

# MAROON & WHITE

For Alumni and Friends of Saint Mary's University

Spring 2014

PLUS

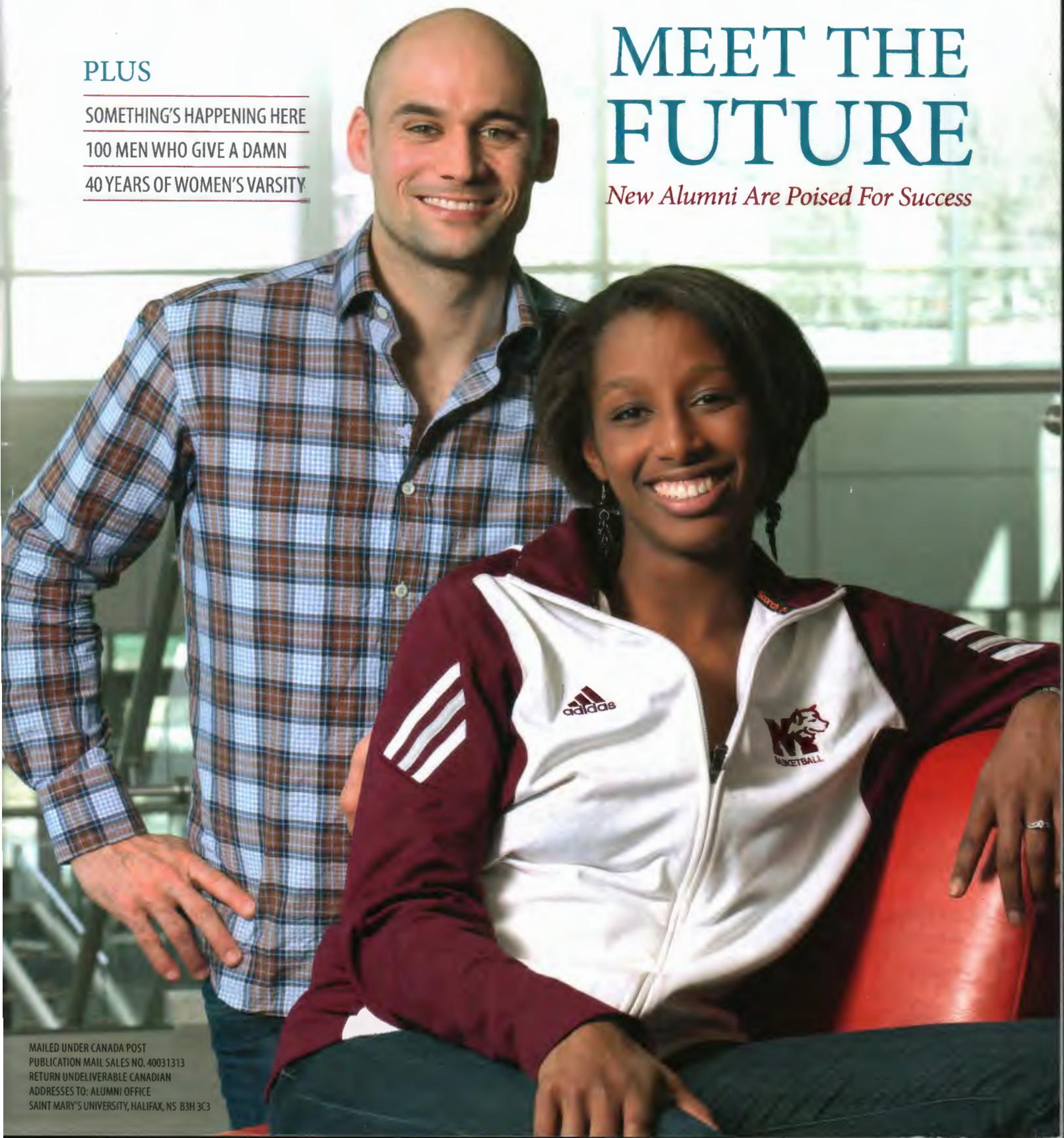
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING HERE

100 MEN WHO GIVE A DAMN

40 YEARS OF WOMEN'S VARSITY

## MEET THE FUTURE

*New Alumni Are Poised For Success*



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Thank you, all business alumni

whether you graduated from the Sobey School of Business or from Commerce at Saint Mary's.

The Sobey School of Business is proud to be accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, an achievement earned by less than 5% of the world's business schools.



Whether you call yourself a Saint Mary's Commerce grad or a Sobey School of Business graduate, your ongoing success and support are a source of our strength. Thank you for being engaged, interested and passionate about this school, and about your communities. Our range of programs may have changed since you were last here, but our commitment to students has not. We appreciate you recommending our School to your family, friends or colleagues. You may even wish to consider returning for an advanced degree!

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One University. One World. Yours.



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## LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI PRESIDENT

Welcome to our newly designed issue of the *Maroon & White*. We hope you enjoy the fresh new look.

The spring issue is published when our graduating students are about to cross the stage to become our newest alumni. It seemed fitting to highlight a few of our outstanding students—it was a tough choice but we think you'll enjoy the four we chose. We wish our new grads all the best and welcome you to the alumni family of over 42,000 all over the world. Make sure to stay in touch and let us know about your accomplishments and milestones.

We're excited to tell you that in the near future *M&W* will be available in an upgraded digital format. Research shows that increasingly younger alumni prefer digital content more than the traditional printed magazine. The digital *M&W* will also be friendlier to the environment, resulting in a reduction of almost 800,000 printed pages per year.

Whether you prefer to read your magazine via smartphone, tablet or in print, we hope you will continue to enjoy reading stories about the successes of our students, faculty and alumni, and maintain your connection to Saint Mary's.

Sincerely,

Michael McKenzie BComm'80  
President, Saint Mary's University Alumni Association

# SMU *fit* Membership Special

## 4 Month Membership Special

Students: \$120    Adults: \$165

### Membership includes use of

- Cardio & Weight Room    • Squash Courts
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# SOMETHING'S HAPPENING HERE

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



*From athletics to the environment, across borders and oceans, Saint Mary's students, faculty, and alumni are making their marks worldwide.*

## CHEMISTRY'S POSITIVE ENERGY

Kudos to two Saint Mary's Chemistry professors, Christa Brosseau and Jason Clyburne.

Dr. Brosseau earned top honours at the Discovery Centre's 11th Annual Discovery Awards for Science and Technology as the 2013 Emerging Professional. An honour reserved for outstanding individuals under the age of 35, this recognizes Dr. Brosseau's research as part of a global effort to develop portable devices for the rapid detection of diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, and HIV.

Dr. Clyburne received the President's Award for Excellence in Research at fall convocation. A Canada Research Chair in Environmental Science, and a world leader in green chemistry, Dr. Clyburne was instrumental in establishing Saint Mary's Atlantic Centre for Green Chemistry and is currently pioneering the use of designer chemicals and materials to remove environmentally hazardous substances from industrial processes.

ALUMNI TERM LIFE INSURANCE

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- Access to 15 regular season home & exhibition games of your choice

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Follow us @ SMUhuskies





Bryan McLaughlin

## MARKET SMARTS

Bryan McLaughlin's extracurricular activities include keeping a sharp watch on the market. "Not the stock market," says the 23-year-old Sobey School of Business student, laughing, "the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market."

As the Director of Organizational Development for Saint Mary's ENACTUS team, McLaughlin helped a local, small business increase sales and move from a cramped corner in the back of the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market to one of the large storefront spaces. His extensive community involvement, coupled with a cumulative GPA of 4.24, helped to earn the fourth-year Finance major a prestigious Frank H. Sobey Award for Excellence in Business Studies (valued at \$15,000).

In his spare time, McLaughlin competes in case competitions, provides leadership as a member of the Commerce Society, and participates as a researcher with the IMPACT fund, the Sobey School's student-run investment fund.

## PUTTING MERCURY ON THE MAP

Working as part of a university-government partnership, with funds from Environment Canada and the National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Saint Mary's Environmental Scientist Dr. Linda Campbell collaborated to produce the first map of mercury concentrations in fish across Canada. The value of a national map, according to Dr. Campbell, is that it demonstrates the variations in mercury concentrations in a very clear way; illustrates the heightened risk for the Atlantic provinces, our sport fish, and fish-eating birds like the common loon; and has great potential for use by wildlife protection groups, provincial governments, and Environment Canada.

## DOING GOOD IS GOOD BUSINESS

Saint Mary's University's Enactus team shone at the Enactus Regional Competition in Halifax this spring, taking first place in both the Capital One Financial Education Challenge and the TD Entrepreneurship Challenge. The Regionals were equally stellar for Sobey School of Business marketing student Victoria Blue, who won the HSBC Woman Leader of Tomorrow Award for all of Atlantic Canada.

## FROM TRACK SUIT TO TUX

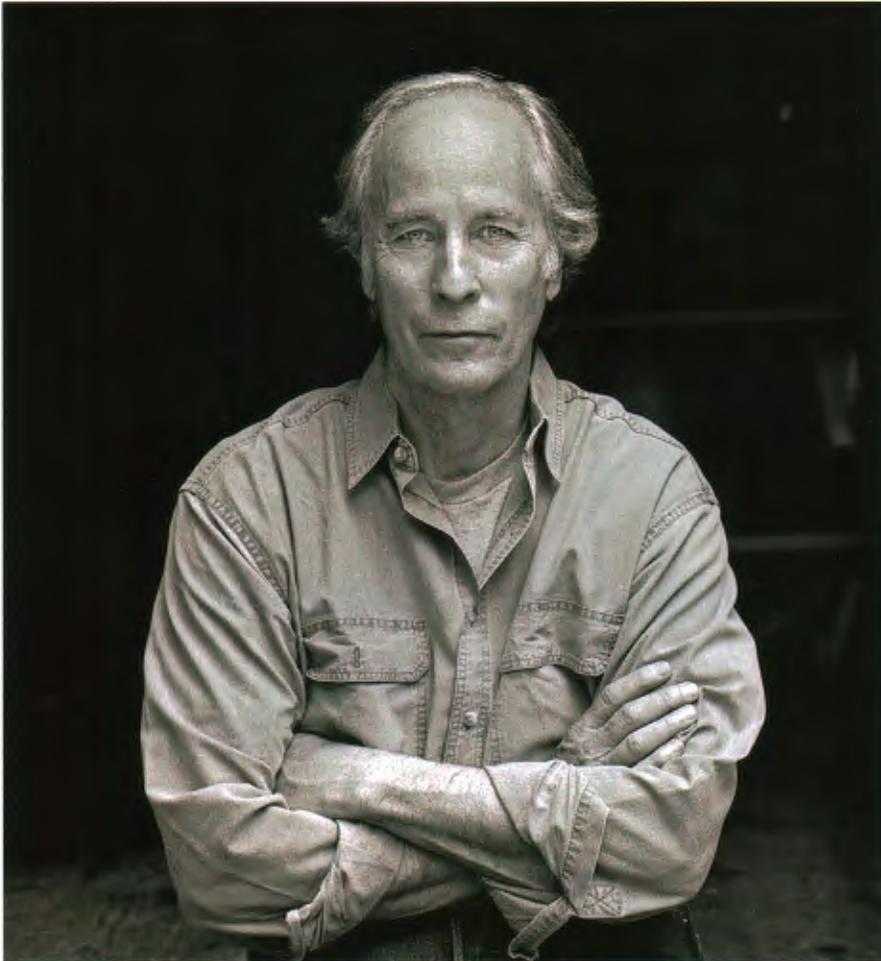
Former Olympian Andrew Russell traded his track suit for a tuxedo to receive a prestigious Futures Fund Scholarship for Outstanding Leadership during a gala held at Toronto's Ritz-Carlton Hotel. "I am very thankful to have received this honour," says Russell, a second-year Sobey School of Business MBA student who competed as a sprint canoeist in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. "I see it as a testament to my hard work, both for the MBA program and as a volunteer. The amazing team at the Sobey MBA Society have made it possible for me to grow as a leader."

Established by Canada's Outstanding CEO of the Year to honour and mentor exceptional Canadian university business students, the Futures Fund Scholarship disburses ten awards of \$5,500 each year to promising business students across the country.

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*Read more about Andrew Russell in our cover story on page 10.*

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Richard Ford

## WORDS FROM A PULITZER PRIZE WINNER

Tribute and tradition shared centre stage with author Richard Ford on the evening of Friday, February 28th when the Pulitzer Prize winner delivered this year's Cyril Byrne Lecture at Saint Mary's University. One of the major cultural events in Halifax, the annual Cyril Byrne Lecture celebrates the life of a teacher, researcher, actor, and raconteur who passed away in 2006. During his 35-year career as a literature professor at Saint Mary's, Dr. Byrne played a major role in establishing the University's Atlantic Canada Studies Program and the D'Arcy McGee Chair in Irish Studies. An interdisciplinary scholar ahead of his time, he left a lasting impression on generations of students.

## SAINT MARY'S GIVES PEACE A CHANCE

January saw the 10th anniversary of the Saint Mary's University and Peaceful Schools International peace education initiative in Belfast, an annual program led by Bridget Brownlow, Saint Mary's conflict

resolution adviser. Over the past decade, more than 100 Saint Mary's students have travelled to Northern Ireland and taught conflict resolution strategies to thousands of school children. Drawing on

the skills learned in facilitated workshops in Halifax, and in programs they deliver to elementary schools in the Halifax area, the Saint Mary's University students have used classroom games and activities to teach valuable skills for building a sustainable culture of peace.

## ON THE TOP AND ON THE MOVE

Saint Mary's was named a top five Canadian undergraduate university in Maclean's 2014 University Rankings issue, moving up three spots from last year in our strongest finish to date. "Our placing is great recognition of the strength of our faculty in receiving national awards and research funding," says University President, Dr. J. Colin Dodds. Maclean's acknowledged Saint Mary's as having the highest percentage of full time faculty in Nova Scotia with a Ph.D, and the highest percentage of first year international students (tied with McGill at 24 per cent).

"We all know Saint Mary's is a great school," says Gorba Bhandari, President of the Saint Mary's University Student Association. "It's nice to have an independent assessment confirm what we already know."

## NET ASSETS

Saint Mary's basketball teams made headlines this season, with the Men's Basketball Huskies emerging as the

*"Our placing is great recognition of the strength of our faculty." -Dr. Colin J. Dodds*

2014 Subway AUS champions, and the Women's Basketball Huskies ending a 31-game winning streak with a single season loss to take home a CIS silver. During that season finale, Justine Colley, twice the most

valuable player in Canadian university sport women's basketball, ended her incredible five-year career with a game-high 20 points. The fifth-year guard from East Preston, N.S., is the sixth multiple winner of the Nan Copp Award and remains the only player from the Atlantic University Sport conference to merit CIS-MVP honours. Justine reflects on her Saint Mary's career on page 10.

### GET SMART: GET SMUAPP

There's something for everyone in SMUapp, a free mobile app available for iOS and Android devices at [smuport.smu.ca/smuapp](http://smuport.smu.ca/smuapp). In addition to providing a secure way to access everything from grades, schedules and account information to campus news and events, SMUapp also offers a listing of important phone numbers and links to resources such as the Counselling Centre, Residence and Housing, and Security. Those new to Saint Mary's will also appreciate a map feature that displays a photo of every building on campus.



Dr. Sable

### BREAKING GROUND IN GOOSE BAY

Dr. Trudy Sable had just begun a six-day stay to work with the Innu community of Sheshatshiu when the call came to meet with Grand Chief Prote Poker for the official signing of a ground-breaking Memorandum of Understanding with Saint Mary's University. A 40-minute drive on winding, icy roads took Dr. Sable to Goose Bay, Labrador and the fruition of 15 years' work collaborating with the Innu Nation on their process of self-governance.

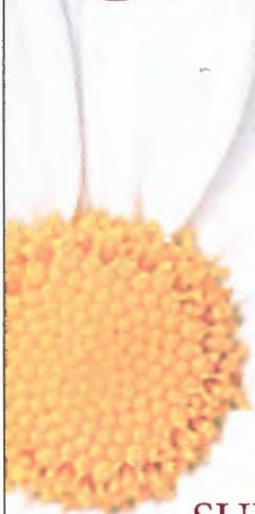
"The signing of the MOU was a momentous occasion," says Sable, Director of Aboriginal and Northern Research for Saint Mary's Gorsebrook Research Institute. "After years of people working to make this happen, everything came together over the course of a few days."



### WHERE IN THE WORLD IS SAINT MARY'S?

With more than 42,000 alumni in 140 countries, and a growing complement of international exchange programs, Saint Mary's University has a rich tradition of cultivating connections around the globe. The exciting news is that we're about to ramp it up a notch with a custom-built crowdsourcing initiative called #SMUselfie. Using the latest social media technologies, the project will geographically plot tagged tweets and Instagrams from around the world as a way of illustrating the remarkably global network of Saint Mary's students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

# Time FOR Sea



SUNDAY,  
JUNE 22, 2014

3pm to 5pm

*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*



One University. One World. Yours.

To purchase tickets contact Bonita Ramsay, Office of the President, at 420.5403 or [bonita.ramsay@smu.ca](mailto:bonita.ramsay@smu.ca)

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

# GIVING BACK AND PAYING FORWARD

REPRESENTING NOVA SCOTIA AND SAINT MARY'S IN THE CANADIAN SENATE

Senator Wilfred P. Moore BComm'64, LLD'07 works on Parliament Hill, in an office once occupied by Sir John A. Macdonald, and Nova Scotia's Joseph Howe and Sir Charles Tupper.

"When I look out my window, the first thing I see is a statue of William Lyon Mackenzie King," says Senator Moore. "Then, looking behind him, I can see the larger-than-life monument to the Famous Five, five Canadian women who blazed a trail for women's rights in 1929 and won the right for

pennant and megaphone, a Saint Mary's football, and a picture of Father John J. Hennessey.

"My sport was varsity hockey," recalls Moore, "but I rallied to the call in 1963 when Coach Bob Hayes and Father Hennessey were scrambling to pull together a varsity sailing team to compete in the New England Sailing Championships. Incredibly, we ended up placing 7 out of 10. Even more important for Father Hennessey, we beat Georgetown University—the other Jesuit school at that time."

*"Senator Moore is a real role model for Saint Mary's students." -Ashley Duggan*

women to be eligible for appointment to the Senate."

A lawyer and Queen's Counsel, Senator Moore entered the political arena as a Halifax Alderman, later serving as Deputy Mayor of the City. In 1996, he was appointed to the Senate by the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien.

"Without the education I received at Saint Mary's, I would never have had so many opportunities," says the Senator. "I owe the University everything."

Senator Moore's close ties to Saint Mary's are evident in the framed parchment for the honorary Doctorate of Laws he received from the University in 2007. His loyalty is equally apparent in the items on the mantel in his office: a Huskies

Senator Moore served for ten years on Saint Mary's Board of Governors. As well, he has an extensive record of community involvement, including service as Chairman of the Social Assistance Appeal Board for Halifax and Dartmouth; founding Director and Chairman of the Halifax Metro Centre; a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force Reserve; and volunteer Chairman of the Bluenose II Preservation Trust Society.

A proud Nova Scotian, Senator Moore established an endowment at Saint Mary's in 2009 to create the Senator Wilfred P. Moore Bursary. This annual award has since gone to four deserving Nova Scotia students enrolled full-time in their first year of



Adam Bowman, The Hon. Wilfred P. Moore, Q.C., LL.D.,  
Serena Rowley, and Lexa Ali:

photos: Paul Darrow



*"The Senator Wilfred P. Moore Bursary allowed me to focus completely on my studies. That means a great deal."*

Ashley Duggan  
second year Accounting major,  
Sobey School of Business

study at the Sobey School of Business.

"Others have helped me reach my goals," he says. "I know the importance of helping those who follow me at Saint Mary's. I hope the recipients will be inspired to help our University when it is their turn."

One of those to follow the Senator at Saint Mary's is Ashley Duggan, a second year Accounting major in the Sobey School of Business, and the 2012-2013 recipient of the Senator Wilfred P. Moore Bursary. A native of Halifax, Ashley hopes to be a Certified Public Accountant after graduation and is looking forward to a co-op placement this summer as a Junior Accountant with LED Roadway Lighting.

"Words alone cannot express how much I appreciate receiving the Senator Wilfred P. Moore Bursary," says Duggan. "Senator Moore is a real role model for Saint Mary's students. His generosity and support will be remembered for years to come." ♦



# THE NEXT LEVEL

*As their university days wind down, basketball dynamo Justine Colley and business whiz Andrew Russell say their goodbyes, plot their futures, and reveal their plans to keep Saint Mary's close.*

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

photo: Marvin Moore

The open staircase in the Homburg Centre for Health & Wellness is more than an airy backdrop for photos of Justine Colley and Andrew Russell. Forward-looking, impressive and strong, it's a fitting symbol for two of Saint Mary's most recent graduates.

Colley takes her place on the bottom step, smiling for the camera as she recollects memorable moments from the past five years at Saint Mary's—both as a Finance major in the Sobey School of Business, and an all-time great athlete for the Saint Mary's Basketball Huskies.

One of the top players to ever play in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) conference, Colley finished her university basketball career with five selections as a first-team AUS all-star, four as an all-Canadian—including three first-team nods—and one on the

Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) all-rookie squad. She is a two-time CIS player of the year (2012-13 and 2013-14), and most valuable player in Canadian University Sport Women's Basketball during the same period.

"My accomplishments reflect the incredible support I've received from family, friends, coaches and professors," says Colley, displaying the modest, team-first attitude that characterized her years as a Husky. "It was a real honour to play with such strong, talented girls. Our head coach, Scott Munro, recruits good athletes, but he also recruits good people. As clichéd as it may sound, we've become a family."

As a graduate of Halifax Grammar School's International Baccalaureate program, and a stellar basketball athlete, Colley had her pick of universities. "I was recruited by at least

one school in almost every province in Canada," she says. Saint Mary's had a winning combination of small class sizes, a strong tradition of athletics, and close proximity to her home in East Preston, NS. "I had the independence of living in residence, but could still go home for dinner whenever I wanted."

Colley declares herself happy to have chosen Saint Mary's, grinning as she steals a glance at the Homburg Centre's reception desk, the place where she met her fiancé Nicolas Leger, an officer in the Canadian Army.

"Coming here is the best decision I've ever made," she adds, "and not just because I met my fiancé. Saint Mary's is a lot about support and relationships—not just on the basketball court, but also in the classroom. It's an amazing place to be a student athlete. My professors have cheered me on from the

stands and congratulated me in class when I had a good game.”

“The faculty at Saint Mary’s is phenomenal,” notes Andrew Russell, waiting on the sidelines for his turn with the photographer. “We have some very distinguished professors, and with smaller class sizes, I took advantage of the opportunity to get to know them, and learn from them as much as possible.”

Russell MBA’14 is the outgoing President of the Sobey MBA Society. Like many members of the Saint Mary’s community, he has had the opportunity to see Colley in action. “She’s awesome,” he says, “both on the court and off.”

A sprint canoeist who competed in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, Russell has first-hand knowledge of the hard work and dedication required to succeed as an athlete. Although he no longer paddles competitively, this year he applied his Olympian stamina in order to balance full-time studies at Saint Mary’s with the full time position he accepted at Halifax health care consulting and event management firm, Zed Group.

“Both in business and athletics, it pays to have a strong work ethic and a goal-setting mentality,” he says. Russell recently received a Futures Fund Scholarship for Outstanding Leadership, one of ten \$5,500 awards given annually by Canada’s Outstanding CEO of the Year™ program to Canadian university business students who demonstrate exemplary leadership in their academic and extra-curricular initiatives.

As a recipient of one of these prestigious scholarships, he traded his track suit for a tuxedo to attend an awards gala at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Toronto. “It was awesome to be honoured at an event to announce Canada’s Outstanding CEO of the Year,” says Russell. “I see this scholarship a testament to my hard

work, both for the MBA program and as a volunteer.”

Like Colley, Russell is quick to recognize the role that others play in his success. “I certainly couldn’t have made it this far without so much incredible support,” he says. “I am very grateful for the camaraderie and friendship I found at the Sobey School of Business and in the Sobey MBA Society. Being around like-minded people, and collectively pursuing ambitious goals, made it possible for me to grow as a leader.”

As part of his role with the Zed Group, Russell is currently working on FANfit 2015 (FANfit.ca), a fitness and fundraising challenge that pairs participants with top tier Canadian

athletes. “Planning will be easier now that I have only one full-time job,” he says. In August, things will get more complicated again when he becomes a father, but that’s a challenge he’s eager to embrace.

At a prompt from the photographer, Russell joins Colley at the foot of the staircase for the next series of photos. Between shots, the two discuss China, where each once competed on a grand stage: Russell at the Beijing Olympics, and Colley at the FISU Universiades (University) Games in Shenzhen. And then, as so often happens in Nova Scotia—especially in the spring—the talk turns to warm weather, next steps, and new beginnings. ✧



Colley: I’ll continue being part of Saint Mary’s.

#### WHAT THEY LIKED MOST ABOUT SAINT MARY’S

JC: There’s an amazing sense of community on this campus. I walk through the halls and see hundreds of familiar faces. As one of 20—the size of some of my classes here—I was able to build relationships and feel I belonged.

AR: I really appreciated the small class sizes in the Sobey MBA program. I was able to get to know my professors, participate in volunteer initiatives, and get involved in major events like the annual leadership forum. It’s easy to get lost in a class of 300. At the Sobey School of Business, it’s noticeable if you’re not involved.

#### PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

JC: I’ve played basketball since I was eight years old. Now it’s time to look for a job. My future is undecided, but I plan to live in the Halifax area and I’d like to begin my career with an entry-level position in Finance. I’d also like to travel and coach. And I’ll continue being part of Saint Mary’s and telling everyone I meet what an amazing place this is.

AR: I’m looking forward to organizing the FANfit challenge for 2015, and, of course, I’m really looking forward to being a dad. I’ll certainly stay connected to Saint Mary’s. I’ve had a wonderful experience.

#### ADVICE FOR NEW STUDENTS

JC: Pay attention to your schoolwork. You will be pulled in many directions by extracurricular activities like social events, clubs and athletics. Sometimes it will be a struggle, but you have to remember that you’re here to get an education. That has to come first.

AR: Challenge yourself; that’s what makes all the difference. Get involved, get to know your professors, and maintain your focus. Life is what you make it and luck is often a by-product of the hard work you put in.



Russell: Challenge yourself.

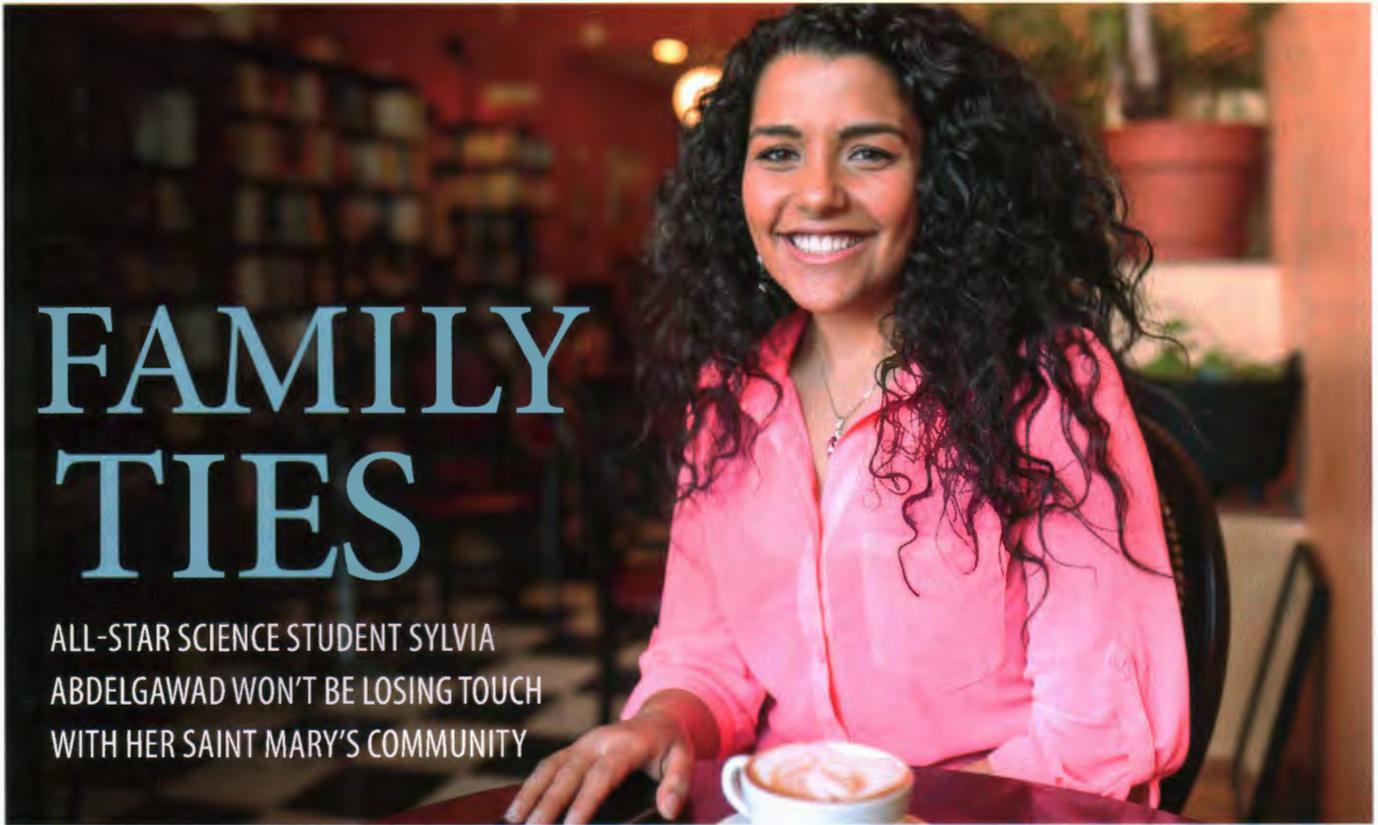


photo: Marvin Moore

# FAMILY TIES

ALL-STAR SCIENCE STUDENT SYLVIA ABDELGAWAD WON'T BE LOSING TOUCH WITH HER SAINT MARY'S COMMUNITY

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

Saint Mary's University is far more than a school for fifth year Bachelor of Science student, Sylvia Abdelgawad. "For the past five years, Saint Mary's has been the family that pushed me to grow and helped me to exceed my own limits," says Abdelgawad, who graduates in May with an Honours degree in Biology and Psychology. "It will be very difficult to leave here after graduation."

Abdelgawad jumped into school life in her first term at Saint Mary's with intramural athletics, and went on to join the African Society, the Commerce Society, and Saint Mary's Enactus team as an executive member. A committed community volunteer, she has worked with World Universities Services Canada to initiate a refugee advocacy program; and helped with Feed Nova Scotia, the Halifax Jazz Festival, and the Cerebral Palsy Association.

"Saint Mary's has given me so many incredible opportunities," she says. "In addition to being able to do important research in environmental and remediation chemistry, I've

campus has been so helpful during this time of political turmoil in my home country."

Abdelgawad graduates from Saint Mary's with two of SMUSA's highest

*"Saint Mary's has given me so many incredible opportunities."*

been invited to attend academic conferences; teach peace education in Northern Ireland; work on campus in a number of meaningful positions; and serve as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for Saint Mary's University Student Association (SMUSA)."

As an international student from Egypt, Abdelgawad appreciates the support she received from her university "family." "Everyone on

awards, one for her contribution to the student body through volunteerism and philanthropic endeavors, and the other for her outstanding contribution to extra-curricular activities. Medical school may lie in the future, but for now, Abdelgawad has her heart set on finding a job at Saint Mary's. "This is where I belong," she says, "and I want to give back to the family that has given me so much." ♦



photo: Paul Darrow

# ADAPTABLE ENVIRONMENTS

## SUSTAINABILITY WEEK ORGANIZER MELISSA DUBÉ LOOKS TO A GREENER FUTURE

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

**M**elissa Dubé is about to graduate with a degree that didn't exist when she entered Saint Mary's in 2010.

"I had already finished my first year when Saint Mary's introduced the School of the Environment and the Bachelor of Environmental Studies," says Dubé. "Fortunately, the timing still worked, and I was able to make the switch and complete my Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree in four years."

Dubé enjoys the School of the Environment's small class sizes and community atmosphere, and appreciates the opportunity to pursue her interest in food-related issues such as community gardening, slow food, and food security. As part of her program, she took a

leadership role in organizing Saint Mary's 2014 Sustainability Week, working with classmates to turn the Loyola Conference Hall into a one-day farmers' market, complete with vendors, buyers, and live music.

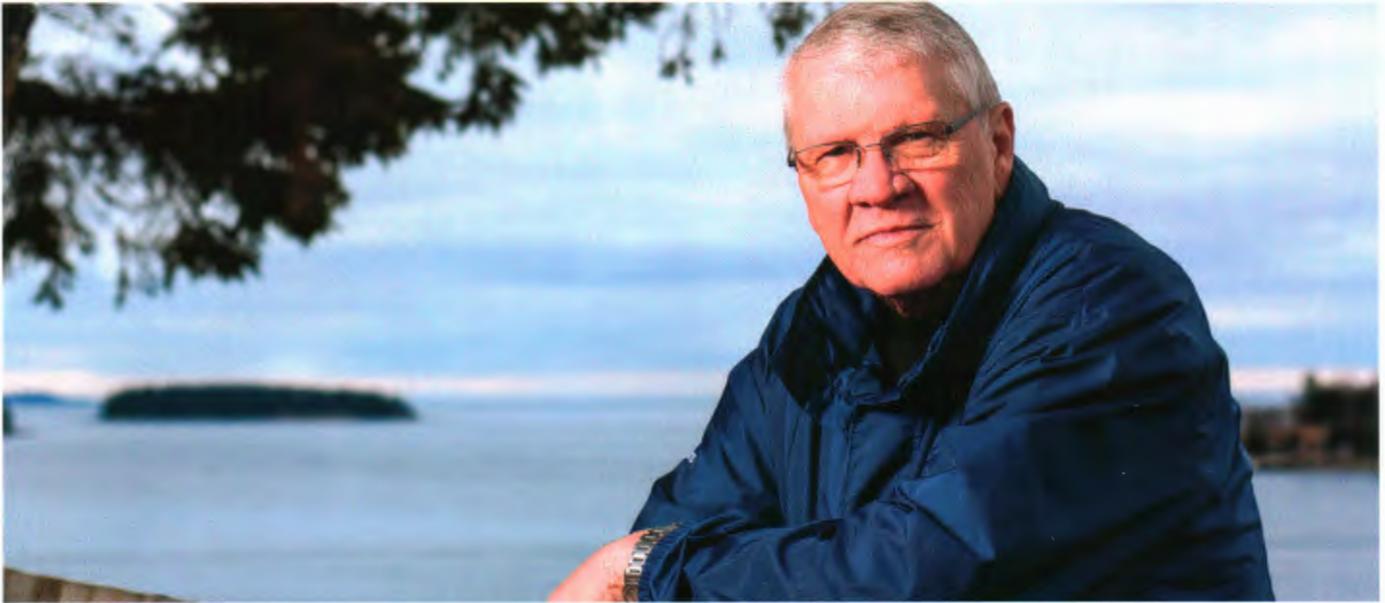
"We had a great turnout and the energy and excitement were high," she says. "There was lots of support from students, staff and faculty. Some people even expressed an interest in having a farmer's market as a regular event."

A member of the Saint Mary's University Garden Society, and Treasurer for the SMU Community Garden Co-op, she finds it inspiring to see first year students enter the School of the Environment and immerse themselves in programs like Environmental

Studies, Environmental Science and Geography.

"The degrees we offer focus on exploring ideas and solutions to our environmental challenges," says Dr. Tony Charles, Director of the School of the Environment and Dubé's Environmental Science professor. "The students in these programs will leave Saint Mary's with the skills to build sustainability in Nova Scotian communities and around the world."

Dubé credits Sustainability Week with inspiring positive environmental change and involving the University community in reducing Saint Mary's ecological footprint. "It's also a great way," she says, "to showcase the things we're passionate about on this campus." ♦



# A GOOD SPORT

STEVE ARMITAGE'S CBC CAREER HAS ITS ROOTS IN THE HALLS AND ON THE FIELDS OF SMU

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

Steve Armitage credits the typing class he took in Grade 10 with his 49-year career at CBC. “I liked the odds at the time. Thirty-six girls and two guys,” he says, laughing. In addition to being a great way to get a date, typing class led directly to his role as one of Canada’s most prominent sports broadcasters.

“They needed someone who was interested in sports and who could type,” says Armitage, who was born in Buckinghamshire, England and raised in Dartmouth. His initial love of English soccer quickly broadened to all sports. When he scored the CBC job—as a late-night sports writer—he couldn’t believe his luck. “I kept asking myself: they’re really going to pay me to go to football and hockey games?”

At the time, he was a Saint Mary’s student, studying Political Science and Philosophy, and also the quarterback of the Huskies. He’d arrived only one year earlier, in history-making 1964, when he’d helped to end a 47-game winning streak by the Saint Francis Xavier X-Men. The team went on to win their first ever Atlantic Bowl championship. “SFX was our big rival, so that was a huge win for us,”

he says, “I can still remember the police escort we got to a huge pep rally at the school, just jammed with fans. It was a fantastic moment.”

Although football was first and foremost in Armitage’s mind in those days, SMU had a surprise in store for him. “I didn’t care much for academics, but the professors were so good,” he says, “I became interested despite myself.”

After his graduation in 1968, he played two years of semi-pro football with the Halifax Buccaneers and served as Sports Information Director at Saint Mary’s. His part-time work at CBC in Halifax continued until 1973 when they offered him a full-time sports broadcaster position in Vancouver. Since then, he has covered 29 years of Hockey Night in Canada, 27 years of Grey Cups, and 15 Olympic Games.

Recently, Armitage’s voice was heard from the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia where he called hockey and speed skating. “The Winter Olympics make sports fans out of anyone,” he says. “It’s that combination of good stories and lots of great coverage, and it’s in the middle of winter. What else are you going to do in Canada?”

photo: Meghan Tansey Whitton

His first Olympics was 1972, where as a cub reporter, he was posted to Munich. The event was marred by the hostage-taking of several athletes, all of whom died during a rescue attempt. "I was there when the tragedy struck," he says. "We didn't have cell phones or internet then, so even though I was right there, I knew very little of what had actually happened until getting on the plane to leave."

Armitage says that advances in technology have been a real game-changer. "What I used to say was gospel," he says. "Now, the public has access to all the same information I do." Which means he needs to do a lot more research before calling an event. "In many ways it's good because it forces me to be honest and makes me a better broadcaster."

After 38 years living in Vancouver, "the voice of speed skating" is back in Nova Scotia, now living outside of Bridgewater, enjoying the comforts of a beautiful home on a lake. He's just 90 minutes from the airport when he has to travel.

And travel he will! Armitage is already preparing for international sporting events over the next year, and also a 50th reunion with Huskies teammates. "My days at SMU were truly the best of my life," he says. "I had so much fun and made so many treasured friends."

In turn, Saint Mary's has not forgotten Armitage. In recognition for his enormous contributions, he has been inducted into the the University Sport Hall of Fame, in addition to receiving an Honorary Ph.D. in Civil Law.

"I was drawn into sports, starting at SMU, and I've loved every minute of my journey," he says. "It has enabled me to see the world and to score some of the best seats to the major sporting events of the last 40 years. It's been quite a trip." ♦

# THE GIVING TREE

## HOW ALEX HANDYSIDE HELPED FIND 100 MEN WHO GIVE A DAMN



photo: Meghan Tansey Whitton

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

When someone asks Alex Handyside MBA'00 what he does for fun, his answer is immediate and genuine. "I volunteer," he says. And it's true. He is a born volunteer, giving his time "everywhere and anywhere." He is particularly fond of non-profits, having worked for a number of them in the Halifax area. As the Director of Development and Communications at the Metro Food Bank for four years, Handyside helped raise \$1.2 million per year.

It's this ability to band together with others with the express desire to help that fuels him. "I love," he says, "that a handful of people in an organization can come together and make such a difference in a community."

It seems only natural then that Handyside recently co-founded one of our region's most unique fundraisers. 100 Men Who Give A Damn is modelled on Halifax's 100 Women Who Care, which was co-founded by Colette Robicheau. Back in the fall, Handyside was at an event with Robicheau and good friend >

(cont. from page 15) Bill VanGorder. “Colette threw down the gauntlet,” he says, “and challenged Bill and I to find even five men who cared.”

Handyside put out a call to his male friends and acquaintances who he thought might be keen to help others and give to a good cause. “We had a breakfast meeting and floated a basic business plan to gauge interest,” he says. “SMU Alumni were out in force!” Of those, Tim Rissesco, who heads up the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission, along with SMU instructor Steve Foran and Saint Mary’s President Colin Dodds have become part of a core group of members.

“We’re a bunch of guys who care enough about our community to want to make a BIG impact,” says Handyside. They meet four times a year, hear about the great work three local charities do, and then choose one. Every member writes a cheque for \$100 to the chosen charity.

After its first meeting this past February, the group presented The Children’s Wish Foundation with \$23,400. “It was a wonderful feeling to watch cheque after cheque being popped into the Huskies football helmet we passed around,” says Handyside. “All those men who really do care, each giving a small donation, but one that cumulatively has a huge effect on a local organization.”

To say that the group has grown over the last six months would be a serious understatement. Mayor Mike Savage got the ball rolling by signing on to be the first member. Since then, over 230 men have joined and social media has spread their message broadly. “We’ve had inquiries from the US, Ontario, Vancouver,” says Handyside, “and we even have a member in Austin, Texas!”

**F**or Handyside, the fact that Saint Mary’s donates the venue for the 100 Men meetings—and so many Alumni are interested in participating—is extra-special. Just like his time at SMU.

During the mid-nineties he worked to achieve his MBA part-time, while still serving in the Canadian military. One of his first classes was marketing and he quickly became “completely smitten.”

After nine years as a Sea King helicopter navigator, Handyside had suddenly found what he longed to do, although he knew right away that he would never want to apply this learning in a “corporate Canada” setting. He turned his mind to possibilities in an NGO, doing research and completing work placements in the non-profit sector.

Bolstered by the MBA he earned upon his graduation in 2000, Handyside accepted a job he was offered at the Metro Food Bank and left the military. After four years of successful fundraising for that organization, he felt the need to go it on his own. “Saint Mary’s helped me discover my inner entrepreneur, and I haven’t looked back since.”

Two companies are the result. ScotiaCare Homecare provides in-home care to seniors, veterans, and the disabled, while NitroTek hosts web space for non-profits. His most famous client? Sean Connery, who has a charitable foundation called Friends of Scotland. “It’s kind of a bizarre situation and I’ve never met the man,” he says, laughing. “But we’ve had a long and fruitful relationship.”

Running these two organizations has allowed Handyside to become well acquainted with the level of need in our region. He calls the 100 Men Who Give a Damn initiative a “positive, grassroots movement” designed to help with as little overhead and as little formal organization as possible. “It’s a wonderful feeling to make a difference in people’s lives. I think of this as my way of giving back to the community and I really enjoy doing that.” ♦

# DEEP ROOTS

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

**M**agnolia trees are not renowned for their deep roots, but the one in front of Saint Mary’s historic McNally building is deeply rooted in memory for the family of Dr. Joseph Vorstermans, an Economics professor who taught at the university for more than 25 years.

The Vorstermans family’s connection with Saint Mary’s began in 1956, when Joseph Vorstermans, his wife Jean and their five children emigrated from Holland to Nova Scotia. “What happened next is interesting,” says their eldest son, Paul, who graduated from Saint Mary’s in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. “Our dad had a PhD in economics from Holland, and had come to Canada to set up a plant for a Dutch company. When the venture failed after two years, my mother suggested he talk to the President of Saint Mary’s University about taking courses to gain some Canadian experience.”

Instead of offering advice, Saint Mary’s President, Reverend Patrick Malone, S.J., offered a teaching position, and an association began that lasted from 1957 until Joseph’s retirement in 1985.

“Any students in the Commerce department during those years would have had my father as a professor for Econ 201,” says Paul’s younger brother, Joe BA’66. “He was a teacher in the old mould, and a tough marker. His style would have been appreciated by the serious students but not so much by the rest.”

With Joseph Sr. immersed in his teaching career, his wife Jean enrolled



photo: Paul Darrow

in the first of many non-credit courses she would take at Saint Mary's. "She studied everything from great books to French conversation," says Paul. "With five kids at home, I'm sure she welcomed an evening out."

Paul spent seven years at Saint Mary's, including three at the high school. During his university years, he took two courses from his father. "He played no favourites," recalls Paul. "One time I fell asleep at the back of the class and he threw a piece of chalk at me."

Paul's brothers Frank BA'69, Luke BA'71, and Joe also attended Saint Mary's. Their sister Margaret completed a Nursing degree at Mount Saint Vincent University,

where Dr. Vorstermans taught part time in the 1960s. Not to be outdone by four Saint Mary's alumnus siblings, Margaret did her own part to maintain the family connection by marrying Lou Airoidi BA'68, an American athlete who attended Saint Mary's in the 1960s and played football and basketball for the Huskies.

None of Joseph and Jean's children remained in Nova Scotia. Frank married Saint Mary's alumna Wendy Pottie BA'71 and moved to Alberta. Luke is in British Columbia. Joe and Paul are in Ontario, and Margaret lives in Georgia.

Jean Vorstermans passed away in 2006. Three years later, her five

children returned to the Saint Mary's campus, accompanied by their spouses, children, and grandchildren. On a warm afternoon in June, they planted a magnolia tree in their mother's memory on the lawn in front of the McNally Building. Just 50 metres away is the driveway where Dr. Vorstermans parked his old green Dodge for many years.

Photos of the ceremony show a large, extended family linked by memories of Saint Mary's. Deeply rooted in this history, the magnolia continues to thrive as a living memorial to Jean, and now, also to Dr. Joseph Vorstermans, who died peacefully in his sleep on June 15, 2013. He was 95. ♦

# ALUMNI EVENTS

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



**PARADE OF LIGHTS** Over 100,000 people came out to enjoy the Holiday Parade of Lights. Members of the SMU Huskies Women's Hockey team, members of the SMU Huskies Football Team and students from the TESL Centre joined SMU Alumni as we walked through downtown Halifax bringing husky greetings to the masses. Not only were we joined by the SMU Husky, we also had two real Huskies on our float. Rusty and Kala were a big hit with the crowd and the SMU Husky stopped to take lots of photos with our future alumni.

**BRUNCH** Every year, alumni from Ottawa and the surrounding area get together to hang out, show their SMU pride and reconnect before the holidays. SMU Alumni, Brian & Eileen McLean brought the whole family to meet Santa. Pictured are Thomas, Grace, Lilly, and Alice McLean at the Ottawa Chapter Christmas Brunch.

**ST. PADDY'S** The SMU Alumni Association is always looking for ways to connect with the community. This March, we had the chance to join SMUSA and the SMU Football team at the St. Patrick's Day parade. Not only did we have a great time and collect a ton of money for Parker Street Food Bank, we also got the chance to hang out with Megan Leslie, Member of Parliament for Halifax (above, centre). Also pictured are Monica Njoku, Saint Mary's University Alumni Officer and Craig Walsh, SMUSA Marketing and Events Manager.

**BEER!** John S. Fitzpatrick, Q.C., Chair, Board of Governors BA'81 and Ottawa alumnus, Paul Meek BComm'97, (pictured above) show their Husky Pride. Meek, owner of the Ottawa microbrewery, Kichissippi Beer Company was recently featured for CTV's Amazing Person, a weekly feature of inspirational people in Ottawa.



**AUS** From March 7-9, the SMU Huskies Women's basketball team continued their winning streak by claiming an AUS title. The Championship games were held at the University of Prince Edward Island and PEI SMU Alumni came out to support their Huskies. Victoria Gallant BComm'11 brought along a few of her friends to cheer on the Huskies.

**BASKETBALL** This has become a favourite event of Toronto Alumni and the Alumni Office. SMU Alumni get to experience an NBA game in true style. We book a skybox for SMU alumni (and only SMU alumni) order a bunch of food and give away a ton of swag. The Raptors defeated the Cavaliers by a score of 98-91. Joe Comeau BComm'10 and Jaime Aitken BComm'03 are regulars of our Toronto Raptors event and for the last two years have been the first people to purchase tickets. (From left to right Kimberly Gartner, Jaime Aitken, Joe Comeau, Jessica Steedman, Elgin Cleckley.)

**ST. LUCIA** Despite the wind and the rain, Saint Lucian SMU Alumni enjoyed an evening with fellow grads, future students, and the opportunity to learn more about the BBSAB Award. The scholarship was created in recognition of Saint Mary's students and alumni who have come from the Caribbean region to attend Saint Mary's. The scholarship will be awarded to graduates of a secondary school from the countries of Bermuda, The Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbados. Big thank you to our alumna Sharon Pierre Louis for all of her help in planning! (Bernetta St. Rose BA'99, Cordelle Lawrence BComm'07, Lisa Florent-Montoute BComm'03, Andrew George BComm'01, Denise Collymore BA'94 and Sharon Pierre Louis BComm'05.)

**TD** We know that there are lots of SMU Alumni living in HRM and what better way to connect with them than with a visit from the SMU Husky. The Husky took a trip over to TD to celebrate with some of our alumni that were celebrating an anniversary year with TD Insurance. (Sam Donnelly BSc'14, Jen Nixon BComm'10, Ann Alee Anderson BComm'94, Lisa White BA'01)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### *Halifax:*

Webinar Event for CPA Professionals  
May 29 | Time: TBC  
Location: TBC on campus

Rope for Hope for Children's Wish Foundation  
June 6 | 9am-5pm  
Loyola High Rise

Larry Uteck Golf Tournament  
June 19 | 9am-4pm  
Sherwood Golf and Country Club

SMU Alumni at the TD Halifax Jazz Festival  
July 4-13 (day TBC)

38th Alumni Golf Tournament  
August 21  
Granite Springs Golf Club

40th Anniversary of Women in Sport Celebration  
October 3 | 5pm  
Homburg Centre Courtside

### *Ottawa:*

Atlantic Canadian Universities Pub Night  
June 5 | 5pm-7pm  
Hooley's Pub

### *Edmonton:*

Alumni Pub Night  
Hudsons Downtown  
June 5 | 5:30pm-7:30pm

### *Vancouver:*

Alumni Pub Night  
June 10 | 5:30pm-7:30pm  
Location: TBC

### *Calgary:*

Alumni Pub Night  
June 11 | 5:30pm-7:30pm  
Location: TBC

### *SMU in the Community:*

Everyone loves a parade—join us!  
Pride Parade | July 26  
Natal Day Parade | August 4

### *Save the Date:*

Homecoming Weekend  
October 1-6

# HOMECOMING

SAVE-THE-DATE! HOMECOMING WEEKEND IS OCTOBER 1-6, 2014

## ONE WORLD ALUMNI DINNER

presented by  
TD Insurance Meloche Monnex



Katrina MacLean, 1st year Saint Mary's Commerce Student and Shawn Nicholson, 2nd year Commerce, are both Alumni of the Junior Achievement Company Program. Katrina is also the recipient of the President's Scholarship.



### ALUMNI DINNER TO SUPPORT YOUTH

The SMU Alumni Association is proud to announce that the 2014 One World Alumni Dinner will be in support of Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia. Saint Mary's University has been a long supporter of Junior Achievement and its commitment to developing and supporting youth. Nominated by Wendy Brookhouse BComm'91, EMBA'02, Junior Achievement works to help youth realize their potential, to provide them with financial skill and literacy and to create future business leaders of Nova Scotia. This year's dinner, taking place on Thursday, October 2, will once again bring SMU Alumni and friends together to support a worthwhile charity. Tickets will be available in May.

### CHEMISTRY REUNION

Professors and alumni had much to discuss at February's Chemistry Reunion mixer, held close to campus at the Local Council of Women house on Young Avenue. Students and faculty were able to show alumni the studies and projects they had been working on in the past year. Young Alumni were also in attendance, including Christine Prudhoe BSc'13, who is now attending medical school. Also, Jeanna MacLeod BSc'10, was given the chance to show what life after Saint Mary's is like for a Chemistry graduate.



### UPCOMING REUNIONS

#### 1964 FOOTBALL REUNION

Members of the 1964 AUS Atlantic Bowl champions will be celebrating their 50th Reunion at this year's Homecoming in October. Former players Paul Puma BComm BEd'68, Dr. David Murphy and Steve Armitage BA'68, are planning a wonderful weekend of celebrations for the team. To date, 19 of the 22 players are planning to make the trip back to campus.





**SMU**  
HUSKIES **40 YEARS STRONG**  
WOMENS VARSITY SPORTS  
1974-2014

## WOMEN ATHLETES

CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF VARSITY SPORT

**N**ineteen seventy-four: It was the year Steve Nash and Alanis Morissette were born. Roberta Flack's "Killing Me Softly with His Song" won Song of the Year at the Grammys. *People Weekly* was launched, with Mia Farrow on the cover. The TV show, *Singalong Jubilee* ended after a 13 year run with regular performers like Anne Murray and Catherine MacKinnon getting their start. The Philadelphia Flyers beat the Boston Bruins to win the Stanley Cup. The RCMP began allowing female members.

It was also the year that women began competing at the varsity level at Saint Mary's. Women had started attending the all-male school run by the Jesuits in the late '60s. Female athletes were competing in club sports but as female enrollment increased, so too did the demand for a higher level of female athletic competition. Kathy Mullane MBA'89 played a critical role in women's sports at SMU—hired

in 1973, she coached basketball then quickly moved to establish a field hockey team, knowing that many women played two sports at that time and it was better for recruitment.

The women's teams have come a long way since that year and over the years expanded to include soccer, volleyball, hockey, rugby, track and field, and cross-country. Many female athletes have come and gone, fierce competitors who brought great success to the university in their sport, helping Saint Mary's make its mark as a competitive environment for female in sport. Flash-forward to the present day and you have back to back AUS titles for women's basketball along with a CIS bronze in 2013 and a CIS silver in 2014, under the leadership of CIS scoring leader Justine Colley BComm'14.

We will celebrate the women who competed over the last 40 years during Homecoming Weekend, October 1-6, 2014. We invite all former and current female athletes back to campus for a

special reception on Friday, October 3 at the Homburg Centre. Other activities are being planned as well.

Helping with the planning for this celebration are Kathy Mullane MBA'89, Annelie Vandenberg BComm'85, (Basketball and Field Hockey), Sue (Dunbrack) Beazley BA'77 (Basketball and Field Hockey), Megan Kinsman BComm'07 (Rugby), Cathy Hanrahan (Basketball), Shelley Whitman BA'93 (Soccer), Cindy Joe BComm'98 (Volleyball), Elizabeth Cosulich BComm'12 (Volleyball), and student Kaitlyn Sobey (Rugby). We still need volunteers if you would like to become involved.

We want to make this a memorable event. If you have photos, stories and/or memorabilia from your days as a student athlete, please send them to the Alumni Office. Contact Mary Ann Daye BComm'85 for more information and to get involved: [maryann.daye@smu.ca](mailto:maryann.daye@smu.ca) or 902.420.5176.

# ALUMNI LOYALTY CARD PROGRAM

PETRIDE OWNER PERRY FALCONER WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO JOIN THE LOYALTY PROGRAM, OFFERING ALUMNI DISCOUNTS



Perry Falconer, BComm'05, is not only a local business owner looking to give Saint Mary's Alumni opportunities to save with their pets, he's also an alumnus himself. Having graduated from the Sobey School of Business in 2005, Perry carried on the Saint Mary's entrepreneurial spirit by creating a very unique business and service for those in Nova Scotia. PetRide Halifax offers a special experience by offering transportation and care for your pets when you are at work or otherwise unavailable. This is particularly great for those who have busy and hectic lives, but still care a lot for their furry (or sometimes scaly) companions.

Perry has been a part of the Loyalty Card Program since its beginnings in 2012, and he's seen alumni take advantage of the discount and service. He explains that his service is "made with your pet's comfort and your schedule in mind," and even offers suggested veterinarians, kennels, trainers, and walkers to help you take the best care of your pet.

All you need to take advantage of discounts with partnering companies is an Alumni Card—and it's free! You can fill out our easy form at [smu.ca/alumni/alumni-card](http://smu.ca/alumni/alumni-card) or contact our office at [alumni@smu.ca](mailto:alumni@smu.ca) and by calling 902.420.5420. We'll be happy to mail you a card and get you started on saving money as an alumnus! Make sure you check out all of our Partners online, as well as added benefits to having an Alumni Card such as discounts on campus at SMUfit and the Bookstore, along with Varsity games. ✧

## LOYALTY CARD PARTNERS



If you are interested in having your company or organization participate in our program as a Loyalty Partner, you can contact our Alumni Officer, Sarah MacDonald, for an information package. You can reach her at [sarah.b.macdonald@smu.ca](mailto:sarah.b.macdonald@smu.ca) or by calling 902.496.8276.

# A TASTE FOR COMPETITION

CYRA BELBIN HITS THE STORE SHELVES WITH A RECIPE MADE FROM A TIME CRUNCH AND COLD MACARONI

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

Ask Cyra Belbin MBA'08 how she came to parlay leftover pasta into more than a quarter of a million dollars in prize money, and the Saint Mary's MBA grad is surprisingly brief. "Laziness," says Belbin. "Sheer laziness."

The longer version of the story begins one evening when Belbin returned home from her job as a marketing specialist with NSLC. "We had guests coming over and I was just too tired to cook," she says, "so I looked in the fridge and spotted some leftovers."

Summoning the creative cookery skills she normally reserves for fancy cupcakes, Belbin whipped up a batch of hors d'oeuvres by breading and frying balls of cold macaroni and cheese. "They had a crazy, mutant look," she recalls, "but everyone loved them, so over time, I experimented with shape and size, and played around until I perfected the cheese mixture."

The next step was snagging a spot on CBC's *Recipe to Riches*, a six-episode, reality TV series that pits amateur home cooks against each other in five different food categories. As the winner of the savoury snacks competition, Belbin earned \$25,000, product development for her Mexi Mac 'n' Cheese Bites under the President's Choice brand, and a shot at the finals.

A passionate ultimate Frisbee athlete, Belbin understands the importance of focus and follow through. "I'm very competitive," admits the 31-year-old. "Growing up in Saint John's,



Cyra Belbin (far left) picks up the cheque from Saint Mary's honorary degree recipient Arlene Dickinson (centre) and President's Choice representatives.

Newfoundland, I was a figure skater. Then in high school, and during my undergrad years at Memorial, I competed nationally in track and field."

Belbin approached the final round of *Recipe to Riches* with the energy and determination that characterized her preparation for track and field events at the Canada Games in 2001. Her adversaries, in this case, were Jesse Meredith's Mini Raspberry Cheesecake Chocolate Cups, Winslow Taylor's Jammin' Jamaican Lobster Bisque, Alcide Desveaux's Grandpa's Acadian Meat Pie, and Elisa Hendrick's Italian Lollipops.

"My MBA course work taught me to be strategic and organized," she says. "I got things under control by preparing a communications plan and a social media calendar, so I was actually able to relax and enjoy the events leading up to the grand finale."

Canadians voted online for their favourites, and the final episode in

the series aired on April 2, 2014. In a triumph of what she describes as communications and marketing, Cyra emerged the winner, wading across the stage through scattered sequins to accept a cheque for \$250,000.

"As a student in the Sobey School of Business, I made connections that helped me get my job with NSLC four months before graduation," says Belbin. "At the time, I thought I couldn't get any luckier."

Turns out she was wrong, but with \$250,000 in prize money and her Mexi Mac 'n' Cheese Bites on the shelves at Atlantic Superstores, SaveEasy outlets, and select Loblaws stores in Canada, the Saint Mary's alumna isn't complaining.

"If my product achieves Blockbuster status, I'll do a bacon version as a brand extension," says Belbin. "To some extent, I believe that you make your own luck, so I'll just keep putting myself out there and we'll see what comes next." ♦

# ALUMNI GIVING BACK

*Thanks to you, our alumni, and partnerships with our Affinity Partners, TD Insurance Meloche Monnex and Manulife Financial, every time you sign up for an insurance program, you not only get a discounted rate—our office is able to support students and alumni programs. Here's a sampling of some of the groups we supported this year.*



## SHINERAMA

This marked the third year that Saint Mary's has participated in the largest post-secondary fundraiser in the country, raising money for cystic fibrosis research and patient care. The Alumni Office was able to help both monetarily and in person, as one of our Alumni Officers, Sarah MacDonald, along with other alumni volunteers, were able to help deliver lunch on Shine Day to all of the student volunteers. This year the Saint Mary's campaign raised over \$30,000!



## JAMAICA

Five graduating students—Amy Su, Colten Steele, Cameron MacKenzie, Alex McInnis, and Allison Taylor—participated in a teaching opportunity in Jamaica this past semester. They were involved in organizing educational games, teaching, providing one-on-one care, assisting with daily activities, chores and helping with improvements to the orphanage and community. They described their time as providing “a wealth of knowledge and life experience.”



## PEACEFUL SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

Erin McIntosh, Future Alumna, Kristie Mailman, BA'13, Emily Anderson, MA'12, and Cait Dix, MA'11, partake in the Peaceful Schools International's Northern Ireland Conflict Resolution Project in West Ireland. They promote peace education in schools along the Ireland and Northern Ireland borders. The program is celebrating their 10th anniversary this year.



## AFRICA NIGHT

As a Gold Sponsor for this year's Africa Night, we were able to help the Saint Mary's African Student Society present another outstanding evening of celebration. The theme this year was “Panafrikanism: Portrayed” and featured a tribute to the late Nelson Mandela. Pictured here are soon-to-be Saint Mary's graduates, Mufadzi Nyamarebvu and Kaizer Munyanyi.

## COMMERCE DINNER

Students, staff, faculty, alumni, along with various members of the business community, again gathered to celebrate the 40th Annual Business Dinner. The keynote speaker was Dr. Paul Sobey, recently retired President and CEO of Empire Company Limited. The emcee was former Alumni Council member Ross Simmonds, BComm'09. Special guests included the founding members of the Dinner from 1974.

## MEN'S BASEBALL

Members of Saint Mary's Men's Baseball team, which is a Club not Varsity, had the rare opportunity to go to Nationals this year. They placed second in Atlantic Canada, qualifying them for their first National championship in five years. They had a fantastic run and we were very pleased to be able to help them along the way.



## ENACTUS

Students involved with Saint Mary's Enactus had the opportunity to participate in this year's Regional competition this past spring. They took home first prize in two categories and second in another. That qualifies them to attend the National competition in Calgary at the end of April. Victoria Blue, a Sobey School of Business marketing student, also won the HSBC Woman Leader of Tomorrow Award for Atlantic Canada.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

The International Centre welcomes hundreds of new students from outside of Canada to campus every year with their International Student Orientation. This provides special information workshops, bonding, and fun for students who might have a harder time adjusting to life in Canada. We're happy to support the Orientation's welcome breakfast, along with other events during the week!

## SMUSA INDIVIDUAL STUDENT FUNDING

We were able to fund the SMUSA Individual Student Funding initiative to allow students opportunities to travel for academic purposes. These were primarily for presenting posters and talks at academic and industry conferences around the world.



## SMUQ

The Saint Mary's University LGBTQ Society had an amazing year with a whole host of events. They included a full Pride Week during the school year featuring celebrated events like Drag Your Heels. They also partook in the city's Pride Parade along with representation from Athletics and Alumni. SMUQ won Society of the Year for the second year running in 2014. We recently funded SMUQ to develop an even more robust events calendar, as well as a scholarship for LGBTQ students.

## WOMEN'S CENTRE

The Alumni Office had the opportunity to happily help fund the Women's Centre this year! Financial support went to amazing events such as *The Vagina Monologues*, Consent Workshops, and educational film screenings. It also helped with the overall running of the Office which is available to all students on a regular basis.

## MAROON & WHITE BALL

The Saint Mary's Alumni Office is always pleased to help support the Grad Class Society. This year, the Maroon & White Graduation Ball was held at the Westin Hotel and welcomed hundreds of graduates to a night of dinner, dancing, and fun. Mary Evelyn Ternan, Vice President of the Alumni Council, was there to make a toast to the graduating students, along with other members of the Council in attendance.

# ALUMNI SNIPPETS

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

## 1974

Congratulations to **Heather Harris BA'70, MA'72, BEd'74** for winning the Bob Hayes Award for Volunteer of the Year at this year's Athletics Awards Banquet in March 2014.

## 1998

**Maxwell Sean Brennan BA** has left the private sector to help protect our national parks and boreal forests. In 2013 he became the National Marketing Manager for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, an environmental not-for-profit headquartered in Ottawa. He loves the new challenge. Max lives in Ottawa with his partner and three daughters.

## 2000

**Peter Johnston MBA** was appointed as President of Lansdowne Technologies, a 38-year-old project management and business management consulting firm in Ottawa. He joined Lansdowne in 2002 after a 27-year career in the Canadian Navy and served as Vice President from 2008-2013. Peter and his wife Sue-Ellen recently completed a 210km trek in eight days on the El Camino in northern Spain where he represented Saint Mary's by sporting his SMU sweatshirt.

## 2004

**Michael Tripp BA, BComm** has practiced as General Counsel to a publicly listed company and in private practice, including capital

markets and an M&A group of a leading national law firm in Toronto. Michael has returned to his hometown of Moncton, New Brunswick and has founded a business law firm—Tripp | Business Law—servicing companies and entrepreneurs in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Ontario. The firm offers services in corporate law, intellectual property, securities, buying and selling businesses, and dispute resolution. Michael welcomes the opportunity to work with any SMU alumni in the business community requiring legal services.



## 2007

**Chenguang Fan BSc** moved to Boston, MA last year. After graduation he attended the University of Alberta and obtained a PhD degree in Chemistry. Chenguang is currently doing a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Microbiology and Immunobiology at Harvard Medical School.

## 2008

**Michael Gillan BA** recently acquired his Associate Broker's designation through the Nova Scotia Real Estate Commission. He works with Red Door Realty and can be reached at [michael@reddoorrealty.ca](mailto:michael@reddoorrealty.ca)

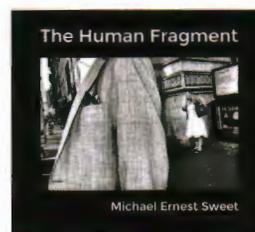
## 2014

**Ashley Spencer BA** drove across Canada in the middle of winter and has settled in Calgary, Alberta. She is engaged to alumnus **Riley Brown BComm** and their wedding will be held this summer.

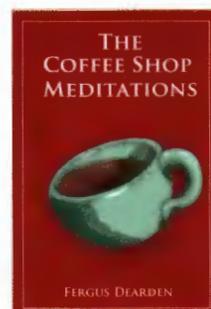


## Saint Mary's Writes

New books written by members of the Saint Mary's Community.



*The Human Fragment* by Michael Ernest Sweet BA'02  
"A photographic essay that reads like a real-life film noir."  
(Brooklyn Arts Press, NYC) \$35



*The Coffee Shop Meditations* by Fergus Dearden BA, BComm'11  
After two bouts of homelessness, being in abusive relationships and

environments, beating a gambling addiction and being diagnosed with a mood disorder, Fergus decided it was time for a change and to take charge of his own life. Through his experiences, he decided to put his perspective of the world around us into words and this eventually became what is known as *The Coffee Shop Meditations*. While writing *The Coffee Shop Meditations* he eventually developed the motto "Stop, Feel, Think, Act." It has become the cornerstone in his healing process and he hopes his motto will guide others to go after their dreams.



*David Lodge and the Tradition of the Modern Novel*

by J. Russell Perkin, English and Religious Studies Professor, Saint Mary's University  
David Lodge is a much-loved novelist and influential literary critic. Examining his career from his earliest publications in the late 1950s to his more recent works, *David Lodge and the Tradition of the Modern Novel* identifies Lodge's central place within the canon of twentieth-century British literature. J. Russell Perkin argues that liberalism is the defining feature of Lodge's identity as a novelist, critic, and Roman Catholic intellectual, and demonstrates that Graham Greene,

James Joyce, Kingsley Amis, Henry James, and H.G. Wells are the key influences on Lodge's fiction. Perkin also considers Lodge's relationship to contemporary British novelists including Hilary Mantel, Julian Barnes, and Monica Ali. In a study that is both theoretically informed and accessible to the general reader, Perkin shows that Lodge's work is shaped by the dialectic of modernism and the realist tradition.



### *Power of the Best*

by Peter Brown BComm '85 and John Hughes  
Explores how Canada's leading companies have excelled in the Canadian and global marketplace. Their management teams lead the way in technology, sustainability, branding and marketing, mergers and acquisitions, funding growth, succession planning, leadership, globalization, attracting and retaining talent, and in productivity. Throughout this book, senior business executives explain in their own words how these issues are being addressed and leveraged to their advantage, providing insights not only into their own businesses but also into the strategies that entrepreneurs and executives in enterprises large and small need to master, regardless of their specific product or service.

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

## In Memoriam

<p><b>Megan L Balcom</b> BA'01 October 17, 2013</p> <p><b>Dennis Biggs</b> BComm'50 October 1, 2013</p> <p><b>John M Collins</b> BSc'59 October 14, 2013</p> <p><b>Jacques E Comeau</b> BComm'91 February 10, 2014</p> <p><b>Edward A Coolen</b> BA'39 March 17, 2014</p> <p><b>D Hugh Gillis</b> September 12, 2013</p>	<p><b>Dyney C Gillis (Lelievre)</b> BSc'82 September 21, 2013</p> <p><b>Michael H. Glancy</b> MA'86 September 8, 2013</p> <p><b>Joshua Grady</b> BComm'10 January 29, 2014</p> <p><b>George M Haliburton</b> BSc'41 September 1, 2013</p> <p><b>Linda E Harpell</b> BA'88 October 9, 2013</p> <p><b>Peter E. R. Hutchins</b> December 30, 2013</p>	<p><b>Louis J McMullin</b> BSc'63 March 30, 2014</p> <p><b>Stephen Moores</b> BSc'75 November 11, 2013</p> <p><b>Zoe K Nudell</b> MA'06 October 31, 2013</p> <p><b>Loretta Saunders</b> February 26, 2014</p> <p><b>Michael Stephen</b> September 4, 2013</p> <p><b>Milton M Uloth</b> DIPEGN'86 November 17, 2013</p> <p><b>Janet E White</b> BComm'79 October 24, 2013</p>
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# CATCHING UP WITH ALUMNI

SARAH FERGUSON, BCOMM'09, CMA'11



Sarah Ferguson (left) celebrates with Alumni Officer, Monica Njoku, after the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Hi fellow Saintamarians.

My name is Sarah Ferguson. I graduated from Saint Mary's in 2009 with a Bachelor of Commerce and went on to complete my CMA in 2011. I loved my time at SMU. I split my time between hanging out at the pub, studying in the commerce lounge and on the sidelines of the football field.

For the last 4 years, I've been a member of the SMU Alumni Council. The Alumni council are a group of grads that volunteer at SMU Alumni events. We help decide which events we are going to host and work to keep you connected to Saint Mary's University. We also work to nominate SMU Alumni for our Alumni Awards (by the way, the deadline for nominations is June 30th). For the last year, SMU Alumni have been participating in HRM parades. I currently hold the record for attending the most parades: the Pride Parade, the Holiday Parade of Lights and the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The only one I'm missing is the Natal Day parade. I'm hoping to attend the next Natal Day Parade on August 4, 2014. We're always looking for SMU

Alumni to get involved; contact the alumni office if you'd like to join us.

In addition to planning events, the Alumni Association is also a huge supporter of students and student activities. For the last 38 years, we've been hosting the Alumni Golf Tournament. The tournament usually falls on the third Thursday of August and is always a ton of fun. Funds from the tournament are used to provide a \$1,000 bursary for 20 students and student athletes. Each year, teams compete for the Granville "Bullet" Kelly Trophy and for the chance to sip a victory drink out of the trophy cup. One of our alumni has played in the tournament for the 11 straight years. Needless to say, it's a big hit.

I really encourage you to get involved with SMU Alumni. I've had a blast being involved over the last few years. If you're interested in joining the alumni association, we're always looking for people to get involved. Send your CV to [alumni@smu.ca](mailto:alumni@smu.ca). We'd love to have you!

Until next time,

*Sarah Ferguson*

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