

SPRING 2009

# Maroon White



For Alumni & Friends of Saint Mary's University

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Special Feature:

## **Saint Mary's Alumni** *Citizens of the World*

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## President's Message



The theme of this issue of Maroon & White is "Santamarians as Global Citizens." Within these pages, you will read about fellow alumni

who are living all over the world – from Antigua to Australia – doing different and exciting things.

The goal of the Saint Mary's University Alumni Association is to be the best connected Alumni Association in Canada. But why stop there? This magazine is sent out to nearly 28,000 alumni in 108 countries, which is almost 60 per cent of the nations in the world. I find it very encouraging to know that regardless of where we find ourselves on the planet, someone who shares a common bond is never too far away.

Strengthening and expanding our alumni network is one of our main priorities and we are always happy to hear from you – whether it is join the Alumni Executive or a committee, volunteer at an event, or set up a new branch of the Alumni Association in your area. To get involved read more about our Alumni Outreach Program on the inside back cover.

The easiest thing you can do is to "Stay Connected." Check out our newest contest featured on the inside front cover. Just by dropping us a line you could walk away with a great prize. Updating your coordinates allows us to keep sending Maroon & White to your preferred address, register you for our monthly e-newsletter, and keep you in the loop when something exciting happens in your area!

No matter where you are, or what level of involvement you're looking for, we want to hear from you, and find out how we can serve you better.

Yours truly,

Stephen Kelly  
President  
Saint Mary's University Alumni Association

## alumni association 2008-2009

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# Chuck Bridges Moves On

**As Chuck boarded a plane** to attend the 2008 Mitchell Bowl Huskies Football game late last year, the flight attendant looked down at the ticket and said "Ah, nice to meet you Mr. Bridges, you must be going to watch the game in London. I recognize your name from the broadcast messages on campus from when I was a student." Chuck's response, as it always is when he met alumni, was a warm handshake and "Do you get your Maroon & White magazine?" Then he passed the flight attendant a Saint Mary's key chain.

After nearly two decades, Chuck Bridges (MBA '92), Vice President (Assoc.), External Affairs said goodbye to Saint Mary's University in February and joined the Atlantic Lottery Corporation as the Vice President, Stakeholder Relations.

Chuck joined the University in July 1989 as Director of Public Affairs, then Director of External Affairs and for the past seven years, as Vice President (Associate).

"During his nearly twenty years at Saint Mary's, Chuck played a leadership role in the life of the University," said Dr. J. Colin Dodds, President of Saint Mary's University. "Our University has been well served from media relations to branding to government relations to fundraising and celebrating our successes. He has left a strong and successful legacy that has been recognized by both our internal and external communities as innovative and extremely effective in advancing the academic and friend/fund raising interests of the University."

Chuck's dedication to helping Saint Mary's students is also well-known. Zach Churchill

(BA '07), SMUSA President in 2006-2007 said, "Anybody who has had the pleasure of meeting Chuck knows that there are few people who care more about Saint Mary's than him. In my experience, he placed a priority on the interests and needs of students. As a student leader, I always knew I could go to Chuck for advice and support. He was always available and willing to help. He would have done this for any person on campus because he cares about the Saint Mary's community above all else."

His love of varsity sport and his enthusiasm for the game was contagious. Chuck was always mindful of the power that varsity athletes have in helping raise school spirit. He seldom missed a football game, no matter where it was played. He cultivated relationships with the players, offering them a place to study or taking them in as "family" while they were away from home.

Dean Jones, (BComm '03), Alumni Association Executive member and Huskies running back, 1998-2002 fondly remembers having many Thanksgiving dinners at the Bridges family home. "When I came to Saint Mary's as a student in 1998, Chuck immediately took me into his family. Coming from the other side of the country, I had no local support to speak of, and he was always there for me. Every Thanksgiving, he invited me and other students to his home for a delicious dinner. In fact, my daughter had her first Thanksgiving at Chuck's house."

For nearly twenty years, Chuck worked behind the scenes advocating the mission and vision of Saint Mary's. "Chuck has worked tirelessly over the years promoting the image and reputation of Saint Mary's University locally, nationally and



Chuck Bridges (right) with Dr J Colin Dodds, President, at farewell party February 13, 2009. Photo Kelly Clark.

indeed internationally. What really impressed me about Chuck was his reaction when Saint Mary's University families or friends needed help or support in times of tragedy and need. He was always there to offer a helping hand" says Dr. Jack Keith (DComm '98), Chair, Commerce Advisory Board, Sobey School of Business.

Chuck was often heard saying "It's all about the sign on the front lawn; that's what binds us together." And although his presence will be missed, we know that he will always be a faithful Santamarian and a true ambassador — his impact on Saint Mary's University is immeasurable. We look forward to his continued involvement with the University as we strive toward our goal to be the University of Choice for aspiring citizens of the world.

On February 20, 2009 as Chuck left his office for the last time, he could be heard quoting Groucho Marx, as he often did, "Hello, I must be going."



# alumni events

**Halley Fox** and her cheering squad (with proud mom **Dianne Vickers** (BA '89) in the rear left) at **Alumni Basketball Night** (January 16, 2009)



From L-R: **Frank Arment** (BA '71), **Cos Marandos** (BA '66) and Alumni Director **Pat Crowley** (BA '72) at the **Boston Christmas Reception** (December 3, 2008)



The **Huskies Cheering Squad** at **Alumni Basketball Night** (January 16, 2009)



From L-R: **Michaela Hall** (BA '06), Alumni Director **Pat Crowley** (BA '72), Alumni Association Vice-President **Jeff LeClair** (MBA '96), **Helen Nicholson** and **Jim Clayton** at **Alumni Basketball Night** (January 16, 2009)

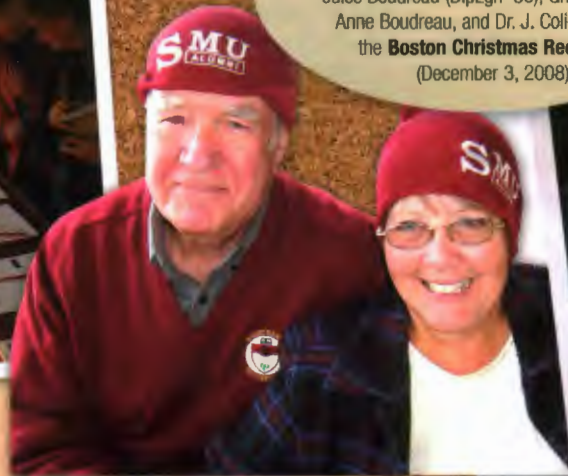


Great silent auction items were up for grabs at **Time For Wine** (February 6, 2009)



Above from L-R: Consul General to New England **Neil LeBlanc** (BComm '77), **Jules Boudreau** (DipEgn '56), **Grace LeBlanc**, **Anne Boudreau**, and **Dr. J. Colin Dodds** at the **Boston Christmas Reception** (December 3, 2008)

Right: **Peter Heenan** (BComm '54) and **Jane Lawley** at the **Ottawa Alumni Christmas Brunch** (December 14, 2008)



**Dinah Grace** (BComm '91) and **Wendy Brookhouse** (BComm '91, MBA '02) help out at **Time for Wine** (February 6, 2009)



## Alumni Events at Home and Away

*Left:* Dr. J. Colin Dodds, President of Saint Mary's joins alumni from **Antigua** at a function in May 2008. *From L-R:* Joann Boulos-Callias (BA '82, BEd '83, MEd '89), Barbara Bird (BSc '81), Mario Bento (BSc '84), Ricky Santos, Diane (Shoul) Zriebe (BComm '85), Desiree Edwards (BA '85), Derrick Browne (BComm '84), Edith (O'Reilly) Clashing (BComm '85), Reuben Richards (BSc '86), David (Mouse) Williams (BSc '87) and Marcella Andre (BA'00)

*Below:* Alumni and friends gather for wine tasting at **Time for Wine** (February 6, 2009)



Ted Hoganson (BComm '62) and Denise Haney (BComm '80) at the **Ottawa Alumni Christmas Brunch** (December 14, 2008)



*From L-R:* Development Director Heather Fitzpatrick, Toni & Tim Lyons (BA '64), Marie (BA '74, BEd '75) & Gus Pearson and Alumni Director Pat Crowley (BA '72) at the **Boston Tree Lighting** (December 4, 2008)



**Beers of the World** at the Saint Mary's Gorsebrook Pub (November 30, 2008). *From L-R:* Clayton Chiuurka, Ally Read (BA/BComm '07), Erin Callaghan, Greg Poirier (MBA '03)

# Saint Mary's Alumni Link Development Contracts around the World

By Catherine McCarthy and Blake Patterson



*Maroon & White reaches alumni living in 108 countries. The following pages tell stories of how our alumni have stayed connected to Saint Mary's University.*

**Saint Mary's University's** international development and education experience have deep roots. For more than thirty years the University has been involved in capacity-building and community development projects in burgeoning developing countries. Many of these projects are funded through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). From teacher training programs in China in the early '80s to current day CIDA projects that link Canadian universities with universities in developing nations, Saint Mary's has been there.

"Saint Mary's has been very successful in winning CIDA-funded projects in Asia and Africa. There is a fishery project in Cambodia, a women and prostitution project in the Philippines, a project to establish a university in The Gambia and a community-based conservation management project in China and Vietnam," said Maureen Woodhouse, the Acting Director of the International Activities Office. Nestled in the historic Oaks mansion on campus, the International Activities Office provides support for the University's numerous international activities that take Saint Mary's faculty, staff and students to every continent.

In recent years, Saint Mary's has participated in several development projects funded under

CIDA's University Partnerships in Cooperation and Development Program (UPCD). With funding from the Canadian government, Saint Mary's partners with universities in developing countries to improve the capacity of these universities to deliver programs to their citizens. Saint Mary's track record in international development and education, combined with expertise in many subject areas, makes the University well positioned to win these competitive contracts.

Many of these development projects have been successful because of the on-the-ground knowledge and experience of Saint Mary's alumni living in the host countries. Maureen cites two projects in Vietnam in particular where Saint Mary's grads played a key role.

"Saint Mary's alumni have been important in starting a couple of different projects. Dr. Pham Hong Chuong was instrumental in designing the recently awarded Developing Entrepreneurship in Vietnam project and Tran Thu Phuong, of Vietnam National University, is helping us develop a proposal for an environmental project. Both of them graduated from Saint Mary's."

## A Community-Based Conservation

Management project completed in 2003 was worth \$7 million and involved Saint Mary's and other Canadian universities partnering with three universities in China and Vietnam. The project brought Canadian expertise in developing educational programs on the sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems to universities in Asia. Phuong (MA '01) who graduated with a Master's in International Development Studies played a key role in this project as a gender and environment specialist.

A more recent CIDA project that is about to begin, unites the Sobey School of Business with the National Economics University (NEU) in Hanoi. This \$5 million project spans six years and will include developing entrepreneurship programs at the Centre for Entrepreneurship housed at the NEU. Saint Mary's professors and staff will work with the Centre for Entrepreneurship to develop programs for small to medium sized businesses.

This project wouldn't have happened if it hadn't been for Dr. Pham Hong Chuong, (MBA '98), the Vietnam director for the project. Chuong came to Saint Mary's in 1996 to pursue his MBA under another CIDA-funded project which trained Vietnamese educators in the business principles of the market economy. More than twenty educators from Vietnam came to Saint Mary's at that time.

Chuong remembers Saint Mary's well. "My thesis supervisor was Dr. Dodds. I was impressed by the way he guided me. Besides the usual instructions, he corrected all my English grammar. He was very patient. When I got home, I tried to apply all the knowledge learned at SMU," said Chuong.

Dr. Chuong is now Head of Department of Research Management at NEU which is the leading business educational institution in Vietnam. Since graduating, Chuong has kept in touch with the International Activities Office





Saint Mary's University delegation: Dr. Terry Murphy, Vice-President Academic & Research; Dr. David Wicks, Dean of the Sobey School of Business; Maureen Woodhouse, Acting Director of the International Activities Office and Dr. Harold Ogden, Chair of the Marketing Department meet with faculty of the National Economics University in Hanoi in June 2008 to discuss implementation of the Developing Entrepreneurship Project. Dr. Pham Hong Chuong (MBA '98) is standing on the far right in the back row.

and met with Saint Mary's faculty while they were in Vietnam working on the other projects.

"I am glad that SMU had a project in Vietnam. That is how I managed to meet with SMU professors and colleagues again in Vietnam. We were even able to invite Dr. Dodds to give a lecture to NEU students," added Chuong.

Chuong and his colleagues at NEU began discussions as early as 2005 with Drs David Wicks and Harold Ogden at the Sobey School of Business about developing an entrepreneurship training program in Vietnam. Those discussions resulted in an application to CIDA and the eventual awarding of \$2.8 million toward the \$5 million project.

Saint Mary's staff and faculty will assist in modernizing the curricula and improving

instructional capabilities of the newly formed Centre for Entrepreneurship located at NEU. The Centre trains small to medium sized business owners and managers in the various business functions well known in a market economy. Business training programs will focus on human resource and financial management, marketing, strategic planning, diversity training and business ethics.

This collaborative continuing education project most likely wouldn't have materialized if it hadn't been for the connection between Chuong and Saint Mary's.

"Canada is well known in Vietnam. CIDA has a lot of projects to help the Vietnamese people build the country up to international standards. As for me, Canada means a lot," concluded Chuong.

### SAINT MARY'S ALUMNI CITIZENS OF THE WORLD

Maroon & White is distributed in the spring, summer and fall to over 28,000 Saint Mary's University alumni, faculty, staff and friends.

Saint Mary's alumni can be found in 131 countries with larger concentrations of alumni living in Bermuda, the Caribbean, China, The Gambia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and the United States.

The Alumni Office is also interested in hearing from alumni who would like to write for their alumni magazine. Please contact us at **902.420.5420** or **alumni@smu.ca** or visit **www.smu.ca/alumni**

**Maroon & White**  
For Alumni & Friends of Saint Mary's University

## special feature



Above: Dr Jaroslav Dostal, Saint Mary's Geology Professor (centre) with faculty from the Mongolian University of Science and Technology.

Right: Mongolian workers' camp.



the environment in some remote villages. As well, Erdene Resources financially supported a Saint Mary's graduate student to do his geology thesis in Mongolia.

Akerley's experience with the mining industry in Mongolia combined with his connection to Dr. Dostal made him an invaluable source of the expertise throughout the implementation phase of the project, which got underway in 2004. Like the project in Vietnam, the Mongolian project is supported by the UPCD - CIDA program. Because it is a smaller project, it is managed through the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. Saint Mary's is working with the Mongolian University of Science and Technology to

develop interdisciplinary programs that link the geological sciences to environmental management with a focus on community-based outreach programs.

The project, *Education for Environmental Transition: Mining in Mongolia* aims to improve the environmental management of mining properties by engaging stakeholders in strengthening technical and managerial capacity of the mining

industry in Mongolia. The overall goal is to ensure that mining activities are carried out in an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable manner. This is something that Canadian mining companies such as Akerley's Erdene Resources already exemplify.

The Saint Mary's connections around the world mean that our faculty, staff and students gain international experience, which helps our students become "Citizens of the World."

The global alumni links mean that we can keep these connections growing. If you have a project that you are working on that might be a good partnership opportunity for our University let us know.

### The Mongolian Connection

Back home in Canada, a Canadian mining company led by another Saint Mary's alumnus is providing Saint Mary's with advice and expertise on another CIDA project, this time in Mongolia.

Peter Akerley (BSc '88) is President and Chief Executive Officer of Erdene Resource Development Corp., a publicly traded company with mining projects in Mongolia and around the world. With its headquarters in Dartmouth, the company is currently advancing coal, molybdenum and construction aggregate projects for markets in Asia and the United States.

Akerley graduated from Saint Mary's with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology in 1988 and since then has provided exploration and managerial services for mining projects around the world. His former professor, Dr. Jaroslav Dostal, is the Canadian project director for the \$1.5 million six year CIDA project awarded to Saint Mary's University.

Akerley has been involved with the project from the early stages. He and Erdene Resources have provided scholarships for graduate students from the Mongolian University of Science and Technology, Saint Mary's partner university, and have hired some of the Mongolian geology students for summer work. They also contributed money to improve

# Fostering Aspiring Citizens of the World

**As Dr. Esther Enns, the Dean of Arts,** thumbs through the academic calendar, she explains the many ways that students can get international experience while pursuing their degree at Saint Mary's.

"Most of our programs are international in scope. Students can concentrate on an area of study like Asian or Irish Studies that focuses on a particular part of the world; take a program like religious studies, political science or criminology that focuses on the analysis of world issues, or focus on world cultures by taking a program like anthropology or history. Classics takes you into a world that is faraway in time, not only faraway in place. And Geography is an obvious way to learn about the world," says Dr. Enns.

"The study of English may seem familiar, but it can also take you around the world," adds Dr. Enns. "There are English courses in Postcolonial Literature as well as courses in Irish Poetry that can transport students to other lands."

"And of course learning a foreign language is another way to enter other parts of the world," says Dr. Enns. The Faculty of Arts offers numerous courses in many different languages including French, Spanish, German, Gaelic, Chinese, Japanese and Arabic.

'Building on the international character of Saint Mary's as a distinctive strength' is one of the key priorities of the University's Academic Plan. With 17% of the students coming from other countries and a wide variety of international programs such as International Development Studies and the Teaching English

as a Second Language Program, Saint Mary's is positioned to be a truly international university.

Dr. Enns points out that another way to internationalize the curriculum might be to include designating some of the courses that have a high concentration of international content as "international" courses. Students who complete these courses might get a special notation on their transcripts stating that the courses met the international program requirements.

"It could help our students in the global job market to have this type of notation on their transcripts," says Dr. Enns.

Students at Saint Mary's have many opportunities to work and study abroad. Dr. Enns adds that a number of the programs include summer field schools which include experiential learning in another country or cultural environment.

"This type of course can give students their first international experience in a structured supervised environment," says Dr. Enns. "Some of our students are heading to Dade County in Florida this spring to learn more about forensic anthropology, and others are off to Italy this summer to take part in an archaeological dig related to ancient Rome."

Students at Saint Mary's can also study abroad through exchange agreements with over 30 universities worldwide. "Students are less supervised and less connected to home through these programs," says Dr. Enns. "It's another step toward helping them become citizens of the world." On average about 35 Saint Mary's students go on exchange each year.

"These international experiences give our students the ability to see the world from other perspectives, not just their own. It helps them to become "lateral thinkers" - a valuable and sought after skill that will help them in the job market," adds Dr. Enns.

Giving Saint Mary's students that international experience costs money. To help finance their

Miyuki Arai, Project Manager for International Mobility at Saint Mary's. *Photo Kelly Clark.*



Dr Esther Enns, Dean of Arts. *Photo Kelly Clark.*

international learning experience, students can apply for awards through the International Activities Office.

"Basically there are two types of international mobility awards administered by the University," says Miyuki Arai, Project Manager for International Mobility at Saint Mary's.

"These awards are highly competitive and we have more students applying than we have funds for. However, we try to give each student that qualifies something."

The most generous is the Homburg International Mobility Award, established by Dr. Richard Homburg, which grants eight awards averaging \$12,500 to Saint Mary's students studying abroad for academic credit each year. Although students studying business or another language are the preferred candidates, other students can apply. The second international mobility award is funded by the Office of Dr. Terry Murphy, Vice President Academic and Research, and the Saint Mary's University Students' Association and ranges from \$500 to \$2,000. It is awarded to students attending field school or pursuing international student exchange programs abroad.

Maroon & White readers can support our Saint Mary's students as they become "aspiring citizens of the world" by contributing generously to the Saint Mary's International Mobility Awards through the Development Office at: [www.smu.ca/administration/development/gift.html](http://www.smu.ca/administration/development/gift.html)



## International Development Studies – Training Global Citizens

**Saint Mary's offers its students** many opportunities to study or work abroad, but no program on campus embraces the international experiential education concept more than International Development Studies (IDS). The Program offers undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as a professional development diploma, and plans are underway to add a doctoral program in 2010.

Over the past twenty years, IDS students have explored every continent through internships, study abroad and field study programs. Dr. Anthony O'Malley, Coordinator of the IDS Program explains why getting out and experiencing the real world is so vital to the program. "Experiential learning takes the student's classroom education and puts it in the context of the messy, complicated human world. This is especially important in the area of international development. We teach different development theories and policies in the classroom. But in experiential learning situations such as exchanges, placements, volunteering and employment, students learn how to use this education to find out what works and what doesn't in the developing world," says Dr. O'Malley.

IDS students, who participate in a volunteer work term related to international development, can earn a credit toward their degree. Last summer, Sarah Horne, a third year IDS student, did just that when she registered for a Saint Mary's course called Development Practice that combines development theory learned in the classroom with development practice experienced in the field.

Sarah joined other Canadian university students in a unique development partnership with university students in Ghana. The six-week international seminar organized by World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and sponsored in part by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) cost Sarah \$3,000, but she says in spite of the high cost, the experience was well worth it. The seminar brought university students from both countries together to work on one project - gauging how

well Ghanaian schools were meeting the United Nations Millennium Goal of providing universal primary education for every child.

After a weeklong orientation in Ottawa, Sarah and the other students travelled across the Atlantic to Ghana in sub-Saharan Africa. For 20-year old Sarah this was her first experience living abroad. Upon arrival in Ghana, the twenty Canadian students and their supervisors were met by their Ghanaian counterparts who would be working with them over the next five weeks. Their task was to study the primary education system at several schools in rural Ghana. They would observe lessons in the classrooms, meet with teachers, school administrators and local representatives, and then present their findings on the state of primary school education in rural Ghana to the Ghanaian Education Service.

As part of the Saint Mary's Development Practice course requirements, Sarah kept a journal of her field experience in Ghana and later filed a report with Dr. O'Malley, her course supervisor for this seminar. The following are some excerpts from Sarah's journal:

### July 9 –

*The past two days of research seem to blend into each other. The school where I am currently doing my research is vastly different from any school you would find in Canada. While we have only been there two days so far there has yet to be a teacher for every class. This leaves many students alone throughout the day, with nothing productive to do.*

*I was in charge of taking general observations today and wound up spending a lot of time with a group of young girls. They wanted to know everything: the names of my whole family, why I have my ears pierced but don't wear earrings, where I go to school and what it is like and the most important question, what were the little brown dots that covered my face*

*and arms. While they may not have learnt science or math today, at least they learnt what freckles were and had the chance to chat with someone in English.*

### July 18 -

*There were many images today that I think will remain with me for at least some time. One was the kindergarten children showing us how they would brush their teeth that night, even with their brushes still in their wrappers. Another was when we were standing in one of the classrooms as Emmanuel, one of the Ghanaians, told the students to aim high and to reach for the stars. I felt like all we had to offer many of them were empty promises because I did not know if all of them would make it past basic schooling.*

*My group concluded that there are honestly two elements necessary for learning to take place. You need someone who wants to learn and someone who wants to teach. It's as simple as that. At the schools visited these past two weeks, I have seen many young children eager to learn but who have no one willing to teach.*



Dr Tony O'Malley, Coordinator of International Development Studies with student, Sarah Horne. Photo Kelly Clark.



Left: Ghanaian primary school students.

Below: Promoting education in Ghana.



**July 31 -**

*I am truly thankful for this great opportunity I was given. My eyes have been opened to so much in such a short amount of time. In all honesty I cannot wait to get home and back into my development classes. It is very hard to explain all my feelings right now but I am so excited about development right now. One might think that I'd be coming back home depressed and disenchanted about the poor quality of education that I have seen, and part of me is. A large part of my heart is crying for the children that I will never see again and who might not have a future unless their teachers, parents, community leaders and government officials act now.*

*I think it is this sorrow as well as the potential that I saw in all the children that will push me forward. I still don't have everything about development figured out but I'm working on it and am trying to find my way and my place. During my time here I have questioned a lot of what I've seen and while I still don't have all the answers I know I am on the pathway to finding them. While I could be pessimistic about what I've seen, I have decided to be an optimist because I know that with a lot of work and involvement things can change.*

*WUSC's slogan is "Education Changes the World" but I think that in that statement we are selling ourselves, and what we could achieve, short. I don't think we should just be trying for general education but instead quality education because that's what will truly change the world.*

**August 1 -**

*In the evening one of the girls and I went for a walk and talked about the whole seminar and what the experience has done for us both. I*

*will definitely recommend this program to everyone when I get home but I will be up front in saying that it's not easy. I have been frustrated and encountered many problems but they were all growing pains and I have learned from them.*

*Of course the program is not flawless but for me it was an excellent way to gain practical experience and to put to the test theories and perceptions that I had gained in the classroom. Not only did I learn about development but also I learnt it all by conducting research in an unfamiliar country, in a cross-cultural setting, on a topic I knew nothing about. That is a lot to experience in six short weeks.*

**August 9 -**

*While this seminar has helped to put me on the right track, I know that I still have a lot more to understand regarding development in general and my role in it. My time in Ghana gave me not only a glimpse of life in another region and culture but it also allowed me the opportunity to question my own culture, values and perspectives as well as experience so much more than I had expected.*

Sarah Horne came home to Canada with a new outlook on development. Her experience in Ghana made her realize that education is the key to successful development; Sarah hopes to further her studies in education after she graduates from the International Development Studies Program next year.

Dr. O'Malley, referring to Sarah's experience in the field, adds, "What comes out of this sort of immersion of education in the real world is true education, and is the objective of all university learning. Students coming back to university

with some field experience contribute this experience, and the knowledge it forges, back to International Development Studies. This is how we all learn from experiential learning, professors and students alike."

**LOOKING FOR INTERESTED ALUMNI!**



Saint Mary's University Alumni Association is looking for volunteers to serve on the Executive. If you are interested in giving back to Saint Mary's we'd like to hear from you.

Executive members are required to attend meetings every second Wednesday of each month, to actively serve on committees and to attend alumni events. There are many Alumni committees, including Golf Tournament, Homecoming, Students & Young Alumni, and Time for Wine.

All applications are reviewed through a selection process to ensure our Alumni Executive represents the diversity of our alma mater. If you are interested in serving your Association, please send your curriculum vitae to the Alumni Office at alumni@smu.ca. Be sure to specify your faculty, year of graduation, e-mail and area of expertise.



## Making a Difference: How one Saint Mary's student is changing lives in Sudan

By Kimberley Dares

**Phrases such as** "it's impossible," or "it can't be done" are not part of Jacob Deng's vocabulary.

Jacob was born in the village of Duk Padiet in Southern Sudan in 1981. Since Sudan gained its independence from Britain in 1956, it has been plagued by Civil War between Christians and Muslims. When Jacob was only seven, insurgents ravaged his village and killed twenty members of his family. By 1988, Jacob became one of the Lost Boys of Sudan as he and thousands of others like him fled Sudan on a four-month long journey to Ethiopia. He never had a chance to say goodbye to his mother or brothers and sisters.

Jacob found himself in a refuge camp where he and the other boys were provided with basic education in a make-shift school. However the war caught up with them and they were forced to flee once again. This time Jacob ended up in a camp in Kenya. Weekly food rations were barely enough to last three days, and hunger and dehydration made trying to get an education in the camp all but impossible.

Even at a young age, Jacob understood the importance of education and how it could change his life so he decided to leave the camp in Kenya and head back to Sudan. Making the most of what little resources he had, Jacob traded his clothing for tobacco, which was then traded for five goats. Jacob returned to Kenya, sold the goats and used the money to pay for boarding school. Once enrolled, other charitable organizations provided money to keep him in school.

By age 11, Jacob was putting his skills to good use; his knowledge of many languages enabled him to work as a translator for medics. Eventually a friend presented Jacob's case to the Canadian High Commission in Nairobi, Kenya and Jacob applied to come to

Canada under the refuge resettlement program. The Nova Scotia immigration office picked up his file, and Jacob moved to Nova Scotia in 2003. Coming from Kenya to Nova Scotia was a shock to him; everything is so different here, he felt blessed to have arrived in this "land of opportunity."

Jacob kept his goals of education in sight and studied for a year at CompuCollege, before beginning studies at Acadia University. He transferred to Saint Mary's to be closer to family members in Halifax and is now in his second year as a Commerce student. He has not forgotten where he came from, and from the beginning has felt the need to "do something for those left behind, to be their voice."

When thinking about his own experiences, Jacob realized he needed to do what he could to help, and set about trying to figure out how he could best go about making a difference. While working at Pier 21, a mentor encouraged Jacob to realize his dream of making a difference. So Jacob decided to focus on bringing basic education to Southern Sudan, particularly his village, as "people are only given one chance."

Many of the people of Sudan lack basic literacy skills, so in 2004 Jacob started Wadeng Wings of Hope, which is a registered Canadian charity that aims to bring education and other resources to Sudan. Jacob sees education as a building block that helps people do so much more.

Although Wings of Hope has many projects, the main goal is to build a school in Jacob's village of Duk Padiet. Schooling is not easily accessible to children in the village and those that do attend school are taught by volunteers, who are not qualified teachers; they have no desks or teaching resources. Educating the children requires that parents also have access



Jacob Deng. Photo Kelly Clark.

to schooling so the plan is for the school to offer classes for children as well as workshops for adults.

Directly connected to this project is the Brick by Brick campaign where individuals can support the project by purchasing a brick for \$25. The money goes directly to the school building fund and its associated costs such as drilling and maintaining the well, paying for teacher training and buying school supplies.

Wadeng Wings of Hope also launched a campaign to buy goats for people in the area. Goats were available for purchase at \$50 each. When Jacob returned to Sudan in 2006 he was able to take enough money back with him to buy 120 goats. And when he returned in April 2008 he had enough money to buy 305 goats.

Over half of the \$13,000 US needed for the well has been raised and drilling began in 2008. Weather conditions forced several delays, but the well should be completed this spring. When Jacob first started Wings of Hope, he thought three years would be enough time to build a school. He has since realized how big his goal is.

Another one of the Wings of Hope campaigns is Stitch by Stitch which purchased six sewing machines for the community. These machines will make a huge difference for the community as clothing is lacking, and many children, especially those entering puberty, are understandably uncomfortable or embarrassed about going to school only half dressed. The Stitch by Stitch program will also provide members of the community with skills to



make clothing and other products that can be sold for profit. The eventual goal is help sustain the school with funds from selling clothing and uniforms to other communities.

Jacob has been running Wadeng Wings of Hope for five years now, and has already accomplished so much, but he stresses the importance, and the need for more help. In a presentation at Saint Mary's as part of International Development Week, Jacob said his is a big dream and that he cannot do it alone. In sharing his story with the SMU community, Jacob is "no longer a stranger to us, but a part of us."

Since coming to Canada Jacob has shared his story with many people, in presentations at elementary, junior and senior high schools as well as at universities and other special events. When he came to this country Jacob could have put his harsh past behind and focused on making a new life. Instead, he chose to keep reliving painful memories from his past by sharing his story so that others like him will have the same chance at a life many of us take for granted.

To learn more about Jacob's story, get involved or donate to Wadeng Wings of Hope visit [www.wadeng.org](http://www.wadeng.org)



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# Start Planning to Attend Homecoming 2009



Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2009 from September 24-27!  
The schedule has something for everyone.

The 3rd *Dr. Elizabeth A. Chard Dinner – Alumni Touching Lives*, will be held on Thursday September 27. The dinner is a celebration of Dr. Chard's life and the effect she had on so many alumni. The Guest Speaker for the evening will be Mr. Neil LeBlanc (BComm'77), Consul General for New England.

The Class of 1959 is invited to the *Golden Grad Luncheon* to celebrate their 50 year reunion. Times have changed in the world and on campus, but the bonds made many years ago still exist. This event is considered one of the annual highlights and it is an honour to have the Golden Grads on campus.

To officially kick off the weekend, Dr. J. Colin Dodds, and the President of the Alumni Association, Mr. Stephen Kelly, will host the *Presidents' Wine & Cheese* and *Alumni Awards*. This event is a great opportunity for alumni to mix and mingle in an informal setting.

As with every Homecoming, football is a key attraction, so don't miss the big game! You can attend the *Hall of Fame Induction* and then the first SMU Sociable event downtown. On Sunday, we hope

that everyone will accept the challenge to run, walk, stroll or skip with your pack at the *Huskies 5k Fun Run*.

Small groups are encouraged to set up their own event, or take part in the scheduled events. Small groups can be traditional groups defined by your class, graduation year, faculty, department or society or more non-traditional groups such as university residences, sports teams, groups of friends or special interest groups. The Alumni Office staff will assist you in contacting old friends, groups or faculties to promote your small group event.

If you would like to take a leadership role in Homecoming 2009, contact the Alumni Office as soon as possible and we can start spreading the word. Why not organize your group like the Class of 1969, which is planning to celebrate its 40th anniversary! Be sure to tear out the Homecoming 2009 insert and start planning today! Watch our website for more details....  
[www.smu.ca/alumni](http://www.smu.ca/alumni)



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At Saint Mary's, we strive to provide global opportunities for our students. Our faculty and teaching facilities supply the education that takes our graduates wherever they choose to go in life. In fact, Saint Mary's alumni are living their success stories on all seven continents!

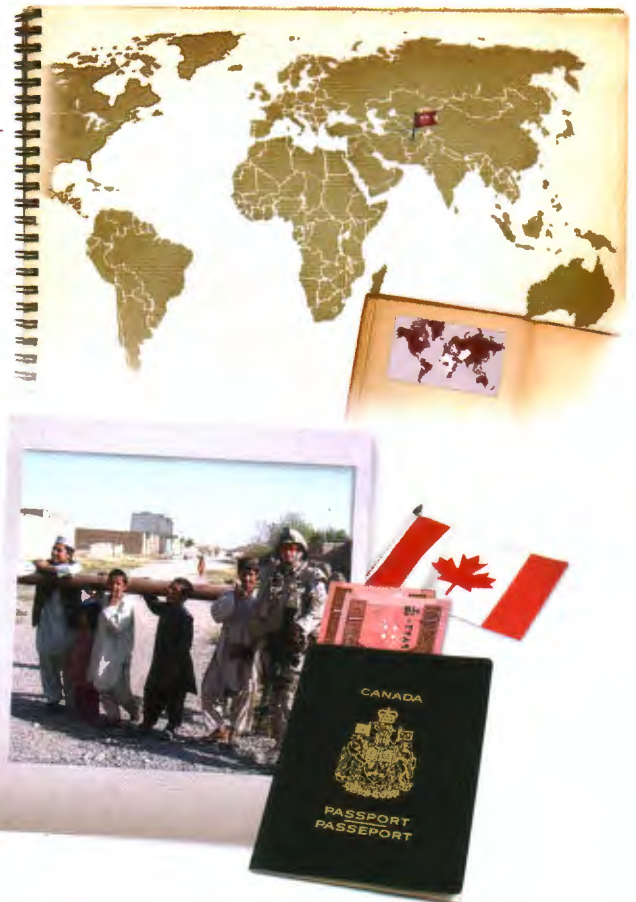
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## Capt. Mike Gauthier, BA '95 reporting from Afganistan

As we enter our tenth month and the tour comes to an end for me and my fellow Santamarians, it is a good time to reflect on our deployment to Afghanistan. Serving overseas with other Saint Mary's grads has helped keep the connection to home more tangible in the often otherworldly day-to-day activities that consumed our time and energy. The following are some observations from the other SMU Alumni:

**Major Jim Terfry (BA (Hon) '90)**, who is on his second tour overseas and serves as an Intelligence Planner said, "Professionally, the last 10 months in Afghanistan have been extremely rewarding. While spending that time away from family and friends is tough, the level of dedication demonstrated by all the Canadian Forces members and their commitment to the mission, has been inspiring." Jim says of his time at Saint Mary's, "It never fails to amaze me how often I use something I learned in one of my SMU geography courses. Plus those days in SMU residence in the late 80s were a lot of fun. I am fortunate to still count many of the 11th floor Loyola guys as my friends."

**Capt. Jason Chetwynd (BA '95)** served his second tour overseas as a Joint Fires Planner

and Targeting Officer. "I was in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2005 and found the tour very rewarding. I worked with the Afghanistan National Army and saw a lot of development during my six-month tour. The current ten-month tour in Kandahar, Afghanistan was equally rewarding but it was a long time to be away from my wife and children," said Jason. "I have received the M&W for many years and appreciate all the effort that goes into the magazine."

**Capt. Shawn Stewart (BA '97)**, is serving on his first overseas tour as Psychological Operations Platoon Commander and Radio RANA Coordination Officer. Radio RANA is an FM station broadcast in Afghanistan. Shawn is proud to be a Saint Mary's grad and thanks the Alumni staff for their support and interest in this mission and its many Alumni members currently stationed here.

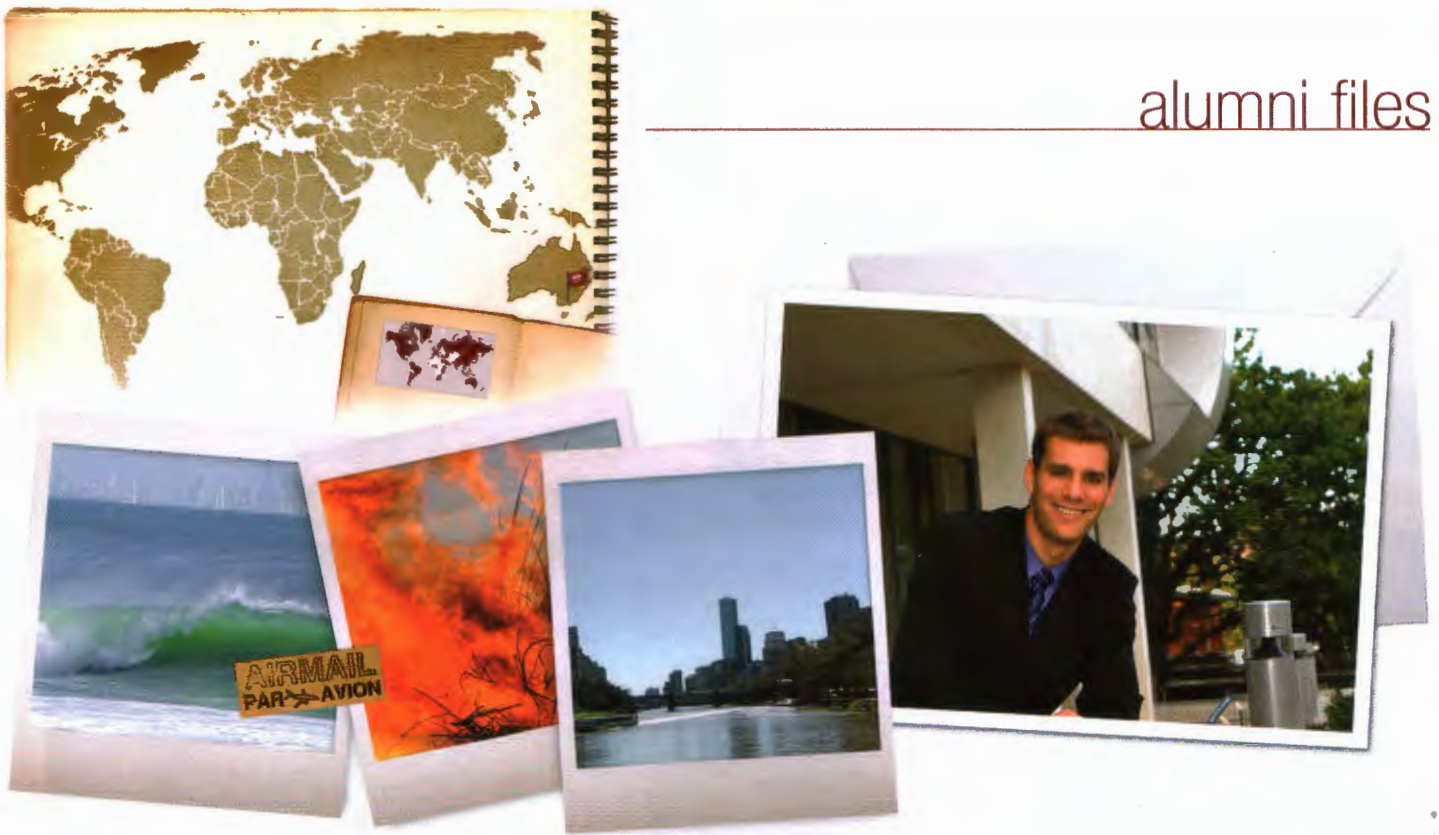
**Major Geoffrey Davis (BSc (Hon) '95)**, who is married to Kathryn Parlee (BSc '95), misses his daughter, Hillary, who is busy studying in French Immersion. He is completing his second tour overseas where he serves as a Staff Officer.

And as for me, I am serving as a Liaison Officer on my fourth tour. This was the first one since my son Mason was born. The ten months deployed and the four months pre-deployment training has been a long stretch away from my son and wife, Nadine. Most of my time is spent with the Provincial Reconstruction Team but during operations I deployed with US, British, French, Romanian and Afghan units. I have been able to see many areas of Afghanistan and while flying over the Hindu Kush Mountains, I would often think back to my physical geography classes. Also during my time meeting with the elders in the local villages, I would remember the cultural geography subjects that I enjoyed while I was a student at Saint Mary's.

*Capt. Mike Gauthier*

Photos: Saint Mary's alumni in Afghanistan hold up the Saint Mary's banner. *From L-R:* Lt. Dave Hersey (BA '97), Major Jim Terfry (BA (Hon) '90), Sgt. Kevin Knight (BA '03), Major Geoffrey Davis (BSc (Hon) '95), Capt. Mike Gauthier (BA '95), Capt. Shawn Stewart (BA '97) and Capt. Jason Chetwynd (BA '95).

Capt. Mike Gauthier with Afghan children.



## Marcel Dupupet, BComm '04 studying in Australia

Warm regards from Melbourne, Australia! I thought I would check in and give you the latest news on my endeavours "down under." I am embarking on my final semester in the MBA program here at Deakin University, where I am specializing in finance.

In between semesters, my wife Amanda and I took a month during the holidays and went on the trip of a lifetime. We spent the first two weeks touring New Zealand, and let me tell you it was a hard place to leave! New Zealand boasts some of the most beautiful national parks in the world. We enjoyed some great hikes through snow-capped mountain ranges, rainforests and rugged coastlines. One of the many highlights involved taking a white-water rafting tour through the Shotover Canyon in South Island. One moment we were enjoying the amazing scenery and the next we were trying to stay afloat as we tackled Grade V rapids. Quite the adrenaline rush!

The final two weeks of our trip were spent travelling throughout Australia. We met up with fellow SMU alumnus Matt Dove (BComm '03) in Brisbane where he is working as a senior manager at Price Waterhouse Coopers. Along with Matt and his wife Jenny, we headed down to the coastal town of Byron Bay for a weekend of camping and surfing, and let me tell you surfing is a lot harder than it looks!

Let's just say I spent more time under the waves than over them, but it was still a great 'Aussie' experience.

We came back to Melbourne in mid-January just in time to experience temperatures that exceeded 46 degrees for over a week. This was the beginning of the Australian bush fires which I know were covered extensively in the Canadian media because many of our friends and family back home called to make sure we were safe. It was a time of great anxiety, as we live only 40km from some of the worst-affected areas. I felt compelled to assist in the relief effort in some small way and decided to volunteer with the Salvation Army. I was put to work distributing donated home appliances to fire victims who had lost their homes. I was happy to lend a hand in what will be a long rebuilding process for many Australians.

Back at university, I am actively involved in the Deakin Business School Postgraduate Business Society (DBSS) and was recently elected Vice-President. I am pleased to report that I am chairing the inaugural DBSS Business Dinner, and have modeled the concept after the Saint Mary's Commerce Society Business Dinner that I chaired for two years during my time as past-President of the Commerce Society. My involvement at Saint Mary's gave me the experience necessary to lead such an initiative

and I am hoping that a tradition, which began many years ago at Saint Mary's, can become an annual event at Deakin University too.

It has been a fantastic experience living and studying in Melbourne; however, I am certainly looking forward to getting back on Canadian soil after I complete my MBA in June. The economic outlook doesn't look the brightest, but I remain optimistic that there is a demand in the marketplace for aspiring managers like me and I am actively researching companies in hopes of securing employment once I get home. Saint Mary's is where I found my passion for business and where I was first given an opportunity to develop my leadership skills. These lessons are not lost as I strive to make my mark on the Canadian business landscape!

Best wishes to all Alumni in Halifax and beyond and I look forward to enjoying a taste of my favourite Maritime beverage in the Gorsebrook in the near future.

*Marcel Dupupet*

Photos, from L-R: Surfers Paradise, Australian bush fires, Melbourne skyline and Marcel Dupupet at Deakin University (photo courtesy of Simon Fox, Deakin University).



## Kevin Tummers, BA '05 living in Albania

Like with many kids from Halifax, Saint Mary's wasn't my first choice...but it did turn out to be my best choice. My time at SMU brought me plenty of great moments, a relaxed, diverse study atmosphere, intramural championships, and a year abroad. I had a professor who showed me I could do anything and another who showed me I didn't have to change who I am in the process. Thanks Joëlle Cauville and George Nahrebecky! I was among the first recipients of the Homburg International Mobility Award, and spent three semesters studying French in Angers, France and exploring Western Europe, and owe this to Saint Mary's and Dr. Homburg.

After leaving SMU with an Arts Degree in French in 2005, I earned a Masters Degree in Arts Management from the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands. That is where I met my girlfriend Bela who became my future business partner. After difficulties establishing myself in Halifax, I decided to make a move and came to Bela's home in Albania. Currently, we live in Tirana, and run a small business in Arts Management and Creative Industries. It's called Ekphrasis Studio, and is essentially a

freelance initiative. Our activities focus on inter-disciplinary arts and the encouragement of investments in artists, their art, and education through policy evaluation and project implementation. You can view some of our projects on YouTube.

Over the last two years we've coordinated an international photography exhibition for the Swiss Development Office, arranged a successful Guinness World Record attempt to create the world's largest cork mosaic for Saimir Strati, managed an international polyphonic (traditional vocals) music festival, written several chapters in a book on Albanian Cultural Heritage for the European Union, and are currently developing an astronomy festival at a UNESCO World Heritage Site with the Albanian Astrophysics Centre, for which the SMU Department of Astronomy was very helpful in directing us to several online resources. We are also working with Canadians in Albania, the Canadian Honorary Consulate in Albania and the Canadian Consulate of Albania in Rome to create a society to promote Canadian culture. On top of that we even do a little antique trading.

Working in Albania has not been easy, and the system has been difficult to navigate, however the skills I learned at SMU and the education I received have helped me every step of the way. I regularly converse in French with many Albanians, which very quickly makes up for my lack of knowledge of the Albanian language. My work gives me the opportunity to travel and see new places which inevitably leads to new ideas and projects. My family and friends have always been supportive both here and at home in Canada. Saint Mary's has a slogan: One University, One World, Yours...and this couldn't be truer.

### Kevin Tummers

Photos:  
Top: World's largest cork mosaic installation in Tirenna.

Left: Kevin Tummers at Bylis, Albania.

Centre: L-R: Carlos Martinez, Guinness World Records adjudicator, Bela Berberi, artist Saimir Strati and Kevin Tummers.

Right: Kevin Tummers at Lake Koman in Albania.



## Joann Boulos-Callias, BA '82, BEd '83, MEd '89 at her school in Antigua

Greetings from beautiful, warm and sunny Antigua! It is truly exiting to be able to share with all of you the wonderful events that have been taking place in my life recently. Saint Mary's University, its education department and residence life has been very instrumental in many of my life choices and in the building of the ideals in education that I hold very dear.

September 2008 marked a major milestone for me. After years of dreaming, I opened the doors to my own school, St. Anthony's Secondary School. With the untiring support and dedication of my husband, Didier, we built a complex of ten classrooms, administration offices, computer and science labs, a library and an assembly hall that is also used as a small gymnasium, all within a period of a year and a half. The funds to do this came from a number of parents who believed in me, my dream, and wanted a top-class education for their children which they felt I could deliver. We opened with an enrollment of 104 students, which has now grown to 110. Our full capacity is 240, a number which we should realize within the next two or three years.

The one-storey school is nestled on approximately three acres of land. The surrounding land is presently used for sports

and hopefully one day soon will be home to a Caribbean-style cafeteria and an art and music centre.

The school is a not-for-profit organization channeling all funds back into the upgrading of facilities, resources and teachers. Though we charge tuition, we are trying to keep it affordable to ensure that students from all economic backgrounds may attend. We are therefore working diligently to acquire scholarships for Antiguan students who cannot afford to attend.

We follow a solid academic curriculum, but also have a full music, art and physical education program. These are complimented by extra curricular activities that range from chess and a reading club, to dance, netball, choir and band.

It has always been my dream to work in the education field, helping young people reach their potential. Saint Mary's solidified my ideals and through the education department showed me that teaching and running a school was the place for me. The fact that SMU catered to students with special needs made me very aware of and sensitive to such students. As a result, St. Anthony's has started accepting

students with manageable learning difficulties and retains a teacher to work one-on-one with these students. This is a very expensive program so we have started small. However, realizing the need for a secondary school in Antigua that caters to these students is so great, we are working to secure help in funding for this very important function of the school.

We were fortunate enough to have the presence of Dr. Colin Dodds at the launch of our school at which he gave the feature address and unveiled the St. Anthony's Inukshuk sculpture which has become the crest of the school. If you are ever in Antigua, please feel free to come and visit us, we will be very happy to take you on tour of our campus.

Love and peace to you all from our small island of Antigua!

*Joann Boulos-Callias*

Photos: Joann Boulos-Callias outside her new school.

Turquoise waters of the Caribbean.

Joann Boulos-Callias (right) and her students at St. Anthony's Secondary School in Antigua.



## Rebecca Critchley, BA (HON) '07 on assignment in Vietnam

One of the key components of the work done by Landmine Survivors Network Vietnam is to encourage the establishment of 'self-help' or peer-support groups amongst survivors of land mines. There are currently 18 such groups operational in this part of Vietnam. During the first few weeks of my internship, I was lucky enough to be invited to attend the opening ceremony of a new group.

The ceremony was a very interesting experience and was held in the local Commune People's Committee hall. After the ceremony, we all sat discussing local affairs, drinking beer and eating a variety of finger food. I say we, but really I just sat there and smiled sweetly as I did not understand a word of Vietnamese.

By 11:30 that morning, we were back on the road, heading for Dong Hoi which was about an hour away. This part of Vietnam is one of the poorest in the country and the roads are particularly bad. The heavy rains of the night before had pooled in large potholes, turning them into mini-lakes of mud. The Vice-Chairman of the Commune People's Committee had explained earlier that they were hoping to receive government funding to improve the roads which connect the villages. I didn't think much of this until about 15 minutes into our return journey.

An old truck heavily laden with timber on the road ahead of us had become stuck in the mud. The driver attempted, in vain, to free the

vehicle but the back tires kept spinning and mud splashed everywhere. The truck then became positioned diagonally across the road, blocking both ways. Only people on scooters and bicycles could get past, so after an hour, we still had not moved. Finally a group of high school students cycled by and the boys stopped to offer help while the girls stood and watched. The driver dug away at the hole and the boys put their shoulders to the truck and pushed. We all held our breath as the truck lunged forward and was about to break free, but suddenly fell back into the rut. This continued for a while until it began to rain again and the students went home.

Six hours later several men with shovels and hoes arrived and proceeded to dig, whilst unceremoniously dumping timber off the back of the truck and completely blocking the road to all types of traffic. We sat in our car and sang along to Michael Jackson's "Heal the World" that someone had playing on their cell-phone while we waited. Finally, we decided to turn back as it would soon be dark and too dangerous to attempt to free the truck. As darkness fell, we arrived back at the commune, and found a small 'restaurant/ bistro'. Madonna and the Vengaboys played over the radio as we ate our delicious dinner. It was ironic that although the general infrastructure is in disrepair, remote areas like this one have electricity.

Feeling much better after the meal, it was decided that our driver would stay with our car

while we caught a taxi back to Dong Hoi. There are only two roads into the commune, so with the main road blocked, the only other route out meant crossing a suspension bridge which wasn't sturdy enough for cars. After convincing the taxi company that our call was not a hoax, we set out to meet the taxi on the other side of the bridge.

The way home was slightly less eventful, although I did learn that in Vietnam they say when dragonflies fly close to the ground it is a sign that rain is on its way. They were right – half way home the skies suddenly opened, unleashing a torrent of rain that caused traffic to slow down as drivers struggled to see.

Needless to say, when I finally got home, about eight hours later than originally planned, I was exhausted and crawled into bed, excited about my next trip into the field!

*Rebecca Critchley*

[Editor's note: Rebecca spent eight months working in Vietnam on a Canadian International Development Agency internship coordinated through Saint Mary's International Activities Office.]

Photos: Ruins of Dong Hoi church.

Rebecca Critchley poses beside a remnant of the Vietnam War – an American cluster bomb.

Phuong Nha Ke Bang National Park.

Logging truck blocks the road in rural Vietnam.



## Graham Nickerson, BSc Hon '98 explores the seas of Europe

By Darcy Rhyno (BEd '85)

"We're part of world history." That's how Graham Nickerson – BSc Honours in Geology and Geography, 1998 – sees his involvement in his favourite project, the excavation of ancient shipwreck sites in the Mediterranean. Last summer, Graham's ocean mapping company Highland Geo Solutions and its partner, RPM Nautical Foundation of Key West, Florida, found a 2250-year-old bronze ram from a Roman-age warship off the coast of Italy near the Egadi Islands. In 2007, they recovered a 2400-year-old Greek amphora or ceramic storage jar off the coast of Albania.

Graham is a native of Shelburne, Nova Scotia, who now lives in Taymouth, New Brunswick. His company employs about a dozen geologists, engineers, surveyors and software experts. He and his crew work on-site at projects around the world from mapping Hurricane Katrina debris to mapping oil and gas exploration fields off the Angolan coast and undersea cable routes in the shadow of Japanese volcanoes.

Of the Mediterranean projects, Graham says, "Unlike most of our commercial work, we know we're contributing to humankind in a tangible way that adds to our understanding of the past." Ancient naval rams like the one found in 2008, were common in Greek and Roman battles at sea where they were used to smash holes into the sides of enemy ships. They were forged from bronze and weighed from eight to twenty tons. Built as underwater extensions to the bow of the ship, it is thought that the rams were designed to be shed in an emergency so the attacking ship would not accidentally sink

with its enemy. This particular ram is presumed to be from the First Punic War of 241 BC, the first of three wars for the supremacy of the western Mediterranean between Carthage and the Roman Republic. "We know this battle shaped world history," Graham explains. "By finding and studying this artefact, we are contributing to the story."

Graham and Highland Geo Solutions made several important contributions to the ram recovery project. Nickerson's team linked the ship's navigation system to the surveying equipment so it controlled the direction of the ship's travel. "The result is much cleaner data and shorter acquisition times," Graham explains they also improved the operation of the remotely operated vehicle or unmanned submarine to make it easier to locate and retrieve the targets.

As for the Greek amphora discovered in 2007, it's now resting in a saltwater bath at the Durres Museum on the Adriatic coast. Albanian authorities hope to see numerous benefits from such discoveries, including a boost to archaeological research, an increase in tourism, protection of precious archaeological sites from looters and perhaps an underwater museum.

"It's no coincidence we found these artefacts," says Nickerson. "We've been learning lessons over the last few years and applying this knowledge to help RPM find objects on the seabed." In 2007, Graham and his team helped reconfigure equipment aboard RPM's research vessel, The Hercules, making both

hardware and software improvements in preparation for the following season. In the summer of 2009, HGS and RPM will return to Albania and Italy, and add Montenegro to their growing list of research locations.

Looking back on his time at St. Mary's, Graham reminisces, "It's a small school, so classes are pretty close knit. I knew almost everybody I graduated with in Geology quite well." Graham played intramural soccer – his team won the championship three years running – and relaxed with friends at the Gorsebrook. "Friday afternoon after labs, that was the place to go to discuss the finer points of Geology," he jokes.

But it was the academic program he credits with giving him the skills he needed to eventually run his own company. "Dr. Georgia Pe-Piper and Dr. Victor Owen, they stand out for the depth of knowledge and their approachability." Graham's thesis topic was on multibeam bathymetry of a place known to fishermen as Hell's Hole. It's the gap between Brown's and George's banks off southern Nova Scotia. From the shores of Atlantic Canada to the Mediterranean, the skills Graham gained at St. Mary's have taken him around the world and deep into history.

Photos:  
Left: 2400-year-old Greek amphora recovered near Albania.

Centre: Roman ship's battering ram recovered near Sicily.

Right: Graham Nickerson.

# golf 2009



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## santamarian portrait

# A Huskie Comes Home

### Saint Mary's has a new Director of Athletics and Recreation.

Steve Sarty (BA '95), who is no stranger to the University, assumes his new position just as plans for The Homburg Centre for Health and Wellness and Dauphinee Arena start to take shape.

Sarty, who graduated with an Arts degree majoring in Psychology and Sociology, is passionate about sports and is often seen at Huskies games throughout the year. During his time as a student, Sarty was a member of the football Huskies and was named Atlantic University Sport Rookie of the Year in 1991, honoured as a two-time All-Canadian in 1991 and 1992, and served as team captain from 1993 to 1995.

Since graduation, Sarty continued to be involved with the Huskies. He chaired the Larry Uteck Golf Classic and served as part-time Receivers' Coach for the football Huskies for several years. Before taking on his new position at Saint Mary's April 1, he was an account manager with Pentax Canada Inc.

In an interview with Maroon & White, Sarty explained why he is so enthusiastic about returning to Saint Mary's.

*You have inherited a strong Athletics program that is steeped in a tradition of excellence here at Saint Mary's. How do you feel about this?*

"I am humbled and honoured to have been selected for this position and I am very fortunate to have such a strong team around me. I have had the



Photo Paul Darrow.

good fortune of being part of this tradition of excellence at Saint Mary's as a player, coach and now part of the management team. It will be very important for me to honour and respect the traditions set by my predecessors, Bob Hayes, Larry Uteck and Dr. David Murphy."

*Now that you're in a position where you are ultimately responsible for the results and success of varsity, intramural, club and recreational programs at Saint Mary's, what lessons have you learned that will help you in your new position?*

"I have experienced some amazing times at Saint Mary's both on and off the field. The one constant is the energy and culture around campus. I remember Coach Uteck saying, 'Don't walk on the green' – Once you touched the field, it was time to pick it up and take things seriously. When I coached, I always used to say: 'Get something out of it!' I would encourage players to make sure that they were always getting something out of everything they did. It's those seemingly little things that tend to make a big difference when it comes down to crunch time – it's the foul shot that you need to make, the penalty kick that the game hangs on, the pass that gets the puck out of the zone or the block that opens the hole for the run that inevitably decides the game."

*You have spent the past decade working in sales. How will this experience help you in your new role as Director of Athletics and Recreation?*

"Sales is the ultimate training ground. You are taught to plan, present, re-plan and anticipate the unexpected and be ready to think on your feet. I have always approached everything in my life with enthusiasm, and my new job will be no different. I am really looking forward to building strong relationships with the students, the staff, the coaches, the alumni and the community at large."

*As you move into your new position as Director of Athletics and Recreation, what changes would you like to see?*

"I would like to see more involvement and I encourage alumni everywhere to reconnect with Saint Mary's. It is an exciting time for Saint Mary's as plans for The Homburg Centre for Health and Wellness are unveiled. These new facilities will offer Nova Scotians and competitive athletes high caliber facilities and programs aimed at improving fitness, health and well being for everyone. Once the plans are approved, I see the alumni playing an important role in the development and promotion of these new facilities."

A promotional graphic for 'Camp of Champions' summer camps. It features a red background with a large white 'M' logo in the center containing a stylized husky head. Surrounding the logo are images of athletes in action: a soccer player, a basketball player, and a hockey player. The text 'Call 420-5555' is at the top, and 'Summer Camps' is written in a large, bold font at the bottom left. Below the main text, there is a list of sports offered and a list of bullet points describing the camps. At the bottom, there is contact information and the Coca-Cola logo.

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## 2008

**Michael Gillan (BA, BComm) and Michael Gray (BComm '93)** are currently working with Chalet Realty Limited in Halifax, NS. They can be reached at [www.chaletrealty.ca](http://www.chaletrealty.ca).

**Jennifer Trask (MBA)** has created her own business through Xocai – the world's healthiest chocolate. Please contact Jennifer at [jennifer@trask.biz](mailto:jennifer@trask.biz) for more information on her business and the benefits of Xocai chocolate.

## 2006



**Brian Carman and YiChin Lin (both BComm)** were married on September 6, 2007 and currently reside in Fort St. John, BC. They are proud to announce

the birth of their first child, Ian Lin Carman, who was born on December 5, 2008 – the same date as Brian's father, Dale Carman (BA '73, BEd '74).

**Frank Fawson (MA)** was elected to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Council in October 2008 and is enjoying his new job very much.

**Yifeng "Andy" Huang (BComm)** was chosen by the Canadian Youth Business Foundation as one of the top business owners in the 15th Annual Alberta Provincial Skills Competition in 2007. Andy's business, Fortune Lawn & Garden Services, is a successful landscaping and construction company in Calgary, AB.

**Christina Martin (BAH)** received an East Coast Music Award for Pop Recording of the Year for her album "Two Hearts" at the 2009 ECMAs in Corner Brook, NL. Fellow alumnus Kevin "Spesh K" Kinch (BA '07) was featured on Hotbox's *The Main Event*, which was named the 2009 ECMA Rap/Hip-Hop Single Track Recording of the Year. Martin and Kinch were featured together in the Spring 2008 issue of Maroon & White.

## 2003

**Issa Mahshi (BComm)** is the Managing Partner of Berlitz, Jordan, where he and his family opened their first franchise (in Amman) in 2008. He can be reached online at [www.berlitz.jo](http://www.berlitz.jo).

**Catherine Robar (BComm)** has created The Themba Development Project Association with members of Halifax's Sudanese and Congolese refugee community, in an effort to stand up against the chronic poverty of the Xhosa tribe living in Thembaletu, South Africa. (Themba means "hope" in the Xhosa language). For more information on this project, visit [www.freewebs.com/thembaproject](http://www.freewebs.com/thembaproject).

## 2002

**Lara McGuire Ives (BA)** obtained her LLB from the University of Ottawa in 2006 and currently works with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada in Ottawa. Lara married Rob Ives in August 2008.

## 2000



**David MacDonald (BA, MA '06)** and Sheena Deroche (BA '02) previously lived in Calgary, AB where Dave worked as a constable with

the Calgary Police Service. Sheena was employed as a youth worker with the Calgary Young Offenders Centre – her youth program received the Alberta Premier's Council Award of Excellence in 2007. They have two daughters, Rebecca and Abigail and recently moved to Saint John, NB where Dave now works for the Saint John Police Force and Sheena is hoping to continue working with youth.

## 1999

**Harvey Silverstein (MBA)** is the new Dean of Business and IT at Meritus University in Fredericton, NB. Meritus is Canada's newest University and offers its BBA, Bachelor in Information Technology Management, and MBA

degrees entirely online for the convenience of those already working full-time.

## 1998

**Amy (Simms) Reid (BComm)** now leads the Halifax Office of David Aplin Recruiting, as Vice President, Atlantic Region. Amy, her husband Jason Reid (BComm) and their daughter Mya, live in Hammonds Plains, NS. Alumni are welcome to contact Amy at [areid@aplin.com](mailto:areid@aplin.com).



**Ryan Richter (BA)** married Michelle Martin on August 2, 2008 on a gorgeous plantation in Charleston, SC. Ryan is a GIS Network Data Specialist with Cox Communications,

and they live in Sandy Springs, just outside Atlanta, GA. Ryan and Michelle both completed the Gulf Coast half-Ironman in May 2008 and hope to complete a full Ironman in the future.

## 1997

**Heather Kernahan (BA)** and her husband Mike Kenney are proud to announce the arrival of their new son, Cameron, born in October 2008, little brother to a very happy big sister Madison. The family lives in San Francisco, CA, where Heather is a Senior Manager at Autodesk and is taking her MBA in Sustainable Enterprise. She would love to be in touch with old friends, and can be reached at [heather.kernahan@autodesk.com](mailto:heather.kernahan@autodesk.com).

## 1995

**Edward Steeves (BComm)** has joined RBC as the Vice President of Commercial Financial Services in Metro Halifax, NS. He is responsible for managing overall client relationships through a team of commercial bankers that bring industry specialization and strategic financial solutions to RBC's clients in real estate, manufacturing, and knowledge based industries. Ed married Marney Kennedy (BComm '96) in 2002 and they are expecting their second child in September 2009.

**Gordon A. "Sandy" Watson (BA, BComm '96, CER HRM '97, MBA '07)** and his family are sad to announce the passing of their father, **Gordon Darhl Watson (MEd '80)** on February 23, 2009. Gordon Sr. was a long-serving teacher in Dartmouth, NS and had taught part-time at his much-loved Saint Mary's in the BEd and MEd programs. Five of his children attended the University – Sandy, Lee (BA '02, CER HRM '04), Tara (BA '01), Bradley and Warren. Daughter-in-law, Sonia (Pike) (BA '95, BComm '98) fondly remembers discussing plans for the next generation of Watsons to attend Saint Mary's.

**1994**



**Kimberly "Beep" (Bent) Cook (BA)**, her husband Jimmy, and their son Joshua James born March 27, 2006 were pleased to welcome Brandon Kenneth to their family on April 28, 2008. Kim

works as a Customer Service Team Leader for Transcontinental Printing in Halifax, NS and the family resides in Coldbrook, NS.

**1993**

**L. Nicole Richard (BComm)** is living in Wainwright, AB where she works full-time for Lakeland College in the Marketing and Enrolment Department as well as owning her own clothing store. She has two children (ages 13 and 14) and is expecting a baby girl in June with her partner, David Bell.

**1992**

**Michael Pickels (BA)** owns and operates a professional speaking practice called Educate & Motivate Seminars. He was recently published in the book *The Path to Success* and is currently instructing the Inuit Education Program in Rankin Inlet, NU. Michael can be found online at [www.educate-motivate.com](http://www.educate-motivate.com).

**Matthew Whitman (BA)**, has joined SunLife Financial as Sales Manager to 40 Insurance and Investment Advisors in Halifax, NS after spending 17 years working in investment, communications and information industries

throughout Canada and the US. Matt is active in the community with StoneRidge Fellowship, Ark Outreach, The NS Leadership Prayer Breakfast, Junior Chamber, Purpose Driven Lunch, and HFXLunch, to name a few.

**1991**

**Fr. Gerald David (BA)** has been appointed Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Halifax, NS. He will carry out his new responsibilities as Vicar General in addition to his present role as pastor of St. Andrew's Parish in Eastern Passage and Episcopal Vicar for Deacons.

**Bonita Kirby (MBA)** was recently awarded the Distinguished Citizen Award in the field of International Relations in San Antonio, TX. The award was presented at the International Convention of Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity. The Distinguished Citizen Award was established in 1959 to recognize alumnae members of the Fraternity for outstanding professional and community achievement.

**1990**



**Clayton Smiley (BSc) and Monique Melanson (BA)** were married in April 2007 in

Sydney, NS. They welcomed new edition, Christina Grace Bailey, on August 1, 2007, joining Justin (11), Chantelle (8) and Victoria (6). They currently reside in Lloydminster, AB where Clay teaches Physics and Calculus for the Buffalo Trails School Board and owns Prophet River Holdings Ltd. Monique is going to enjoy another year at home with Christina and will return to teaching in 2010.

**1989**

**Mark de Wolf (BA)**, former Editor of The Journal (1986-87), is now European Practice Leader, Technology for Pleon, Europe's largest communications consultancy.

**Crystal Mulder (BA)** recently graduated from Mount Saint Vincent University with her Master of Education, Studies in Lifelong Learning with a Concentration on Africentric Leadership, the

first degree of its kind in Canada. This degree was made possible by a partnership between The Council on African Canadian Education, The Africentric Learning Institute and Mount Saint Vincent University.

**Catherine Watkins Biermann (BComm)** has sold her four year-old retail scrapbooking business in Halifax, NS and is looking for a return to the corporate world, ideally in a position that will allow her to use her broad range of marketing, research, communications, planning and project management skills. She and her husband Karl live in Hammonds Plains, NS with their two daughters, and will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary later this year.

**1981**

**Kevin Reinhart (BComm)** has been appointed Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Nexen Inc. of Calgary, AB. Since joining Nexen in 1994, he has held the roles of Controller, Treasurer and most recently, Senior Vice President, Corporate Planning and Business Development. In these roles, Kevin has made a significant contribution to the development of Nexen's corporate strategies, capital investment programs, reserves and exploration processes, as well as acquisition and disposition activities.

**1979**

**Ian Colford, (BSc)**, was featured in *The Globe & Mail* columnist Jim Bartley's Top 5 of 2008 for his book, *Evidence*. Ian is a fiction writer currently living in Halifax.

**1978**

**Lyne Mercier (BComm)** has been appointed to the National Energy Board – the independent federal regulatory board that oversees Canada's oil, gas and electric utility industries. She currently resides in Calgary, AB, where she will soon be joined by her husband, Michel Arseneau (BComm '77).

**Chris Outhouse (BEd)** has accepted a teaching position as a Social Studies teacher and Senior High Resource with Islands Consolidated in Freeport, NS, where he lives with wife Paula and children Patrick, Nicholas, Keenan, Hannah and Samuel.



## 1977

**Neil LeBlanc (BComm)**, former Progressive Conservative Cabinet Minister in the Nova Scotia Legislature, is currently serving as Canada's Consul General in Boston, MA.

## 1976

**Coleman Gallagher (BComm)** retired from the Royal Bank after 32 years of service in July 2008. Later that month, his wife Belinda (Davis) Gallagher (Assoc '79) closed her specialist plant nursery to accept an appointment as Head of Horticulture at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton/Burlington, ON where she manages more than 290 acres of cultivated gardens. Belinda notes that her mentor, Dr. Elizabeth A. Chard (DCL (Hon.) '06), former University Registrar, was the first to introduce her to the world of horticulture when they worked together at Saint Mary's.

## 1974

**Gordon Moore (BComm)** was awarded the Nova Scotia Institute of Chartered Accountants' highest honor on December 5, 2008 when he was named a Fellow (FCA) of the Institute for his service to the profession and the community.

## 1969

**Dick Franklin (BComm, MBA '72, DComm '99)** is pleased to announce that his daughter Missy was honored in March 2009 by the Colorado Women's Sports Hall of Fame as "Swimmer of the Year." Missy also made the USA Junior International Team and will be competing against many other countries in Vancouver in late May. She was the youngest swimmer in the US to qualify for the Olympic Trials last July in Omaha, NE.

**Frank Garner (BA)** has been elected Chair of the International Canoe Federation's Canoe Sprint Racing Committee. He is the first non-European to hold this four-year appointment, which runs from 2008 to 2012. His responsibilities include preparing the officials and rules for World Championships, World Cups and the next Summer Olympic Games in London 2012.

**Len Gougeon (BA)** was recently honored by the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society with their

Distinguished Achievement Award. He has published three books, numerous scholarly articles on Emerson and has written extensively on several other nineteenth-century American literary figures. Dr. Gougeon is a Professor of American Literature and Distinguished University Fellow in the English Department at the University of Scranton, a Jesuit institution. He lives with his wife, Deborah, in Moscow, PA.

## 1968

**Joseph Hebert (BA)** resides in Northern Virginia with his wife, Sue (Streb), and is looking forward to his 50-year reunion in 2018.

## 1964



**The Honourable Wilfred Moore (BComm)**, a Senator representing Nova Scotia, shows his Santamarian pride alongside Interim Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, Michael Ignatieff.

## 1963

**Dave Cassivi (BA)** is the 2009 recipient of the Golden Cross of the Order of Merit by the President of the Republic of Poland. The award will be presented on May 9, 2009 at the Polish Consulate General in Toronto, ON. Dave and his family are sad to announce the passing of their brother, Denis John Cassivi (BA '66, BEd '67, MA '70) on November 11, 2008. Denis was a well-known Canadian educator and author. His two daughters, Angela (BA '90, Hons '91) and Christine (BA '92), and three siblings, Dave, Louis (HS '61), and Betty, are all associated with Saint Mary's.

## 1958

**Frank Gervais (DIPEGN)** was made a Fellow of Engineers Canada in November 2008.

## 1955

**The Honourable Alan Abraham, CM, ONS (HS, DCL (Hon) '02)** has been elected Chairman of the Board of the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo Society.

**Max Beaton (BComm)** has retired after working for the Canadian Army, Phoenix Assurance and teaching at Algonquin College in Ottawa, ON. Throughout his career, Max also worked on CIDA, UN and World Bank contracts in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Kenya, Nigeria, The Gambia, Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland, Bhutan, Nepal and India.

## 1954

**Qidar Shemdin (DIPEGN, BSc '56)** is retired and lives in Hamilton, ON. He often visits Istanbul, Turkey and would love to hear from other alumni from his era so please send an e-mail to [alumni@smu.ca](mailto:alumni@smu.ca) to obtain his coordinates.

## Special Student Recognition

**Corporal Matthew John David Elliott**, a current Saint Mary's student, was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (Military Division) by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, in March 2008. While deployed with India Company, 2nd Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, Joint Task Force Afghanistan, from January to July 2007, Corporal Elliott demonstrated versatility and ingenious methods of collecting intelligence. His efforts resulted in the successful operations of the Company, the Battle Group and the Joint Task Force in the most complex region of Afghanistan.

**Leah Skerry**, a current Saint Mary's student, has been named the Nova Scotia Entrepreneur of the Year by ACE Canada, an active entrepreneurship organization. She was part of a team that won the CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2008. Her business, EQ Media, is a design and marketing agency responsible for the organization of the 2009 Trumped competition, which recently raised more than \$62,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

*If you have snippets you would like to share, please send them to: [alumni@smu.ca](mailto:alumni@smu.ca)*

*In Memoriam*

**Father William A. Stewart, SJ**  
DLitt '83  
March 5, 2009

**Kevin Mitchell**  
BA '72, BEd '76  
March 3, 2009

**Francis Moloney**  
BA '83  
March 1, 2009

**James Delaney**  
HS '44, BComm '49  
February 27, 2009

**Gordon Watson**  
MEd '80  
February 23, 2009

**Roy Clements**  
Assoc '74  
January 30, 2009

**Nesta Ashworth**  
DEd '01  
January 20, 2009

**Donald Burke**  
'59  
January 17, 2009

**Edmund Doucette**  
MEd '89  
January 13, 2009

**William Taylor**  
BComm '73  
January 12, 2009

**Donald Boyd**  
HS  
January 8, 2009

**John MacLennan**  
BComm '78  
December 18, 2008

**Greg Justice**  
BComm '78  
December 5, 2008

**Mario Lisi**  
BComm '79  
November 22, 2008

**Denis Cassivi**  
BA '66, BEd '67, MA '70  
November 11, 2008

**Valerie French**  
BComm '78  
November 7, 2008

**Brian Keene**  
DIPEGN '46  
November 2, 2008

**Gretchen Blakeney**  
BA '71  
November 1, 2008

**Peter Hart**  
BComm '63  
September 21, 2008

**Roy Cooper**  
BSc '62  
August 29, 2008

**Felix Quinn III**  
DIPEGN '41  
June 24, 2008

*With Sympathy*

**Carol Anne Doucet**  
Former Aramark Faculty Lounge  
Supervisor  
March 12, 2009

**Murray McIntyre**  
January 13, 2009

**Dorothy (Nancy) Scobbie**  
January 9, 2009

**Dr. Charles Bigelow**  
Former Dean of Science  
November 25, 2008

**Anne Murphy**  
Former Registrar  
November 24, 2008

**Jaclyn Hennessey**  
November 17, 2008

**Brian Williams**  
November 12, 2008

**Dr. Richard Nash**  
Former Faculty  
November 8, 2008



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*I am an alumnus of Saint Mary's and always intended on experiencing more of what it has to offer.* — Comment from EPD Participant Randa Fakhory, Scotiabank



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## Saint Mary's International Education Centre

Mary Boyd (standing), former Assistant Director of the International Education Centre, meets with Saint Mary's students and community workers in 1981. For over twenty years, the Centre served as a hub of activity for international education projects that linked Saint Mary's and Nova Scotia to the World.

### We'd Love to Hear from You

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NEW!

# ALUMNI OUTREACH PROGRAM

Contributed by Saint Mary's Alumni Office

Alumni volunteers are among the University's most valuable resources. When you support Saint Mary's University by contributing your energy and resources to its programs, you are contributing to the life and health of the institution.

The Alumni Office is pleased to launch the new **Alumni Outreach Program** which provides the traditional "chapter/ branch" approach but also offers new opportunities for individual alumni to stay connected, show their support and give back to our University in other capacities besides organizing activities.



For more details on the Outreach Program or to sign up as a volunteer, visit our website at [www.smu.ca/alumni](http://www.smu.ca/alumni) and fill out the Alumni Outreach Volunteer Form, or contact us at [alumni@smu.ca](mailto:alumni@smu.ca) or 902.420.5420.

## The five areas in which alumni can volunteer are:

### 1 – COMMUNITY CONTACT

Individuals can volunteer to be contacted by other alumni moving into a new community. These individuals provide a friendly voice and a source of advice on topics such as areas to live, nearby schools, where to find a real estate agent, doctors, etc.

### 2 – CAREER NETWORK

Individuals can sign up to be part of a network within their field of study. Students and alumni will be encouraged to contact these individuals to seek advice on topics such as career choices, required courses, work experiences, etc.

### 3 – HUSKIE ZONE

Individuals or groups may organize activities for

sporting or other competitive events in their area. In this manner, alumni in a particular area may come out and support their alma mater without necessarily being part of an organized chapter.

### 4 – LOCAL ORGANIZER

Individuals can organize events or activities in areas where there may not be enough alumni to develop an on-going alumni group. These individuals may organize events and support their alma mater without being a part of a group structure.

### 5 – ALUMNI GROUP

United by a common bond and commitment, these volunteers and groups gather in cities, geographical areas or special interest groups to organize and participate in various events. These groups include chapters, branches and clubs.



*"This new program provides all our alumni, no matter if they are local or international, an opportunity to show their support, remain engaged and connected to fellow alumni. This is going to make a big difference for our Association."* – Pat Crowley, Director of Alumni

The launch of our new Alumni Outreach Program was held in Toronto on March 27, 2009, as alumni gathered to cheer on the NBA's Toronto Raptors at the Air Canada Centre.



SAINT MARY'S  
UNIVERSITY SINCE 1802

ALUMNI

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