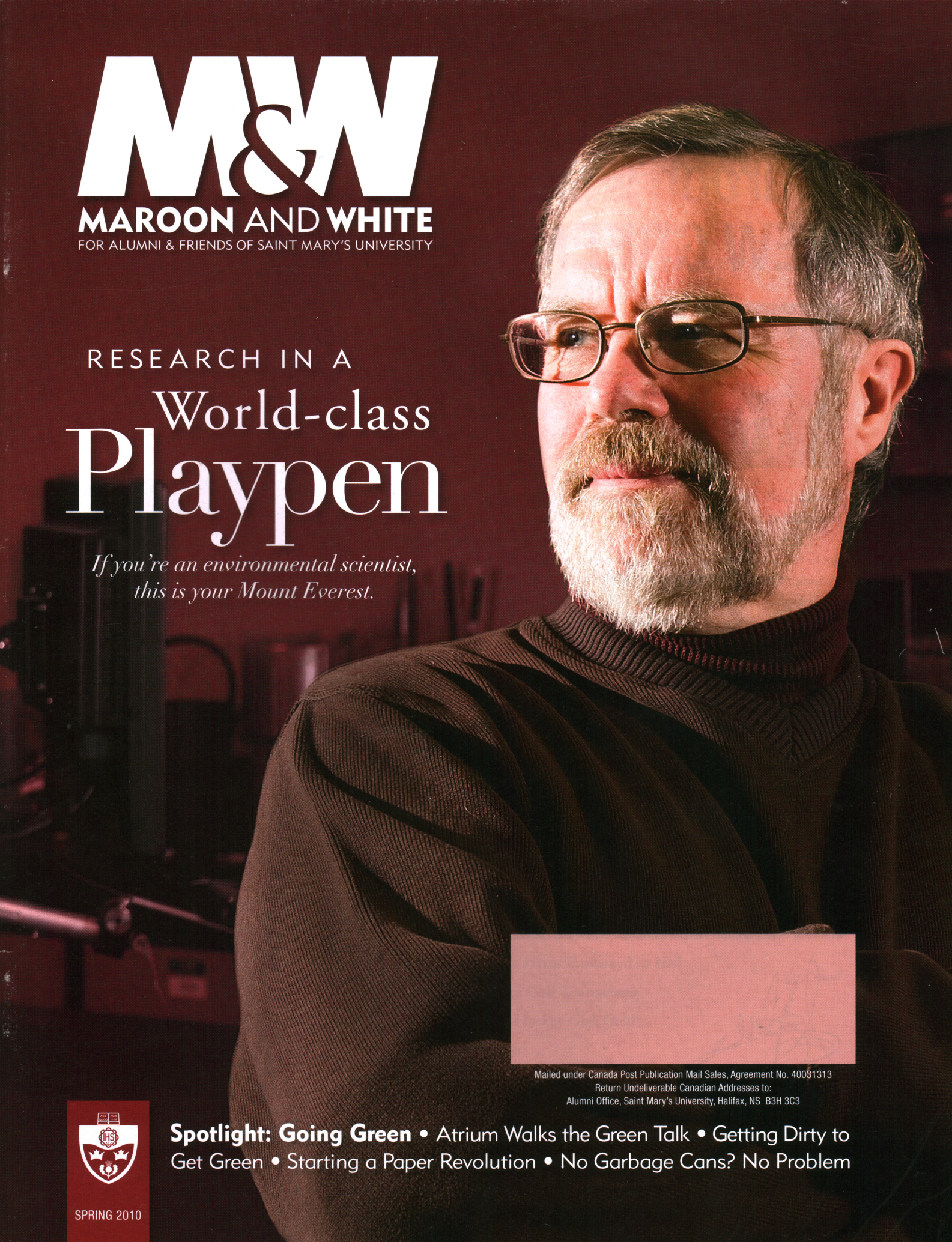
# M&W

## MAROON AND WHITE

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY



RESEARCH IN A

# World-class Playpen

*If you're an environmental scientist, this is your Mount Everest.*

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**Spotlight: Going Green** • Atrium Walks the Green Talk • Getting Dirty to Get Green • Starting a Paper Revolution • No Garbage Cans? No Problem

SPRING 2010

# Maroon is the NEW GREEN

Half-way through my second year as President of the Saint Mary's University Alumni Association, I am very proud of the progress that we have made over the past 18 months. Our events in locales from Toronto to Tokyo, Calgary to the Caribbean, as well as local and on-campus initiatives, including our five major annual events (Time for Wine, Turning Points in Leadership, the Alumni Golf Tournament, the Dr. Elizabeth A. Chard Dinner, and Homecoming) all continue to yield high levels of success.

But to me, our greater achievement is the growing number of you who are re-connecting with the Alumni Association. Every time that you attend a Movie Night, cheer on our Huskies on the playing field, join our Facebook Page, or even request an Alumni Card, you are helping to re-invigorate our lifeblood!

In this issue of *Maroon & White*, you will hear about the various ways in which our alumni and members of the campus community are getting involved in our global commitment to environmental sustainability. I am proud (and relieved!) to know that some of our fellow Santamarians are doing their part to ensure that the generations of tomorrow have places to live, play and learn.

Once again, I would like to encourage you to keep in touch with Saint Mary's, either by attending or organizing an alumni event in your area, signing up for our monthly e-newsletter, sending in a Snippet or story idea for *Maroon & White*, applying to serve on the Alumni Council, or even volunteering to assist with student recruitment in your area. Please visit us online at www.smu.ca/alumni or e-mail alumni@smu.ca for details on how you can Stay Connected!

Yours truly,

Stephen Kelly (BSc '78)
President
Saint Mary's University Alumni Association


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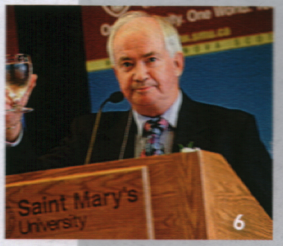
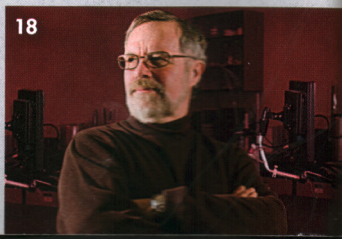
If you would like to get involved in your Alumni Council, please submit your CV to alumni@smu.ca by Monday, July 12, 2010.





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## Letters to the Editor

Dear M&W,

I am wondering if *Maroon & White* is available online. If it is not, why is Saint Mary's way behind on going Green?

*-Shane Elliott (BComm '97)*

*Ed:* Absolutely! Each new issue of our magazine is available on our web site (www.smu.ca/alumni), and our alumni are encouraged to request an online-only subscription by sending an e-mail to alumni@smu.ca. Also, *Maroon & White* is now printed on FSC-certified paper — visit www.fsc.org for details.

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Dear M&W,

My husband Blair (CERCRM '98) and I have been police officers with Halifax Regional Police (HRP) for 10 & 16 years respectively, and had the fortune of being seconded to the Office of the Prosecutor with the Special Court Sierra Leone in West Africa a year ago.

Working in Sierra Leone has been quite an amazing experience for us both, and as a result, we recently resigned from HRP and will continue to work with the Office of the Prosecutor to assist with the defense phase of a trial that will begin shortly.

The reason why I am writing is so that you can "Maroon" Sierra Leone on your alumni map from your Spring 2009 issue — one more nation that's "occupied" by proud SMU Alumni!

*-Stephanie (Veinot) Hussey (BA '94)*

*Ed:* Thanks, Stephanie! Our "Marooned Map" can be found on our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/saintmarysuniversityalumni Check it out and make sure that your country is included!

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Liquid Paper: On page 6 of our Fall 2009 issue, we incorrectly referred to Father George Leach, S.J. as a member of the 1956 Huskies Football Team. Of course, our varsity sports teams were known as the Saints until 1959!

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# ALUMNI OUTREACH PROGRAM

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

### Nathan Curtis Gildart (BA '95)

I live in and teach high school History at The American School in Tokyo, Japan, and coordinate the JUMP Program (a cultural learning program in which all 550 high school students spend 3 days somewhere in Japan).

**Why did you become an Outreach Volunteer and take on the responsibility of organizing alumni events in Japan?**

There is an exchange program between SMU and the University of Hakodate, and over the last 13 years I've met a number of SMU Alumni in Japan. I thought it would be fun to connect with some people with common bonds to SMU and Halifax. SMU was a great place to be, so why not continue to feel connected? We're still a 'young' chapter, but hope to grow.

**What does SMU mean to you?**

I loved my time at SMU. I volunteered as a peer counselor and for the Student Alumni Association, and played varsity soccer for two years. This kind of involvement made me feel that SMU was also like a "home." The Gorsebrook also felt like a second home. A few of my professors such as Ronald Coleman, Peter McKenna, and Richard Twomey had a deep impact on my interest in learning, and therefore my teaching. Though I studied for two years at Acadia, and two more at Deakin (Australia), I consider Saint Mary's my alma mater. SMU provided me with many opportunities, and thus had a major influence on my life.

For more details on the Outreach Program or to sign up as a volunteer, visit our web site at www.smu.ca/alumni and fill out the Alumni Outreach Volunteer Form, or contact us at alumni@smu.ca or (902) 420-4520.

# Five for the Future

*The Saint Mary's Alumni Association is pleased to welcome five new additions to the 2009-2010 Alumni Council.*

*Cathy Hanrahan-Cox (BA '06)* spent three years at Saint Mary's in the 1980s, where she played Varsity basketball and was Vice-President of Student's Council and a member of the Senate before leaving the University for the bright lights of Hollywood, where she worked in commercial production. After staying home with her three children, she returned to SMU and graduated with a degree in Economics and Political Science in 2006. Cathy feels that it is important to give back to the people and places that enrich her life, and she definitely considers Saint Mary's to be one of them!

*Randi Jakobsen (BA '93)* graduated from Saint Mary's with a degree in Political Science, and has been working with Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd. for the past decade. Most recently, she has served as its Director of Payroll, overseeing all of the company's staff, including the Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Marlies, Toronto Raptors and Toronto FC. She says that the University's motto, Age Quod Agis ("What you do, do well"), reflects her personal values of tenacity and relentless determination, integrity and constant improvement.

*Margaret Melanson (BA '04)* is a proud public servant, recently retired from the Nova Scotia Provincial Government after 35 years. For most of this time, she worked in the field of Human Resources – in recent years as an HR Manager, following in the path of her fellow public servant siblings Philip (BA '70) and David (BEd '65, MA '78). Margaret is an advocate of adult education and considers herself a life-long learner, having obtained her BA in Psychology and Certificate in Human Resources from Saint Mary's in 2004, as well as a Certificate in Adult Education in 2007.

*Wendy Sentner (BComm '01)* is a Financial Planner with RBC Wealth Management where she specializes in Investment & Retirement Planning. She recently returned home to Halifax after eight years in New Brunswick. Wendy has served most recently as a Board Member with the Saint John United Way, Opera New Brunswick and as Chairperson for the Relay for Life in Saint John.

*Mary-Evelyn Ternan (BA '69, BEd '70, MEd '88)* is a retired Halifax public school teacher, and comes from a family of Santamarians, including her father, James (DIPEGN '37, former Director of Summer School and Evening Division), brother Gerald (BSc/DIPEGN '69) and sister, Patricia Rutter (BComm '74, BEd '77). She was a student at Saint Mary's when the University went coed in 1968, and alongside 50 other women, she helped to lay the groundwork for future female students. She was a founding member of the Belles of Saint Mary's, and is happy to join the Alumni Council to further support the University and its Alumni. In her retirement, she enjoys traveling, substitute teaching, and volunteering for the provincial and federal Liberal riding associations. □

1

### MARITIMES CENTRE FOR GREEN CHEMISTRY LAUNCHED

Saint Mary's University has solidified its place as an environmental leader with the creation of a new research centre for green chemistry. The initiative will promote the collaboration of education and research initiatives that are looking at ways chemistry can be used to reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous substances.

2

### REACHING FOR THE STARS

Dr. Robert Deupree, Director of the Institute for Computational Astrophysics, will continue to reach for the stars — or at least study them — thanks to a $1.4 Million investment by the federal government to extend funding for a Research Chair in Astronomy and Astrophysics.

3

### IMPACT TEAM PLACES THIRD IN THE AMERICAS

Four students from the Sobey School of Business took a bite out of the Big Apple when they travelled to New York for a major investment management competition in March and place third in the Americas.The IMPACT team beat out 23 other teams from across U.S., Canada, Latin America and South America to qualify as one of five finalists at the CFA Institute Americas Regional Investment Research Challenge. They placed third in the final round.

4

### ALISTAIR MACLEOD: ONCE IN A LIFETIME

The McNally Auditorium was overflowing as gifted Canadian author Alistair MacLeod read the full text of his 1976 masterpiece, *The Closing Down of Summer,* for the Cyril Byrne Memorial Lecture on March 12. It was the first time in his career that he'd read the book to an audience.

5

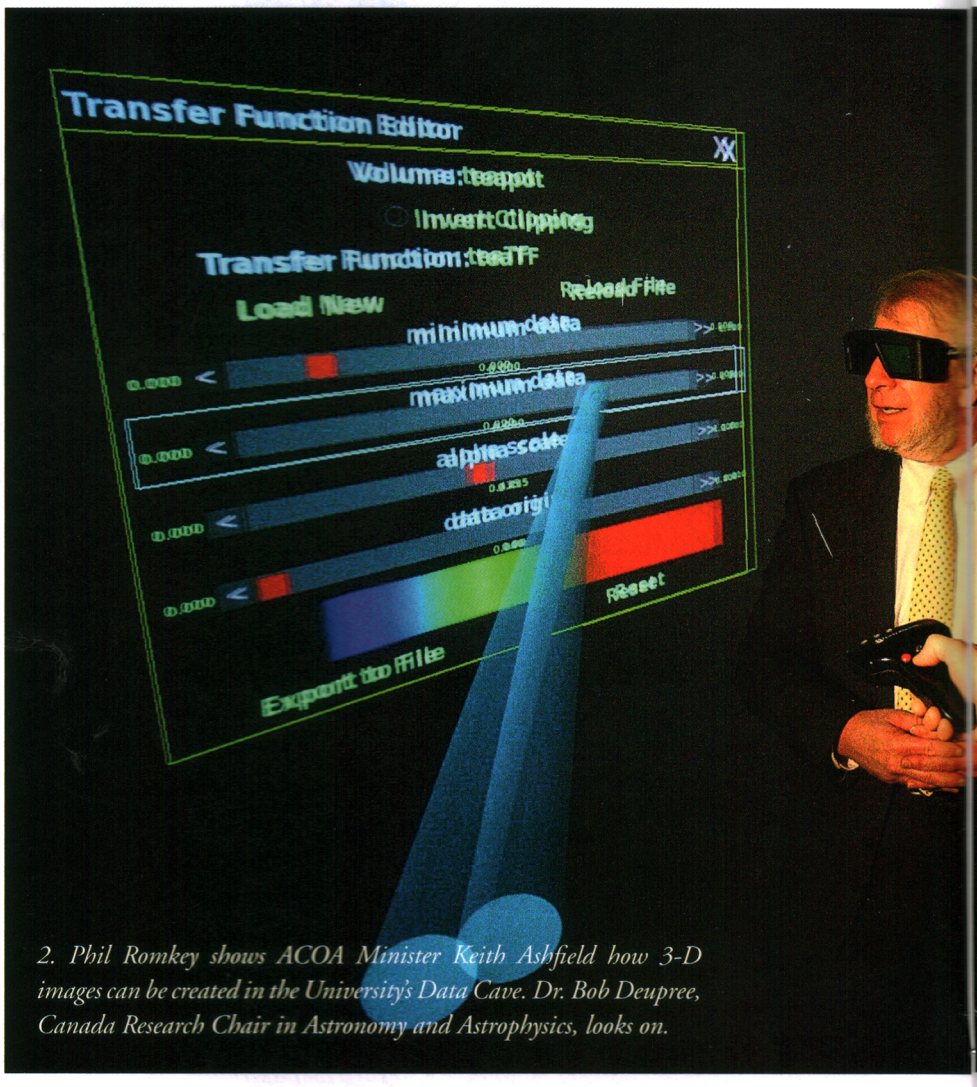
### WITNESSES TO A FRAGILE PEACE

Sixteen Saint Mary's students travelled to Northern Ireland in early February to witness first hand the conflict that still grips the troubled region. The students were members of the University's Conflict Resolution Society and they worked with Catholic, Protestant and Integrated schools throughout Belfast to offer conflict resolution workshops.

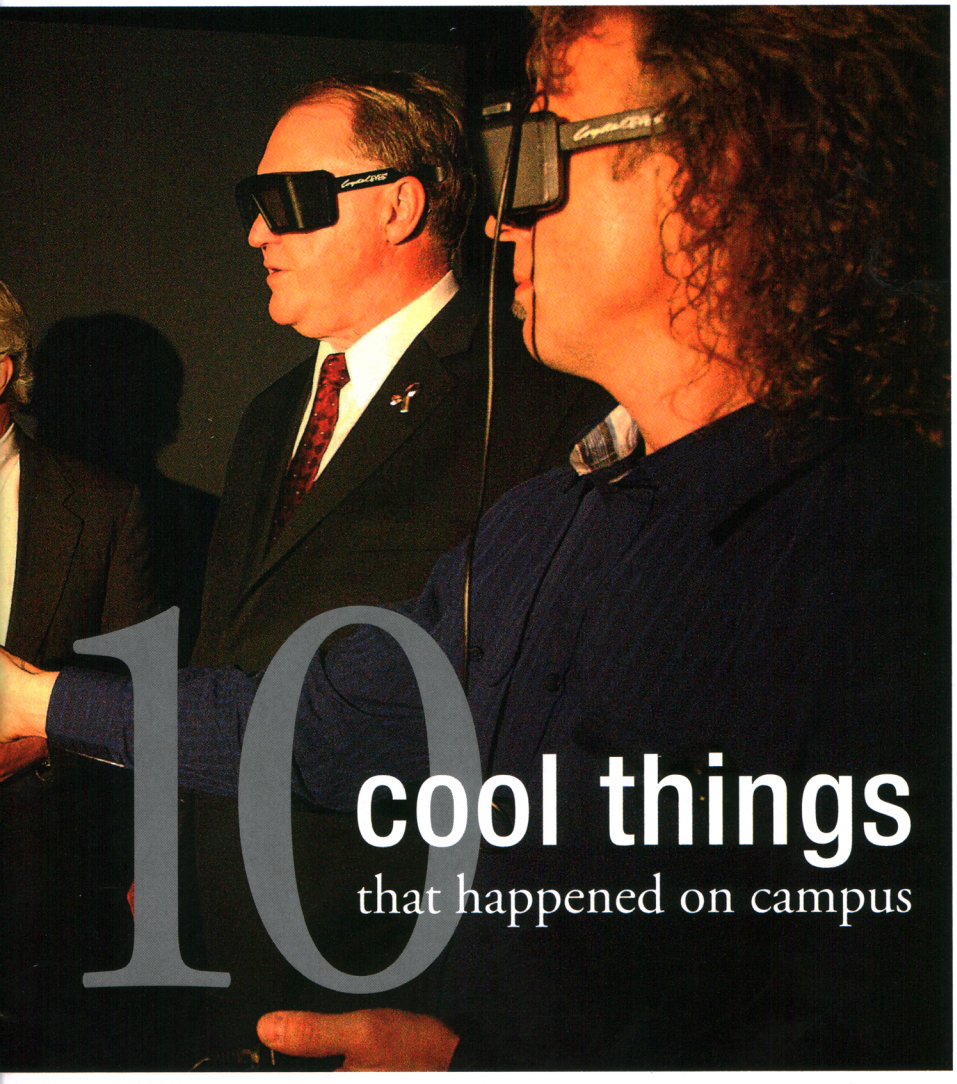
6

### RESEARCH MAKES LIST OF MOST PROVOCATIVE SEX STORIES OF 2009

How guilty would you feel if you cheated on your partner? The answer has a lot to do with the type of infidelity — and your sex according to Saint Mary's Psychology Professor Dr. Maryanne Fisher. In what was named one of the nine most provocative sex science stories of 2009 by LiveScience.com, she found that men feel guiltier following sexual infidelity, while women feel guiltier after emotional transgression.




*2. Phil Romkey shows ACOA Minister Keith Ashfield how 3-D images can be created in the University's Data Cave. Dr. Bob Deupree, Canada Research Chair in Astronomy and Astrophysics, looks on.*




## 7 MACDONALD MAKES LIST OF MOST INFLUENTIAL IN BUSINESS ETHICS

For the second year in a row, Saint Mary's Philosophy professor Chris MacDonald has made the list of the 100 Most Influential People in Business Ethics. The list celebrates the accomplishments of 100 individuals "that made a significant impact in the realm of business ethics" during 2009. Some of the notable names on the list include U.S. President Barack Obama, Pope Benedict XVI, Microsoft's Bill Gates and General Electric CEO Jeff Immelt.

## 8 A TIP OF THE HAT TO THE IRISH

It's not the luck of the Irish that saw two alumni earn recognition from Irish Societies this past Spring. It was hard work and dedication to the community. In New York, Robert Kelly (BComm '75, DComm '97), Chairman and CEO of Bank of New York Mellon, was named the 2010 recipient of the American Irish Historical Society's gold medal for his establishment of a program that has raised more that $26 million for non-profit organizations. In Halifax, cardiac surgeon and Saint Mary's grad Dr. John A.P. Sullivan (BSc '69) was presented the prestigious Service Award by the Charitable Irish Society for his work as Head of Cardiac Surgery in Halifax from 1995-2005.

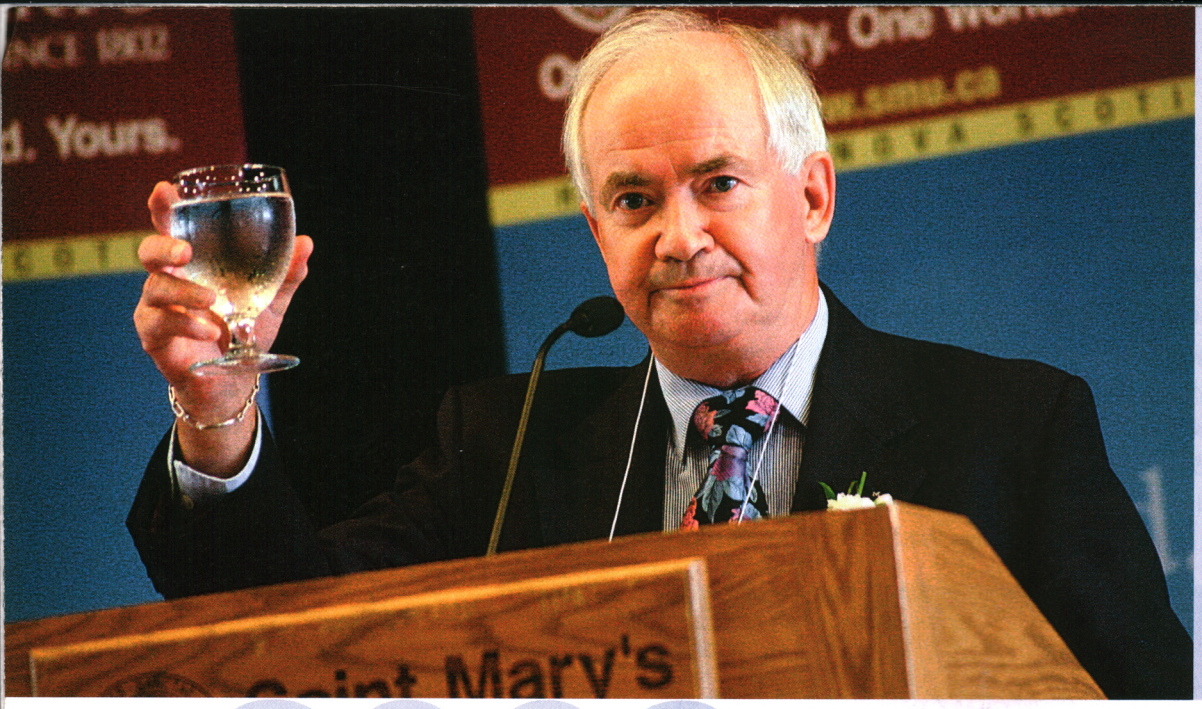
## 9 RARE NORTHERN RIGHT WHALES WERE NOT HUNTED TO NEAR EXTINCTION

Sixteenth and 17th century whalers have traditionally been blamed for hunting the rare Northern Right whale to near extinction, but a study by Saint Mary's Biology lecturer Dr. Brenna McLeod called that assumption into question. By studying DNA extracted bones found aboard a 16th century Basque whaling galleon, she determined limited genetics is at the heart of the beasts demise.

## 10 DIARY CASTS NEW LIGHT ON THE DEPORTATION

After spending more than a decade digging in the fields around Grand-Pré looking for artifacts of pre-Deportation Acadian life, Jonathan Fowler (BA '95) made one of his biggest discoveries to date while sorting through drawers just a few blocks from his office.

While doing work at the Nova Scotia archives, he came across the transcript of a diary written by Jeremiah Bancroft, a Massachusetts born soldier, who was on the front line of the Deportation of the Acadians from Grand-Pré. The entries covered only a dozen pages, but Fowler and his research partner, Earle Lockerby, immediately recognized they offered up a view of the event that had never before appeared in print. □



# 2009 Homecoming

Alumni were welcomed back to campus to take part in Homecoming 2009 festivities held September 24-27.

This year's activities started Thursday evening with the 3rd Annual Touching Lives: Celebrating the Life of Dr. Elizabeth A. Chard dinner held in the Loyola Conference Hall. Those remembering Dr. Chard were inspired by guest speaker Neil Le Blanc (BComm '77) and his recollections of Dr. Chard.

The traditional Golden Grad Luncheon celebrated the Class of 1959, who were marking their 50th reunion, with ten of the graduating class in attendance. They were joined by over 50 other Golden Grads as well as numerous guests, faculty and staff. Grace was given by Brian Flemming (BSc '59) and the Toast to the University was given by Arthur Donahoe (BComm '59, LLD '08). Our Golden Grads are true Santamarians and an inspiration for us all!

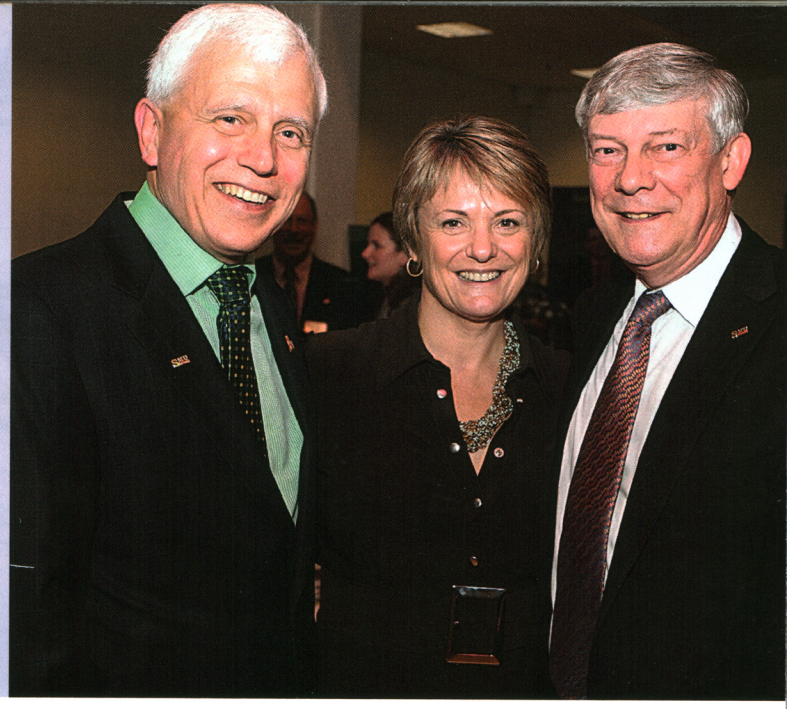
Later that afternoon, the Alumni Association held one of its largest Annual General Meetings ever, with a rousing show of support from local alumni. The AGM was followed by a Wine & Cheese hosted by University President, Dr. J. Colin Dodds (Assoc '95), and Alumni Association President Mr. Stephen Kelly (BSc '78). Many old acquaintances were renewed and all celebrated the Alumni Awards winners (see list page 25).

Saturday was football day with our Huskies conquering Sherbrooke 26-23 and providing a preview of the strength of this year's team. After the game, alumni and friends gathered for the SMU Sociable downtown at Mosaic. The celebration lasted well into the night and alumni of all ages showed their SMU spirit.

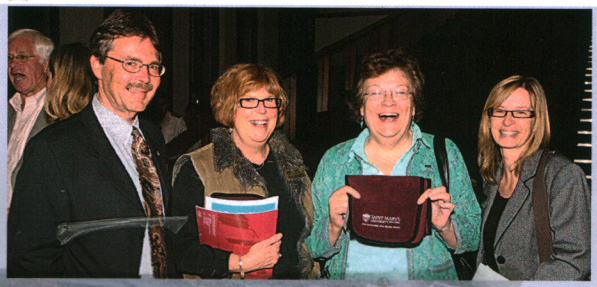
The Homecoming events concluded with the Huskies 5K Fun Run Sunday morning, with more than 60 enthusiastic runners and walkers all engaging in a chilly morning get-together. It was a great way to end the weekend.

The Alumni Association would like to extend a huge thank-you to all alumni and friends who helped to make Homecoming 2009 such a great success. Thanks as well to the many Saint Mary's staff who provided assistance and expertise.

Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2010, to be held September 17-19! □



# A Weekend to Remember



**Page 10 - Top Left:** *Arthur Donahoe (BComm '59, LLD '08,) toasts the University on behalf of the Golden Grads.* **Top Right:** *Johnson Mont (BComm '59), Stephen Kelly (BSc '78) and Wendy Sentner (BComm '01) share a laugh at the Presidents' Wine & Cheese.* **Bottom Right:** *Alumni and Friends sharing memories at the Dr. Elizabeth A. Chard Dinner.*

**Page 11 - Top Left:** *Sierra and Sky Sarty, daughters of Athletic Director Steve Sarty (BA '95), show their spirit by participating in the Huskies 5K Fun Run.* **Bottom Left:** *Dr. J. Colin Dodds (Assoc '95) enjoys the SMU Sociable with Senator Terry (BA '71) & Ellen (BA '71) Mercer.* **Top Centre:** *Dr. Terry Murphy (BA '68), John Fitzpatrick (BA '81) and Joe Power (BA '58) swap tales at the Presidents' Wine & Cheese* **Bottom Centre:** *David Hendsbee (BComm '82), Keith Hotchkiss (BA '73) and Drew Franklin (BComm '89) roughhousing at the Presidents' Wine & Cheese* **Top Right:** *Our Chard Dinner guest speaker, Consul General to New England Neil Le Blanc (BComm '74) and his wife Grace chat with Dr. Dodds.* **Bottom Left:** *2009 Golden Grads Brian Flemming, Burris Devanney, William Mullane, Johnson Mont, Patrick Moriarty, Arthur Donahoe, Thomas Osborne, Michael Tingley, John Nause, Alumni Association President Stephen Kelly, John Collins, and University President Dr. J. Colin Dodds.* **Bottom Upper Right:** *Dr. Don Naulls, Mary-Evelyn Ternan (BA '69, BEd '70, MEd '88), Kathy Naulls (Assoc '08) and Shelley Hessian (MBA '07) at the Presidents' Wine & Cheese* **Bottom Right:** *Future Santamarians hanging out with Huskie Dog at the Presidents' Wine & Cheese*

# atrium

# Walks the Green Talk

*By Suzanne Robicheau*

Sunlight spills through the glazed roof. A glass-tiled elevator rises three stories, cradled in the curving tendril of a sweeping, sculptural steel staircase. The overwhelming colour palette is a restrained mix of sea green and gray balanced by natural foliage and light maple millwork.

Like its signature three-storey living wall, Saint Mary's new Atrium/Global Learning Commons is a breath of fresh air. Humbly conceived as a gateway between existing buildings, the structure has taken on a life of its own, transforming a little used exterior space into a thriving interior hub that links the newly renovated science building, the Patrick Power Library and the Burke buildings.

The job of a hub is to make connections and the Atrium has that covered. The most noticeable connections are those between buildings – especially on a blustery winter day when there's a north wind gusting across the harbour. Other connections are less conspicuous: connections between students, between students and staff, between different faculties, and between researchers at Saint Mary's and their partners in economic development – all of this supported by state-of-the-art connections in wireless networking.

*"Not only is the building visually appealing, but there's a constant sound that comes from the water that trickles down the fabric of the green wall. It's very relaxing."*

The Atrium/Global Learning Commons answers a need voiced by students for an improved communications system and a barrier-free collaborative workspace. In addition to an open concept main floor gathering space, the building houses classrooms, computer labs, offices, study space, a state-of-the-art lecture theatre, and community-based research initiatives like the Ocean Management Research Network and the Atlantic Metropolis Centre. On-site support services include the Centre for Academic and Instructional Development (CAID), the Centre for Academic Technologies (CAT), and the Writing Centre.

Made possible by the generous donations of friends and alumni, the project was conceived by an interdisciplinary team of academics, administrators and students, designed by the Halifax architectural firm, Davison Seamone Rickard Adams, and constructed by AECON to strict Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. The 43,000 sq. ft. structure was completed last fall at a cost of $17.5 million.

In matters pertaining to the health of the planet, the Atrium/Global Commons walks the green talk. The fair-trade, organic coffee shop is green; the water station is green. Even the roof is green—or it will be by summer—thanks in part to research completed by graduate student Melissa Ranalli, under the supervision of Dr. Jeremy Lundholm in the Department of Biology. "We're using Melissa's results to select the plants for the green roof," says Dr. Lundholm. "Because we're working with native species we grow the plants ourselves in a greenhouse on the top of the library roof."

Green roofs reduce the energy consumed by urban buildings and create a natural habitat from otherwise unused space. Already well established in Europe, the technology is growing by leaps and bounds in North America. "There are lots of green roofs around," says Kevin Vessey, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, "but very few that offer the opportunity to conduct experiments and measure performance. This will be a unique facility for research."

From his second-floor office in the Atrium, Dr. Vessey is well positioned to observe the building's functional centerpiece, a three-storey living wall comprised of more than a thousand tropical plants. A better-understood technology than the building's experimental green roof, the biowall is a natural air filter that's tied into the Atrium's ventilation system. Built and installed

by Nedlaw Living Walls in Ontario, it's the first of its kind in Atlantic Canada and the largest east of Toronto. "It contributes in a wonderful way to the ambience of the building," says Kevin Vessey.

Even more important, the green wall contributes to cleaner, greener air. "A typical building is designed to bring in new air from the outside," says Jeremy Lundholm. "Depending on the temperature outside, that new air needs to be either heated or cooled." Because it handles its air exchange internally by drawing new air from plants on the living wall, the Atrium reduces the demand for heating or cooling.

Dr. Lundholm passes the green wall a few times a day on his way to the roof. "This is a great space," he says. "Not only is the building visually appealing, but there's a constant sound that comes from the water that trickles down the fabric of the green wall. It's very relaxing."

In time he is hoping to broadcast data collected by sensors on the green roof on a screen in the Atrium. "The green roof is only visible from above," says Lundholm. "This is a way of connecting the roof to the rest of the building."

In the end, it really is all about connections. □

*left: A view of the thriving Green Wall. To view living wall video go to: www.theatrium.ca*

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Saint Mary's Hearts & Minds Campaign was instrumental in the development of the Atrium with community support coming from alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students as well as donations from businesses, foundations and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA).

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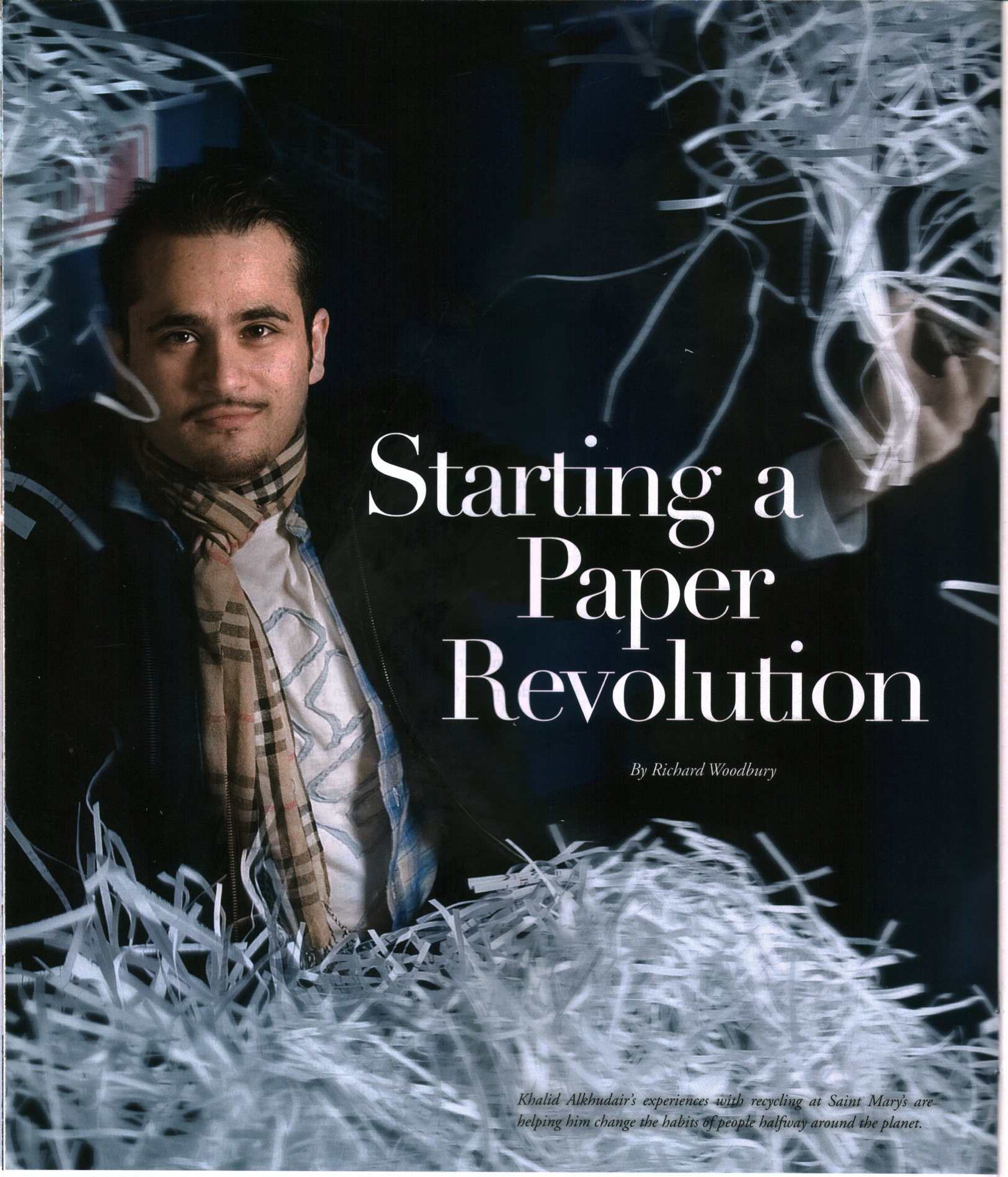


# Starting a Paper Revolution

*By Richard Woodbury*

*Khalid Alkhudair's experiences with recycling at Saint Mary's are helping him change the habits of people halfway around the planet.*

Sometimes a revolution starts with planning and determination. In other cases it starts with a simple idea that others can latch onto.

In Saudi Arabia, a war on waste began when Khalid Alkhudair (BComm '07) saw one of his co-workers getting ready to pitch 10 boxes of outdated calendars in the trash.

"Why are we throwing them out?" he asked his supervisors at KPMG. "You should be recycling them."

It was a simple idea, but in 2007 it was still a foreign concept in the booming desert country often singled out as one of the world's biggest polluters.

Alkhudair met with senior management and talked about what he had learned about recycling from his days at Saint Mary's. Through brainstorming, the group discovered one of the company's clients was a paper manufacturer who, it turned out, was delighted to pick up the calendars and recycle them.

Building on that initial victory, he established a recycling program called "Shred it and Bin it" at the company's office in Al Khobar. Posters and recycling bins were set-up and a monthly e-newsletter offering recycling tips to staff and clients was sent out. The program was so successful that similar programs were rolled out in the company's other two offices in Saudi Arabia. Alkhudair designed the program so that it didn't cost anything, and the money earned from recycling went to local charities. Within six months, 3,000 kilograms of paper waste had been recycled.

"It led to a point where people started bringing in their paper waste from home and thus educating their families on recycling issues," he said.

It wasn't just employees who took notice. Press coverage, including an article Alkhudair wrote in the influential *Gulf Marketing Review*, a monthly magazine that looks at marketing and corporate social responsibility, caught the attention of other companies in the region.

*"It led to a point where people started bringing in their paper waste from home and thus educating their families on recycling issues."*

"A lot of companies called me up and asked me, 'What did you do? How did you do it? What is required? What is the capital needed to fund it?'" he said. "It really didn't require anything, basically some small supporting materials and you have to have the right communications plan."

Since the original "Shred it and Bin it" campaign, a plastics recycling program has been rolled out and a glass recycling campaign is in the works.

The initiative was not only good for the environment; it was good for his career. In the span of two and a half years, Alkhudair has received two promotions and now serves as the marketing and communications manager for all of Saudi Arabia.

"Marketing is who I am," he said, noting it's all about networking and meeting new people — things about which he is passionate.

It's a good thing too, because his work is often demanding. He has an office at each of KPMG's three locations in Saudi Arabia and spends at least one day a week at each. When he says he isn't sure where to call home, he's only half-joking.

In January, KPMG was honoured with the King Khalid Responsible Competitiveness Award as the best firm in Saudi Arabia for attracting and retaining talent. The company was also recognized as one of the top ten firms for being good corporate citizens. Alkhudair is pleased with whatever role his initiatives might have played in helping the company earn that kind of recognition.

In order to one day attain the position of Chief Executive or Marketing Officer of KPMG, he says that he would like potentially obtain an MBA or Masters in Finance.

"Working at KPMG, it's all about audit tax and advisory," he said. "I'd like to expand my horizons in finance and accounting. I have to understand the business to market it."

Alkhudair has fond memories of his days at Saint Mary's, which he calls a "hub of knowledge." And, with any luck, his alma mater might just be the right place for him to continue his formal education.

"That would be my dream," he says. □

## Taking the Initiative

Sustainability initiatives and improvements are an ongoing part of life at Saint Mary's University. Here are just a few of the initiatives that have helped make Saint Mary's a more sustainable campus on which to work and study.

- washroom paper products made from 100 per cent recyclable materials
- cleaning products that are certified green
- more than 160 recycling bins on campus
- recycling program for cell phones, ink cartridges and batteries
- a book exchange program
- sale of reusable coffee mugs and discount for use of reusable mugs
- bulk condiments in cafeteria
- online pay stubs
- new three-storey Atrium building — built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards
- Atrium roof that uses green-roof technologies
- Atrium research areas that support optimizing crop plants for biofuel feedstocks
- an interior living wall in the new Atrium
- Evergreen program — ensuring that computers are reused after use on campus

For a complete list of Saint Mary's green initiatives, visit: www.smu.ca/sustanability

# Getting Dirty to get Green

*By Blake Patterson*

A man dressed in jeans and a sweatshirt takes a last bite out of an apple and tosses the core like a basketball into a garbage can in the corner of an office study area.

The core dings the side and slides under some papers and two plastic pop bottles. He raises his hands in celebration of his extraordinary aim, grabs his books, heads out of the room and, passing a blue bin recycling cart, steps out into the hall.

Several hours later when the contents of the garbage can are dumped onto a concrete floor, the core is peeled from the surrounding bottles and placed in a bucket along with other browning organics.

Not every garbage can on campus is searched for evidence of recycling gone wrong, but Shelley Price-Finn (BComm. '97, MBA '08), Manager, Custodial and Administration, and Laura Saar, one of the University's Student Sustainability Assistants, regularly conduct waste audits — carefully sorting, counting and weighing each piece of waste they find in the garbage cans.

Dressed in aprons and rubber gloves, they consider every item. Is it garbage or should it have been recycled? Are there any organic items tossed in the plastics bin? By separating the waste into separate smaller piles, the picture is clear.

Saar, a second-year student majoring in Commerce and minoring in Environmental Studies, said the audits show how a stinking heap of garbage can be reduced to a few items by simply removing paper, plastics, organics and other recyclables.

"These audits show actual value," said Saar, who is also a member of the Saint Mary's University Environmental

*Shelley Price-Finn and Laura Saar conduct a garbage audit in the basement of the Loyola residence.*

Society (SMUES). "There are significant savings, both financially and environmentally that can go with the two seconds it takes to put something in the recycling bin, rather than the garbage."

Price-Finn and Saar record their totals in a report sent only to the department that created the garbage. They don't want to cast blame, but rather to help members of the department become better recyclers. The report includes the result of past audits and feedback about what areas of recycling the department should improve.

"We provide them with the reports so they can improve their recycling efforts," said Price-Finn. "Rather than saying 'you're not doing well,' we want them to focus on how to improve."

Last year, recycling initiatives helped give students cleaner classrooms and reduced the University's solid waste in public areas by 40 per cent. This year, with the launch of the departmental waste audit, the University hopes professors and staff will achieve similar success in campus offices.

How the program works: Departments have three options. The first is to have all garbage cans removed from offices and have a four-stream sorting bin centrally located within the department — thereby requiring everyone in the department to recycle.

The second option allows office workers to keep their garbage cans, but will have their garbage routinely audited to see if it's contaminated by items that should have been recycled.

The third option also allows garbage cans to stay, but custodial staff leave advisory and alert stickers on the cans if contamination is found — a blue advisory sticker for a first offence, a yellow warning sticker for a second offences, and a red rejection sticker for third offences. If a red sticker is issued, the custodial staff will not collect the garbage and Price-Finn will visit the department to provide remedial recycling training.

In each option, garbage and recycling bins are regularly (but secretly) audited to see if members of the department are recycling properly.

Based on the results of the departmental waste sorting pilot, Price-Finn said the University will implement the office waste recycling option that results in the least contamination.

For more information visit: www.smu.ca/sustainability □

# No Garbage Cans? No Problem

*By Blake Patterson*

Garbage piling up? Try removing the garbage cans. That's what Saint Mary's University did recently as part of its ongoing recycling efforts. It was a gamble, but something needed to be done.

"In every single classroom, students would dump their garbage – regardless of what stream it was supposed to go in," said Shelley Price-Finn (BComm '97, MBA '08), Manager, Custodial and Administration. "And when [the garbage can] was full, the garbage would pile up on the desks and on the tables and it would be spread out anywhere in the classes."

Price-Finn knew removing the garbage cans was a calculated risk. It could result in more garbage spread throughout classrooms, but it might also encourage people to use the recycling bins on campus.

Surprisingly, once the garbage cans were gone, so was the garbage. Use of recycling bins increased and the volume of garbage that went to the landfill dropped by 40 per cent.

"People are actually being more diligent now," she said. "They actually have to pick the garbage up [from the classrooms] and walk out into the hallway."

It seems the garbage cans were the problem.

"When people are going to remove waste they're going to place that waste in the very first can they see," she explained. "They're not going to wait to see if there's a recycling bin somewhere else."

She said the removal of the garbage cans actually plays to the fact that most people are conscientious about recycling.

"If you remove the enticement (the easy way), they tend to go toward where it should be," she said, adding the key to successful recycling is to make recycling as convenient as possible. "You have to make it easy. You have to make it obvious. You have to make it visible."

To make it easy, obvious and visible, the University now has more than 160 recycling bins strategically placed across campus.

"They're so visible in the hallways – they're big, they're blue, they're everywhere," she said. "[People] now know that they cannot walk out of a classroom without seeing a big blue bin very close by."

Building on the success of the classroom garbage program, Price-Finn hopes all members on the university community, including alumni and suppliers, will join the University's recycling effort.

"We need to find champions within our alumni," she said. "We need to find champions within our own student base, we need to find champions in our supplier community, we need to find champions in our contracting community. We need to reach out to make sure that people understand how critically important this is." □

*Environmental Scientist*
*Mike MacKinnon*

# Research in a World-class Playpen

*If you're an environmental scientist, this is your Mount Everest.*

*By Blake Patterson*

Saint Mary's graduate Mike MacKinnon (BSc '71) spent three decades studying the environmental challenges of Alberta's Athabasca Oilsands Deposit.

Few people ever get to put their undergraduate degree to such practical application. During his career in the oil sands industry, his work highlighted the importance of water management in development of the oil sands, helped develop approaches to assess environmental issues and found strategies to minimize negative impacts on the region.

"I like to think that understanding the risks and options for mitigation of the by-products of such operations has made a difference," he said. "If nothing else, it provided me with the opportunity to continually learn new things over my whole career and have a great time doing it."

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree — he was the University's first honours grad in Chemistry — and earning a doctorate in Oceanography from Dalhousie, MacKinnon accepted a research position at Syncrude Canada Ltd. in 1979. He then headed off to Alberta to be part of an environmental team that faced a major challenge associated with the oil sands mining operations.

"After having been brought up on the East coast, the allure of the West and the chance to be part of a new and challenging development attracted me," said MacKinnon, adding it "seemed like an adventure" to be able to help develop a resource that could lead to Canada's energy independence.

He intended to spend only a few years in Alberta, but soon found Syncrude offered him access "to a world-class playpen" for his research.

He said the research skills he learned at Saint Mary's served him well over the years. The dedicated faculty and smaller classes led to "excellent interaction and strong mentoring" from his Chemistry professors.

"Without that, my career path would have been much different," he said, noting his time at SMU provided the groundwork for his graduate work, as well as work with university researchers, with whom he has partnered throughout his career.

"It provided fresh energies, new ideas and cutting edge technologies to aid in solving environmental and reclamation challenges facing the oil sands industry," said MacKinnon.

He explained that oil sands operations are massive operations that involve moving, processing and upgrading huge quantities of earth under a range of conditions in a harsh environment. As a result, the industry relies on engineering and Canada's academic community to find environmental solutions to its production challenges. MacKinnon said the research interaction has proven valuable for both sides.

"It was beneficial to industry and our academic partners to work together and the results and training produced are impressive," he said.

MacKinnon retired from Syncrude in the Fall of 2009 and now lives in Hamilton, ON, where he is a lecturer in the Earth Sciences Department at Brock University. He is also an outspoken advocate for research-based solutions to the "often misunderstood legacy of the oil sands operations."

He feels that people need to understand oil sands issues before jumping in with solutions. In an industry dominated by engineers, people often want to implement technological solutions before they understand the fundamental science behind the problem.

"One thing I learned in the oil sands operations is that many of the perceived concerns were best managed when they were placed in context," he said. "In other words, address the real risks rather than preconceived risks."

MacKinnon advises that once issues are defined, stakeholders should look to science as a tool to examine and evaluate the issue and determine a plan of action. Without proper science and research, he said the engineering solution may be worse than the problem.

"It's interesting that on many occasions allowing nature to heal itself was a more successful option than the allocation of engineered technology," he said, reflecting on his 30 years of research experience. "In approaching complex problems, first try to define the problem before rushing in with a solution." □

*Gareth Akerman*

# Scholarships Honour the Past, Seed the Future

Gareth Akerman (BScH '05) was just starting his new career when he died in a plane crash while surveying wading birds in the Florida Everglades. It was March 13th, 2008 and the last flight of a research project he was involved in with Florida Atlantic University. Tragically, two graduate students and the pilot also died in the crash.

Five months earlier he had graduated with his Master's degree from Dalhousie University. However, it was his undergraduate experience at Saint Mary's University where he discovered his passion. He'd dabbled in business and the film industry but the experiences failed to capture his imagination. Then, at 26, he told his family it was time to start over and he enrolled at Saint Mary's. He never looked back.

Hugh Broders, one of his supervising professors, recalls that as part of his degree Gareth led an endeavor to establish a colony of endangered Roseate terns on Quaker Island in Mahone Bay. The effort meant living on the small, exposed island, often alone, for weeks on end.

"There was little in terms of luxury, but it provided an opportunity for Gareth's strength of character and passion and dedication to wildlife conservation to shine brightly through," he said.

Awards from the fund have been given out in Gareth's name to help other budding scientists develop their passion in their field. It has been given out twice since the young man's premature passing.

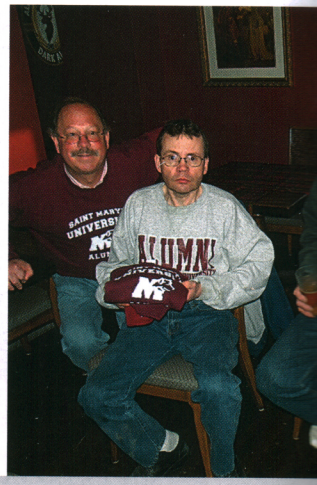
With the support of donors such as Gareth's family and friends, Saint Mary's is committed to ensuring the success of students by providing over 260 scholarships, bursaries, and awards totaling $4.2 million annually. Scholarships are granted for academic achievement; bursaries and awards are granted for other criteria, such as financial need, but may also require certain academic standards. □

*To make the assistance more accessible to students, donors and potential donors, all scholarships now appear online in a searchable format that provides criteria and application instructions. It can be found at: www.smu.ca/scholarships*

*Michael & Sean (BSc '64) Dennehy; Terry, Ted (BComm '62), Jeff & Bob (BA '58) Hoganson, Brian Dennehy, Paul Lynch (BComm '76) and Patrick Dennehy at the 22nd Annual Husky Howl Golf Tournament in Ottawa (August 13)*

*Mr. J. Paul (BComm '91) and Dr. Kimberly (MA '97) Berry greet The Honourable Mayann E. Francis (BA '72), Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia with their children Keya and Abel Gemeda at the Alumni Reception at Government House (February 25)*

*Stephen Kelly (BSc '78), James Collicutt (BSc '85), Gary Bratty (BA '88) & Steve Sarty (BA '95) at the Alumni Reception in Sydney (March 13)*




# Alumni

*Alumni gather for a reception in beautiful St. Lucia (November 4)*

*Pumpkin Polooza 2009 Champions Susan Cannon & Bridgit Bell (Library Access Services) with Alumni Director Pat Crowley (BA '72) (October 29)*

*Huskie supporters getting their cheer-on at the CIS Women's Hockey Championships in Antigonish (March 14)*

*Ally Read (BA/BComm '07) with Future Huskies Dara Vickers (daughter of Dianne Tilley-Vickers, BA '89) & Jamee MacNeil at Alumni Basketball Night (January 22)*

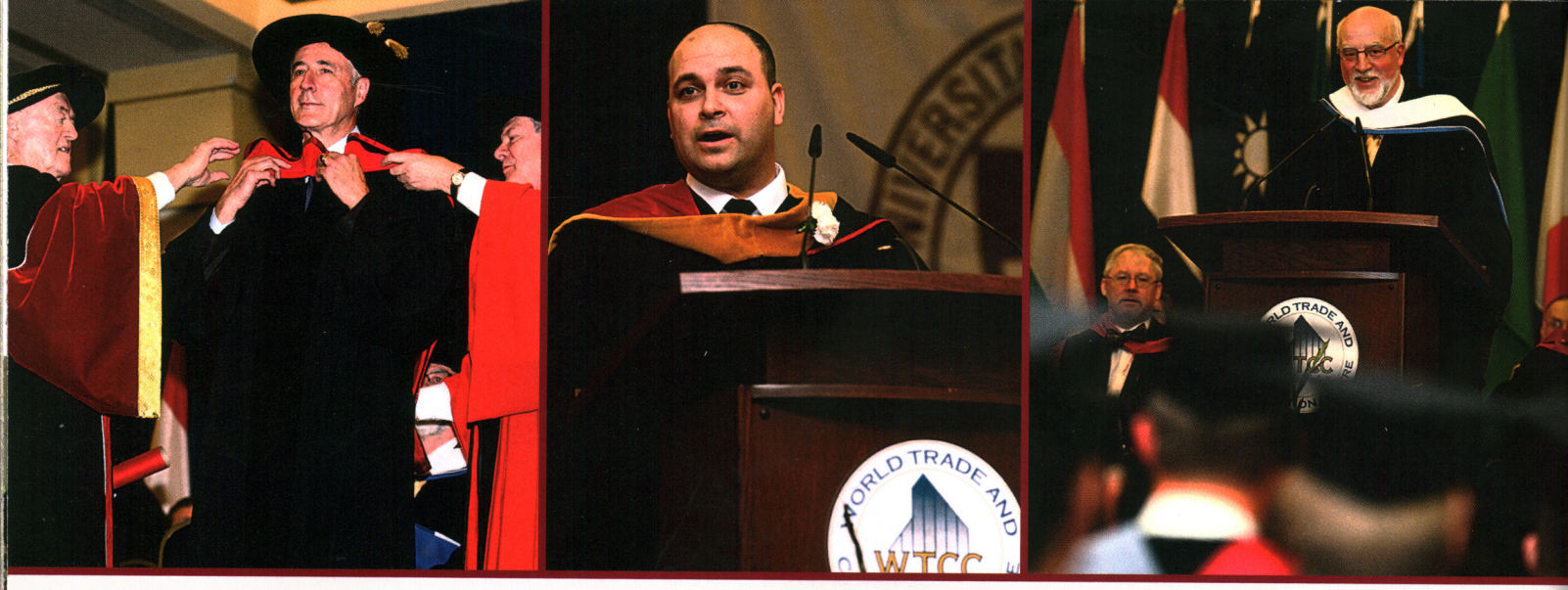
*Sen. Wilfred Moore (BComm '64, LLD '07), Sen. Terry Mercer (BA '71), Stephen Kelly (BSc '78), Paul Lynch (BComm '76), Pat Crowley (BA '72) & Dr. J. Colin Dodds (Assoc '95) at the Alumni Reception on Parliament Hill (November 25)*

# Events

*Gary Smith, Marie Kent Smith (BA '89), Pat Crowley (BA '72), Reeshemah Swan (BA '93), Germiko Hill (BComm '09), Sukoji Somner (BComm '06) & Tareek Somner (BA '04) at the Alumni Reception in Bermuda (October 4)*

*Bill Robinson (BComm '75), Dave Stala ('02) & Billy Robinson (BA '05) at the Huskies Football Interlock Game in Montreal (October 17)*

**Visit www.smu.ca/alumni for more photos from other Alumni Events!**




# 2009 Fall Convocation

More than 400 aspiring citizens of the world became graduates of one of Canada's oldest and most prestigious institutions of higher learning at Saint Mary's University's Fall Convocation on October 18, 2009 at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax.

"Our creativity, abilities, aptitude to succeed and lessons learned while at Saint Mary's give us the tools to face today's global and local problems," said Valedictorian Philip Gagnon, a Bachelor of Science graduate who also earned a Diploma of Engineering.

As part of the convocation celebrations, Saint Mary's granted honorary degrees to a pair of individuals who have made significant contributions to Canadian society — one in the arts and the other in human rights and the economic development of disadvantaged communities.

An Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree was bestowed upon Bernard (Bernie) Riordon, O.C., the former Director and CEO of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS). The distinction recognizes his work as a pioneer in expanding the scope of fine art museums to embrace folk art, the long-standing support that he has provided to the Saint Mary's University Art Gallery, and the contribution he has made in establishing the AGNS as one of the leading art museums in Canada and the World.

Saint Mary's also bestowed an Honorary Doctor of Civil Law degree upon Dr. Frederic Wien, who has spearheaded efforts to advance the economic and human rights of Canada's Aboriginal peoples for more than 30 years. The honorary degree recognizes Dr. Wien's scholarship and his community service in support of disadvantaged communities, human rights and racial diversity.

The Saint Mary's University Alumni Association would like to congratulate and welcome its newest members! For a complete list of Fall 2009 graduates, visit: www.smu.ca/registrar □

*left: Chancellor Dr. David F. Sobey (left) and Dr. J. Colin Dodds (right) present Dr. Frederic Wien with an Honorary Doctor of Civic Laws degree. centre: Valedictorian Philip Gagnon. right: Bernard Riordon received an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree and addressed the graduating class.*

# 2009 Alumni Awards

The 2009 Alumni Awards were presented during the President's Wine & Cheese as part of Homecoming 2009. The recipients were nominated by their peers, colleagues and friends. For further details on each award, please visit www.smu.ca/alumni/a_awards.html

**The Father William A. Stewart Medal, S.J., Medal for Excellence in Teaching:**
Dr. Pawan Lingras, Department of Mathematics & Computing Sciences

**Associate Alumni Membership:**
Kathy MacFarlane & Alfred Smithers, O.C.

**Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award:**
Carol Dodds (MEd '90, MA '95) & Frank Gervais (DIPEGN '58)

**Distinguished Community Service Award:**
Wendy Brookhouse (BComm '91, MBA '02) &
Judith Richardson (BA/BEd '99, MA '01)

**Young Alumni Award:** *(See story next page)*
Jeff Britton (BA '00) & Jennifer Walker (BA '03)

*photo: Alumni Association President Stephen Kelly, Frank Gervais, Wendy Brookhouse, Judith Richardson, Fred Smithers, Pawan Lingras, Jeff Britton, Jenny Walker, Carol Dodds & Kathy MacFarlane*

## NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2010 ALUMNI AWARDS ARE NOW OPEN.

If you would like to nominate someone, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@smu.ca, (902) 420-5420 or www.smu.ca/alumni for details. The deadline for nominations is Friday, August 13.

# Building Futures in Tanzania

*In 2009, the Saint Mary's University Alumni Association created a new award to recognize Young Alumni for truly outstanding achievements that may have earned them regional, national or international recognition or prominence through: service to humanity, their professions and/or volunteer organizations, community service, the advancement of knowledge, or service to Saint Mary's University. Here is a little more about the inaugural recipients:*

In 2007, Jeff Britton (BA '00) and Jenny Walker (BA '03) founded a fundraising initiative called the "Be The Change Project," with the objective of inspiring and empowering individuals of all ages to begin creating positive changes within their personal lives and local communities, as well as our global community.

That year, the "Be the Change Project" received national media attention and raised approximately $20,000 through their "Climbing for Kenya" project, which involved collecting donations and training to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. After summating the largest free-standing mountain in the world, they teamed up with the Indigenous Education

*The Orkeeswa Secondary School's original class poses with Jeff & Jenny on their last day at the school in 2008.*

Foundation of Tanzania (IEFT), an American-based grass roots organization with similar objectives to Jeff & Jenny, who were in the midst of building Orkeeswa Secondary School in Lashaine Village, Tanzania — one of the least developed regions in the world.

"The organization was having a hard time moving forward, but Jenny and I could immediately help on both fronts," says Jeff. "Financially, we were able to help get the construction and action moving again, and in terms of programming, we decided to immediately 'unofficially' begin lessons by using the local village church from Monday to Friday, teaching an intensive ESL program to our future students, who knew little to no English."

By April 2008, construction of the first classroom was complete and the doors opened to an inaugural class of 40 students. More than 400 villagers, some having travelled from hours away, gathered to celebrate the important day for the village, where their youth were given the opportunity to not only set goals, but work to achieve their goals.

After four months, Jeff and Jenny returned to Canada so Jenny could complete a teaching degree, but they continued their fundraising and involvement with IEFT. Jeff was appointed to the Board of Directors, and they have raised another $30,000 for projects at the school, including as a housing complex for at-risk students, as well as a soccer field which was funded in part by the Saint Mary's University Varsity Soccer teams. They returned to Tanzania on March 31, 2010 to continue their work on the ground, and are amazed to see the growth that has taken place at Orkeeswa.

"One hundred per cent of money donated to our "Be the Change Project" has gone directly to the school," says Jeff. "We've used our personal savings and credit cards for our flights and travel expenses, and we appreciate every donation to the project, whether it's $4.50 of rolled pennies from a kindergarten, or $4,500 from the SMU soccer teams. Every donation makes such an incredible difference in the lives of our students!"

For information on how you can help, visit: www.bethechangeproject.ca or www.ieftz.org □

*Dr. James S. Kinnear*
photo credit: Nick Rudnicki

*Mr. Alfred A. Smithers, O.C.*
photo credit: Nick Rudnicki

# Turning Points in Leadership

The business career of Dr. James S. Kinnear (DComm '09) has ebbed and flowed like the ocean.

A multi-millionaire who got into the oil and gas royalty trust business before anyone realized there was even a business there, he admitted to crowd of local business and community leaders who had gathered at the 5th Annual Turning Points in Leadership dinner on Thursday, April 8, that he has been on the verge of financial ruin several times.

"With some creativity and determination and a lot of hard work I always managed to pull through," he said. "I've always surrounded myself with good people and that helped immensely. If you do that, you can create your own success."

He chronicled his formative years as a "street fighter" on the rough streets of Montreal, his time as a Pre-Med dropout and eventual Bachelor of Science graduate from the University of Toronto, and his struggle to create Pengrowth Corporation and Kinnear Financial, companies that have accrued more than $4 Billion in enterprise value and $5 Billion in assets.

For the students and budding entrepreneurs in the room, he emphasized the importance of hard work and the value of working your networks, while understanding the importance of return on investment.

"By returning an average of 14% per year and by offering above average cash yields, perhaps we succeeded in the customer service department," he said, with a smile. "People like to see a return of cash or cash flow!"

Mr. Alfred A. Smithers, O.C. (Assoc '09), President and CEO of Iona Resources Holdings Ltd. and the winner of the 2010 Turning Points Hall of Leadership Award, agreed wholeheartedly. In his brief address after being presented the award by Dr. Kinnear, he emphasized a message of being fearless in the face of risk, understanding your individual strengths and weaknesses, and the importance of surrounding yourself with good people.

"Remember, we do not do it alone."

Mr. Smithers was selected to receive the award for his outstanding commitment in leadership to Saint Mary's University, to business, to our community, and in life. With credentials ranging from Founder of Secunda Marine Services, Honourary British Consul for the Maritime Provinces, and member of the Saint Mary's University Board of Governors, Mr. Smithers has always leveraged his businesses with his philanthropic desires to help and support the causes close to his heart. He joins previous Hall of Leadership Inductees Dr. Mickey MacDonald (DComm '05), Dr. David Sobey (DComm '91), Paul Sobey (Assoc '07), and the late Robert (Bob) Shaw (BComm '68).

Over the past five years, the funds raised at this event have supported the Turning Points in Leadership Award – an annual bursary presented to a full-time undergraduate student at Saint Mary's who demonstrates financial need and academic achievement. The recipient of the 2009 award, Ashley Leopold of Chester, NS, delivered the Grace prior to dinner. A fifth-year Arts student with Honours in Psychology, Minor in Business and Certificate in Human Resources, Ms. Leopold has an exceptional GPA of 4.19, has remained on the Dean's list every year, and is a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. □

# Time FOR Wine

## *Raises $10,000 For Student Bursaries*

It was a fun evening of fine wine and friendly competition amongst Santamarians — the Saint Mary's University Alumni Association hosted its 9th Annual Time For Wine on Friday, February 12th in the Loyola Conference Hall on campus. This sold-out wine sampling and silent auction attracted more then 200 attendees, raising just over $10,000 for the Alumni Single Parent Bursary — awarded annually to three single parent students who are enrolled in full-time undergraduate studies at Saint Mary's and have demonstrated financial need and satisfactory academic achievement.

One of the 2009 recipients was Renée Chapman, a third-year Criminology student from Ontario who resides in Dartmouth with her two sons, aged 7 and 10. On top of caring for her children and her studies, she regularly volunteers at their schools, as well as at Frontier College, where she tutors adult women hoping to pursue their GEDs, and immigrants who are new to the region and looking to learn English.

*"If it wasn't for bursaries like this, I wouldn't be in school."*

"If it wasn't for bursaries like this, I wouldn't be in school," she says. "I've had to borrow money every year to stay in school, but the fact that Saint Mary's recognizes its single parents is amazing. It's hard enough to get back to school after having kids, but this kind of funding allows me to spend time with my them, as well as doing volunteer work, while getting an education."

The Time For Wine Committee would like to thank all of its wine suppliers, auction item donors, volunteers and attendees for making this event possible. Next year's Time For Wine is scheduled for Friday, February 11 — stay tuned to www.smu.ca/alumni for details.

More event photos can be found online at: www.smu.ca/alumni/ □

*MBA '06 alumnae Sarah Chiasson, Joann Lawless, and Katie Roebothan enjoying their sociable at the 9th Annual Time For Wine*

*Four of five 2010 Fellow of Chartered Account inductees have strong ties to Saint Mary's University. Shown here, from left are inductees Kirk Higgins, R.B. Cameron, Daniel McCarthy, Jonathan Nash and Don Flynn.*

# CA Awards Tally

The Saint Mary's brand was front and centre February 13 when the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia gathered for the annual CA Convocation at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax.

With four of the five new Fellows of Charted Accountants inductees holding Saint Mary's degrees, the event had serious maroon and white overtones.

"On a proportional basis, this has to be one of our most impressive showings," said Nicola Young (Assoc '00), a Saint Mary's Accounting professor and a former chair of the ICANS honours committee. "We've always been recognized as one of the top schools and these honors underscore that."

The FCA distinction is awarded to long-standing members of ICANS (Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia) who have rendered meritorious service to the profession or whose career achievement or achievements in the community have brought honour to the profession.

This year's FCA inductees with Saint Mary's degrees were R.B. Cameron (BComm '74), President & Chief Executive, Cameron Corporation Limited; Donald M. Flinn (BComm '86), Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP; Kirk D. Higgins (BComm '83), Managing Partner, WBLI Chartered Accountants; and Daniel J. McCarthy (BComm '76), Vice Chair, CIBC World Markets Inc.

More than 30 Saint Mary's grads who passed the 2009 national Uniform Evaluation (UFE) were also recognized at the event.

The near sweep of FCA inductees followed Saint Mary's alumna Jane Roy (BComm '84) being named the recipient of the 2009 Ross L. Towler CA of the Year Award in late December. Presented annually to a CA who embodies the spirit of community volunteerism, Ms. Roy was recognized for her volunteer leadership in creating Catapult – a one week youth leadership camp that targets teenagers from across Nova Scotia who teachers believe to have exceptional leadership potential, but due to circumstance, may not be able to experience such an opportunity.

Roy's commitment to the camp stretched from fundraising to recruiting inspirational speakers and experts from around the world to donate their time.

In addition to Catapult, judges also considered Ms. Roy's cumulative volunteer contributions that include running the Maritime Medical Care Challenge, a war canoe race which raised over $1 million for the IWK Health Centre and her roles as the Founding Chair of the Provincial Autism Center and Founding Vice-Chair of the annual Autism Golf Ball.

"Clearly, Jane is very deserving," says ICANS CEO and Executive Director, Michele Wood-Tweel (BComm '83), who is also the Chair of the Saint Mary's Board of Governors. "Her volunteer philosophy and commitment are outstanding and she is a great example of how our members continue to make volunteering an integral part of their careers." □

# Up for Alumni

*Jane Roy, the Ross L. Towler CA of the Year Recipient*

If your present is meeting your expectations, just imagine what we can do for your future.

Continue your business education at Saint Mary's and take your career further.

By choosing Saint Mary's for your undergrad, you've already proven your commitment to a successful career. Here's your chance to take your commitment – and your career – to the next level. Welcome back to the university you know so well to continue your studies with:

- Certificate in Human Resource Management
- Certificate in Financial Instrument Analysis
- MBA or Executive MBA
- Combined MBA and Certified Management Accountant
- Master of Finance
- Master of Management – Co-operatives and Credit Unions
- Ph.D. Management

Talk to your employer to see if they'll help cover a portion of your tuition – they often will. Then contact us and enroll for what promises to be an exciting next stage of your career.

SOBEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
at SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

sobey.smu.ca

Grand

MEETINGS

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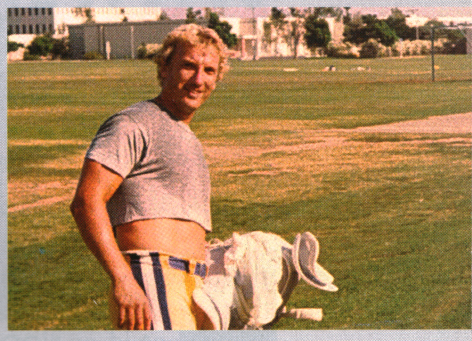
# Huskie Heroes Enshrined in Hall



*left: Doug Wright (Assoc '78) centre: The 1978-79 Saint Mary's University Huskies Men's Basketball Team right: Ken Clark (BA '74)*

*Ken Clark (BA '74)* may have played in the Superbowl with the Los Angeles Rams, but as his 2009 induction into the Saint Mary's University Sport Hall of Fame and Heritage Centre attests, he first learned how to win in Halifax.

Clark, along with his fellow Hall of Fame inductees, coach Doug Wright (Assoc '78) and the 1979 Men's Basketball team, returned to campus on September 26 during Homecoming to attend the induction ceremony.

Clark was a star on the Huskies football team from 1970 until 1973. He was a four-time league all-star as a receiver and kicker, leading the Atlantic Intercollegiate Football Conference (AIFC) in punting four times, notching several AIFC scoring titles. He was a member of conference championship teams in 1971, 1972 and in 1973 when the team won the Vanier Cup.

After graduation, he went on to play professional football. As a member of the Hamilton Tiger Cats, he was named the Canadian Football League's Most Outstanding Canadian player in 1976 and 1977. In the National Football League he punted for the 1979 Los Angeles Rams and helped take the team to the Superbowl.

*Doug Wright* was working the sidelines as an assistant coach when Clark led the team to the 1973 Vanier Cup. That put him into the Hall in the team category several years ago, but this fall he was inducted on his own in the builder category.

Wright was an assistant coach for the Huskies football team from 1970 until 1982, and an assistant coach for the Basketball Huskies from 1974 until 1978. His greatest contribution to sport, however, may be as a basketball coach away from Saint Mary's. In 1975-76 he was the assistant coach of the National Women's Basketball team that competed at the Olympics in Montreal. From 1981 until 1994 he coached the Nova Scotia Flying Wheels Wheelchair Basketball team, and in 1981 and 1984 he coached the Canadian Wheelchair Basketball team that won silver medals at the Pan-Am Games and the Wheelchair Basketball World Championship.

*The 1978-79 Saint Mary's University Huskies Men's Basketball Team* earned its induction into the hall by winning the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) championship for the third time in seven years.

Led by Mickey Fox (BA '76, BEd '77), a four-time all-Canadian, the team is considered one of the greatest Canadian university basketball teams ever assembled. Coached by Brian Heaney (Assoc '78), players on the team included Kevin Wood, Rick Plato (BA '80, BEd '81), Percy Davis, Derrick Lewis, Ron Blommers (BA '82), Jeff Gourley, Tom Kappos (BComm '81) and Ross Quackenbush (BA '81, BEd '84), who now coaches the current-day Huskies. Willy Follette (BA '78) and Jim Collins (BComm '75, BEd '76) were assistant coaches; Alex McLellan was the athletic therapist; Allan Wentworth (BA '80, BEd '81), Paul Baxter (BSc '78, MBA '80) and John Landry were the team managers. □

On behalf of the Saint Mary's University Alumni Association and our 18 bursary recipients, we would like to thank all of our golfers, sponsors, volunteers, Granite Springs, and everyone else who helped to make this year's tournament a success!

# thank you 2009

Presented by:

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SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY SINCE 1802 | ALUMNI
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# Alumni Golf Tournament
## ANOTHER SMASH SUCCESS!

Golfers, sponsors and volunteers alike enjoyed crystal clear conditions at the 33rd Annual Saint Mary's University Alumni Golf Tournament, presented by AECON, and held on Thursday, August 27, 2009 at Granite Springs Golf Club in Bayside, NS. Our second consecutive sold-out tournament raised $18,000 for student bursaries, which were presented to our 18 student volunteers (pictured bottom right), who all attended the event to keep the golfers entertained along the course.

Brian Thompson (Bcomm '92, pictured bottom left) walked away with two big wins – not only did his Brandes Investments team (with fellow alumni MaryEllen Hallett (BComm '92), James Whitman (BComm '88), Mark Turner (BComm '99) and Ryan White (BSc '98, not pictured) take home the tournament title, but now, Brian can also enjoy watching golf on his new Sharp Aquos 32" LCD TV, the Grand Prize of our Raffle Draw, courtesy of Valley Stationers Ltd.

The Golf Committee would like to thank all of our bursary and prize sponsors, the companies who provided samples and entertainment at the holes, the tournament and student volunteers, the staff at Granite Springs, and all of the golfers who joined us and helped to make this another great success. Our 2010 tournament will be held on Thursday, August 26 at Granite Springs – visit www.smu.ca/alumni for details on this year's event and team photos from 2009! □

# CAMP OF CHAMPIONS

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- Boys Basketball
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For more information get a copy of the 2010 Camp of Champions Brochure on-line at **www.smuhuskies.ca** or at The Tower, 920 Tower Road

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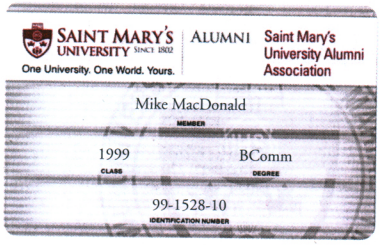



**Visit:**
**www.smu.ca/alumni/card**

**or Email:**
**alumni@smu.ca**

Please note: as of November 30, 2009 Saint Mary's Alumni must show their Alumni Card to receive their ticket discount to select Varsity Athletic events.


# Men's

# Hockey Gets Gold

Our Men's Hockey Team claimed the first national title in the history of our 80 year-old hockey program on Sunday, March 28th with a 3-2 overtime victory over the University of Alberta at the CIS Championships in Thunder Bay, ON. Members of the team and coaching staff met with Premier Darrell Dexter at Province House later that week.
*Photo Courtesy of Mike Lavoie / Lakehead University*

## Stay Connected Contest

From April to October 2009, more than 1,300 alumni entered our Stay Connected Contest.

Just in time for the holidays, Grand Prize Winner Cecilia Morgan (MA '81), pictured alongside Director of Alumni Pat Crowley, received an $800 Gift Card to an electronics retailer of her choice; Jonathan Bowyer (BComm '94), Derek Carter (MEd '95), Jeff Caterer (BComm '97) and Robert Gregory (BA '96) each received 8GB iPod Nanos; and Margaret Corkum (CER HRM '99), Lynn Crowell (BComm '96), Chris Hattie (BA/BComm '07), Charlene McDonald (BComm '08) and Craig Moore (BA '97) each received Alumni Prize Packs.

Thank you for entering, and stay tuned to: www.smu.ca/alumni and www.facebook.com/saintmarysuniversityalumni for future contests!


*Tenth Anniversary*

*Time for Tea*

Sunday, June 20th, 2010
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
870 Young Avenue, Halifax

A charitable receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price.

Proceeds from this event will go to the "Friends of Saint Mary's Fund" which provides bursaries to single parents attending Saint Mary's University.

*One Hundred Dollars per ticket*

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY SINCE 1802
One University. One World. Yours.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting Bonita Ramsay, Office of the President at **420.5403** or **bonita.ramsay@smu.ca**


## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please fill out this form and tell us where you are and what you're doing.

M&W MAROON AND WHITE

Name: _____

Home address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Program: _____ Year Graduated: _____

Company Name: _____ Position/Title: _____

Did your spouse/partner attend Saint Mary's: ❍ Yes ❍ No Name: _____

Notes / Maroon & White Entry: _____

*Supply on separate sheet, if necessary. Please include a picture if you wish.*

**Return to:**

**Mail:**
Saint Mary's University
Alumni Office
867 Robie Street
Halifax, NS B3H 3C3

**Fax:**
(902) 420-5140

**Fill out this form online at:**
www.smu.ca/alumni

## 2008

*Michael Gillan (BA/BComm, CERHRM)* recently accepted a position with Red Door Realty in Halifax, NS. Fellow alumni can reach Michael at michael@reddoorrealty.ca.

*Christopher Graham (BA)* graduated from the RCMP Depot in Regina, SK in July 2009, and has been posted in Esterhazy, SK.

## 2007

*Matthew Robinson (BComm)* obtained his Permanent Resident Status in November, 2009, having moved to Canada from Barbados with his wife Kayla in early January. He also passed the UFE on December 4, 2009, and currently works for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Halifax, NS.

## 2006

*Allison Langille (BComm)* is living in Toronto, ON and continues her work in the international NGO sector. She recently accepted the position of Communications Coordinator with Engineers Without Borders, an international development organization which builds sustainable solutions to poverty in West and Southern African. Fellow alumni can reach Allison at allison.langille@hotmail.com.

*Dexiang Li (MSc)* has moved to Montreal, QC and joined the staff of SCP SCIENCE where he was recently promoted and sent to China to develop markets for the company's product line as Technical Marketing Manager.

*Shannon Power (BA)* and *Christopher "Lenny" Langton* were married on August 23, 2008 in Dartmouth, NS. The happy couple met through the SMU Drama Society, and got engaged during the curtain call of its production of *The Importance of Being Earnest.*

## 2005

*Jarvis Googoo (BA)* was called to the Nova Scotia Barristers Society in June 2009, performing his affirmation in both English and Mi'kmaq. He was selected to be a 2010 Olympic Torchbearer and ran near his home reserve on November 16.

*Colin Oldreive (BA)* was recently engaged to be married to Erin Stonehouse, both originally from Dartmouth, NS. Colin was a part of the Football Huskies' back-to-back Vanier Cup wins 2001 and 2002, and is currently living, working and coaching football in Peterborough, ON.

## 2004

*Marcel Dupupet (BComm)* accepted the position of Branch Manager with the Toronto North RBC.

*Laurie-Ann Willett (BComm)* has successfully passed the New York State Bar which she wrote in July 2009, and commenced her Quebec Bar articles at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP in Montreal, QC in January 2010.

## 2003

*Catherine Robar (BComm)* was selected as a Top 10 Finalist for Tom's of Maine's Hero-Next-Door Award and received an Honourable Mention at the 2009 Canadian Living Me To We Awards for her work with The Themba Development Project, a grass roots volunteer organization in support of the people of Thembalethu, South Africa. For more information, visit www.thembaproject.org.

## 2002

*Jeffery (BComm)* and Jessica Cormier are pleased to introduce their son, Quinn William, who was born on March 5, 2010.

*Michael Sweet (BA)* was awarded the 2009 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence and the National Council of Teachers of English High School Teacher of Excellence Award (USA); he was appointed to the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, and was profiled in the 100th Edition of Canada's Who's Who as a leading educator in Canada, having founded the educational non-profit Learning for a Cause.

## 2000

*Kailie (Wilson) Benson (BA)*, a Lieutenant Commander with the United States Coast Guard, has accepted a new assignment as the Executive Officer, Marine Safety Unit in Savannah, GA and will be departing Rotterdam, The Netherlands in June 2010. Kailie has spent the last three years working predominantly in West and Central Africa engaging US maritime trading partners to build stronger port security regimes in support of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code. Her husband David, son Samuel, and daughter Ryleigh are looking forward to being back on the home continent and in the land of bigger refrigerators.

*Jeff Britton (BA)* and *Jenny Walker (BA '03)* were married on August 15th, 2009 at Point Pleasant Park in Halifax, NS. They currently reside in Wolfville, NS, and continue their humanitarian work as co-founders of the Be the Change Project, raising funds to support the first secondary school in Lashaine Village in rural northern Tanzania. For more information, visit www.bethechangeproject.ca

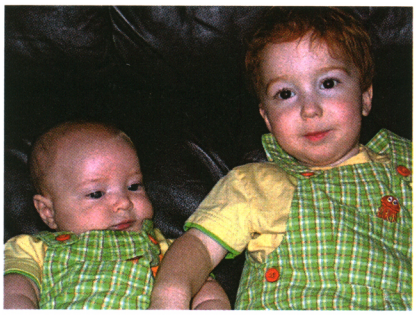
*Nancy Appleby Cowper (MBA)* was bestowed the designation of CMA on August 18, 2009

*Steven Gray (BComm)* and *Deanna MacNeil (BA '03)* are pleased to introduce their daughter, Kaylie Maureen Gray, who was born on September 28, 2009. The family is happily living in Bedford, NS.

## 1999

*Lynn Redmond (BA)* is currently a Senior Designer at Spectacle Communications Group in Halifax, NS.

*Judith Richardson (BA/BEd, MA '07)* of PONO Consultants International Inc. was nominated for the 2009 RBC Woman Entrepreneur Trailblazer Award and was recognized as one of three finalists in the Advance category at the 2009 Centre for Women in Business Awards.



*Zane and Patty (Dimmell) Swim (both BComm)* and big brother Ethan (pictured right) are pleased to introduce their son, William Zane Charles, who was born on June 7, 2009.

## 1998

*Nicole Godbout (BComm)* and Alan McLuckie were married on July 4, 2009 in Dartmouth, NS. Nicole continues to serve as a member of the Saint Mary's Alumni Council and is Regulatory Counsel at Nova Scotia Power Inc.

## 1997

*Brenda Answers (BA)* was recently promoted to the position of Production Manager after 5 years as Office Manager with Pine Valley Graphics in Brampton, ON.

*Angela (Nicholson) Do (BA)* studied Education at St. Andrew's College in Scotland and later travelled across Europe, North America, Asia and Australia. She married her husband, Loc Do in 2007 in Cape Breton, and they currently live in Hanoi and are expecting a child. Angela looks forward to continuing her life as an expat and travelling the world, and says that her Sociology degree from Saint Mary's helped to open her eyes to the world and made her want to experience other cultures.

*Mark Sumarah (BSc)* graduated from Carleton University in June 2009 with a PhD in Chemistry, Specialization in Toxicology. He is currently doing a Post Doctoral in this field.

## 1996

*Jason Day (BA)* and *Kimberley MacDougall (BA '02)* were married on December 31, 2009 in Washabuck, NS. The newlyweds continue to reside in Lower Sackville, NS where Kim is working as an Educational Interpreter for the Atlantic Provincial Special Education Authority, and Jason is a substitute teacher with the Halifax Regional School Board.

## 1995

*Bill MacAvoy (MBA)* is pleased to introduce his son, Dylan Kyle, who was born on September 7, 2009.

*Major G. A. (Sandy) Watson (BA, BComm '96, CER HRM '97, MBA '07)*, Commanding Officer of 3 Intelligence Company, has been appointed as an Honourary Aide-De-Camp to Her Honour, *The Honourable Mayann E. Francis, ONS., DHumL., (BA '72)*, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, who also serves as the Honourary Lieutenant Colonel of 3 Intelligence Company.

## 1993

*John Bayley (BA)* has been appointed Chief Operating Officer of Argon Holdings Co. (Europe), where he handles the day-to-day operations of the private equity firm specializing in energy exploration and defense contracting. He has relocated to Stuttgart, Germany from New York, where he had been consulting with the City of New York, providing oversight and best practices on documentation and data management. Fellow alumni can reach John at jcbayley@gmail.com.

## 1992

*Sarah Eaton (BA)* graduated from the University of Calgary in 2009 with a PhD. in Educational Leadership, and has since taken on full-time consulting work in educational leadership, been appointed as a Research Associate with the Language Research Centre of the University of Calgary, and has become a Professional Member of the Canadian Association of Professional Speakers.

## 1991

*Brenda Hogan (BComm)* is currently Senior Advisor with the Ontario Capital Growth Corporation.

## 1989

*Douglas Coll (BComm)* was appointed Chief Commercial Officer of Aon Consulting Canada in September 2009. Prior to his appointment, he was Vice President of Sales and Relationship Management with PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP.

## 1987

Douglas Lochhead (DLitt) had a new volume of poetry published in September 2009 by Sybertooth. Looking into Trees is illustrated with paintings by the poet's brother, the late Kenneth Lochhead, who was one of the Regina Five painters and a recipient of both the Governor-General's Award and the Order of Canada.

## 1985

*Michael Whitlock (BA)* is the Supervisor of Adult Clinical Services for Community Mental Health West in Summerside, PEI.

## 1984

*Steve Foran (DIPEGN, MBA '07)* is a Halifax-based author and speaker who recently released his first book, Myth Number 2. Visit www.giveraising.com for a free download.

## 1983

*Don Smart (BComm)* rang in the New Year opening his own benefits consulting business, DLS Benefit Solutions Inc., which is dedicated to employee benefits & pension planning. Don is also a Principal with The Winch Group Inc., a founding member of Employer Benefit Advisors Inc. Fellow alumni can reach Don at dlsbenefits@winchgroup.com.

## 1980

*Marlene Blakney (BComm)* returned to Ottawa, ON in October 2009 to resume her position with Natural Resources Canada, after completing a three-year assignment with ACOA in Moncton, NB.

## 1979

*Steven Snider (BComm)*, General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of Halifax Harbour Bridges, has been elected the first Canadian President of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association. He has served on its Board of Directors for six years, most recently as 1st Vice President.

## 1978

*Bruce MacDonald (BComm)* recently joined JPdL Toronto as Vice President and General Manager. He is responsible for overseeing all day-to-day operations, as well as working closely with the sales and operations teams in delivering the highest quality services in the Destination Management industry.

## 1977

*Blair Beed (BComm)*, the author of Titanic Victims in Halifax Graveyards, attended the British Titanic Society Convention in April 2009, where he visited old friend Millvena Dean, the last survivor of the Titanic, who passed away a month later. He also travelled to Ireland in July of that year to speak to Titanic enthusiast and librarians regarding the Halifax connection, and had private tours of the Port of Belfast Harbour Offices and the SS Nomadic.
Matthew Napier (BA, BEd '79) has been appointed as Queen's Counsel, and works with Boyne Clarke's Personal Injury Team to represent injured Nova Scotians. He has been recognized by Lexpert and Best Lawyers in Canada as a leading personal injury lawyer.

## 1976

*Ken Clahane (BComm)* retired at the early age of 54 after selling his company, Beacon Insurance, and now spends his time travelling for pleasure and presenting fraud/identity theft seminars for the insurance industry. His wife Patricia (Glenister, BA '77) continues to work in Intergovernmental Affairs with the Province of Nova Scotia; their daughter, Erin continues to take courses at Saint Mary's while working with the Discovery Centre; and their son, Eric is in his final year at Lockview High School.

*Mickey Fox (BA, BEd '77)* has been named Technical Director of Basketball Nova Scotia, and will be responsible for the overall planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all coach and player development programs throughout Nova Scotia. A former star athlete on the Saint Mary's hardcourt, he is formerly coached the Saint Mary's women's basketball team, as well as Halifax's first professional basketball team, the Windjammers.

*Dorothy Redfurn (BA)* won the 2009 Atlantic Writing Competition in the Juvenile Fiction category for her novel *In Interesting Times.*

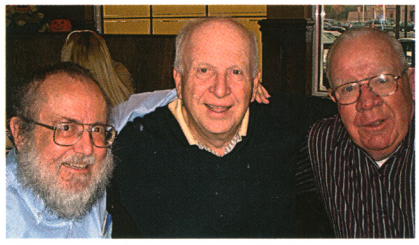
## 1975

*Robert Kelly (BComm, DComm '97)* is Chairman and CEO of the Bank of New York Mellon, and will be awarded a gold medal from the American Irish Historical Society in November. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to Irish American life. Previous recipients include luminaries such as Theodore Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan and Bono.

## 1972

*Stephen Stone (BEd)* has retired after a 34-year teaching career. He has moved to New Ross, NS and is enjoying the tranquility of living in a rural setting not to far from his beloved Huskies, so that he can attend as many games as possible.

## 1966



*Murray Bishop (BA, BEd '68)*, (pictured right) recently gathered with fellow alumni *Don Chiasson (DIPEGN '61)* (left) and *Bob Gillespie (DIPEGN '61, BSc '62)* (centre) in Ottawa in October 2009 to reminisce about great times and memories of their days at Saint Mary's.

## 1965

*Terrence Punch (BEd, MA '71, DLitt '00)* released the third volume of *Erin's Sons; Irish Arrivals in Atlantic Canada, 1761-1858* in October 2009 through the Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, MD.

## 1964

*Peter Aucoin (BA)* recently retired after forty years of teaching at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS. In November 2009, he was honoured with a dinner and symposium celebrating his scholarship and influence in shaping new directions in public policy and management.

## 1960

*Guy Gallagher (BA)* is now teaching advanced placement French at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics in Limestone, ME, after several years of retirement from the University of Maine at Presque Isle. MSSM has recently been named the 12th best high school in the United States (out of about 90,000 high schools) by the US News and World Report.

## 1958

*Frank Gervais (DIPEGN)* is the Treasurer and Founding Member of the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank Association, which serves 11,000 men, women and children annually. Frank was recently honoured for his work, with kudos from Past Premier Rodney MacDonald, MLA Diana Whalen, MP Geoff Regan, Mayor Peter Kelly (MBA '97), and Councilors Debbie Hum, Mary Wile and Russell Walker. He was also distinguished with the Association of Professional Engineers' Citizenship Award.

## 1941

*Bill Bishop (BComm)* is back living at his house in Yarmouth, NS, after a two-year hiatus in seniors' homes. A lifetime photographer, Bill spends much of his time organizing about 70 years' worth of his photographs.

# In Memoriam

*Albert Pothier, PEng*
DIPEGN '58
March 27, 2010

*Kae-Riise Fraser*
BA '07
March 19, 2010

*Douglas Casey*
BA '47, MA '60
March 18, 2010

*James Bird*
MBA '94
March 16, 2010

*Rev. John DeLouchry*
BA '46
March 10, 2010

*Dr. Jane Shaw Law*
DLitt '93
March 6, 2010

*Michael Nickerson*
BSc '76
February 28, 2010

*Thomas O'Neill*
HS '48
February 24, 2010

*Ming-Yee Lau*
BComm '76
February 20, 2010

*John Poirier*
BA '80
January 15, 2010

*Wayne Tillman*
BA '96
January 15, 2010

*Dr. A. Garnet Brown, CA*
DComm '01
January 7, 2010

*Rev. Terence Walsh, S.J.*
DLitt '78
January 6, 2010

*Jim Crane*
BA '68
January 2, 2010

*Paul Hughes, FICR*
BComm '73
December 29, 2009

*Dara Gordon, QC*
BComm '72
December 27, 2009

*Rev. Basil Carew*
BA '58
December 24, 2009

*John Redmond*
BSc '38
December 15, 2009

*John Brennan*
BSc '44
December 12, 2009

*Kathleen Cooper*
BA '76
December 6, 2009

*Constance Burns*
BA '82, BEd '84
November 30, 2009

*Pauline Tupper*
MEd '72
November 2, 2009

*Paul Lordly*
BComm '82
October 24, 2009

*Sean Tipert*
BA '92
October 19, 2009

*James Carswell*
BComm '84
October 2, 2009

*David O'Toole*
BA '78
September 21, 2009

*Raymond Panter*
BComm '77
September 19, 2009

*Joanne Nugent*
BEd '59, MA '63
September 10, 2009

*Frederick Dyer*
DIPEGN '42
August 31, 2009

*Scott Bower*
BA '90
August 24, 2009

*Dr. Muriel Duckworth, CM*
DCL '07
August 22, 2009

*George McDonald*
BA '64
August 21, 2009

*Henry Vaughan*
BA '67, BComm '72
August 20, 2009

*William Flinn*
DIPEGN '53
August 17, 2009

*Dr. David Petrie, MD*
DSc '01
August 15, 2009

*Shannon Ferguson*
BA '00
August 14, 2009

*William Dompierre*
BA '76, BEd '77, MA '84
August 9, 2009

*Rodney Buckland*
BEd '88
August 7, 2009

*Dr. Bruce Oland, CM*
DCL '00
August 6, 2009

*Bryan McDonald*
BA '06
August 2, 2009

*Verdon Creighton*
Assoc '67
July 14, 2009

*Harvie Meuse*
BComm '54
July 1, 2009

*Dave LeBlanc*
BComm '91
April 11, 2009

*Janet Benight*
BA '78
January 30, 2009

# With Sympathy

*Rev. William Gahan*
March 17, 2010

*Jan Jansma*
March 4, 2010

*Rev. Kenneth Pottie*
February 21, 2010

*Sarah Gillis*
February 18, 2010

*Prof. Hectorine Benoit-Barnes*
January 31, 2010

*Dr. Lesmere Kirkpatrick*
January 27, 2010

*Lorraine Morris*
January 19, 2010

*Margaret Brean*
December 19, 2009

*Clifford O'Laughlin Sr.*
November 15, 2009

*Leo Walker*
November 3, 2009

*Stephen Wrin*
October 7, 2009

*Dr. John Chamard*
September 25, 2009

*Dr. David Dowse*
September 23, 2009

*Gary Spence*
September 14, 2009

*Jeremy Tree*
September 10, 2009

*John Munro*
September 3, 2009

*David Slauenwhite*
August 21, 2009

*Elizabeth Brown*
August 18, 2009

*Everett Kelly*
August 15, 2009

*Janet Stephens*
August 9, 2009

*Mitchell King*
July 31, 2009

*Peter MacArthur*
July 25, 2009

*Dr. Louis Batiot*
July 12, 2009

*Frances MacLaren*
April 11, 2009

# Sensitivity to Others: Open to Differences

*By The Honourable Mayann E. Francis, O.N.S., DHumL, (BA '72), Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia*

When I walked onto the Saint Mary's University campus for the first time in September 1970, I brought a lot of baggage.

There were no steamer trunks full of clothes and stuffed animals. I was carrying emotional baggage, equal parts excitement, fear, wonder and dread.

The first day on campus was daunting. I wasn't quite the country mouse, but despite my best efforts to appear otherwise, I felt overwhelmed.

As a young black woman from Whitney Pier, I had little idea what to expect on that first day. What I did have was a determination that I would succeed, that I would not fail those who had supported me thus far. In those first few days I prayed, a lot.

There were not that many women on campus when I arrived at Saint Mary's. And there were even fewer people of African descent. I knew no one. My natural shyness did not help.

Pretty soon I found myself calling home. I told my father I wanted to leave university. He listened as I poured my heart out. And, as he always did, he reassured. Things would get better, he said, you will succeed. Education, he reminded me, was the key as it had been for both he and my mother. At the end of the call, the message was clear: I was not coming home.

So I stayed and my life changed, forever.

For even in my days of doubt, I sensed something positive at Saint Mary's. There was sensitivity to others and an openness to difference. That was, and is today, a powerful combination.

Fortunately, several professors reached out to me. They saw a potential that perhaps I didn't even see myself. In turn, I gave them all that I had – a mind eager to learn and a willingness to work hard.

As I opened up, I discovered the place that filled me with such apprehension in those first days was, in fact, very welcoming. I made friendships that have lasted across the decades. It was also a place that challenged. At Saint Mary's there were new and different points of view. The professors demanded that we understood the why, not just the how.

For me then, my defining moment at Saint Mary's was less revolutionary, more evolutionary. There was no single "Eureka" moment, but rather a series of small, positive steps forward. Each one built upon the last.

My own life has mirrored those same small, positive steps forward I experienced at Saint Mary's. My desire to reach out and to respect difference was fostered by my Alma Mater. Since I graduated I have watched Saint Mary's itself reach out to communities locally and around the world.

I have tried to hold true to what I learned at Saint Mary's. I have tried to return the care and compassion I was shown as a young student. So armed, we Santamarians can help build healthy and welcoming communities, places that are open to new ideas and new people. Places like Saint Mary's. □

Was there a moment at Saint Mary's that changed your life? A first kiss? A sudden shift in thinking? Find a mentor or a life-long friend? Send your story (up to 500 words) to alumni@smu.ca and we may feature it in an upcoming issue.

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