'Comm in 2001 and then almost immediately began working at the Office of the Registrar. She was fortunate to have dual citizenship, plus a father who encouraged her to have the experience of living and working in another country. Two years later, she was promoted to Secretary of the Registrar, and then again to a Functional Systems Analyst in 2004.

Early in her career, Tara proved that she wasn't the sort of employee who just did her job and went home. She has become known as “the planner,” skills developed during her time as an RA. Happy hour, office parties, birthdays, going away parties,



movie nights: you name it and Tara organizes it. One of her largest contributions has been to the annual Alumni Golf Tournament. Warm, gregarious, fun, and a golfer herself, Tara uses her star organizational skills to incite enthusiasm and raise money toward student bursaries.

Giving back to the Saint Mary's community that has provided her with a second home, a meaningful career, and a circle of lifelong friends, is always paramount in Tara's mind. That's why when her brother passed away in 2013, Tara sent the wheels in motion to establish a scholarship in his name.

Andre McKinney was Tara's younger brother, a member of the United States Army who had served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. At the end of his 2nd deployment, the

family got a phone call that he was coming home. “We were so relieved,” says Tara. “And then a few weeks later we got another phone call and this time it wasn't happy news.”

Andre was killed on his motorcycle near his home in Texas less than two weeks after he returned from war and a week after his 33rd birthday. It was a hit and run accident - the other driver did an illegal U-turn at an intersection that Andre was driving through.

“It was really important to my whole family that we do something in memory of my brother,” says Tara. The result is the Sergeant E. Andre McKinney Memorial Award, a bursary for a Bahamian student. The money, donated by Tara's family, will go to someone who needs financial help to attend university in

Canada. “It can be hard for non-Canadian students to find bursaries or awards. We're proud we can offer this to help students from our own country.”

While Tara has been a big boost to student bursaries and all things golf, she is perhaps even better known around campus for her photography. Although she insists it's just a hobby, Tara is a repeat winner of the Faculty of Science photography contest and was recently asked by Honda Canada if they could use her photos of the Cabot Trail. -

You can check her out on Instagram at 902BWphotography, or if you're near McNally North—the same place that mistaken cab driver tried to leave her 20 years ago—you can pop in and say hi! ✧

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